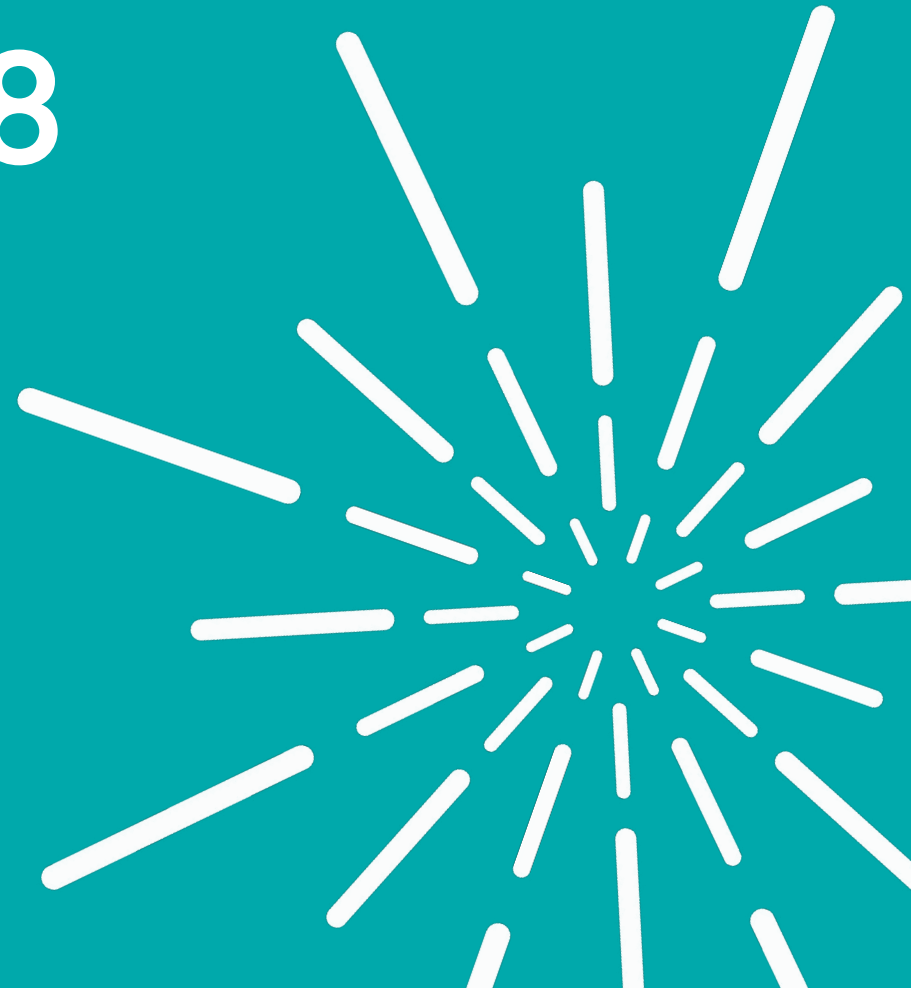


# Images of Public Engagement 2018



## Introduction

*The NCCPE would like to thank everyone who participated in the competition and helped to make it such a success.*

## Images of Public Engagement 2018

The National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE) launched the Images of Public Engagement Competition as part of our 10th anniversary celebrations in 2018. We invited people to share images and captions of inspiring engagement activities, culture change initiatives, and of people involved in public engagement in UK higher education. The three competition categories were Engagement; People and Culture Change.

Over 170 entries were submitted, of which 99 made the longlist. Our judging panel met in August 2018 to select the winning and commended entries. This document shares these images and captions, and includes comments from the panel about the process as a whole and about the qualities they responded to in the shortlisted, commended and winning entries. We hope these comments will inspire you to engage with the images and captions, and to look and look again.

