

### **Culture in your own home:**

As many of us are looking for activities to keep us connected and active during this period of social distancing and self-isolation. We have put together a list cultural events, activities and resources that you can access from home.

There's a wide range of activities available – from ebooks and emagazines to download; daily creative challenges to engage with; community choirs you can sing with. There's a vast choice of national galleries who offer a virtual tour; and the chance to catch up with Royal Opera House performances; there's even the opportunity to improve your circus skills!

This is just the beginning as more organisations and individuals are developing activities and online content that help us stay connected in these challenging times. We will update our resource pages and share these when they are available. If you are aware of more online activities that are open for others in our local community to join locally please get in contact with us by email:

[artswest@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:artswest@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

Please be aware that CWAC Council does not have any responsibility for the content of most of these links and have shared them in good faith.

## **Culture**

### **Museums and Arts Galleries**

- *Google Arts and Culture* has partnered with over 500 museums and galleries around the world to bring you virtual tours and online exhibits. The collection includes the British Museum, Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam, Guggenheim in New York, Musee d'Orsy in Paris and hundreds more. [www.artsandculture.google.com](http://www.artsandculture.google.com)
- *V21 Virtual Exhibition Tours* have made virtual tours of a hundred plus art exhibitions to explore from your home: <https://v21artspace.com/>
- *Nottingham City Arts: the Armchair Gallery app* includes artworks and artefacts from the collections of Chatsworth House, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, The Lowry, Dulwich Picture Gallery, Pitt Rivers Museum and more with many creative activities alongside them. It is especially designed for people living with dementia. You can [download the app here: https://armchairgallery.co.uk/](https://armchairgallery.co.uk/)
- *Roald Dahl Museum*  
The Roald Dahl museum has developed an online tour and some creative activities from 'Make Stories like Dahl' to 'Make a Wonka factory machine'. [www.roalddahl.com/museum/museum-at-home](http://www.roalddahl.com/museum/museum-at-home)
- *Tŷ Pawb*  
'Tŷ Pawb Arts at Home' are making aspects of their exhibition programme available online, and working with artists to create projects for you to take part in at home. They plan to showcase everyone's creative responses as part of an open exhibition at Tŷ Pawb, later this year. [www.typawb.wales/](http://www.typawb.wales/)
- *West Cheshire Museums*  
Have taken their Viking Exhibition online for everyone to enjoy during April. <http://events.westcheshiremuseums.co.uk/event/vikings/>

## Visual Art

- *64 Million Artists* has begun to set daily creative challenges to keep people doing, thinking and sharing. Sign up at [www.home.dothinkshare.com/creative-inspiration/create-to-connect/](http://www.home.dothinkshare.com/creative-inspiration/create-to-connect/)  
Or follow on Twitter: @64M\_Artists
- *Yodomo* brings access to a range of creative online workshops from with their carefully selected instructors. Many of the online workshops are now free: <https://yodomo.co/>
- *Fermynwoods Contemporary Arts: Isolation Moments*  
Have created a series of online art workshops, prompts and tutorials - the first workshop is from artist Jessica Harby who runs classes in 'anti-drawing' where the goal is to draw badly!  
<http://fermywoods.org/isolated-moments-anti-drawing-drawing/>
- *The Holbourne Museum* in Bath have started a Creativity 4 Wellbeing virtual art group with a new creative activity each Wednesday 2-3.30pm.  
[www.holbourne.org/learning/community-engagement/pathways-to-wellbeing/](http://www.holbourne.org/learning/community-engagement/pathways-to-wellbeing/)
- *Art is where the home is*  
Firstsite gallery are working with a number of artists including Antony Gormley, Gillian Wearing and Grayson Perry to create a free art activity pack to download from their website  
<https://firstsite.uk/art-is-where-the-home-is/>
- *Wilmslow Guild* is running some of its courses online including Observational Drawing and Discover the Artist within yourself.  
[www.wilmslowguild.org](http://www.wilmslowguild.org)

## Craft

- *Crafts Magazine* has offered free access to all their digital editions for a month; giving you the opportunity to dig into every issue of the magazine, spanning all the way back to the 1970s. For access, just head here: <https://www.craftscouncil.org.uk/articles/isolation-inspiration-free-access-to-crafts-magazines-50-year-archive/>
- *West Cheshire Museums* are regularly uploading activity templates for adults and families that will help to make the collections accessible on-line whilst they can't be enjoyed in person. Activities will range from crochet patterns to cut and colour fashion dolls:  
<http://westcheshiremuseums.co.uk/>
- *Tŷ Pwab*  
Have developed some Family Art Club at Home activity sheets created by their Family Art Club artists. A new activity posted every Saturday morning to their facebook page  
[www.facebook.com/typawb](http://www.facebook.com/typawb)

