



## Creative Case Study – Newhaven Oyster Mural

Creating artworks is a fun and celebratory way to engage people with a project. Working with local artist, Natasha Russell, a mural celebrating Newhaven's history and the involvement of the community in oyster restoration was designed.

The Heart of Newhaven building is a key community hub, in the centre of the historic Newhaven fishing area, with a focus on intergenerational engagement. This building made the perfect setting to bring people together to reflect on the past and the future of the Firth of Forth. It was used as a canvas for Natasha to design and paint the mural on.

Workshops were run with local residents and primary school children to explore the themes and symbolism that surround oysters, including the idea that stories can be held inside the shells. Discussions brought up some interesting themes, which included the following:

- The relationships between humans and non-human species
- The role of people in the extinction of the oyster in the Firth of Forth
- Restoration of oysters
- How people interact with The Forth – past, present and future
- A vision for a healthy Forth

**We hope that the oyster mural in Newhaven is a visual legacy of the project that local people can be proud of.** It will provide a talking point for years to come, showing how people can work together to reverse the decline of key species, forging hope for a new future.



Unveiling of the oyster mural in Newhaven.

