

# SWAFFHAM CULTURAL CONSORTIUM



In 2023, the Swaffham Cultural Consortium, led by Friends of Swaffham Heritage, secured £45,000 from Historic England to deliver a year of heritage-inspired community events under the banner Under The Eye of the Buttercross. The programme celebrated the town's connection to Egyptologist Howard Carter.

## OBJECTIVES

### Celebrate Local Heritage

Showcase Swaffham's unique history and stories.

### Engage the Community

Provide inclusive, accessible events for all residents.

### Strengthen Civic Pride

Foster belonging and shared experiences through culture.

### Preserve History Digitally

Create lasting records like a digital image archive.

## APPROACH

- Community-led planning.
- Public events including a town supper, costumed trail, and Organisations Day.
- Creation of a digital image library.

## RESULT

### Wider Participation

More residents involved in cultural and heritage activities.

### Extended Programming

Diverse events catering to different interests and ages.

### Community Connection

Strengthened relationships across generations and local groups.

### Enhanced Awareness

Greater understanding and appreciation of town's heritage.

## CONCLUSION

The project reinforced Swaffham's identity by linking past and present through shared experiences. It created space for connection, pride, and storytelling at the heart of the town.

The project aligns with Disconnected Bodies' people-centred, dialogue-driven ethos: it tailored activities to diverse audiences, used strategic cultural programming, and fostered authentic community participation—mirroring their principles of inclusive engagement and long-term impact.



# ART BY THE SEA: BOURNEMOUTH

Since 2015, Arts by the Sea has been an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation. The annual festival celebrates art, culture, and community in Bournemouth, raising the town's profile nationally as a leader in culture.

## OBJECTIVES

### Celebrate Culture and Place

Showcase diverse art across forms.

### Encourage Participation

Create meaningful, inclusive experiences for all.

### Champion Diversity

Support artists at every career stage.

### Protect the Environment

Reduce impact and raise awareness.

## APPROACH

A carnivalesque mix of music, dance, site-specific installations, and large-scale spectacles staged in iconic locations. Programming balances creativity with accessibility, diversity, and sustainability.

## RESULT

### Stronger Identify

Bournemouth recognised as cultural leader.

### Community Engagement

Increased participation across audiences.

### Artistic Growth

Platform for emerging and established talent.

### Environmental Action

Raised awareness of global green issues.

## CONCLUSION

Arts by the Sea is more than a festival; it is a celebration of people, place, and creativity that champions inclusivity, sustainability, and cultural leadership.

The festival reflects Disconnected Bodies' ethos of dialogue-driven, people-centred engagement. Its diprogramming echoes their focus on tailored audience experiences, while the emphasis on inclusivity and accessibility aligns with their commitment to removing barriers. By embedding environmental responsibility and supporting both emerging and established artists, the festival mirrors Disconnected Bodies' principles of strategic, sustainable cultural development with authentic community impact.



# BIRDS OF POOLE HARBOUR

Opened in March 2018, Birds of Poole Harbour is a one-stop resource for visitors exploring the harbour's rich and varied bird life. The centre provides interactive experiences that highlight the harbour's ecological importance and support both novice and expert birders.

## OBJECTIVES

### Educate Visitors

Showcase the harbour's unique bird species.

### Support Birdwatching

Guide where and when to spot birds.

### Promote Conservation

Highlight ecological importance of the area.

### Encourage Engagement

Offer interactive learning experiences.

### Celebrate Biodiversity

Raise awareness of nationally and internationally important habitats.

## APPROACH

Interactive displays, expert guidance, visitor support for birdwatching trips, and educational programming about local ecology.

## RESULT

### Increased Knowledge

Visitors gain understanding of bird species and habitats.

### Enhanced Experience

Tailored advice improves birdwatching trips.

### Community Engagement

Activities attract a wide range of audiences.

### Raised Awareness

Emphasises protection of SPA, RAMSAR, and SSSI sites.

## CONCLUSION

Birds of Poole Harbour successfully connects visitors with nature, combining education, engagement, and conservation to foster appreciation of one of the UK's most important wildlife habitats.

The centre's visitor-focused, interactive approach mirrors Disconnected Bodies' principles: inclusive engagement, tailored experiences, and strategic design that encourages learning and long-term environmental stewardship.

# HIGHCLIFFE CASTLE

Highcliffe Castle, built between 1831–1836, is a Grade I listed example of Romantic and Picturesque architecture. Constructed from French medieval salvage and 14 types of stone, it combines unique architectural design with a rich social history, having hosted royalty, heads of state, and celebrities.