“ The Images of Public Engagement Competition 2018 provides a wonderful snapshot of the vitality and diversity of public engagement practice in UK Higher Education. We want to thank everyone who entered for providing such a personal and thoughtful illumination of what public engagement means to them, and for reminding us of the difference it can make, inside and outside the university.”

**Sophie Duncan and Paul Manners, NCCPE**

## Competition judges

Our judging panel included:

- **Sophie Duncan**, Deputy Director, NCCPE
- **Jo Heaton-Marriott**, Director of Communications & Engagement, UCLan
- **Paul Manners**, Director, NCCPE
- **Erinma Ochu**, Lecturer in Science Communication & Future Media, University of Salford
- **Ed Stevens**, Deputy Head of Public Engagement, University of Bath

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## People category

*Who are the characters that animate your public engagement? Who has inspired you, or challenged you? This could be the publics you engaged with, the partners you worked with, your project team or anyone else who was part of the process.*

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### Judges' comments

- The judges were struck by how the entries to the People category illuminated the humanity of engagement, and foregrounded the relational aspects.
- The diversity of relationships that are developed came across vividly, from one-to-one relationships to pairs, groups and larger teams.
- Often the images illuminated the vital role played by trust, empathy and mutual respect in effective engagement.
- The judges commented on how many images captured the process of people 'finding their voice' and contributing meaningfully to research.
- Some entries confronted the challenges of finding common ground and dealing with difference and conflict.

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“ Overall, this category really exemplified the qualities of the people across the public engagement ecosystem; compassion, understanding, good-humour, warm-heartedness and respect really shone through in the images shared.

Each and every one of these entries served as a reminder of why I love working in engagement and why we all find our work so rewarding.”

**Jo Heaton-Marriott, UCLan**



⤴ The Community Gateway Team

WINNER

## WINNER



**Category**  
People

**Submitted by**  
Sarah Hughes,  
Communications Officer,  
Cardiff University

**Image credit**  
Peter Evans

## The Community Gateway Team

✔ This photograph is of the Community Gateway project team and sums up perfectly the unique personalities and friendships behind the project that has made it such a huge success.

## Judges' comments

- The judges loved the composition of this image and the animation of the participants.
- The image captured vividly the trust and respect between the team, but it also made you feel like you could get involved too: it felt like a team that would really go out of their way to welcome you in.
- The caption captures your interest – but the judges enjoyed the fact that it didn't give you all the answers and left you curious to find out more. It leaves you wondering... Who are they? What did they do? What happened next?
- The interaction between the group felt very natural, and their personalities and friendships shone through.
- It reminded the judges of how important friendship and mutual respect are in building successful engagement activity.

“ This is a wonderful image that made me smile and want to get to know this group of people. The caption tells you what matters – the values that hold them together.”



## ◀ **Chance and Composition at Tate Exchange**

A composer, musician and music therapist, Sonia Allori has challenged and inspired my ways of communicating with wider publics with skill, flair and humour. It was my privilege that her musical imagination was sparked by the stories I uncovered of avant-garde (Dada) women artists and writers of the early 20th century. Together with a visual artist, Vaia Paziana, our small team, led by Sonia, has sought to bring these women's works to new audiences of all ages and backgrounds. Through creative responses that combine words, visuals and music we make collaborative original works for the 21st century. Above all, we encourage participants to create their own poems, collages and performances in open workshops and gallery spaces. A stroke survivor and wheelchair user, Sonia is committed to maximising accessibility. Her own experiences and her commitment to work have taught me so much about difference, disability and diversity as enriching and empowering.

**COMMENDED**

## COMMENDED



**Category**  
People

**Submitted by**  
Ruth Hemus,  
Senior Lecturer,  
Royal Holloway  
University of London

**Image credit**  
Andrew Mitchell

## Chance and Composition at Tate Exchange

### Judges' comments

- The judges commented on how the image made them want to join in too, and to get to know the subject of the photograph.
- The caption communicated vividly just how important an influence the subject had been on the researcher, and on the very distinctive characteristics that made their relationship so special.
- The image and caption were an important reminder that public engagement doesn't just affect the public – it can have a huge impact on researchers and help transform their practice.
- Judges commented on the 'joyful leadership' that Sonia communicated. They were reminded of teachers or colleagues who have had a similar impact on their work – and of the vital role of mentorship and leadership within the engagement community.

