

Hospitable Environment. Who are we?

Hospitable Environment was founded in 2021 by Ellie Johnson-Bullock and Sam Ford for the Tidemills Project and focuses on connecting communities through creative inquiry, using the arts and food. Hospitable Environment is a growing organisation and is currently made up of Newhaven residents:
Ellie Johnson Bullock: an Artist and Therapeutic Wellbeing Practitioner working with children, families and communities.
Sam Ford: an artist and secondary school Art and Photography teacher. Lizzie Lower: a maker, writer, editor and creative producer.

Hospitable Environment's values are to work within our community in Newhaven and Sussex. We work alongside and empowering all constituent members and partner up with other community groups. We believe in the importance of creating safe spaces to create, listen and collaborate, often through making and eating food together.

We use creativity and food to explore how to build resilient, sustainable and connected communities. Here are a few photos from our events. They show Soup & Social, Lammas, our community map, the bread-oven and lots more. Please join us next time. You're always invited!



"There needs to be more things like this where we can make art & come together to celebrate where we live. It makes me feel proud about Newhaven."

10yr old participant



Hospitable Environment



"I rate this 1,000,000 out of 10.
I want to come back tomorrow."

8yr old participant

Hospitable Environment

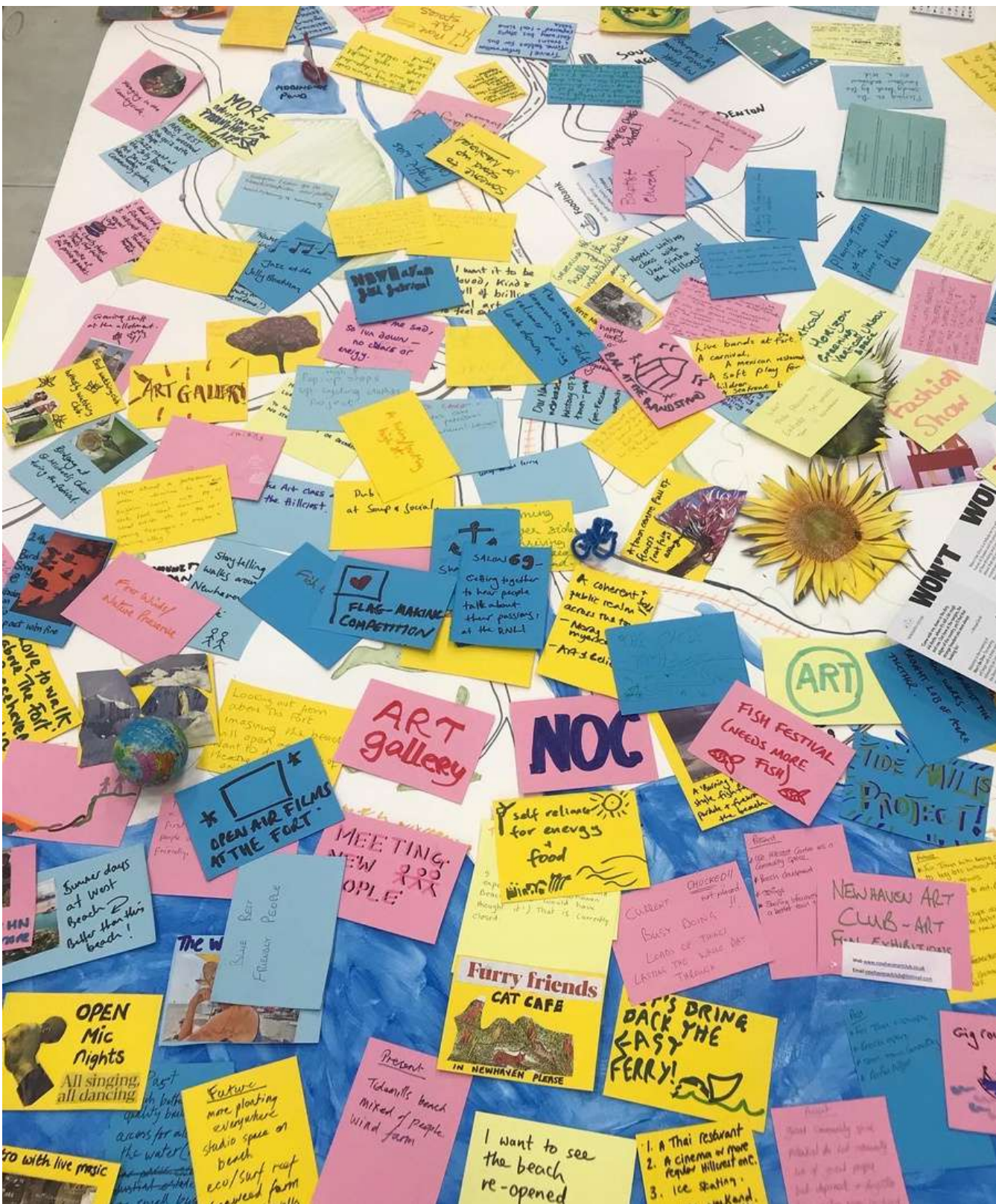




"The workshops are engaging on a developmental level. Empowering children and adults to make bread in a natural process, using an earth oven and cooking with fire. It's impact will have a positive lasting effect."

