

PRESS RELEASE
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5 YEARS ON: LOCKDOWN IN EYE

A Solo Exhibition of Photographs by Wendy Aiken

Exhibition Dates: 5th March – 12th April 2025

Location: The Bank Arts Centre, 2 Castle Street, Eye Suffolk, IP23 7AN

The Bank Arts Centre (Eyes Open CIC) is proud to be hosting - *5 Years On, Lockdown in Eye* - a solo photographic exhibition by Wendy Aiken.

In 2020, our lives changed in ways we could never have imagined. As the world slowed down and we adjusted to life in lockdown, the people of Eye found new ways to come together—while staying apart.

The project began when local photographer Wendy Aiken began taking doorstep portrait photographs of households around Eye and surrounding villages during the first national lockdown in May 2020, taking bookings from families for a small charitable donation – raising funds for Families Together Suffolk and Eye Opportunity Group – two charities deeply affected by the lockdowns. The project continued to grow and became a powerful visual record of this extraordinary moment, capturing a deeply personal and unique perspective on life in Eye during the COVID-19 lockdown. Raising a total of £2,042 for the two charities.

Now, five years on, this poignant collection of over 100 photographs is being exhibited for the very first time in an exhibition at The Bank Arts Centre, in Eye - 5 YEARS ON:

LOCKDOWN IN EYE - offers the community an opportunity to reflect on the resilience, connection, and quiet strength that emerged during this time of isolation. It stands as a tribute to the people of Eye and the shared experience that shaped us all.

The exhibition was made possible through community fundraising on Go Fund Me and business sponsors - Including from Susan Whymark Funeral Services, Blackbrook Interiors and Cocoa Mama Chocolaterie - to raise funds to have all photographs professionally framed by Andy at Pyefinch Pictures, Eye.

Rosedale Funeral Home have sponsored a Remembrance Room, in The Bank's side Gallery to commemorate those who have passed since the project began and give visitors a quiet moment to reflect.

The exhibition opened to the public on Wednesday 5th March, with a private view on Friday 7th March well attended by members of the community who we both photographed and supported the project.

The photographs are for sale and all proceeds will be donated equally between The Eye Opportunity Group, Families Together Suffolk and The Bank Arts Centre (Eyes Open CIC).

Due to popularity, the exhibition has been extended by two weeks and will now be open (Wednesdays to Saturdays) until 12th April. All are welcome to explore this important chapter of Eye's local history through Wendy Aiken's lens.

For more information, please contact:

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