“This image captures pure joy. Sonia's character just spills over and makes you want to strike up a conversation with her.”



⤴ **Citizen Evaluators: Bursting bubbles in research**

**COMMENDED**



## COMMENDED



**Category**  
People

**Submitted by**  
Alicia Hocking,  
Head of SERIO,  
University of Plymouth

**Image credit**  
Claudia Blandon and  
Donna Vascott

## Citizen Evaluators: Bursting bubbles in research

✔ *“I love the title Citizen Evaluator; it gives me a sense of achievement, feels empowering. Anyone in any walk of life can become one. It’s like you are the authority in your own field of your experience! We are all citizens of the world!”*

SERIO, at the University of Plymouth, is evaluating a programme that aims to reduce social isolation amongst older people in Torbay by putting people at the heart of the solution. We have trained a team of older local Citizen Evaluators to conduct evaluation activities within their community. This enables us to gather invaluable insight into the issues that older isolated people face, bridging the gap between researchers and participants of the programme.

People are at the centre of social research and our Citizen Evaluators have burst our bubbles around programme evaluations, reminding us that behind the statistics, there are humans who have meaningful stories to tell.

## Judges’ comments

- The judges commented on the compelling combination of a great title and caption with a lively image. They enjoyed the way it helped turn on its head preconceptions about what research is and who researchers are.
- They felt it communicated the surprising, paradigm-shifting qualities of purposeful engagement, which can disrupt our expectations and generate novel ways of making sense of the world around us.
- They enjoyed how it managed to be both playful and to emphasise such a serious point about public participation in research.
- They loved the title, and its clever interplay with the image. It reminded them of how public involvement really can help to ‘burst’ the bubble of research.
- They felt it captured a harmonious moment, and that the quality of the group dynamics shone through.

“ This image and title really intrigued me, what on earth are these people doing and why are they doing it there? The caption really helped me understand and made me want to find out more about what sounds like a very special approach.”



👤 **Intergenerational Pen Pals Celebrate Together**

**COMMENDED**

## COMMENDED



**Category**  
People

**Submitted by**  
Georgina Binnie,  
Impact & Research Fellow,  
University of Leeds

**Image credit**  
University of Leeds

## Intergenerational Pen Pals Celebrate Together

✔ *Writing Back is a public engagement project that matches University of Leeds students as pen pals with older Yorkshire residents. The scheme aims to tackle loneliness and improve wellbeing in both age demographics, and gathers qualitative data via questionnaires and the digitisation of correspondence. Olivia and Shirley (pictured) have been writing to one another since 2014. Olivia completed her undergraduate degree in 2017 and recently invited Shirley to attend her graduation celebrations. They have continued corresponding during Olivia's MA year. Reflecting on the scheme, Olivia said: 'When you come to university you can get in a little student bubble. It's nice to meet other people. When you get a letter it cheers you up and it does make a difference'. Shirley similarly acknowledged: 'I think if you are lonely or on your own then it's nice to get a letter. I look forward to getting Olivia's letters'.*

## Judges' comments

- The judges felt that the entry really spoke to the category, capturing a genuine relationship and a wonderful project.
- They liked how it captured the animation and interaction of their partnership, and enjoyed hearing the voices of the participants in the caption.
- The entry had great authenticity, and the relationship felt very real. The caption gave weight to the image, revealing a sustained and long term commitment to building stronger links between students and older residents.
- The judges felt that the image 'jumped off the page', animated by the joy that the two women feel in each other's company. They thought that the project is inspirational and demonstrates how creative approaches to engagement can make a real difference for communities but also for universities and their staff and students.