## Archives

- *Cheshire Archives and Local Studies*  
Although the Record Office is closed there are still online archives that you can visit from their website [www.cheshirearchives.org.uk](http://www.cheshirearchives.org.uk). For example you can search:
  - [The Cheshire Collection](#)
  - browse [Find my Past](#) record.
  - See the [Cheshire First World War Servicemen's Index](#).
  - Browse historic photographs at <http://cheshireimagebank.org.uk/>

- *Armchair Archivist*  
A website that allows you to librarians and archivists from the safety of your living room. Giving you opportunity to decipher handwriting, tag images and more:  
[https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/archives-to-browse-from-home?utm\\_medium=atlas-page&utm\\_source=facebook.com](https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/archives-to-browse-from-home?utm_medium=atlas-page&utm_source=facebook.com)

## Choirs

- *The Sofa Singers* is a weekly online choir rehearsal using the app Zoom, has become very popular and takes place on Tuesdays at 7.30pm for 45 mins. As places are limited and snapped up quickly, they also plan to live stream their rehearsal on YouTube so anyone can join in. Go to: [www.thesofasingers.net](http://www.thesofasingers.net)
- *Gareth Malone's Great British Home Chorus*  
"Choir is not just about singing - it's about people, it's about connections, it's about life" Gareth is running sessions on YouTube. Register and they'll contact you by email with the information that you need. <https://decca.com/greatbritishhomechorus/>
- *Song Line Quarantine Choir* takes place on 10.30am Mon, Wed, Fri for half an hour  
There are two ways to join, either by:  
Watching the Live stream on their Facebook Page.  
or to join actively through the zoom app <https://zoom.us/j/9991012345>
- *Cheshire pop choirs*  
Heather Baker will lead you in a mass sing-a-long of some classic tunes to help lift the spirits and focus on having fun. The sessions are free for everyone to take part in.  
You can register for 6 weeks worth of sing-a-longs on: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0vc-2sqzMvMF0qSfgGRFU9u-Hn9IKkTg>
- *Storyhouse*  
are doing a Quarantine Karaoke on Wednesdays at 7pm on Zoom.  
[www.storyhouse.com/event/quarantine-karaoke](http://www.storyhouse.com/event/quarantine-karaoke)

## Dance

- *Fallen Angels Dance Theatre* have a YouTube channel if you'd like to see some of their performances <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCXbAVtkaU51gyLmVK5kdvg/videos>  
Their website also has some links and inspirational blogs: [www.fallenangelsdancetheatre.co.uk](http://www.fallenangelsdancetheatre.co.uk)  
  
They will be doing 10 minute dance taster sessions, on Facebook Live, for all ages, to help combat anxiety. Planned for: Wednesdays and Thursdays between 4-5pm.  
[www.facebook.com/fallenangelsdancetheatre](http://www.facebook.com/fallenangelsdancetheatre)
- *Movema and RISE Dance*  
Are hosting online World Fusion classes using Facebook Live with the aim to bringing us all together no matter how far apart we are in location.  
They take place on Tuesdays from 7pm- 7.45pm on <https://www.facebook.com/Movema/>
- *Sadler's Wells*  
Are delivering a programme of free dance performances and workshops online to keep you entertained and connected through dance.  
Including dance workshops specially created for families with young children and over 60s.

For further details visit [www.sadlerswells.com/whats-on/2020/digital-stage/](http://www.sadlerswells.com/whats-on/2020/digital-stage/)

- **Royal Academy of Dance**

Over the coming weeks RAD@Home will be adding online dance classes for all ages and abilities to their youtube channel and Facebook page and IGTV. <https://www.royalacademyofdance.org>

## Drama

- *Storyhouse*

Some of their regular programme will be available online, including: Quarantine Karaoke, workshops for families, storytelling, and recommended film and TV bundles. Access these online at [www.storyhouse.com](http://www.storyhouse.com)

- *Minerva Arts*

Cheshire's Minerva Arts are setting Theatre Thursday drama challenges. Follow them on Facebook to see the challenge, have a go and you can also upload your own response: [www.facebook.com/minervaarts](http://www.facebook.com/minervaarts)

- *Action Transport Theatre*

Drama Droplets (7-11 yr olds) – starting 6 May

Drama Drop-in (12-17 yr olds) – starting 15 April

Action Transport's Youth Theatre groups are being run remotely via Zoom.

