

Date: 13th June 2018

Report: Surrey Hills Arts

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Purpose of Report

To present the Surrey Unearthed project

Summary

Surrey Unearthed is a programme of ten linked projects exploring the natural materials beneath our feet through sculpture, installation, film, and writing. The programme celebrates the importance of the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty with its rich history of local industry, farming and culture shaped by the use of natural materials over time from historic settlements to Capability Brown landscapes and Arts & Crafts architecture.

Connecting people with their local landscapes, the artists engage others in their exploration of chalk, sand, clay, grass, wood, and earth. The artists' research will unearth hidden insights into a particular material, its uses over time and relevance today.

Surrey Unearthed has commenced with the first of 10 projects taking place throughout May. 'The Lark Descending' was an open interactive space in Dorking featuring an evolving exhibition by Ackroyd & Harvey and talks programme exploring their chosen location of Leith Hill. Built around the six key elements of Air | Terra | Soil | Water | Clay | Oil, assuming the multiple layers of the land itself, and referencing the imminent threat to Leith Hill from exploratory oil drilling. The exhibition and talks were extremely popular and gathered feedback such as: 'I'm feeling very lucky to have this caliber of exhibition and talks for free just a stones throw from my door. It's the kind of thing you'd expect to schlep to London for, a real treat and privilege to see this in Dorking.'

Upcoming:

15 June – 31 August

Fossil Ocean Floor

This is one of the 'Horizons' series of site-specific installations by Jonathan Parsons. The use of the colour white is inspired by ancient chalk hill figures and the discs making up the text pieces represent the microscopic coccoliths that form chalk. Fossil Ocean Floor is a monumental installation in farmland adjacent to the Great Western Railway, West Dorking. It can be viewed from the carriage road at Ranmore Common & the footpath across Milton Court Farm.

18 June onwards

Liminal Lease

Bryn Hallett uses the geological palette to create a tranquil space of reflection. In seeking to create a structure from the materials themselves, Bryn uses rammed earth techniques with local materials. Visit this structure in the Wilfred Blunt Woodland at Watts Gallery.

6-22nd July Surrey

Unearthed Exhibition

Leith Hill Place, Fri-Sun, 11am-5pm. This will be accompanied by workshops and talks.

July

Terrain

Jane Ponsford's practice is rooted in walking and collecting materials to incorporate into her paper artworks. She is travelling across Surrey installing in four locations. Catch her work at Box Hill during July, and participate in a workshop.

Arts Award

6 school groups will be taking their Arts Award qualification as part of this project. This term, Jonathan Parsons is working with a Spelthorne & Leatherhead school who will receive talks, workshops and site visits with him.

For information on all 10 projects and upcoming events, talks, walks and workshops, please visit www.surreyunearthed.org

For updates, please sign up to the Surrey Hills Arts mailing list:

www.surreyunearthed.org/mailling-list

4.8 Heathland Artworks – 21 June-29 October. This project allows BA and MA students from craft, design and fine art courses at the University for the Creative Arts to take part in a real project. The artworks are currently being installed and the work will be exhibited throughout Summer ending in October to coincide with Farnham's Craft month.