

## Artistic life Outside Art in the Park



**Yeovil Country Park has been a focal point for art over the years. Can you discover all of the hidden wonders in the Park?**

Art has existed in the country park for many years, but during the Heritage Lottery Funded V3 project in 2015-2018, additions were created including carved wooden sculptures and a mural. Can you spot them all as you discover the hidden wonders of Yeovil Country Park?

## Did you know?

Most of the wooden sculptures in Yeovil Country Park were carved from fallen and disease felled trees within the park, including beech, oak and holly.



## Art events

In addition to permanent sculpture, Yeovil Country Park hosts art installations and every few years we hold a Well Dressing. The Valley Gardens of Ninespring features flowers, foliage, artwork and public art events and workshops are held throughout the year - past events have included woodcarving, sun prints, clay modelling and literacy, amongst others.

A small exhibition area in Ninespring occasionally displays artwork throughout the park. To find out about future events at Yeovil Country Park please see our social media pages.



sculptures, Yeovil Country  
workshops. Every  
celebration within  
incorporating  
performances. Other  
also held throughout  
included photography,  
modelling, leaf printing

Spring's Café  
created within the  
arts events within  
our website and



## Art Trail

- O1** Wildlife and Heritage Mural  
by Jody Thomas
- O2** Wooden Sculptures  
by Joseph Mesar
- O3** Metal Head Sculpture  
'Introspection' by Richard Langford
- O4** Chainsaw Carvings  
by Rob Beckinsale
- O5** Willow Domes  
by Barbara Clift
- O6** Cast Tiles  
by MIAR Project
- O7** Valley Gardens Restoration  
by SSDC, Local Community and Volunteers
- O8** Ranger Team Carvings  
by YCP Ranger Team



01

## Jody Thomas

A Bristol based street artist, Jody worked through the summer of 2017 to create a mural in Ninesprings inspired by the wildlife and heritage of the local area. Adjacent to the old railway line, the centrepiece is a steam train, with a Westland Wallace plane soaring overhead. These planes were previously manufactured at the nearby Westlands (now Leonardo's) site. The mural also incorporates a kingfisher, otter and other local wildlife. Jody included ideas from the local community which suggested the inclusion of more wildlife, the ladybird, swans and butterflies.



03

## Richard Langford

Somerset sculptor, Richard led workshops teaching sculptural technique to participants of South Somerset MIND – a mental health charity in Yeovil in 2004. Working with Adult Learning and Leisure, it was part of a programme of training for people who had been in a care environment. Over a number of weeks, participants learnt soft stone carving, modelling in wire, clay and papier-mâché. The project culminated in a collaborative piece of work between the artist and the group. The sculpture 'Introspection', made of tubular steel ribs in the form of a head, stands at almost two metres high; it is the artist's sympathetic response to working with the group. Surrounding the base are a number of tablets, sculpted by members of the group in clay and then cast in cement fondue; they all centre on the theme of the subconscious mind.





02

## Joseph Mesar

Based at Barrington Court, Joseph worked with volunteers, rangers and the local community to create 11 carved wooden sculptures for the Park. Can you spot the bat at Riverside, the otter on the island, or sit in the storytelling chair? A local artist also carried out woodcarving sessions for local community groups - their carvings were used to inspire Joseph's sculptures. The wood used came from fallen trees within Yeovil Country Park and the nearby Sampson's Wood, and include oak, beech and sweet chestnut. They were carved and installed between 2015 and 2018.



04

## Rob Beckinsale

A local 'Tree Pirate' chainsaw carver, created five sculptures inspired by local volunteers and the woodland during an event at Riverside in 2018. These were carved from fallen and disease felled trees within the Park, including beech, oak and holly.





05

## Barbara Cliff

**Willow artist**, Barbara has worked with school groups and at public events to create our **living willow features** at Ninesprings and Riverside. During 2016 a dome and tunnel were created at Ninesprings with local children at free public sessions. During 2018, a willow spider, arches and tunnels were created at Riverside working with the local school and at public sessions.



07

## Valley Gardens Restoration

**SSDC /  
Local Community Service group /  
Local Volunteers / Artists**

During the 1990s, restoration work began on the Victorian Valley Gardens, rebuilding fallen arches and walls. This work was carried out by South Somerset District Council together with a local Community Service group and local volunteers. As part of the restoration, artwork was also installed. This includes the Lotus Flower in the Grotto, the ceramic Hart's Tongue Fern on the Fern Cascade and the Bird of Paradise Mosaic at the Source Spring. Artistic wooden benches can also be found in this area.



06

## MIAR Project

**Perry Chapman / Jo Cassidy**

The MIAR (Making Inclusion a Reality for young people aged 5-13) Group worked with the rangers and local artists Perry Chapman and Jo Cassidy in 2004-05 to explore Yeovil Country Park, where they learnt about the local native plants and animals. They spent a week interpreting their discoveries. They each produced a replica fossil with images from the countryside; these were then cast in cement and stone dust and finally set in the ground in the Valley Gardens. The project encouraged the young people to visit and respect the Park and gave them the opportunity to create quality work which has contributed as a piece of public community art.



08

## Yeovil Country Park Ranger Team



The Yeovil Country Park Ranger Team has also worked to create art; carving mushrooms out of fallen trees throughout the Park, carving patterns into the stepping logs and balance beams and creating fairy towers and fairy doors in the Ninesprings Woodland Playzone to enhance the Park for local people.



## More to read...

Further trail leaflets are available at Ninesprings Café to discover easy access routes, wildlife, heritage and more:



Yeovil Country Park  
**Exploring the Park**



Accessibility Guide  
**Easy Access Trails**



Wildlife Guide  
**Wonderful Wildlife**



History & Heritage  
**Journey through Time**



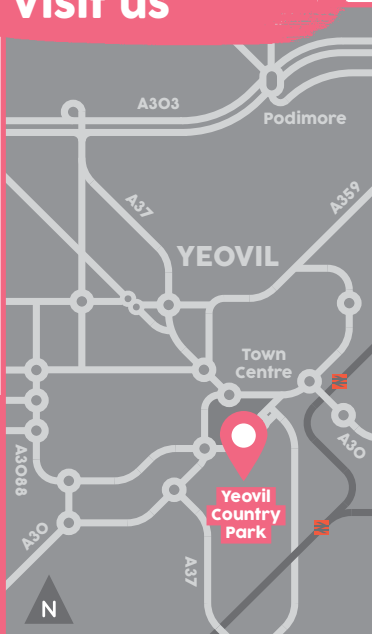
Free Children's Activities  
**30 Things to Do**



Nature Trail Activities  
**Ranger Rik's Adventure**

## Visit us

## Further information



Follow us on social media for up to date information and photos:



**Yeovil Country Park**

If you would like more information about the country park, Ninesprings Café, our events & activities, the volunteers or Friends group please contact us:

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