**Mass sewing, dancing seahorses and giant grass figures**

***(extra)ordinary*, 7-16 June, Torbay**

A mass sewing event, dancers in the dramatic landscape, and giant grass men are amongst the happenings around Torbay for *(extra)ordinary* – ten days of performances, events and activities offering fresh perspectives on Torbay’s unusual places and spaces.

The programme, which takes place from 7-16 June, will bring together local communities with creative talent from Torbay and further afield. *(extra)ordinary* will create a series of events for local people and visitors to the area.

Taking place in dramatic landscapes, historic places and some of Torbay’s unusual locations, the programme will feature:

**Fabric of Home**, a mass sewing project inspired by the invention of the domestic sewing machine by Isaac Singer. The event will take place in the gardens of Oldway Mansion, the former home of the Singer Family.

500 sewing enthusiasts are invited to take part in the event which will see Oldway’s South Lawn covered with sewing machines. Led by artist Amy Pitt, machine and hand sewers will create a miniature landscape of Torbay. The sewn landscape will map the homes, memories and lives of people living in and visiting Torbay.

**Silence Between Waves** is a dance performance set within the dramatic landscape of Berry Head, to the east of Brixham, with stunning views across the sea.

The project is led by Richard Chappell Dance, and brings together a cast of three Singaporean dancers with a community cast drawn from Torbay. It will explore through movement and sound what it means to be ‘home’, connecting two places across the sea.

Richard Chappell Dance will work with local dancers to explore dialogue around international collaboration. Participants will take part in two workshops and take part in the performance on Berry Head.

The programme also includes Grass Men in huge Living Costumes made from local flora, artworks inspired by kindness created by residents of care homes with local children, and a new piece of music and dance inspired by the courtship dance of Torbay’s rare seahorses.

Martin Thomas, Executive Director of Torbay Culture said:

“Our aim is to make Torbay a better place to work, live and visit, and this series of events is one of the things we’re doing to make that happen. We’re inviting local people to take part in some of the events, and we’re expecting to see lots of residents as well as visitors in our audiences. The programme is designed to make the most of the creative talent we have in Torbay, with artists such as Richard Chappell, and we’re also making cultural links with artists from Singapore and Hong Kong.”

The full programme is available at [Torbay Culture’s website](https://eye-view.org.uk/), and more events will be added in the coming weeks.

Ends

**For further info**

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**Notes for editors**

[**Torbay Culture**](http://www.torbayculture.org/) was set up to deliver Torbay’s 10-year [**Cultural Strategy**](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5a1c04d08fd4d2029e74206e/t/5a5e9bcbec212dc22c1e8afa/1516149720478/Enjoy-talk-do-be-Strategy-document.pdf) – *Enjoy, talk, do, be – A cultural strategy for Torbay and its communities 2014-2024*.

The strategy covers activities, places and values that give people a sense of identity and wellbeing as individuals and communities. It includes the arts, built and natural environment, heritage, libraries, media, museums, play, sport, tourism and informal leisure interests.

The strategy aims to:

* increase engagement and participation in cultural opportunities in Torbay
* maximise the distinctive natural and built cultural assets of Torbay
* ensure cultural development is a key contributor to economic and social development in Torbay

Members of the Torbay Culture board bring a wide range of knowledge, experience and skills from across the cultural sector. They work with the Executive Director to ensure close partnerships and the effective delivery of the strategy.

The work of Torbay Culture is funded through Arts Council England and the National Lottery Heritage Fund, including through the Great Place Scheme. The team is hosted by [**TDA**](https://www.tda.uk.net).

**Silence Between Waves**

The work supported by Arts Council England and is a collaboration with Dance in Devon who will support Richard Chappell through mentoring and community engagement. It also establishes new partnerships for Richard Chappell Dance with Singapore’s National Arts Council and Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts.