

PRESS RELEASE

Immediate Release

A Doorstep Duet in Farnham

Over the first three days of June, *Farnham Maltings* worked in partnership with Matthew Bourne's *New Adventures* and 18 local organisations to bring *A Doorstep Duet* to front gardens, care homes and courtyards across the town. *A Doorstep Duet* was specially devised by New Adventures artistic team Kerry Biggin, Etta Murfitt and Paul Smethurst to be performed in outdoor spaces allowing people to experience world class dance on their doorstep.

The idea came from *Farnham Maltings* desire to find ways of supporting those who have been worst affected by the pandemic, and people who have been shielding or at risk of isolation, and whose opportunity to see and be inspired by seeing live art has been significantly reduced. *A Doorstep Duet* was the final part of the [High Hopes](#) programme that sought to creatively connect the town.

In true *New Adventures* style, the duets were lively, characterful, and joyful. *A Doorstep Duet* followed two everyday people being transported back in time through music and discovering the joy of dancing together in different eras.

The Maltings worked with local community groups and organisations to bring performances to: *Right at Home* clients' doorsteps, *Farnham ASSIST* clients, *Farnham Hospital*, Beldham Recreation Ground in Wrecclesham, *space2grow*, *St. Thomas Church* on the Bourne, *Hale Community Centre*, Farnham Park, *All Saints Church's* parent support group, *Sampsons and Andrew Windsor Almshouses*, *St. Mark's Church*, Sandy Hill Field, *Ashton Manor Care Home*, *Bournewood Manor Care Home* and *Grace House*.

25 performances took place, reaching over 400 people, for audiences ranging from 1yr olds to 99yr olds. Audiences commented that it was "a burst of joy in our busy day and we all left smiling", and that "it really held children's attention". It left many emotional, and some in tears. There were numerous calls for "more again please", with many commenting that it's "not what you expect" in community spaces.

"It has put a big smile on all of our faces" said Sarah Ball, Ashton Manor Activities Co-Ordinator, "and has brought us closer to the community". Cllr Alan Earwaker, Mayor of Farnham, attended two performances and commented that "the residents of Providence Place were energised and extremely entertained".

Imogen Kinchin, Executive Director of New Adventures said, "A Doorstep Duet has been a key project for us this summer as communities recover from the impact of the pandemic. Through this

project, we have been able to reach a diverse range of people, some of whom have been shielding throughout the pandemic. In sharing this uplifting duet with the Farnham communities, we have witnessed the impact, transformation and connection dance can provide.”

Paul Smethurst from New Adventures commented: “It was utterly moving and uplifting to see our amazing dancers performing their hearts out after a year which has stripped them of the ability to do what they do and love.”

The duets were performed by dancers from the New Adventures Company: [Alistair Beattie](#), [Isaac Bowry](#), [Ben Brown](#), [Cameron Flynn](#), [Bryony Harrison](#), [Shoko Ito](#), [Daisy May Kemp](#), [Catrin Thomas](#) and [Bryony Wood](#).

A Doorstep Duet was performed in line with covid government guidance, with social distancing always maintained and restrictions on audience numbers where needed.

Ends

Notes to editors

Farnham Maltings is a creative organisation that works with the artists and communities of Southeast England to encourage the greatest number of people to make, see and enjoy the best art possible. From a range of buildings, set in the heart of Farnham, we present events and workshops from large scale craft festivals to intimate theatre shows, as well as proving space for voluntary and community groups to deliver their own ambitions. We enable artists making craft, theatre, and dance work to thrive by providing affordable studio and rehearsal space, offering producing and tour booking, developing networks, sharing resources, and equipping artists with the skills and opportunities to promote their work locally, nationally, and internationally. farnhammaltings.com

About New Adventures

New Adventures is an iconic, ground-breaking British dance-theatre company, famous for telling stories with a unique theatrical twist. Since 1987 New Adventures has changed the popularity of dance in Britain, creating works that have altered the public perception of what is possible when it comes to telling stories without words.

New Adventures has received numerous international awards and an incredible 6 Olivier Awards and 12 Nominations. For over 30 years New Adventures has created 12 full-length productions and a triple-bill of short works. We tour nationally and internationally each year, our award-winning repertoire inspiring and thrilling millions of people worldwide.

New Adventures is a charity. We are passionate about diversifying the dance landscape and investing in the future of dance through delivering inclusive projects for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds alongside development opportunities for emerging artists. We are committed to there being no barriers to our work and deliver a wealth of transformative programmes year-round.

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