

CREATIVE HUB

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AUGUST EDITION

Welcome to your monthly update on all things creative in Exeter. In our August edition we introduce our 2024 associate artist Charlotte Bill, share a creative reflection on the Phoenix Archive Project, and find out about the creativity shared in our youth animation courses.

What have you been up to this month?

Have a piece of creative news or an opportunity you'd like to be shared? Send us a message on our social media channels and we'll include what we can in future editions.

Want more updates, opportunities and creative news?

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Dartmoor Calling: Charlotte Bill



Our next 2024 - 2025 Associate Artist is filmmaker and musician, Charlotte Bill. Charlotte's films take us into the worlds of the overlooked and underrepresented; focusing on working class history, women, activists and outsider artists, she creates her work using documentary, archive materials, landscape and music.

Charlotte is working with the Dartmoor Preservation Association, The Lost Giants, The Stars are for Everyone, various volunteers and Clapham Film Unit to create Dartmoor Calling. Collecting the stories of the people who saved Dartmoor from development, the people who are restoring nature on Dartmoor and the people working for land access rights on Dartmoor. Creating a documentary, booklet, two guided walks and a set of oral history recordings, this project will

be developed during her time as an associate artist at Exeter Phoenix. During the current stage of the project, Charlotte is running two walks that celebrate Sylvia Sayer and the Dartmoor Preservation Association's activism. Here's a bit more from Charlotte about the walks and the project:

“Sylvia Sayer (1908 - 2000) was an activist, fearless campaigner and loving grandmother. Known as the Shield of Dartmoor, she campaigned against development and spoliation of the moor. She fought the military, the government, the clay companies and the water board.

‘Stand on a summit in Central Dartmoor, it is still wild and free, we owe that to Sylvia Sayer who devoted over half a century to defending Dartmoor’ - Kate Ashbrook

Clapham Film Unit and the Dartmoor Preservation Association are running two free Sylvia Sayer Walks, 3rd and 24th August, which will take us to some of the places she saved and some of the battles she lost. The walks will be led by Gillian Healey from Dartmoor Walking Tours.

Kate Ashbrook, activist and general secretary of the Open Spaces Society, vicechair of the Campaign for National Parks and of the Dartmoor Preservation Association who was inspired by Sylvia Sayer and became a close friend, will be



