



PRESS RELEASE

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Youngsters' sculptures set to go on show alongside prestigious exhibition

Finishing touches are being made to an exhibition of young people's sculptures but one large piece will be missing - thanks to a Coal tit.

The exhibition in the churchyard at Quenington, Gloucestershire, is a fringe event for the renowned Fresh Air Sculpture show, which runs from June 5-26 in the village's beautiful Old Rectory gardens.

The young people's churchyard exhibition, called Fresh Fringe, showcases work they have carried out with The Ernest Cook Trust, a UK-wide charity, which provides outdoor learning opportunities for children, young people, their families and communities.

But one exhibition piece – which also incorporates a bird box and bughouse - will have to remain behind at The Ernest Cook Trust's Fairford headquarters, because a Coal tit has taken up residence.

Pete Tatham, the Trust's Gloucestershire Education Officer, said there would still be plenty of exhibits for visitors to see and he was impressed by how hard the young people had worked to get everything ready in time for the event.

"Fresh Air Sculpture takes place every two years, which means we usually have plenty of time to get our pieces ready," said Pete. "But because of Covid we have really only had six months, so we have been working very hard since September."

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The young people comprise a number with special needs, and others who find a school setting challenging. They come from schools from across the Cotswolds, and in term time spend part of their week working on their projects at The Ernest Cook Trust education workshop in Fairford.

While at the Trust, they work towards one of three employability awards and the aim is for them to learn to use tools and acquire skills, so they can go on to take up practical, outdoor-based, rural roles.

Fresh Fringe dovetails perfectly with Fresh Air Sculpture's own education programme, which is funded by grants from organisations including The Ernest Cook Trust. Over the course of the exhibition, more than 900 pupils will visit and take part in workshops. The children chosen may have special needs or come from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Dr Victoria Edwards OBE, Chief Executive of The Ernest Cook Trust, said: "The beautiful outdoor setting in Quenington provides a really fitting environment to showcase the work of some of these outstanding young people. We're pleased to be supporting the education programme at Fresh Air Sculpture again in working with young people. Fresh Air's education programme aims to extend learning opportunities to young people, particularly in an outdoor setting, just like our own at The Ernest Cook Trust, so it makes perfect sense for us to collaborate in this way."

Fresh Air Sculpture is open 10am-5pm, from June 5-26. Entry is £10 for adults, and children get in free. The Ernest Cook Trust's Fresh Fringe is free and is located by the entrance to Fresh Air, and there will be places to sit and picnic.

For more information about Fresh Air Sculpture, visit:

<https://www.freshairsculpture.com/>. For more about The Ernest Cook Trust, visit <https://ernestcooktrust.org.uk/>.