Adult participant





"This is a very hospitable environment - it's fun, relaxed, everyone eating together. We made our own bread. Brilliant!"
 Adult participant

A brief overview of our story so far.

- September 2021 - Community Bread Oven at the Tidemills Project

Ellie Johnson Bullock and Sam Ford create 'A Hospitable Environment' an installation exploring the food produced in Tide Mills. This included a large sculpture based on a pineapple and a wood-fired bread oven for the Tidemills Project - a week-long site-specific festival. Hundreds of local residents gather around the bread-making table over the week, making bread, eating together, and sharing conversation.

Throughout the spring school term SF and EJB hosted 12 Art and Wellbeing groups for yr 7 pupils at Seahaven Academy. They explored 'What is a Hospitable Environment' through creative expression. Artworks produced by the pupils were exhibited as part of the final installation at the Tidemills Project.

Ahead of the Tidemills Project, EJB secures funding from Sussex Community Development Association for the Tidemills Community Choir led by Ellen Muriel. This free-to-attend natural voice choir continues to meet monthly and perform at community events.

- February 2022 - Soup & Social

A commitment is made to kindle the community spirit that was evident around the breadmaking table until funding and a permanent home for the bread oven can be secured. EJB and Lizzie Lower establish 'Soup & Social' evenings at the Hillcrest Community Centre. This event offers a free meal and community conversation around our founding question: 'What does it take to make a hospitable environment?'. More than 60 people attend. This first event is self-funded, working in collaboration with Havens Food Cooperative who provides some of the ingredients. This collaboration is ongoing.

- March 2022 - Soup & Social with Anti-Racist Alliance

For our second Soup & Social, we collaborate with a local Anti-Racist Alliance. We share a meal and create banners ahead of the United Nations Anti-Racism Day March. Many of the attendees then join the March the following weekend.

- April 2022 - Soup & Social with Creative Newhaven

Our third Soup & Social is a collaboration with Creative Newhaven who asks the community for their memories and ideas about the past, present, and future of creativity in Newhaven. Dozens of local people join the shared meal and take part in an evening of mapping, doodling and collage. (We buy our badge maker. An important piece of kit in our master plan.)

- May 2022 - Hospitable Environment win grassroots part-funding from Newhaven Enterprise Zone and begin the process of permanently locating the community bread oven at Hillcrest.

We start conversations with SCDA about securing match funding. They are very positive about the project but HE must set up a legal entity to draw down larger amounts. HE begins investigating options.

- July 2022 - Soup & Social 'curry night' with Creative Newhaven

The fourth Soup and Social, again with Creative Newhaven, shares the BN9 creative programme to date and is a chance for the community to share what events they have going on and what they would like to see on the cultural calendar. It is attended by more than 70 people.

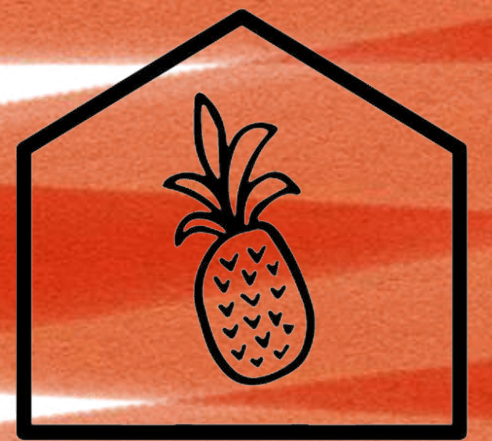
Hospitable Environment and Orange Collective were artist in residence at 'Edge of the Wild' Eco Psychology festival. We hosted a creative processing space. We curated a silent meditative walk for the opening ceremony for 70 participants. We made charcoal from the local willow, collected clay from the river bank, used cyanotypes with natural materials. We connected with many eco therapy practitioners from across the UK.

**"I rate this 1,000,000 out of 10.
I want to come back tomorrow."**

8yr old participant

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ENVIRONMENT**

A brief overview of our story so far.

- August 2022 - Soup & Social Nathan Coley Private View

Following a conversation with the artist, Hospitable Environment gain permission to host a photographic exhibition of Nathan Coley's Sussex-wide installation 'Tentative Words Change Everything', at the Hillcrest Centre. Printing is donated by Harwood King, Nathan Coley art books by Much Ado Books, and ingredients are funded by Newhaven Festival. A local family of Syrian migrants who have enjoyed attending Soup & Socials contribute food for the evening. The evening is attended by around 50 people, many of whom then walk to the beach to see the Nathan Coley artwork in situ.