Charlotte Bill

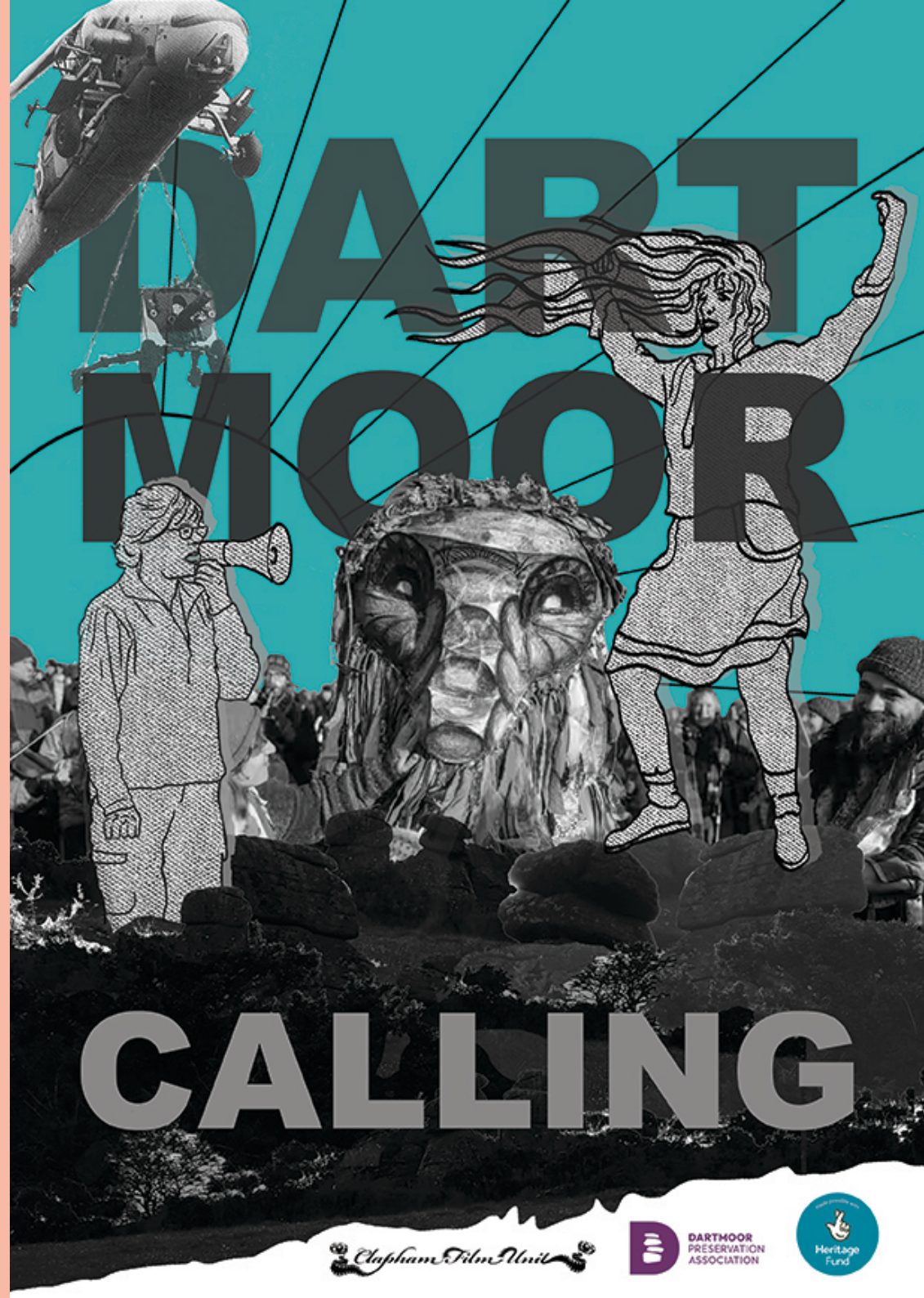
there to tell stories on the way. Matthew Kelly, historian and author of 'The Women who Saved the English Countryside' (2022), will be providing context.

I met Kate Ashbrook when I was making a documentary about the Right to Roam. Kate told me about campaigning with Sylvia Sayer on Dartmoor in the 1970s. Later the same year I found myself on Dartmoor with 3000 other people protesting the wild camping ban. I met many activists and members of the Stars are for Everyone and Right to Roam. These experiences led to the development of Dartmoor Calling, supported by players of the National Lottery.

Dartmoor Calling will tell Sylvia's story and will collect the stories of today's activists and campaigners from The Stars are for Everyone and the Right to Roam. 75 years apart in time but united by their love for Dartmoor as a wild a special place, a National Park to be kept free for all of us to enjoy.

I am excited to be an Associate Artist with Exeter Phoenix. I will be able to develop this project, reach a wider community and find a supportive environment to share Dartmoor Calling."

Book the Sylvia Sayer Walks [here](#) and find out more about the [Dartmoor Calling](#) project. Charlotte is also looking to collect stories and has a callout in our [Opportunities](#) section.



