

## **'Bring in the White Coats' – the GeoCollective 2014**

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The English Riviera Global Geopark is committed to working in partnership with creative and performing artists on a range of projects that inspire local people and stimulate an interest in our Geopark and its interrelated geology, heritage and culture.

Geoquest, as profiled at the 2012 conference in Unzen, has developed into a GeoCollective who have been working on a GeoOpera project which has seen young residents work with the GeoCollective Artists and Welsh National Opera to begin to create a new opera inspired by our Global Geopark and our relationship to it.

A scratch (work in progress) performance of Act 1 of the Opera was performed in July 2014 as the curtain raiser for a performance by the Welsh National Opera in front of a packed auditorium.

Thanks to an Arts Council grant and inspired by the prospect of giving Act 2 an international Geopark dimension, some of the GeoOpera performers are here in Stonehammer and will be working with students and delegates to initiate a Global Geopark wide project.

With your help, on return to the UK the full GeoOpera participants (local young people) will pick up the contacts made and start conversations with communities and musicians across the Global Geopark Network, connecting and collecting raw materials that will drive, influence and inform the development of the GeoOpera Act 2.

Through connecting with musicians from around the world, the process of creating Act 2 will give the participants experience of working with multiple international partners to create a new piece of work which will premier in 2016.

The benefits of this project are multiple: tangible and intangible! The creative process inspires our young people to access information about our Geopark and the wider network, it creates social capital, a sense belonging and pride in our Geopark.

Presented in Theme 2