“ A moment of engagement – this entry brilliantly captures the mutual benefit arising from a relationship between two people.”

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## Culture Change category

*Universities are slowly changing and, in many, public engagement is becoming a greater priority. So what does this change actually look like in practice? Can you share an image which captures the essence of culture change?*

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### Judges' comments

- The judges felt that the images submitted to this category captured vividly the many ways in which universities are changing as they embrace greater engagement with the public.
- They agreed that the term 'culture change' is open to many interpretations and means very different things to different people, making this a very eclectic category and perhaps the hardest to judge.
- Many of the images were very effective at confounding expectations of what a university is and of the kind of work people based in universities actually do.
- What unified the entries was that they all had important things to say about the role of universities in society, and how engagement is leading to genuine change.
- The entries had other things in common – they explored themes like rights, equality and access, and they foregrounded some of the ways in which universities are building powerful knowledge with communities.
- Many of the images were disruptive, sometimes uncomfortable, unsettling conventional notions of how universities and their staff and students should act. As a result, many of the images were themselves unconventional, disrupting the usual rules of composition.

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“ This is perhaps one of the most challenging categories - what might culture change look like? For me this was about cultural democracy and looking for evidence of disruption that challenge the notion of what kinds of public engagement is valued, who does it, where it might be carried out and what social benefits it attempts to create. Valuing different forms of knowledge and having different people not just participating but also leading the change they want to see in the world was key.

This sometimes means breaking the rules of convention to challenge what we conceive of success, and recognising the value of difference. So, whilst there were images that were not striking in the traditional aesthetic sense - they broke with convention and challenged how we think. Change starts here.”

**Erinma Ochu, University of Salford**



⤴ We argued, learnt, and left, buzzing

WINNER

## WINNER



**Category**  
Culture Change

**Submitted by**  
Kai Syng Tan,  
Artist-in-Residence &  
Visiting Researcher,  
King's College London

**Image credit**  
Photo collage by Kai  
Syng Tan based on  
photographs by Marco  
Berardi

## We argued, learnt, and left, buzzing

✔ This composite picture illustrates the lively tension between what my artistic research, event and visitors stand and aim for, and what the venue, and by extension the society-at-large, represent.

On 24 April 2018, 83 artists, scientists and health workers ‘invaded’ the iconic Art Worker’s Guild to debate about how neuro-divergent conditions relate to creativity.

The walls are lined with classical portraits of the white, male Brothers of the Guild. Beneath them are other bodies, minds, lives, expressions, beings, narratives and lived experiences: gendered, disabled, neuro-divergent, coloured, colourful. Artists mingled freely with scientists, psychiatrists with ‘service-users’, sceptics with the converted. We used sign language. The artwork was loud and bright and we could touch it. We argued for a culture change and paradigm shift in how we understand difference and disability. We shared. We argued. We asked for permission to speak freely. We listened. We had drinks. We hugged. We left, buzzing.

## Judges’ comments

- Although the judges were not great fans of photo montages, they felt the use of the technique was brilliantly judged in this entry. It created a multiplicity of perspectives and views, like a kaleidoscope. They found this challenging and thought provoking, and a really effective way of conveying the positively disruptive energy that engagement can release.
- They thought the title was excellent, and captured the spirit of culture change: an animated group challenging established ways of framing disability, challenging the old with the new, taking risks.
- The clever and provocative construction extended to the caption, which captured vividly what it feels like to be caught up in the thrill of creating new knowledge which challenges and changes the world.

“This entry captures brilliantly how universities are changing – the montage shows a traditional setting animated by dialogue and opened up to bring different voices and types of expertise into the mix to create powerful knowledge.”



