



HASTINGS & ROTHER ARTS EDUCATION NETWORK

Hastings & Rother Arts Education Network

Monday 28th April 4 – 6pm

Hastings Contemporary, Rock-a-Nore Rd, Hastings TN34 3DW

Facilitated by Kim Byford and Amy Mock

Opening

- Quick update from HRAEN about the new structure including the recruitment of new trustees which is currently underway. We asked everyone to be patient as things seemed to be moving very slowly but everyone in HRAEN is a volunteer.

Exercise with Loulou Cousin from Cabaret Mechanical Theatre making a simple automata. CMT is based in Hastings and keen to develop arts and STEM based programmes with schools – see pictures and CPD flyer below:



DISCOVER AUTOMATA - TEACHER CPD WHERE ENGINEERING MEETS CREATIVITY

FRIDAY JUNE 20 1.30-4.30 PRIMARY TEACHERS
FRIDAY JUNE 27 1.30-4.30 SECONDARY/COLLEGE TEACHERS

Join Loulou Cousin artist, maker, tinkerer and teacher at Cabaret Mechanical Theatre in central Hastings to explore how to make simple moving sculptures out of cardboard that will delight and engage young people of all ages. Automata (moving sculptures) embrace simple engineering concepts, creative skills, imagination and storytelling.

CMT has a collection of 160 exquisitely crafted automata that tour the world to science centres, art galleries and museums. With a permanent base in Hastings, we are keen to connect with schools now and in the future.

*"There's nothing as exciting as teaching children the dark art of automata"
"I've seen even the hard to reach children get excited about making when you teach cardboard mechanical making"*

Join us & be part of the first cohort of teachers to spread the magic.
£75 per person, with a maximum of 8 in each group.

Mechanical Making Space, Rock House, Gotham Alley,
Hastings, TN34 1HA
Book via this link or email: cmt-learn@cabaret.co.uk
<https://cabaret.co.uk/product/discover-automata-cpd/>



The advertised CPD sessions
are now £50pp or £75 for 2
people from the same
organisation.

June 20 1.30-4.30 primary

June 27 1.30-4.30 secondary

To book

[Discover Automata - CPD -
Cabaret Mechanical Theatre](#)

Walk through the galleries at Hastings Contemporary

- Current exhibitions: *The Sun Feeds the Wind*, *Undersea* and *Pearls of the Sea*.
- Link to exhibitions: <https://www.hastingscontemporary.org/events/>

Discussion to give feedback on the Cabaret Mechanical Theatre workshop:

CMT asked for feedback about how automata making could be used in schools/colleges.

- Teachers present saw useful connections with the primary and secondary curriculum (STEM, Design Technology and Art) as well as ways of fitting into alternative provision. '*massive hit for design and technology in secondary*'
- Discussion of how it could also be a useful skill to teach early-stage creatives as a starter activity for workshops. Everyone felt that it would also make a highly impactful collection if a couple of organisations all did the activity at the same time or on the same theme. E.g world mental health day

Roundup from organisations of their current offers:

- **Are We Left Behind?**
 - Event happening on Sunday 18th May at White Rock Theatre to celebrate LGBTQ+ culture and creatives in East Sussex:



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- **The Bright Foundation**
 - You can view all current school offers from The Bright Foundation here: <https://thebrightfoundation.org.uk/schools/>
- **MSL Productions**
 - **Walk with us – Dungeness to Bulverhythe:** 30th May – 1st Jun 2025 – Series of 4 walks and talks celebrating the biodiversity and cultural richness of our local

landscapes. Each activity will focus on a particularly evocative and significant location in terms of flora, fauna, history and heritage, for all ages 8+.

- **September 2025 (subject to funding): Looking for Bo-Peep: IT + heritage + arts + science + environment.** The focus of this project will be on developing skills in the application of computer science to environmental issues and heritage narratives. We are exploring the possibility of holding a series of STEAM masterclasses as part of this project. The masterclasses will explore and document the heritage and biodiversity of the Amsterdam shipwreck on Bulverhythe beach and the Combe Valley Countryside Park. Sessions may be Saturday or early evening and run over 6 weeks in Oct-Dec and Jan-Mar. The masterclasses will be in association with Combe Valley Countryside Park and Groundwork South and will take place at the park, Discovery Centre and on the beach. Participants will learn how to apply digital tech creatively to environmental issues. These sessions will be similar to our successful Hastings Creative Spring and Hastings Creative Summer programmes. They are likely to be for ages 16-18 but we may also do them for ages 14-15. Please email Sophie ASAP to discuss being involved. Although these sessions won't be until the next academic year, we will need to start recruiting schools and colleges now.
- **Sea Stewards programme – September 2025 – Dec 2026:** 8-10 Sea Stewards of different ages will take part in practical tasks of gathering and uploading data on the status of the beach and the Amsterdam shipwreck. They will measure the impact of the sea on the ship and of the fragile beach ecosystem and will help to spread awareness of the effects of climate change on their local areas.
- **More info to come on these projects after funding is confirmed.** As these projects are still in development and not live yet, it's best to put our general website address: <https://mslprojects.co.uk/>. If teachers would like to register their interest or have a conversation about being involved, please respond to sophie@mslprojects.co.uk ASAP.

Closing conversations and round-up of the meeting:

- End discussion of how it would be good to be able to draw together the offers from all organisations for the beginning of the next academic year to send out to schools so that it could be integrated into planning. Longer term having a way of sharing in this way would be easier for all.
- We have put together a short survey to ask what the best days/times would be for HRAEN meeting going forwards, and any thoughts you have on creating this directory of school offer resources. Please let us know your thoughts by filling in the survey here: <https://forms.office.com/e/3czT8fLLpG>