LL secures start-up funding for a monthly 'Flea Market' at the Hillcrest Centre which launches on 20th August. There are upwards of 25 stall-holders, many of them small local and start-up businesses. Hundreds of people attend.

Hospitable Environment take the bread oven to 'Into the Wild' festival in Sussex. They provide free breadmaking workshops in the children's area. The bread oven is then brought to its permanent home at the Hillcrest Centre.

- September 2022

Hospitable Environment secure a studio space at the Hillcrest Centre (after six years on the waiting list). This is directly adjacent to the community bread oven site, will be a permanent base for our projects, a storage space for bread oven equipment, and home to a small community pottery.

- October 2022

We held the first chapter of The Sussex Women Supper Club, hosting a dinner for 40 people at the Hillcrest followed by a talk for 100 people about the late artist, designer, activist and local resident, Peggy Angus. The event was full with tickets selling out within a week. Funds raised go to running our studio base.

Soup & Social celebrating Hospitable Environment's 1st anniversary since running the bread oven at Tide Mills Project.

- November 2022

Joined in at the Making it Happen Big Sparks event at the Winter Garden in Eastbourne. We met loads of great people.

- December 2022

Christmas Soup & Social with a sit down meal served at the table in the Hillcrest hall for 100 people. We raised funds for Havens Young Creatives and watched the film about saving the Hillcrest made 20 years ago.

Secure a place on a Creative Placemaking Residency run by Co-Lab and the University of Brighton.

Establish Hospitable Environment as a Community Interest Company.

- January 2023

Held a Soup & Social to introduce our project for the for the Creative Placemaking Residency run by CoLab and the University of Brighton. Together with the community we explore our favourite places in Newhaven, what we want to safeguard, and our hopes for the future of the town.

Second chapter of The Sussex Women Supper Club. A supper for 50 people followed by a talk to 100 celebrating the life of ballet dancer Lydia Lopokova, who lived locally at Firle.



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- February 2023

Held two 'Dreamer, Editor, Maker' workshops for the Creative Placemaking Residency. Together with 24 self-selected community members we make a 3-D map of the future of Newhaven that we'd like to see.

In our second Soup & Social of 2023, we share the map and invite the wider community to add their ideas.

Screen the film The Nettle Dress at Hillcrest.

- March 2023

Participate in Imagined Places, an exhibition to share the Creative Placemaking projects. We present our future map of Newhaven alongside a film of the project to a wide audience.

- April 2023

Soup & Social exploring ideas for an outdoor arts and community celebration in Newhaven in 2024.

- May 2023

We refurbished our cob-built bread oven in two cob workshops with the community at the Hillcrest Centre Carpark.

Soup & Social with Creative Newhaven.

- June 2023

Sussex Women Super Club Chapter three: a celebration of the life and work of local potter Sarah Walton who lives in Alciston. A shared meal and conversation with the artist.

Borscht & Bake - a Soup & Social special co-hosted with the Ukrainian Hub sharing bread from our wood-fired cob oven and freshly made Borscht. (HE governance project.)

- July 2023

Lammas - a free festival for all the family at Hillcrest celebrating food, harvest and community around the bread oven. (HE governance work continues.)

- August 2023

Following Ravilious Community Walkabout. A free guided walk around the public art trail, with fish and chips and petanque on the west quay. A soup & Social special field trip.

Delivered a Soup & Social element around a large shared table for At the Edge - Conservation Conversations by Inroad Productions. (HE governance work complete.)

- September 2023

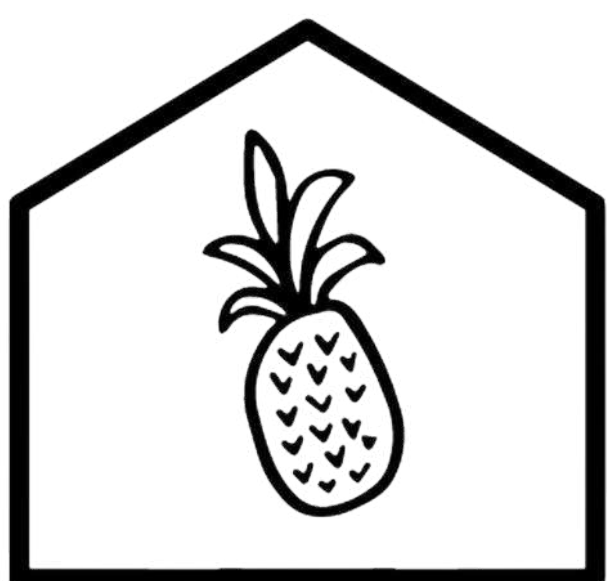
Opening our studio for Artwave 2023.

Hosting a community bread oven and Soup & Social Special with our Syrian neighbours.

- October 2023

Chapter Four of the Sussex Women Supper Club: Tirzah Garwood.

Soup & Social with Creative Newhaven.



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Coming soon; fundraising for a free community Christmas lunch on 25.12.23 and (hopefully) a community maker space and ongoing arts programme...

