



# Annual Report

Year End March 2025





## Saltwater Creations CIC – Annual Report Year End March 31<sup>st</sup> 2025

### Sunrise: Introduction

In 2025 Saltwater Creations celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Since 2015, it has delivered activities to over 9,785 people.

### Shoreline: Mission & Goals

The main aim of Saltwater Creations is to encourage individuals to still lead a fulfilling life both personally and professionally, resulting in positive changes in behaviour, focus, performance and productivity, and helping to prepare them for the world of work and future life in general.

*"I felt really calm while making a card out of beach plastic. We had great conversations, and I think these sessions are really good for people's mental health. It's such a creative session where everyone is welcome to make something and release their inner child."*

Workshop beneficiary

### Seashells: Impact Metrics

In 2025, we reached over 492 people directly with 33 workshops and activities.

- 272 were young people aged between 4yrs and 25yrs
- 220 were adults
- 114 were repeat users
- 379 were unique users

100% of completed feedback forms (59) evidenced positive feedback, that the sessions had successfully delivered our mission and goals.



Prevailing reasons for using the Saltwater Creations Services:

- Anxiety
- Risk of antisocial behavior, self-harm, exclusion from education
- Lack of life purpose/self-connection causing loneliness and depression
- Low-income families and those in poverty
- Refugees and resettling in locality
- Bereavement
- Learning new skills and accessing arts
- Carer respite
- Cancer remission
- Learning disabilities
- Relocation to area resulting in need to meet new friends and connect with the local community



## Sandcastle Building: Activities and Outputs

We delivered art and creative workshops to groups of vulnerable and disadvantaged people in the community through connections with charity and non-profit groups in the locality.

With specific restricted funding, we were able to work more closely with young people, refugees, people with learning disabilities and those that are at risk of premature departure from educational settings.

We also delivered contracted community work, including a street workshop in conjunction with Artwork Charity and Littlehampton Town Council 'Under the Sea' Family Day. This reached over 64 young people and their families with free accessible arts. We hosted an online Artwork Youth Board session, to create art to reflect key messages to the Charity Board about environmental and climate issues.

Artwork Charity also commissioned Saltwater Creations to host a beach junk modelling workshop with 3 local schools, to support a film and animation project about Marine Protection Zones in our local sea and the rewilding of kelp forests. The 5 short films were premiered at the local cinema where the 250 young people who were involved came to watch. Partners include Sussex Under Water, University of Chichester, Sussex Wildlife and Arun District Council. <https://artwork.org.uk/news/arun-kelp-projects>. This workshop has now been rolled out to other groups and has resulted in over 70kg of plastic and rubbish being collected from our local beaches.

We delivered a new monthly project called 'Saltwater Sketchers', initially funded by Co-op Community Fund. This is now a monthly arts session at a seafront location in Bognor Regis, open to anyone in the community that may be socially isolated, or who wants to try art or be out in nature. This is run throughout the year so that young people can attend in the school holidays and other members of the community can attend in the daytime sessions if they are not working.



*"Although I didn't paint, those that did made it look effortless. One lady thought she had messed her painting up but 5 minutes later, she was even more pleased with what she had achieved. Something there to apply to life."*

Workshop beneficiary

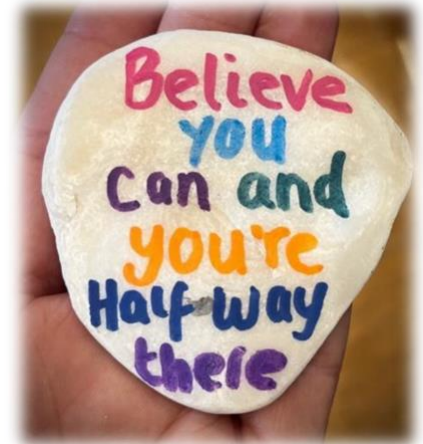


**"Art isn't complete until it's shared" Seph Lawless.**

Saltwater Creations launched a series of online galleries, to capture and share all the art creations made at the workshops: <https://www.saltwatercreations.co.uk/Online-Arts-Gallery.php>

We have supported people in the community to:

- be socially included, reducing depression and loneliness**  
*"I have met some beautiful individuals, that have wonderful energy and have enabled me to meet new connections and opportunities in my community."*  
 Workshop beneficiary
- create community connections between people and local organisations**  
*"The session gave a really great way to connect with new people, by doing the art together the conversation flowed naturally, so it really helped with making new connections."*  
 Workshop beneficiary
- access the arts and develop new skills**  
*"The driftwood workshop exceeded my expectations. It was great to learn new skills. It was nice to be in a calm and happy environment. I was made to feel at ease. I really enjoyed doing something different that didn't involve being on my phone or worrying about school."*  
 Workshop beneficiary
- share emotions and problem solve about life adversity**  
*"It's important to meet new people, listen to their stories and share ideas. This group was a chance to focus and relax with like-minded people. A healthy well-being experience despite bad weather. Excellent location. I will look out for the next one."*  
 Workshop beneficiary
- use the arts to calm senses and emotions, helping to relieve anxiety**  
*'An opportunity to focus on just one thing and to become absorbed by it. Almost like a meditation'.*  
 Workshop beneficiary



## Starfish: Stories & Case Studies

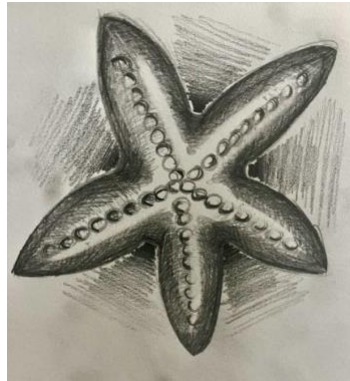
### Case Study 1

A counsellor from a young person's mental health charity was at the centre whilst the Saltwater Creations Vitamin Sea workshop was delivered. She decided to join in. Katie\* messaged later that evening a profound email of thanks.

