

# COS NEWS

A CLOSE UP ON OUR PROJECTS, BY [ROB WILKINSON](#).



## Creating space in Cowal with arts project

An innovative and exciting arts project, aimed at tackling mental health issues for young people across Cowal, has recently got underway with funding from the National Lottery.

**Create Space** is the brainchild of Kerry Nixon, an arts fundraising consultant and social media expert based in Hunters Quay and is being led by artist Bonita Ellmore who runs the Yewtree studio in Kirn.

Kerry explained: "I had the concept for Create Space in February when I joined the Cowal Open Studios (COS) committee. I realised that Cowal is lacking in quality arts activities for young people and the COS network has over 50 artists who are already working in the area.

"It seemed like the perfect opportunity to create a really special project and I'm delighted to see it come to fruition with the help of a £10,000 grant from the National Lottery Awards for All initiative."

Bonita added: “This is an exciting community-focused art and mental health outreach project by Cowal Open Studios aimed at enriching the lives of disadvantaged young people through courses in art, design and technology.

“The project brings together established and emerging artists to run courses and workshops to create a series of exhibitions based on young people’s ideas of empowerment, life in Argyll and overcoming challenges in their lives.

“I am currently running workshops at the Learning Centre at Dunoon Primary School with trainee artists from Dunoon Grammar Higher Art Course and young people with additional needs

The project will tour Cowal’s schools and culminate in two informal exhibitions, an online showcase and final community exhibition at the Burgh Hall, Dunoon, in March 2024.

