

ART *for* CURE

At the end of this month Suffolk is going to host the largest art and sculpture show outside of London this year. **Anne Gould** speaks to charity fundraiser Sally Ball about Art for Cure





Redemption or recovery from illness, accident or tragedy is often a spur to inspire people to step outside themselves, fundraise and make a difference. Some people run, some walk, some climb mountains but Sally Ball and Belinda Gray decided that their way of giving back, after recovery from breast cancer, was to hold a charity art show. So two years ago Belinda put all the furniture at her Bredfield home in storage to host an art show with work from some of Suffolk and the UK's top artists.

The sale was a fund-raising sensation with sales over the weekend of £200,000 and more than 2,500 visitors. "We put the word out in the Woodbridge area and people kept arriving. They came back the next day with their friends and bought art and then they came back the next day with more people and bought again," said Sally. As a result they were not only able to make a huge donation to Breast Cancer Now (then known as Breakthrough Breast Cancer) but two years on and Sally and Belinda have moved forward with their commitment to help by creating their own charity too.



So this time Art for Cure is bigger and better than before – it's being held at the spectacular Glemham Hall and it will include more artists and more opportunities to buy at a range of price points of anything between £50 and £3,000. Sally said that more than 70 well-known artists and sculptors will be exhibiting at the event and the exhibition over the early May Bank

Holiday weekend will showcase exclusive pieces from popular names including Vanessa Gardiner, Henrietta Dubrey, Maggi Hambling, Michael Speller, Carol Peace and Paul Vanstone, as well as a selection of artists drawn from Suffolk's great wealth of talent.

All the artists taking part have agreed to donate a percentage of their sales to support the new Art For Cure charity with proceeds going to Breast Cancer Now, and also local organisations providing care and support to those affected by this disease. "We have 35 per cent more artists taking part this year – there were so many people who wanted to take part. But the beauty of being at Glemham is that we have the room to include more sculpture." ►





Sally says that they are particularly thrilled to have a piece of sculpture by Rick Kirby that was featured in the Breast Cancer Now garden at Chelsea Flower Show last year. Award-winning garden designer Ruth Willmott commissioned the piece and has now offered it to Art for Cure to sell.

A number of high profile celebrities have shown their support for the charity by painting 'Make Your Mark' canvases to be auctioned at the event. Among those who have contributed work are Ed Sheeran, Oscar-winner Mark Rylance, Joan Collins, Zoe Wanamaker, Emelda Staunton, Jim Broadbent and Delia Smith to name a few. "We have more canvases coming from celebrities all the time and we are hoping that we will have 25 to sell." In addition there's a secret auction of small canvases from all the artists themselves but this event is also very much for Suffolk and local people.

"Art for Cure means an incredible amount to us, it's not just an exhibition – it's a show which brings together so much talent from across the country

and lets the community be part of it. We have 40 small, local businesses supporting us as well as over 100 local people volunteering at the event. Breast cancer is the most common cancer in the UK – around 1,000 women will die from the disease this month in the UK alone. We're determined to put a stop to this and the fantastic work of Art for Cure will help us to do so."

One in eight women will face breast cancer in their lifetime, and nearly 700,000 people living in the UK today have experienced a diagnosis. More women than ever are getting the disease. This year monies raised from the exhibition will also be supporting local East Anglian programmes for the care and recovery of breast cancer patients. Sally says, as she and Belinda both know from personal experience, that when you have breast cancer or are receiving treatment your whole life revolves around hospital appointments, getting ready for surgery, recovering from surgery, having scans, chemotherapy and even radiotherapy. "We want to set up a programme of holistic help so that

people can have something to look forward to which is life enhancing, so we are setting up art and sculpture classes. A lot of the artists whose work will be at Art for Cure have said they would like to give their time which is brilliant and now we are looking for some really nice venues for these sessions to take place."

Organising such a big event has been a massive task for Sally and Belinda and it would not have been possible without help from a volunteer committee which includes Emma Lloyd, Fiona Darrington, Adrian Melrose, Amanda Deacon, Joanna Mayer, Tricia MacGregor and Mandy Leeson.

INFORMATION

www.artforcure.org.uk

Glemham Hall
Saturday April 30 to Monday May 2,
10am to 5pm daily

Entry: A donation of £5 per car is requested for car parking and an Exhibition Catalogue. All proceeds go directly to charity.