## ◀ Bristol Child-Friendly City Initiative

Children from Room13 Hareclive, a child-led artists' studio based in a large housing estate on the outskirts of Bristol, process from Bristol's City Hall, following a "Thinking Futures" event co-organised by Bristol University, Bristol City Council and the Bristol Child Friendly City working group. Bristol's Child Friendly City initiative was started by three VCS organisations - Playing Out, Architecture Centre and Room13 Hareclive - with a focus on children's rights and access to the physical and democratic space of the city. At this event - the third supported by the University - children spoke to an audience of politicians and others alongside academics, highlighting some of the barriers to their freedom to play outside and asking the elected Mayor to address serious issues such as traffic speed. They also presented some of their own solutions, supported by academic research, such as "poo patrol" - a creative project tackling the problem of dog mess in streets and green spaces. They then processed with banners to an exhibition space where ['The Sad Reality' film](#) was shown.

COMMENDED

## COMMENDED



**Category**  
Culture Change

**Submitted by**  
Alice Ferguson,  
Director,  
Playing Out

**Image credit**  
Shani Ali,  
Room13 Hareclive

## Bristol Child-Friendly City Initiative

### Judges' comments

- The judges felt that this entry communicated strongly how universities are 'getting out' and contributing to their cities, helping ensure new voices and different kinds of expertise can come together to build powerful new knowledge and contribute to positive social change.
- They thought the location spoke very eloquently about how engagement can contribute to democratic change.
- They felt the image captured the children's energy, enthusiasm and activism. They are inviting us to think about the future, and challenging our preconceptions about the role that children can and should play in helping shape that future, for instance through research.

“I loved the energy here. The children are a powerhouse. They will change things, we need to let them.”





Seven Stories, Diverse Voices? November 2017, graphics by @MendoncaPen

👉 The infrastructure is under threat!

COMMENDED

## COMMENDED



**Category**  
Culture Change

**Submitted by**  
Rachel Pattinson,  
Vital North Partnership  
Manager, Newcastle  
University & Seven Stories

**Image credit**  
Pen Mendonça

## The infrastructure is under threat!

✔ How are Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic voices represented in our national story of children's literature? 'Diverse Voices? Curating a National History of Children's Books', a symposium hosted by Newcastle University's Institute for Social Renewal and Seven Stories: The National Centre for Children's Books, brought together Seven Stories staff, authors, illustrators, publishers, education, library and museum professionals to consider issues around children's literature and race.

This visual record of the event was created live by graphic facilitator Pen Mendonça. Pen is currently completing a practice-based PhD at Central Saint Martins where she has developed the new mode of 'values-based cartooning' for accessing and representing diversity, intersectionality and (in)equality. Can you spot the image title in Pen's illustration? This image shows how a museum / university partnership is exploring challenging questions: how is the children's publishing industry representing different cultures, and is this sector genuinely changing?

## Judges' comments

- The judges felt that this entry shows how universities are opening up, to new kinds of partnerships, to exploring tough and often unheard issues and experiences and exploring creative ways to capture and convey learning and knowledge.
- Engagement activity of this kind shines a spotlight on things that are not often visible or publically acknowledged – in the process, changing how universities work but also helping to contribute to positive change in the world beyond the campus.
- The judges felt that this entry demanded a lot of the viewer – and that was part of its power. They admired the intensity and clarity of thinking expressed in the visual record of the event, which draws the viewer in to both the process of engagement and to the results it can deliver.
- They felt that the entry helped foreground how diverse voices and creative methods are transforming research and creating powerful new insights and opportunities inside and outside higher education.

“ This is a wonderful example of evidence intelligently gathered and creatively expressed.”

