

**Roots & Branches**

Seeds for Action Case Study 2022–23

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# A Space to Be project

## Community space for collaboration

Scarborough Museums and Galleries

# The project: A Space to Be

A community space within Scarborough Art Gallery.

The community space offers a **warm welcome** to all visitors and encourages participants to work collaboratively, creating a **democratic design** for the space and its activity.

Community groups and our drop-in visitors have helped us to furnish the space with sustainability at its heart. Activities provide opportunities to **explore nature, supporting discussion and debate**. We provide **informal signposting**, recognising the impact of the climate crisis on individuals.

Community Warehouse were commissioned to **create furniture from reclaimed wood** and engaged community volunteers in the process.

Participants from Crosslane's Hospital, including NHS staff, worked with themes such as 'Celebrating the Sun, Sea and Gardens' to **create decoration** inspired by our natural surroundings.



# Impacts and Outcomes



**Connections and partnerships** with local suppliers are helping to set a precedent for future spending and our approach to consumerism.

**National Literacy Trust** are recommending books to inspire activities but also support new residents, displaced by conflict.



Staff have witnessed how activities, inspired by nature and the local environment, helps improve visitor's **sense of wellbeing**.



Sustainable actions are **encouraging reciprocity** within the space.

For example:

- donating cuttings from their own garden for our 'Rewild the Patio' project
- offering expertise and time to create items, such as 'The Hello Quilt'.



The project has offered **a safe space** for a woman who is homeless. Homelessness is an impact of the Global Earth Crisis. Encouraging her to be part of the creative community within the space is something she has really valued.

# Challenges and Barriers



## Historic property

The gallery is Grade 2 listed. We have to be mindful of restrictions and aesthetic of the former family home.



## Sourcing suppliers

Situated in a small seaside town, we initially struggled to find local suppliers for art materials and access tools.

In the first stages of the project, there was a sense of urgency and over-reliance on online purchasing, as time was critical.



## Lack of time

Lack of time to consider how to make the room function better in extreme hot weather. Critical as some visitors are finding the space as refuge from the heatwave.



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When we first started our sessions at A Space to Be, there was a **mutual decision** to use natural materials as part of our artwork to really get a sense of **bringing the outside in**. Over the next few months we worked together with our patients and people from the community to use **materials native to the local area** such as driftwood to create some special and unique pieces.

This has really helped in our care to our patients due to the **sense of achievement** they've got from making something they would never have tried before, whilst also getting to **socialise in this lovely space**.

This went down so well that many patients wanted to **take their work home** with them, but we have also made some **collaborative pieces** for the Space to Be room.

Debbie, NHS Staff, Crosslane's Hospital



I think it's **noticeable** when you walk in the space. You see **recycled** items and it creates a mantra. Seeing the work **created by visitors**, especially the **eco-printing**, gives me ideas for the future of the schools and learning programme – and how we embrace the natural history in the collection too.

Rhian, Learning Team



# More climate actions

- **Festival of Light and Warmth** - activities to create an inside hub of warmth and comfort, in response to the energy crisis. Participants will also be encouraged to expand the idea of community to create items for natural habitats (e.g. bird boxes/ hedgehog houses.)
- Encourage our visitors to use **public transport** to visit our museum and gallery with new initiatives and partnerships.
- Explore how we improve the way we heat our buildings and **move away from fossil fuels**. **Survey our plant and machinery**; look at more sustainable options so that we can budget and plan a course of action.





# Next steps and future work

- We now have a good handle on how we take our groups from 'crafting with sustainability in mind' to creating for the environment. For example, we are linking up with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust to create for the **Seagrass Restoration Project**, at Spurn Point.
- We are 'declaring' and planning assemblies as part of **Culture Declares**. We hope to take our groups with us into thinking about other positive actions we can do, using some of the skills we have been developing in our time in the space.
- We are also working on a new sound project, **Sensing Creativity**, with Cross Lane Hospital. The project looks at how sound can support access to difficult spaces, support creativity, calm in crisis. There is an environmental thread to all of this work, too.