*'Hi Jules, Last night I went to the beach and collected shells and driftwood for my son's birthday party. Honestly Jules, your session has changed my life! I'm not going to steal your ideas, but it will be such a lovely addition to Leon's\* party! Thank you so much. Also, we have two surf boards, and I can't surf but am now considering your idea of just paddling on it when the weather is getting better.'*

*'Thank you so much for inspiring me yesterday. I have personally been through a lot with my sons' health for over a year now and have been unbelievably unwell with stress, which is part of why I have had to make the sad decision to leave the shop. I absolutely love the team and couldn't have asked for more support from them, but my own health has been rubbish and couldn't have carried on. Thank you so much and I am getting the surf boards out. Maybe I'll learn to stand on one eventually!'*

\* (names changed for confidentiality).



### Rising Tides: Partnership working

Many new community links were made to further the work of Saltwater Creations in 2025. It also enabled Saltwater Creations to signpost individuals to other charities for support (mental health, food poverty and carers support).

Partnerships included: Chichester Development Trust, THE SHED (for young people), Aldingbourne Trust, Jam Community Café, Boys Club Chichester, Phoenix Centre, Club39 (Youth Clubs in Bognor Regis), Felpham Belles Art group, U3A group, Makerspace, Bognor Litter Pickers, Chichester Foodbank, Artwork Charity and VAAC.

*"Thank you so much for the session today. I am so pleased \*Katie stayed, she really enjoyed herself. We would absolutely love to do another session; the group always really enjoy different sessions."*

Aldingbourne Trust





## Harbour Lights: Funders

Saltwater Creations seeks funding to reach communities for free/low cost, to ensure there is no financial barrier to wellbeing support. A number of funding applications were made to help to take the workshops into the community: Successful applications included: **Hyde Housing - Match My Project, Chalk Cliff Trust, Fonthill Foundation, Neighbourly, Southern Co-op Green Fund and Groundwork.**

Some funding was restricted to specific projects. Thanks to the **Fonthill Foundation** who awarded a grant to help foster curiosity and inspire young minds of people aged under 25, through the workshops. Thanks to **Neighbourly, Southern Co-op, Postcode Lottery and Hyde Housing - Match My Project**, for supporting the new beach junk arts workshops. Funding was carried over the financial year end to finish delivering the by year end March 2026.



*"The sessions are lovely. Everything you need is provided, and there is a really great range of people who go, so it feels inclusive. I am definitely going to recommend to friends"*. Workshop beneficiary

## Ebb and Flow: Challenges & Learnings

- Work to secure unrestricted funding to support core costs and development.
- Promote workshops to profit making organisations to help sustain the offering for free to the non-profit groups.
- Increase Director's time to develop and manage the level of workshops, partnerships, evaluation and marketing of them.
- Focus on arts within the workshops as we have received 100% feedback that this is helping the beneficiary groups to feel calm, relaxed and less anxious.
- Change the model of the CIC to 'Limited by Guarantee' not by shares, to access new funding opportunities.
- Some groups would like a series of workshops to build rapport with the beneficiaries with e.g. sets of 3 sessions as a minimum. We have so far only been able to visit groups for one-off sessions, as funders stipulate, we must reach new individuals with our activities.



## Horizon: Looking Ahead 2025-2026

We aim to:

- Continue to reach more people in the community, especially those that are vulnerable or disadvantaged.
- Increase income through more funding applications
- Increase contracted workshops
- Look to relaunch the 'Arts Award' offer, enabling young people to gain a Discovery Arts Award from Trinity College London
- Look to change the governance model from 'Limited by Shares' to 'Limited by Guarantee'. Although no shares have ever been paid out, many funders now only accept applications from 'Limited by Guarantee' CICs.
- Look to increase the Board of Directors, by 1-2 Directors, if appropriate candidates are found.



## Shifting Sands, Lasting Change: Longer Term Impact

2025 saw our celebration of 10 years of service. We asked some of the groups we had worked with to feedback any longer-term impact Saltwater Creations has had on the community:

*"Saltwater Creations has helped support the mental wellbeing of both staff and pupils to reflect on the beautiful world in which we live."*

*"The presentations supported the school's ethos of thinking about the world around them and the importance of being stewards of the environment."*

*"Thank you, Jules. Thank you for sharing your story and how your loss was able to impact young people of future generations with creative art and well-being"*

*"Incredibly impactful workshop and not only talks about the impact of disused items on the beach but allows for a clear and creative way to collect these items and turn them into art "*

Host charity

