Our Place Creative Makers is a project that invites communities in East Brighton and Hangleton and Knoll to explore and celebrate what the idea of Our Place means to them.

This is an invitation to participate in the creation of a large-scale, craft-based installation during this year’s Our Place at the Manor Gym, East Brighton on Sat 18 May and in Hangleton Community Centre on Sat 25 May as part of Brighton Festival.

The project is inspired by existing talent and enthusiasm in both communities for making craft. It will become part of the global movement of craftivism, which uses making as a form of social or political, peaceful, creative activism. Its roots are in the creative campaigns of the suffragettes and other activists internationally, with the term ‘craftivism’ itself being coined by American ‘craftivista’ Betsy Greer.

WHY?
Our Place Creative Makers is a craftivist project with a specific focus on what we think makes a healthy community; caring, connecting, celebrating and communicating. We would love to involve you in creating one of hundreds of powerful, playful, wearable pieces of craftivism that are enjoyable to make. We hope that this will enable new conversations and connections to take place in families or with strangers. Each piece that is made is created with the intention of being given away to someone else after it has been part of our installation at each Our Place event.

Each piece that is made needs to be something that can be:
- worn on the body or head
- attached to something you can carry, like a bag or keys
- put up and left in key public places (shops, railings, community centres, youth centres, libraries, GP surgeries etc) for passers-by to be inspired by
Follow these steps to become an Our Place Creative Maker!
No previous experience is needed!

1. GET INSPIRED BEFORE YOU START
Watch a video of this year’s Our Place Artist-In-Residence Alinah Azadeh introducing the project: brightonfestival.org/creativemakers
Search #craftivism on twitter, Instagram, Pinterest and google it for ideas and examples.

2. WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SAY OR EXPRESS?
Here are a few prompts to get your started:

- What or who do you care about most deeply in your community that you want to highlight, protect or support? This might be a person, a group, an issue, a service or a special location.

- How can you make more connection happen around you through this project? What would make a stranger smile or feel less alone? Find creative and heartfelt ways to challenge the loneliness and isolation others might be feeling around you, or to reach out for yourself.

- Who or what is there to celebrate around you? Who are the current unseen champions in your community? Where are the hidden treasures? Stitch their names or images.

- Communicate: how can you use this project to playfully express who you are, what you stand for - and what Our Place is or could be - in our community? Use your crafting to speak out, be bold, be open and to create the unexpected.

Transform what is in your head and heart through the creative work of your hands and take pleasure in doing it, that’s the beauty of making things, alone or with others.

3. COMMUNICATING YOUR MESSAGE: VISUALS, WORDS, SYMBOLS
Make a shortlist of a few words or phrases that inspire you – or find lyrics or poetry you love. Or it might be a symbol or image. See what sticks and what you would be happy putting out in the world to get yourself or others thinking and seeing differently.

4. CHOOSE THE MEDIUM OR FORM
Your pieces or pieces can be sewn, embroidered, knitted, crocheted, woven, printed, fabric painted, stencilled, machined, or anything else you can think of. You could make pins, badges, brooches, wearable mini-banners, patches, phone cases, keyring attachments, textile jewellery, mini-bunting, armbands, wristbands, headscarves – anything is possible. They can be made of textile, paper, clay or metal, they just need to be light and within the size guideline.
5. MAKING GUIDELINES

Colours – Please use at least 2-3 colours from our palette, inspired by this year’s Brighton Festival guest director photo, which are; burnt orange, red, gold, turquoise or ultramarine blue, brown and white.

Size – If it’s a badge, pin, brooch or patch, try to keep it to a 10cm square maximum (the size of a medium Post-it note). We will be pinning everything to the fabric of the installation for people to look at before they choose at the end, so we are counting on contributions being light and easy to handle and access.

Number of pieces – You can make as many pieces as you like, we have space for at least 500 in each site!
HOW TO MAKE A CRAFTIVIST FABRIC BADGE

YOU WILL NEED:
Felt or rigid fabric (good for the base) and other fabric in several colours, scissors, thread, sewing needle, pins, tracing paper. Embroidery aida (14 count), embroidery thread and needle. Or printing stamps and ink pad. Here is our project palette. If you are finding your own material, try and stick as closely as possible to this range of colours if possible.

FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS TO CREATE YOUR PIECE:

1. SKETCH OUT YOUR IDEA
2. DRAW AN OUTLINE ON TRACING PAPER AND PIN THE PAPER TO THE BASE FELT FABRIC

3. MARK OUT THE SHAPE ON THE FELT AND CUT OUT THE BASE AND OTHER SHAPES
4. Cut out the next layers of fabric and position on base shape, securing in centre with a large cross stitch. Then cut out the embroidery Aida shape (if using one) and position to get the size right.

5. Embroider your words onto the Aida separately. Once complete, stitch the edges of the layered shapes onto the layer below to secure them, in whatever style you like. You can embellish with gold or other types of thread.
6. MAKE SURE ALL THE LAYERS ARE STITCHED TOGETHER AND GLUE OR STITCH ON A CLASP TO THE BACK OR A GIANT SAFETY PIN TO THE FRONT

NOTE: YOU CAN USE STAMP PRINTS INSTEAD OF STITCHING
6. IT’S READY! TAKE A PHOTO AND UPLOAD IT TO SOCIAL MEDIA USING #OURPLACEMAKERS TO INSPIRE AND BE INSPIRED BY WHAT OTHERS HAVE DONE.

8. DROP YOUR PIECE AT ONE OF THESE COLLECTION POINTS BY THESE DATES TO BE INCLUDED IN THE OUR PLACE INSTALLATION

**East Brighton (by Monday 13 May, 10am)**
The Manor Gym  
Whitehawk Inn  
Whitehawk Library  
Wellsbourne GP Surgery

**Hangleton (by Monday 20 May, 10am)**
Hangleton Community Centre  
St Richard’s Community Centre  
Hangleton Library  
Hangleton and Knoll Project Youth Workers

They will be collected by our artist in residence Alinah Azadeh and made into an installation that you can visit in East Brighton at the Manor Gym on Sat 18 May and at Hangleton Community Centre on Sat 25 May.

**Happy making!**