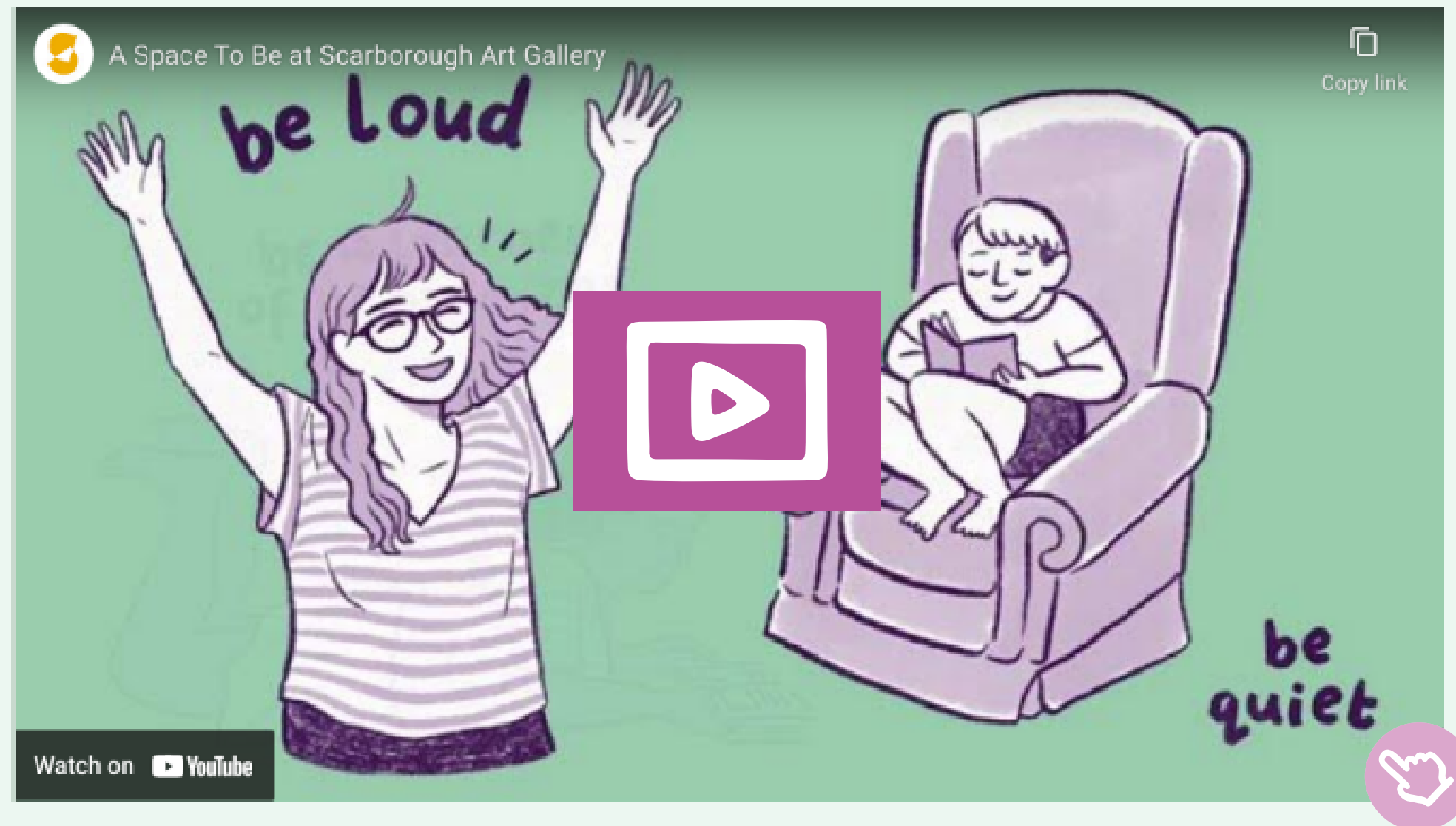




# Resources

## Animation

This short animation, a social story, is on the gallery website so that people know what to expect when they visit A Space To Be.  
(3 minutes 47 seconds)  
Opens in YouTube



# Resources



## Exhibition interpretation

### A Space to Be Celebrating the Sun, Sea and Gardens

The artworks in this exhibition have been created by visitors to this space and participants in the **Space to Be project**.

Sketches, paintings, prints, textiles, patio pots and sculptural pieces have been inspired by the collection at Scarborough Art Gallery, and the theme of 'Celebrating the Sun, Sea and Gardens'.

The idea and first artworks for the exhibition came from a joyous collaboration with Art Therapy Yorkshire, the young people and staff at the Personalised Learning College, Crosslane's Hospital and Scarborough Art Gallery, front of house team.

Artworks and ideas have also been created by the Scarborough Creative Crafts group, the Castle House and Springhill Close Art Group, and artists, attending the Tuesday Drop-In.

In our space, we are looking at ways to celebrate and care for the beautiful environment we are lucky to be placed within. We hope you enjoy exploring the artworks, our collections, the gardens at Woodend and our lovely beaches.

We welcome your ideas for sustainability, too!



## Project Manifesto



# Find out more



Scarborough Museums and Galleries [Website](#)



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# Roots & Branches

## Seeds for Action – case studies



The **Seeds for Action Programme** is part of the Roots & Branches project. It aims to connect Carbon Literate Certified museum people across England to develop and build on their carbon reduction strategies and approaches to taking climate action.



By pooling our **collective expertise and resources**, we can save ourselves time and money, and tackle the climate emergency more effectively together. Feel free to **share this case** study with others.



### For more information contact:

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