For details of this and any other projects from Action Transport during lock down please visit

<http://www.actiontransporttheatre.org/lockdown-participation-projects-resources>

- *Little Actors Theatre*

Has a schedule of free writing and performance workshops during lock down. With sessions for children, young people and the over 50s. For details visit [www.littleactorstheatre.com](http://www.littleactorstheatre.com) and click on Covid-19 Lockdown Schedule. Contact them for details on how to sign up via Zoom [mail@littleactorstheatre.com](mailto:mail@littleactorstheatre.com)

- *Theatre Clwydd Together*

Is an online creative programme to encourage and facilitate creativity amongst in the community. There are free weekly themed creative projects online, with the Theatr Clwyd team and freelance artists providing content and inspiration in music, dance, visual arts and theatre.

<https://www.theatrclwyd.com/>

## Theatre

- *Chester Mystery Plays*

For a limited time from Easter weekend the DVD recording of the 2018 production of Chester Mystery Plays will be available to watch on YouTube. For more information visit

[www.chestermysteryplays.com](http://www.chestermysteryplays.com)

- *Cheshire Rural Touring Arts - Spring 2020 season*

- *The Mystery of Raddlesham Mumps*, by ATT, toured the network in the Autumn. A studio recording of the children's play is now streaming for free on [www.soundcloud.com/matthew-linley/the-mystery-of-raddlesham-mumps](http://www.soundcloud.com/matthew-linley/the-mystery-of-raddlesham-mumps) There are also some work sheets to support home schooling available here [www.raddleshammumps.co.uk/activity](http://www.raddleshammumps.co.uk/activity)

- *Cello on Fire*

Was due to tour with CRTA this Spring. The artist [Peter Hurdler](#) has lots of videos from his performance at the Fringe, amongst others on his [YouTube channel](#). There is also a playlist with all tracks of his CD Caleidocello available on [YouTube](#) as well.

- *Just Some Theatre – The Four Horsemen*  
This show was also due to tour with CRTA this Spring. They recorded the show for their archive but it's not a professional recording (they were planning on doing this at a CRTA venue). To see the show please visit [YouTube](#).
- *Quick Duck – Yours Sincerely*  
Were able to share a link to an animation on [YouTube](#) of one of the letters that feature in the show.
- *Cheshire Rural Touring Arts - past seasons*
  - *The Mystery of Raddlesham Mumps*, by ATT, toured the network in the Autumn. A studio recording of the children's play is now streaming for free on [www.soundcloud.com/matthew-linley/the-mystery-of-raddlesham-mumps](http://www.soundcloud.com/matthew-linley/the-mystery-of-raddlesham-mumps) There are also some work sheets to support home schooling available here [www.raddleshammumps.co.uk/activity](http://www.raddleshammumps.co.uk/activity)
  - *Freeplay*  
Are a Canadian a cappella duo who create an extraordinary sound. They are doing a bi-weekly, pay-what-you-can live streaming concert. It is every 2nd Friday at 4pm EST (9pm BST), starting Friday, April 17. Freeplay will do a new show each time: sometimes a cappella as you've seen them before, sometimes with instruments simulcast on Facebook Live and our [YouTube channel](#).
  - *Pentabus*  
Pentabus create plays about contemporary rural life. They will be releasing a live recording of one of their past shows each week on Friday at 2pm. To view this and other shows please visit their [website](#)
- *National Theatre*  
Join is every Thursday for much-loved National Theatre Live productions, free to stream on YouTube for seven days.  
[www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/nt-at-home](http://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/nt-at-home)
- *The Shows Must Go On*  
Andrew Lloyd Webber Musicals will be streamed for free online. Shows will be streamed on Fridays and available to watch for 48 hrs.  
[www.youtube.com/theshowsmustgoon](http://www.youtube.com/theshowsmustgoon)
- *Royal Shakespeare Company*  
Are developing a series of ways that you can enjoy their shows and other work while the theatre is closed. <https://www.rsc.org.uk/at-home-with-shakespeare>
- *Oxford Playhouse Plays On*  
Have developed an online creative programme from Creative Challenges to Creative Masterclasses and sharing recorded performances  
<https://www.oxfordplayhouse.com/oxford-playhouse-plays-on/>

## Opera & Ballet

- *Royal Opera House*

ROH have launched a programme of free online content; they're broadcasting a schedule of content that brings a programme of opera and ballet to every home and device.