## OBJECTIVES

### Preserve Heritage

Protect the castle's unique architecture.

### Promote History

Highlight the social and cultural legacy.

### Engage Visitors

Offer public access and educational experiences.

### Conserve Structures

Undertake repairs and restoration projects.

### Celebrate Significance

Maintain Grade I listed status.

## APPROACH

Phased restoration guided by English Heritage and Heritage Lottery Fund, combining structural repairs, conservation work, and public engagement initiatives.

## RESULT

### Restored Architecture

Repaired and preserved the historic structure.

### Public Access

Visitors experience the castle's history and design.

### Cultural Awareness

Promoted understanding of Romantic and Picturesque style.

### Long-Term Conservation

Seven phases of restoration ensure ongoing preservation.

## CONCLUSION

Highcliffe Castle successfully preserves a landmark of architectural and social history, balancing conservation with public engagement to ensure its legacy continues.

The castle's restoration and visitor programming align with Disconnected Bodies' principles: combining inclusive engagement, educational storytelling, and strategic planning to maximise heritage impact and audience connection.

# TRACING THE SKY

In July 2019, Tracing the Sky transformed a hidden underground space in Manchester into a dreamlike sanctuary. Artist Jiayu Liu used augmented reality and projection mapping to merge virtual skiescapes with historic architecture, inviting visitors to reflect on their relationship with the atmosphere.

## OBJECTIVES

### Blend digital and physical

Combine augmented reality with architectural space.

### Explore Atmosphere

Prompt reflection on the natural environment.

### Innovative Art Forms

Push boundaries of immersive art experiences.

### Foster Collaboration

Partner with OPPO and Artists & Engineers.

## APPROACH

3D scanning, projection mapping, and AR let visitors influence projections; convex mirrors enhanced immersion.

## RESULT

### Immersive Experience

Visitors engaged with evolving skiescapes.

### Enhanced Interaction

Mobile devices enabled real-time participation.

### Artistic Innovation

Showcased cutting-edge digital art techniques.

### Collaborative Success

Demonstrated effective partnerships in art and technology.

## CONCLUSION

Tracing the Sky successfully merged art, technology, and architecture, offering an innovative and reflective experience that engaged the public in new ways.

The project's emphasis on interactive, immersive experiences aligns with Disconnected Bodies' focus on dialogue-driven, people-centred engagement, highlighting the potential of art and technology to foster meaningful connections.

# KINGSLEY HALL, BRISTOL

Kingsley Hall, a Grade II-listed building, has received £4.7m from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for renovation. Built in 1706, it has hosted social movements and aims to become a community hub for disadvantaged young people.

## OBJECTIVES

### Preserve heritage

Maintain the building's historical significance.

### Support youth

Provide accommodation and training.

### Engage communities

Host events and social activities.

### Promote inclusion

Empower vulnerable residents.

## APPROACH

Restoring historical features while adapting spaces for accommodation, training, and events, ensuring accessibility and inclusivity.

## RESULT

### Restored heritage

Renovation safeguarded architectural features.

### Youth opportunities

Young people accessed skills and support.

### Active participation

Community members attended programs and events.

### Stronger inclusion

Residents felt supported and engaged in activities.

## CONCLUSION

Kingsley Hall successfully blended heritage preservation with social impact; creating a space that honours history while serving the community.

Its focus on engaging young people, promoting inclusion, and co-designing activities reflects Disconnected Bodies' ethos of dialogue-driven, people-centred cultural engagement, ensuring meaningful participation and lasting community impact.

# GOVAN OLD CHURCH, GLASGOW

Govan Old Church, an early Christian site along the Clyde, contains medieval gravestones including the Govan Stones. The site, a scheduled ancient monument, is now part of a community archaeology project.

## OBJECTIVES

### Discover artefacts

Excavate gravestones and monuments.

### Engage community

Involve local volunteers.

### Preserve heritage

Protect the site's integrity.

### Educate the public

Share Scotland's early medieval history.

## APPROACH

Excavations led by the University of Glasgow, with volunteers recording and preserving artefacts linked to the kingdom of Strathclyde.

## RESULT

### Significant finds

Important gravestones and artefacts were uncovered.

### Volunteer participation

Locals contributed to archaeological work.

### Site protected

Conservation measures maintained the monument.

### Knowledge shared

Public learned about Scotland's early medieval history.

## CONCLUSION

The project combined research and public participation, preserving and showcasing Scotland's early medieval heritage.

By involving local volunteers in excavation, documentation, and storytelling, it embodies Disconnected Bodies' approach of collaborative, inclusive engagement, fostering deeper connection to place, history, and cultural identity.