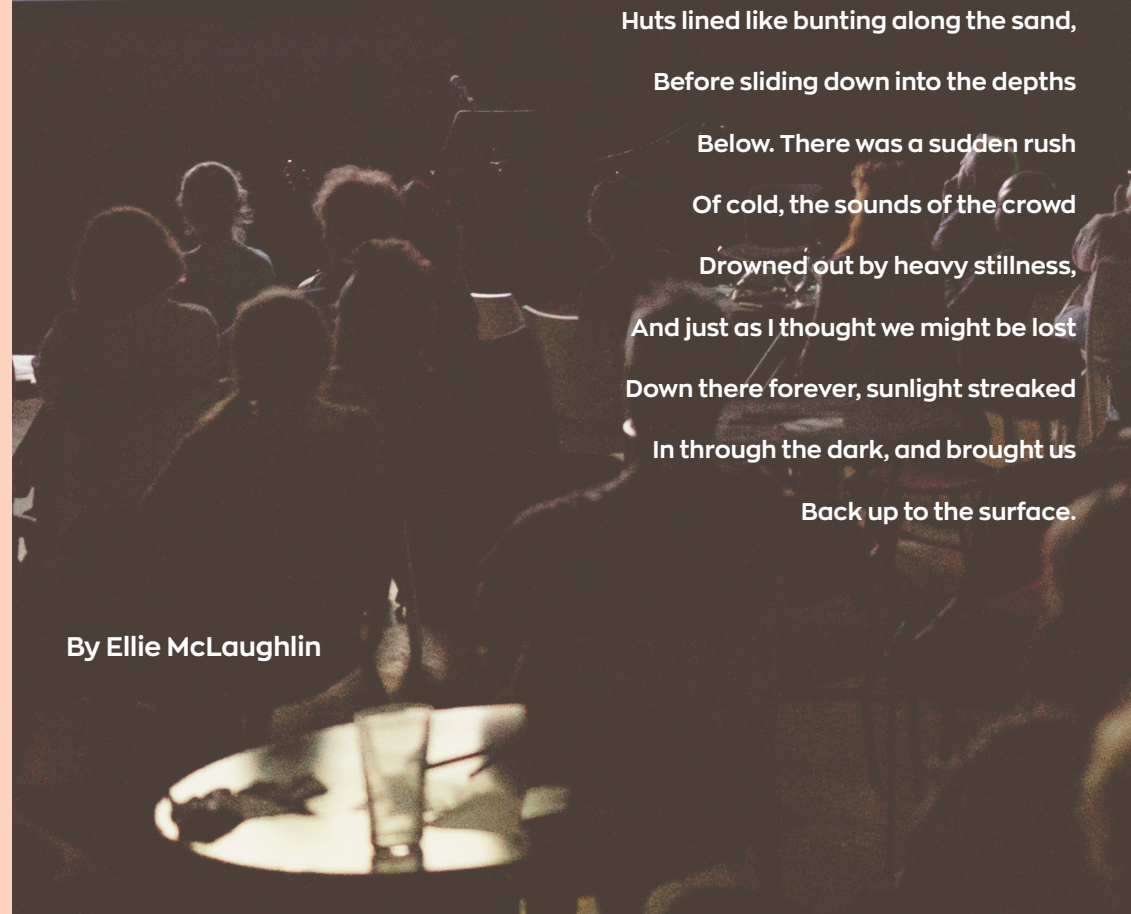
Flicker:

A Creative Response to the Phoenix Archive Project



In August we premiered our two commissions as part of our ongoing **Phoenix Archive Project**. The evening included a debut screening of Xenia Glen and Antosh Wojcik's new film 'The Memory Boom', an archive-based exploration of preserving memories in the modern era, and a performance of new music from Holly Ebony - both pieces created in response to the rescued 16mm film from the project.

Last month our Pathways intern Ellie McLaughlin also responded creatively to the archive, and wrote the poem 'Flicker'.