Some performances will be available via facebook and Youtube others via Marquee TV

[www.roh.org.uk/](http://www.roh.org.uk/)

- Marquee TV

A number of organisations, including ROH and RSC are partnering with Marquee TV to bring you world class performances on demand. Some content is free or a 30-day free trial is available for their audiences [www.marquee.tv](http://www.marquee.tv)

- *Paris Opera House*

Paris Opera is offering ballet and opera shows from their archives online free of charge. Performances from Swan Lake to Don Giovanni are available on the website

[www.operadeparis.fr](http://www.operadeparis.fr)

## Circus

- *The Circus House*

The Circus House are uploading videos of circus skills that you can practise at home on [www.thecircushouse.co.uk](http://www.thecircushouse.co.uk). They're encouraging participants to post their progress using Instagram: @thecircushouse or using the hashtag #circusinyourhouse

- Cirque du Soleil

CirqueConnect is new digital hub on Youtube that Cirque du Soleil will use to 60 minute performances online for free. For more info visit [www.cirquedusoleil.com/cirqueconnect](http://www.cirquedusoleil.com/cirqueconnect)

## Films

- *Storyhouse* have partnered with online cinema platform Mubi to give you a free 90 day trial period to enjoy cult, classic and independent films – with a new film every day. Every week Storyhouse will be posting a round-up of films to watch on Mubi and other streaming services [Mubi.com/storyhouse](http://Mubi.com/storyhouse)

- *BFI Player*

British Film Institute (BFI) are offering a 14-day free trial of their app to access classic and cult films at: <https://player.bfi.org.uk/subscription>

## Music

- [The Philharmonia](#) has playlists and films of performances on its Youtube channel of orchestral music

- [London Philharmonic Orchestra](#) has LPonline has created playlists of recordings of orchestral music in place of some of their cancelled concerts as playlists on Spotify and IDAGIO.

- [Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra](#) has a [Digital Concert Hall](#) where you can currently have free access to their archive of concerts and films

- *Tÿ Pawb*

Tÿ Pawb Arts at Home will live stream their Friday night gigs via their Facebook page

[www.facebook.com/typawb](http://www.facebook.com/typawb)

## Poetry

- *Sir Patrick Stewart* is broadcasting a Shakespeare sonnet a day during isolation via his Twitter @SirPatStew
- *Testify Poetry*  
The Chester based group have set up a Testify facebook group and each day they will post prompts, writing exercises and submission opportunities. Everyone is welcome, even if you've never been to Testify before [www.facebook.com/groups/497889481117650](https://www.facebook.com/groups/497889481117650)

## Lectures

- *Storyhouse*  
Lunchtime lectures is a collaboration between Storyhouse and University of Chester and is on the third Tuesday of each month.  
[www.storyhouse.com](http://www.storyhouse.com)

## Libraries

- The library service is available 24/7 for free audio downloads, eBooks and eMagazines. The books will stay on your device for 3 weeks before they are automatically 'returned' to the library. You'll need your card number and pin, but if you're not already a member you can now join the library online [www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/libraries](http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/libraries)

The libraries team have also compiled a list of e-resources on their webpage to help people, study and research from their own homes

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/libraries/eresources.aspx>

Libraries are also sharing short how to videos on Facebook and taking several of their clubs online on Facebook Live @cwaclibrary.

### **Virtual Lego club, Saturdays 10am**

Each week will be a different theme. Last Saturday was Rockets and everyone was invited to share their creations with the Libraries team via social media.

### **Online Rhymetime –Tuesdays 10.30am**

Not only good old classic rhymes but also some basic signing to help everyone in the community join in.

### **Digital animation sessions Wednesdays 11.30am**

Another wonderful, regular session usually delivered in libraries but now offered online as a reminder/tutorial on how to create your own animations at home.

**Storytimes to be shown at 3pm (normal end of school day)** – Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

### **Storytelling from Storyhouse**

Each day there will be a 11am family story [www.storyhouse.com/event/11am-family-story](http://www.storyhouse.com/event/11am-family-story) and a 6pm story (or poem, speech or excerpt) [www.storyhouse.com/event/6pm-story](http://www.storyhouse.com/event/6pm-story)

Each is read for you by a familiar face from Storyhouse and friends. Previous readings are stored on the website page.

### Reading groups

- The BBC has advice about how to set up an online reading group and you can access books online from the library for free!  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/4d2tfP38MXzZ8bgM7KZ4Wyb/novel-connections-how-to-set-up-your-own-online-book-group>
- *Audible* allows you to download a wide genre of audio stories and books. Whilst the schools are closed Audible has a wide collection of stories (across 6 languages) available to listen to for free to stream on your devices.  
<https://stories.audible.com>

### Storytelling

See also the Libraries section

- *Cheshire Rural Touring Arts*  
Spot On (Lancashire's Rural Touring scheme) have commissioned '[Spot On Stories](#)' - a series of 3 minute filmed stories. They have shows for children at 3pm on Tuesdays and for Adults at 7pm on Thursdays. All featuring rural touring artists. Videos are premiered on their [facebook page](#) at the times given and are then available on YouTube for 30 days.