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## Engagement category

*From festivals to performances, lectures to citizen science, consultation to co-production... What do your public engagement activities look like?*

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### Judges' comments

- The judges loved the diversity of kinds of engagement that were submitted to this category, from prescribing poetry to cure broken hearts, to a medical research open day in Gambia.
- The images evoked strong reactions in the judges, and often disagreement – the process made us realise how ‘personal’ engagement is, and how complex the feelings and responses are it can evoke.
- They were struck by the range and quality of partnerships and collaborations underpinning the entries and by the contrasting scales of different projects – from individuals to large teams, from the very local to the international in reach.
- They reflected on how challenging it is to capture the ‘magic’ of engagement in action, as so often the impacts are very deep and personal, and we can only guess at what the experience means for the participants.
- They also reflected on the challenge of conveying the sophistication and quality of an engagement project through a snapshot image – often the value of such projects is in long term, sustained and slow burning activity.
- They noted how important the captions were in helping contextualise the ‘moments’ the images captured.

- They felt compelled to shortlist a number of entries, to reflect the complexity of methods and outcomes that can be realised through engagement, and the vitality of the work that is going on – while recognising that these seven images only scratch the surface of a vibrant and growing field.

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“ The Engagement category provided a heartening reminder of the sheer diversity of public engagement with research projects out there, a diversity in methods and scale. Our winning and commended entries all demonstrated meaningful and creative ways to involve people in and with research.”

**Ed Stevens, University of Bath**



⤴ Poetry on prescription: the Emergency Poet

WINNER

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## WINNER



### Category Engagement

Submitted by  
Deborah Alma,  
Lecturer & Honorary  
Research Fellow,  
Keele University

Image credit  
Lee Allen Photography

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## Poetry on prescription: the Emergency Poet

✔ A mix of the serious, the therapeutic and the theatrical, the Emergency Poet offers consultations inside her ambulance and prescribes poems as cures. There are skulls, jars of eyeballs and other body parts inside the ambulance and in the waiting room under an attached awning Nurse Verse or a Poemedic dispenses poemcetamol and other poetic pills and treatments from the poetry pharmacy. Dressed in white coat and stethoscope, Emergency Poet travels in her 1970's ambulance to literary, arts and music festivals, libraries, schools, hospitals, charity events and conferences... anywhere where poetic help may be urgently required...

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## Judges' comments

- The judges were unanimous in identifying this image as the category winner.
- They loved everything about it – the power of the image to capture attention and spark curiosity; the intriguing title; and the caption which concisely and energetically communicated what the project was, and how and why it was set up.
- They felt that the entry embodied the creativity and skill that lies at the heart of excellent engagement – finding a meaningful way to involve people in something they may have closed their minds and hearts to.
- They were struck by the huge power of a simple concept – poetry as medicine, prescribed by an expert, personally, just for you – and admired how this simple idea had been pushed to its creative limits, in an authentic and compelling way.
- They felt that the approach would be transferable to other contexts, and be an inspiration to anyone who is striving to find fresh ways to connect others with their work.

“ Our society needs poetry. This image captures a serious topic, in a playful way, making us long to receive the medicine our souls need.”



^ Breathing Blue

COMMENDED

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## COMMENDED



**Category**  
Engagement

**Submitted by**  
Emily Robinson,  
Public Engagement  
Project Manager,  
University of Manchester

**Image credit**  
Robert Battersby

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## Breathing Blue

✔ *Breathing Blue is an artwork consisting of three inflatable sculptures which was created as part of the Breathtaking Lungs project to raise awareness of lung health and respiratory research. The artist Laurence Payot explores elements of breathlessness, breathing well and research in the different sculptures. The artwork connects you to people's stories and makes you more aware of your own breathing. The sculptures include the voices of people with breathing conditions, such as COPD and asthma. The shape and pattern of the sculptures were inspired by people's drawings of the lungs and the air they breathe.*

*Breathtaking Lungs was developed with patients living with breathing conditions and researchers in partnership with the Public Programmes Team, who connect patients and the wider public with research on behalf of the University of Manchester and Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust.*

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## Judges' comments

- The judges commented that this was a dramatic image that inspires you to think about those who have difficulty breathing – something many of us take for granted.
- The caption helped explain why and how the project was delivered, and the judges were impressed by how patients were involved in shaping the project.
- They liked the combination of art, science and real life stories, and the thoughtful approach to involving lots of different kinds of expertise and experience in addressing health issues.

