

News release

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Art U Need local launches and events

The Art U Need outdoor revolution in the Thames Gateway is culminating in a series of local launches and events. These follow a celebration of all five artists and locations on Friday 16 March at Tilbury Fort, to which guests travelled on a special Art U Need train provided by c2c.

Saturday 24 March

The Purfleet One Float Carnival

11am-4pm

Starts at 11am at Purfleet Primary School

Art U Need artist Jane Wilbraham's 'The Purfleet One Float Carnival (or, The re-inauguration of the Ministerial Fish Dinner)' will tour the Garrison Estate, starting at 11am at Purfleet Primary School, Tank Hill Rd, Purfleet, RM19 1TA. Visitors can inspect the sculpture of a giant fish, and take away copies of the Purfleet Cookbook of recipes compiled by local residents. Refreshments - and chocolate fish - available at St Stephen's church.

Sunday 25 March

Art U Need 'Bus Tour

10.30am-4.30pm

Meet at Southend B&Q car park

[Fully booked - but journalists/photographers welcome]

On Sunday 25 March, Art U Need's education officer, Kate Clayton, will be leading a 'bus tour to some of the Art U Need sites. First stop is Rochford Reservoir to meet divers involved in artist Hayley Newman's 'A Secret Sculpture' project, followed by the Mass Picnic at Northlands Park, Basildon, part of artist Andrea Mason's 'Art U Need Needs U' project with the Northlands Park Neighbourhood. The 'bus leaves Southend (B&Q car park near Victoria Station) at 10.30am, returning at 4.30pm, and places should be booked with Kate on 07923 559002. Picnics and goody bags will be provided.

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Saturday 31 March

Rendezvous Club walking tours

2pm at The Oysterfleet Hotel, or 4pm at Canvey Heights

No booking necessary

Members of Lucy Harrison's Rendezvous Club will be leading walks around Canvey - starting at 2pm from The Oysterfleet Hotel, and meeting at 4pm at Canvey Heights for the unveiling of new signs in the country park.

The 'Captivating Canvey' guidebook, designed by Lucy with a cover illustration painted by local signwriter Bob Gibbons, and including observations and reminiscences from Rendezvous Club members, will be launched. It is the first publication from Rendezvous Press, which was set up as part of Lucy's 'Canvey Guides' project. An audio guide has been recorded, which includes spoken contributions from residents and the main walk narrated by local actor Roy Blackwell. It will be available for hire from Canvey Library, or as a download from www.canveyguides.com. A map has been installed at Canvey Heights Country Park.

Saturday 31 March

It's A Wrap party

7-10pm

Mirren Studio, Towngate Theatre, Basildon

Andrea Mason's 'Art U Need Needs U' project will be celebrating three months of walks and performance events (described in the Diaries distributed last December) at the It's A Wrap party in the Mirren Studio at the Towngate Theatre, Basildon, from 7-10pm. Souvenir goody bags are available for everyone, plus bumper bags for the ten best Diaries. Diary entries should be dropped into the Northlands Centre by 4pm on Friday 30 March. www.artneedneedsu.org; www.myspace.com/artneedneedsu; www.thebasildonblog.blogspot.com; www.youtube.com/user/artneedneedsu

Sunday 1 April

Queensway Streams launch

5.30-9.00pm

Queensway Estate, Southend

Art U Need artist Milika Muritu will be launching Queensway Streams, a sculptural intervention creating one continuous band of colour cascading down the 150 foot tower blocks. Local people are invited to cocktails and Queenscream Sundaes on the Quantock Lawn at the Queensway Estate, Chichester Road, Southend –

while enjoying Southend's newest illuminations. Five hundred limited edition commemorative key rings will be given to residents, and the winners of the schools' competition for the best poster will also be announced.

www.queenswaystreams.org.uk

Tuesday 10 April

Try-dive

Greenswood Pool, Hockley

Art U Need education officer Kate Clayton will be leading a group of 8-11 year old members of Footprints, a youth group from Rochford, in a try-dive – as a result of Hayley Newman's project with Rochford-based dive group Dive Odyssey.

Sunday 15 April

Art U Need 'bus tour

10.30am-4.30pm

Meet at Northlands Park café, Basildon

Booking essential, please call Kate Clayton 07923 559002

Art U Need education officer Kate Clayton will be leading another Art U Need 'bus tour – this time for a walk around Canvey Heights, and to view the Queensway Streams in Southend - leaving Northlands Park café, Basildon at 10.30am. To book a place, contact Kate Clayton on 07923 559002.

Art U Need is a programme of commissions galvanising communities across the Thames Gateway region to transform public open spaces. It is curated by artist Bob & Roberta Smith, and managed by visual arts agency Commissions East. The project was initiated by the Thames Gateway South Essex Partnership, through the Investing in Communities programme, and is funded by the East of England Development Agency, and Arts Council England, East.

For more information on any of the launches and events, please see www.commissionseast.org.uk/artuneeed

- Ends -

For more information please contact:

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