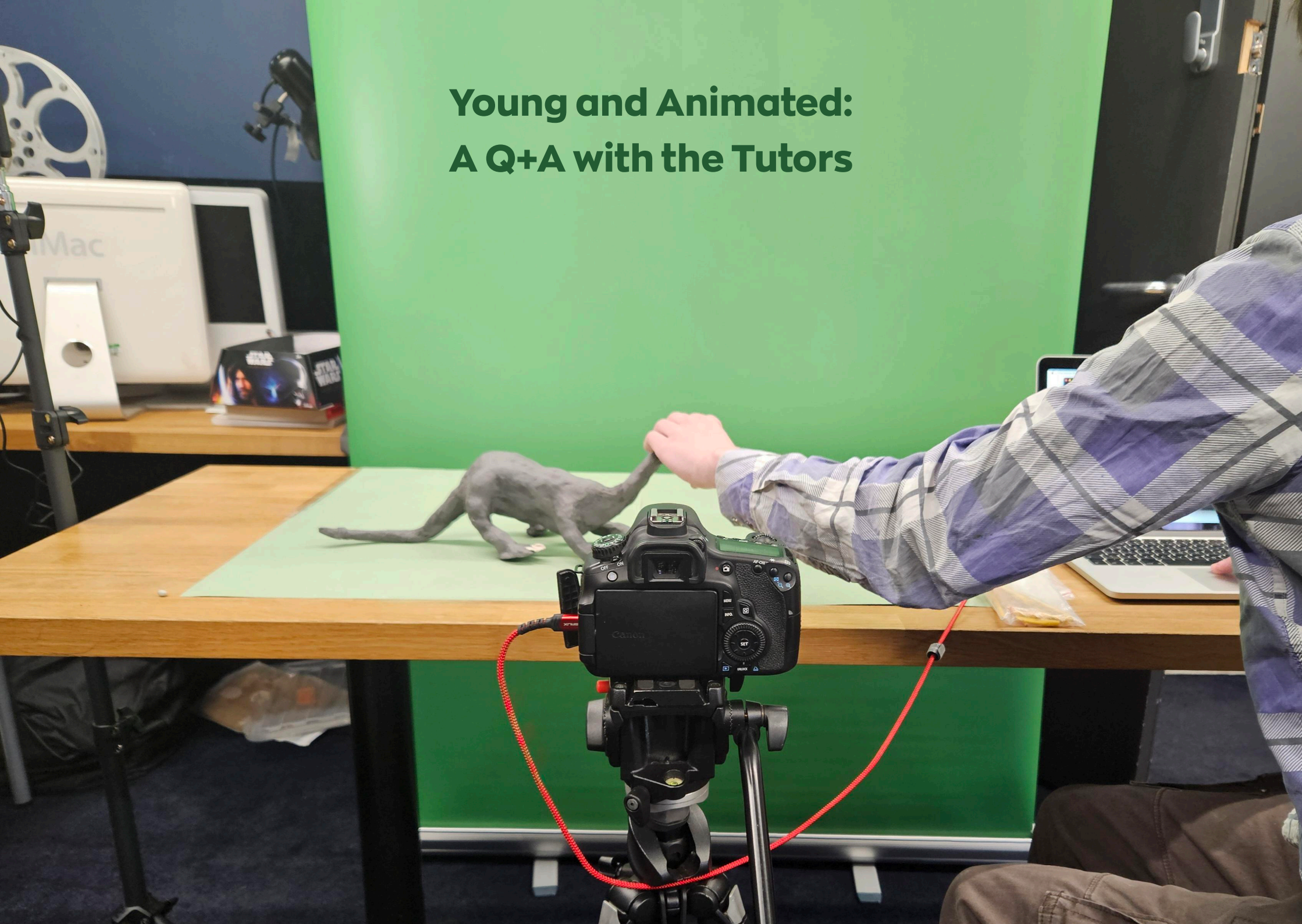


Memories of that summer return
In flashes and flickers, all of us
Packed round the pool in wide-brimmed
Hats and swimming caps, running
Barefoot along the scorched concrete.
I followed my sister towards the slide,
Clambering up the rungs to see
The stretching pier and string of beach
Huts lined like bunting along the sand,
Before sliding down into the depths
Below. There was a sudden rush
Of cold, the sounds of the crowd
Drowned out by heavy stillness,
And just as I thought we might be lost
Down there forever, sunlight streaked
In through the dark, and brought us
Back up to the surface.

By Ellie McLaughlin



Young and Animated: A Q+A with the Tutors



Both Ashley Thorpe and Graham Hayter, our tutors for the Young and Animated clubs, have years of experience and a wealth of knowledge of animation techniques and the children's television industry. We asked them what they enjoy about providing these sessions, and what they learn about creativity from working with young people.

What's the most interesting idea a young person has had for an animation?