“An intriguing, powerful image with a thought-provoking caption that makes you want to know more.”



⤴ Keneba Open Day: The first of its kind

COMMENDED



## COMMENDED



**Category**  
**Engagement**

**Submitted by**  
**Sarah Fernandes,**  
**Head of Communications,**  
**Medical Research Council**  
**Unit The Gambia at the**  
**London School of Hygiene**  
**& Tropical Medicine**

**Image credit**  
**James Cross**

## Keneba Open Day: The first of its kind

✔ MRCG at LSHTM's Open Day in Keneba on the 19th May 2016 attracted over 1000 residents of West Kiang, The Gambia. All ages were represented, from students looking for information on a potential career to mothers seeking an insight into both the projects being conducted and services provided by MRCG at LSHTM in the region. The event consisted of a tour of six stands - Field, Lab, Science, Clinic, Supplement Centre and Quiz. Throughout the tour there was opportunity for attendees to voice any concerns and raise any questions that they had regarding MRCG at LSHTM's activities in the region. Such open dialogue allowed for further strengthening of the already special relationship that the Unit shares with the surrounding community. Most important of all, the event provided an opportunity for the staff to thank the people of West Kiang for their ongoing support which enables cutting edge research to be conducted in Keneba.

## Judges' comments

- The judges felt that this image provided an important reminder that researchers' engage with the public in many different countries and cultural contexts and doesn't just happen locally or in the UK.
- They thought that the entry demonstrated just how important it is to build relationships with research participants, and to do so in ways that are sensitive to the culture and traditions of the participants.
- It was an important reminder of the need to 'say thank you', of the vital role that food and drink play in nurturing relationships, and of the need to create relaxed, informal settings where people feel valued and where conversation can flow.

“Engagement happens across the world in different cultural contexts – this image captures a new opportunity to build relationships between researchers and local women.”



👤 Little Stories of Wellbeing and Nature

COMMENDED

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## COMMENDED



**Category**  
**Engagement**

**Submitted by**  
**Noreen Orr,**  
**Research Fellow,**  
**University of Exeter**

**Image credit**  
**Steven Haywood**

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## Little Stories of Wellbeing and Nature

✔ Many older people, and especially those living with dementia, have limited opportunities to experience nature in their everyday lives. Carers can also lack the confidence to be in nature with those they care for, often feeling they need special equipment, additional support or more time to engage with nature. As part of a Festival of Social Science (2017), University of Exeter researchers, in collaboration with Sensory Trust, held an interactive workshop to share their research findings on the importance of nature in the wellbeing of people with dementia and their carers. The findings were presented as ‘little stories’ and creative nature-based activities were used to encourage participants to reflect on their connections with nature and to inspire them with confidence to engage with nature. In this photograph, the participants are ‘Painting by Nature’ using nature items to create their own nature brushes and then painting something abstract and beautiful.

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## Judges’ comments

- The judges felt this was an excellent example of how an image, title and caption can work together to communicate the essence of good engagement.
- The image was intriguing, and the caption provided a thoughtful and well explained narrative to contextualise it.
- They felt that it was an important project, and liked the way that it encouraged reflection amongst both researchers and participants.

“A really purposeful, thoughtful and committed approach to bringing research into the world.”



Science and community: sparking connections

COMMENDED

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## COMMENDED



**Category**  
Engagement

**Submitted by**  
Nikki Hildesley,  
Director,  
Discovery Planet C.I.C

**Image credit**  
Pete Bateson

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## Science and community: sparking connections

✔ In 2016, a disused nightclub in central Ramsgate, Kent, became the unlikely location for a four week long, pop-up 'Chemistry Shop', funded by the Royal Society of Chemistry. Community based creative learning facilitators Discovery Planet C.I.C., teamed up with the University of Kent's School of Physical Sciences outreach team to deliver workshops on Stellar Spectroscopy, Chemistry Crime Scene Investigation, Exciting Electricity and Super Polymers, followed by creative explorations of the learning. Over two thousand people attended over the four week period, packing the dance floor and bar areas more tightly than even a Banarama medley could have achieved in the building's heyday. This photo was taken just as a young audience member was about to complete an electrical circuit and see a spark of electricity leap from his fist - Zapp!

