

Where I Live

July saw the fascinating culmination of phase one of a creative community development project in Radstock. In partnership with Somer Community Housing Trust, **nesa** worked with residents in the Tying and Clandown areas of Radstock to collect opinions and initiate the thinking process about future improvements to the areas.

Children were given a disposable camera each and asked to document their daily lives and what their surroundings and community means to them. Working with artist Jill Carter and community filmmakers FourReel Films, a collection of photographs and a DVD were compiled from residents' comments, thoughts and hopes for the future. This DVD is available to anyone interested in Radstock's development and the project by contacting us on 01761 437251, or email info@nesacreativechange.org.uk. Phase two is due to start in 2008.

Residents of Radstock helped compile a DVD about living in the town



Photo credit: Jill Carter

Apologies

We would like to send our apologies to Anna Proctor, photographer, for omitting to credit some photographs to her in our July Newsletter. The three pictures in the article about 'Fit for Life' were taken by her, plus one picture of the children's artwork in the article 'Arty Pants - children's artwork goes on show'. We missed your name off Anna - sorry!



Photo credit: Anna Proctor



Design: www.barzaka.com



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The next issue of *Creative Change* will be out in March 2008.

Further information about nesa and our work can be found on our website www.nesacreativechange.org.uk

Creative Change

November 2007



Phew! The last few months have seen **nesa's** activities swell as many projects came to their fruition and produced a variety of DVDs, exhibitions, art trails and books - even a couple of appearances at local festivals and fun days! Read on to find out more about what's been happening since the last update.

Postcards from Peasedown

A stunning community-driven exhibition of photographs, stories and short movies from older and younger residents in Peasedown, took place in September.

Artists Katie White and Brian Gibson have been working with young people, older residents and Peasedown Opportunity Project (POP) attendees. Old photographs and postcards of the area have been re-worked and re-staged to explore the physical and social changes, and voice recordings of people's memories and family anecdotes have been combined with imagery to produce 'digital stories'.

POP and the Youth Centre have joined forces with **nesa** and coined the idea for a community play looking at aspects of life in the village 'then and now', which will start preparations this autumn. A period of initial consultation and source-material collecting has resulted in this small but fascinating collection of art works, which are partly in preparation for the play but also stand alone as a creative insight into the life of a village.

A collection of art works by the residents of Peasedown has inspired a community play

Photo credit: Katie White & Brian Gibson



Photo credit: Jill Carter

The art|works festival was a great success

Arts & Health DVD resources available

Two DVDs from recent successful **nesa** Arts & Health projects 'Fit for Life' – working with children and their families to inspire healthier lifestyles, and 'Over to You' – working with women with experience of Postnatal Depression are available to people interested in these projects and outcomes. Please telephone 01761 437251, or email info@nesacreativechange.org.uk to place an order.



Photo credit: Jill Carter

art|works

A fabulously frantic, fun weekend was had by all at the art|works festival across the East Mendip Towns of Radstock, Shepton Mallet and Frome. Artists displayed their work, demonstrated exactly what they do and encouraged people to have a go themselves. Art|works is a new concept in arts festivals and open studio events as it celebrated the unsung heroes of the arts world – artists working in and for their communities – teaching in schools, prisons, discreet groups for people with learning and physical difficulties and people with mental health issues.

Tons of creativity goes on behind closed doors, which has the most impact on society – more than galleries, high-priced fine art and appreciation societies. Art|works brought these hard-working artists and community groups to the fore and thanked them for making a real difference to people's lives. A fabulous festival day in Radstock was held on Saturday, 22nd September with more than 600 people participating in arts activities, visiting the exhibitions and having a great time at the community fun fair – next year's event will be bigger and better!



Photo credit: Jane Geernaert



Photo credit: Samantha Williams

Francois Matarasso inspired us about Community Arts at art|speak

art|speak

Francois Matarasso, eminent cultural commentator and social reformer, spoke at our recent art|speak conference on the subject of the social impact of engaged arts practice and creative community development. The day was attended by regional artists and facilitators and began by Francois giving a rousing seminar entitled "A Child of Five Would Understand This – Why Community Arts Is Not Difficult" and the afternoon focused on **nesa's** recent art|works project and its legacy for the community and its artists.

Transformations

Our successful neighbourhood arts project based in Caernarvon Road, Keynsham has come to an end with the residents moved out and demolition of their old homes completed. **nesa** has published a book and DVD about the project, which is available by phone on 01761 437251, or email info@nesacreativechange.org.uk



Photo credit: Jill Carter