Ashley: Where do we start? Young & Animated has been a treasure trove of wild ideas since its conception. I'm still endlessly surprised. Whenever I think I've seen everything something extraordinary pops up. We've had everything from a beautiful parody of 1930's Fleischer shorts to a very funny - almost Pacman-esque - recreation of the finale of 'The Shining'. Funny, sweet, gory, you name it. Anything goes.

Graham: It's hard to pick between the multitude of films I've helped the kids create within the 14 years I've been doing this, as all the films are brilliant, weird, funny, creative and filled with great ideas in their own way, especially to the kids that create them. I always find it hard to quantify art, as there is no right or wrong, good or bad, only whether you personally like it or not, so it's hard to pick between films about portaling wizards, haphazard unicorns, giant vampire carrots, superhero snails, planet eating footballs, bone breaking

ballerinas, cyborg woodland animals, paparazzied paintings or colourful blobs - they're all wonderful, weird, funny, creative and full of the best ideas. The best thing is seeing your own ideas coming to life in front of your own eyes, and the feeling you get when you think " I made this", when you watch back your own creation.

Why is it important to teach creative processes like this from a young age?

Ashley: The imagination is a muscle that needs to be exercised or else it atrophies. Creativity is such an important part of growth. It's a



power and a social leveller. Doesn't matter where you come from. As young children we learn via play and that approach is one that can carry you through life. We're constantly worried about doing the wrong thing. But when you play that's not a threat, you're just throwing ideas into the wind. That's one of the reasons that Graham and I decided pretty early on that this is an animation club, not a course as such. It's a place where you can come and play, try things, see what works and what doesn't and by trying a little bit of everything find a way to realise the ideas inside your head. Animation is an amazing thing. It gives you the opportunity to defy logic, defy nature and realism and reinvent the world upon a whimsy but it also has the opportunity to teach you to structure and refine your ideas and become organised and controlled. And it can potentially become a fantastic way to collaborate with others.

Graham: The importance of exploring creative processes from a young age has multiple benefits, you learn to express yourself creativity rather than destructively, as well as boosting an individual's imagination (and a world without imaginative art would be very dull) and an education or upbringing without creative outlets can diminish an individual's imagination and creativity. Also, being creative can bring you joy and happiness in trying times, as in the world of animation silliness can rule over seriousness, and the shy among us can still be the class clowns and make our peers laugh. It's great helping kids bring their imaginations alive through the magic of animation.

Is there anything you've learned from the young people that you've incorporated into your own practices?

Ashley: Absolutely, yes! I'm endlessly inspired by the films that they make. The commercial environment can sometimes get a little dry. Teaching these classes constantly remind me why I fell in love with animation in the first place. Recently, we've encouraged a couple of the Young and Animated Plus members who are exceptional at drawing to create quite traditional hand drawn frame by frame animations. Hundreds of drawings. It's really back to basics in terms of animation practice but the process is so tactile, so analog that the end result has a wonderful very magical quality. Watching these two young animators draw these wonderful sequences made me yearn to do something hand drawn again, so when a contract came in to create a Peter Pan animation I absolutely made it an excuse to do something in a similar vein. I admit these things endlessly to my clients. I am immensely proud of what Graham and I do.

Find out more about Young and Animated [here](#).



OPPORTUNITIES

Dartmoor Calling | Who Saved Dartmoor?

Dartmoor Preservation Association and Clapham Film Unit are working together to collect the stories of the people who saved Dartmoor from development, from the 1950s to the present day.

We are also **collecting the stories** of the people who worked for access to the land, and the stories of people who are involved in restoring nature on Dartmoor.

We need people to **help us tell the story**. Please get in touch if you have a story to tell or can recommend someone. We will be making a documentary, booklet and creating a guided walk.

Volunteers will be trained in oral history recording and will record interviews with a wide range of people. Please get in touch if you would like to be part of the recording team. The interviews will be transcribed and will go into the Dartmoor Preservation Association archives at Princetown. The interviews will also go into a booklet and documentary which will be free to share.