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## Judges' comments

- The judges loved the drama of the image, the playful title, and the way that the caption contextualised this magic moment.
- The analogy of the spark worked well to capture the wonder of STEM engagement.
- The judges enjoyed the intensity of the interaction between the audience members and the researchers, and how the image conveyed the immersive nature of good engagement, and the caption reminded them of the careful planning and thought that lies behind such magic moments.
- Above all, they felt that the image captures the thrill of learning. You can imagine this child will never forget the day they created this spark!

“ How can you resist the anticipation in the child's face as they wait for a spark to connect the circuit? I feel like I'm there, in the room, on tenterhooks to find out what happens next.”



© CHIM XEROGRAPHIC

👤 The Underwater Ocean Choir

COMMENDED

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## COMMENDED



**Category**  
**Engagement**

**Submitted by**  
**Russell Arnott,**  
**Outreach Coordinator,**  
**Incredible Oceans**

**Image credit**  
**Ben Loveday**

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## The Underwater Ocean Choir

✓ *The Future Of Our Seas project worked with early career marine scientists researching at various institutions from around the UK. The aim was to equip them with the skills they needed to develop and deliver an impactful piece of public engagement related to their research.*

*Here attendees at Plymouth Pirate Weekend are learning how underwater noise pollution affects the reproduction, development and survival of different fish species. Ocean acoustician, Harry Harding (centre) taught audience members how to mimic the sounds of different fish species, forming them into a spontaneous underwater choir. As the choir continued to 'sing', a PA system blasted the choir with louder and louder man-made sounds (boat propellers, deep sea drilling, sonar) until the cacophony completely drowned the choir out; a fun (and noisy!) way to emphasise an abstract concept to the general public.*

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## Judges' comments

- The judges felt that this entry captured brilliantly the drama and excitement that great engagement can inspire.
- They felt that the image captured the spontaneity, concentration and connectedness of the participants, and that the entry was a great example of how participatory, engaging activities can be designed to bring abstract concepts to life in a meaningful way.
- It was an excellent example of a strong image, an interesting title and a precisely crafted caption that answers your questions but leaves you wanting to find out more.

“ I love the laughter and togetherness of this image, and the humility of the ‘conductor’.”

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## Judges' comments

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### General reflections and feedback from the panel

- Overall, the judges were delighted by the inventiveness and thoughtfulness of the entries. They felt that they represented a diversity of approaches to and understandings of public engagement in UK higher education.
- The shortlisted entries impressed the judges with their ability to contextualise and frame the image with carefully written and thoughtful commentary, and an effective title. The captions alongside the images were critical to helping the judges collectively judge the competition within the broader context of public engagement and culture change.
- Some of the images captured moments of real intimacy or vulnerability. Whilst it was a requirement that all entries were submitted with the permission of the people in the picture, the commentary often played an important role by contextualising the image and giving a voice to the people portrayed.
- The shortlisted and winning entries were all strong images that the judging panel agreed had real merit, where the captions and titles worked hard to elucidate their significance, and which addressed the competition criteria effectively.





The National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE) is internationally recognised for its work supporting and inspiring universities to engage with the public. We work to change perspectives, promote innovation, and nurture and celebrate excellence. We also champion meaningful engagement that makes a real and valued difference to people's lives.

The NCCPE is supported by UK Research and Innovation, the devolved Higher Education funding bodies and Wellcome, and has been hosted by the University of Bristol and the University of the West of England since it was established in 2008.

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