### Writing

- *The Boaty Theatre Company*  
Are setting a Tuesday writing challenge for kids. Visit [www.boatytheatre.co.uk](http://www.boatytheatre.co.uk) for more information or follow them on social media
- *Action Transport Theatre*  
The Young Writer's group continues to meet virtually and is open to young people aged 13-17. Young Writers programmes are designed to nurture and encourage new writing talent. The group meets via Zoom on Mondays 11.30 – 1.30pm  
[www.actiontransporttheatre.org/youngwriters](http://www.actiontransporttheatre.org/youngwriters)
- *Keep on Writing Challenge*  
One writer a day is given a prompt to make a 2 minute 20 play by 6.30pm the following day. Due to demand they have also created a continuing drama with writers being tasked to create a scene and pass it on. They are then posted on Twitter: @KeepOnWriting20
- *National Activity Providers Association (NAPA) Arts in Care Homes*  
NAPA has a range of free online resources for activities and ideas. It has an initiative called Only Connect set up to encourage more creative writing projects in care homes. One project is to develop care home pen pal partnerships. Get in touch with NAPA for more information  
[www.napa-activities.co.uk](http://www.napa-activities.co.uk)

### Various Arts forms

- **BBC**



*Culture in Quarantine*, developed by the BBC in partnership with Arts Council England include lots of links to arts programmes on BBC iPlayer and including biopics, tutorials; guidance on how to set up an online book club and a digital journey through Tate Britain.

They are also sharing information about performances being streamed by national performance companies [www.bbc.co.uk/arts](http://www.bbc.co.uk/arts)

- *Cultural First Aid Kit*

The Cultural First Aid Kit provides 30 creative and fun activities and workshops that can be completed at own home or in a care setting. The activities have been created by artists, musicians and therapists for people to carry out themselves or with family and friends.

Download it here: <http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=41662>

- Luminare in Scotland have launched *Lunminate@Home*

Short films are uploaded twice a week, to inspire and guide you through a creative activity that can be done at home or in a care home. The activities are presented by professional artists and feature different arts forms including crafts, poetry, music and dance. The films will be left on their social media channels and website. [Lunminate's facebook page](#), or on our [YouTube](#) or [Vimeo](#) channels.

<https://www.luminatescotland.org/lunminateathome>

- *Get Creative Festival*

Unfortunately the festival in May has been cancelled; in its place they have started Get Creative at Home. Have a browse for a range of activities from crafts to videograms and loo roll to life drawing <https://getcreativeuk.com/activities> Visit their twitter and Facebook sites

@GetCreativeUK to find tutorials in a range of art forms.

Twitter: @GetCreativeUK

- *The Arts Society*

Free to both The Arts Society's 90,000 Members as well as the general public, **The Arts Society Connected** will host a series of fortnightly lectures by the UK's leading art historians, as well as film screenings, live author Q&As and a community forum <https://theartsociety.org/arts-news-features/arts-society-connected>

- *West Cheshire Museums*

Will also shortly have a Youtube channel which will hosts films:

- films for school pupils/teachers,
- mini lectures for adults
- activities for families
- career chats for high school students

### **Manchester International Festival**

MIF Live is back with a series of free livestreams, discussions and archive broadcasts. Each Tuesday they'll be announcing the week's schedule on their website, <https://mif.co.uk/mif-launches-mif-live/> [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) You can expect talks and archive discussions, steaming of events from previous festivals and micro-international festivals steamed from artists' homes.

### **Glasgow International 23 April – 10 May**

#### **A New Online Programme**

**Scotland's biennial festival of contemporary visual art**

Glasgow International has announced details of a new, digital programme in place of the 2020 festival, which has been postponed until 2021. The programme will be available on the homepage of the Glasgow International website [www.glasgowinternational.org](http://www.glasgowinternational.org).

**Chester Pride** keep an eye online for some online fundraising events – to be announced.

**Networking for arts organisations**

Mon - Fri at 9.30am you can join Voluntary Arts for an online get together for people involved in arts, culture and creativity to chat through these challenging times and make connections. Download the Zoom app and click [www.voluntaryarts.org/creativenetwork](http://www.voluntaryarts.org/creativenetwork)