For more information and to get involved please contact Charlotte at claphamfilmunit@gmail.com

Paper & Print Project Artist Commission | Deadline: 12 Aug, noon

Double Elephant Print Workshop is offering £5000 for an artist or collective to create new work that creatively responds to the history of Exeter's papermills through the research gathered during our 12-month Heritage Lottery funded project, Paper & Print.

[Find out more here](#)

BFI - New Voices: Step Up | Deadline: Mon 05 Aug, 5pm

This summer, in partnership with Watershed and Bristol AF Productions, BFI NETWORK & BFI Film Academy SW are launching a few mentoring opportunities for south west-based filmmakers who identify as being from a lower socio-economic background or who are currently unemployed and claiming benefits. Mentees will benefit from two 45-minute online meetings with industry professionals with actions and notes provided. They aim to inspire and motivate, and to provide tools, resources and plans for your next steps.

[Apply here](#)

Spork! Dead Poets Slam | Deadline: 14 Oct

Six famous poets will rise from the dead, brought to life by six contemporary artists for one night only! They'll battle it out in a chance to win everlasting life, plus a cash prize of £100.

[Find out more](#)



River Radio: Sound Artist Open Call | Deadline 11 Aug

Open call to produce a sound art/audio work and associated audio materials with Exeter residents for broadcast as part of River Radio. This small commission is for the design and delivery of a new audio work that is themed around and explores the river Exe in situ as it meets the Exeter Quayside, and which involves Exeter residents in its production.

Fee: £1,000 (based on 3-4 days work, including any travel and other costs incurred by the artist to produce the sound artwork, paid on completion).

Location: Exeter and/or managed through online/remote engagement.

[Find out more here](#)

Open Call: Exploring the rich multicultural history of Devon

Deadline: 09 Aug, 5pm

An exciting opportunity for a Devon based, global majority artist to work with Devon Development Education on their Telling Our Stories, Finding Our Roots multicultural heritage project. They are looking for a dynamic artist to work with project coordinator and project partners at Offwell School, Honiton Library and the Thelma Hulbert Gallery. The artist's role is to creatively engage young people through workshop activities, inspired by our project stories to create an art piece that will be included in the final project exhibition at the end of the year.

[Apply here](#)

Beyond Face: Artist Associates | Deadline: 12 Aug

Beyond Face are looking for global majority theatre-makers based in South West England to apply for their new Artist Associate programme!

Taking place over 15 months, the programme seeks to aid 2 artists or companies in the development of an idea they have for stage. The aim is that the artists will finish the scheme with a rigorously-developed full-length 'completed' piece ready for the next step, whether that be a tour or a full commission from a venue.

[Find out more and apply here](#)

Reclaim Festival Callouts | 02 Sep

Local producers Katy Danbury and Naomi Turner are curating a week-long celebration of work by women, for women.

They are seeking women-led scratch and headline performances from South West-based artists and theatre companies to participate in the inaugural Reclaim Festival.

[Find out more and apply here](#)

OPPORTUNITIES





Networking

- [Playwrights Cafe Exeter](#) | First Thursday of the month | Exeter Phoenix | £6 OTD
- [Sketchbook Sessions](#) | 20 Aug, 5.30pm - 8 pm | Sacred Grounds Cafe, Exeter | Free
- [Studio KIND. x VASW: Connection, Community, Hope](#) | 27 Sep, 10am - 4.30pm | Studio KIND., Barnstaple | Free

Professional Development

- [Fuse Artist Development](#) | 20 Jul - 06 Jan | Theatre Royal, Plymouth
- [Social Making Symposium](#) | 10 - 11 Oct | St Anne's House, Bristol

Recommended events

- [Janet Sainsbury: The Gift of Nearness](#) | Sat 06 Jul - Sun 01 Sep | [Artists Talk](#): Sat 10 Aug, 2pm, Free | Exeter Phoenix
- [Exeter-based artists at the Edinburgh Fringe](#)
- [Dartmoor Calling: Sylvia Sayer Walks](#) | Sat 03 Aug + Sat 24 Aug | Free

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