

# COVE PARK

CREATIVE RESIDENCIES FOR CARERS 2026  
APPLICATION GUIDELINES



# CREATIVE RESIDENCIES FOR CARERS 2026

**Residency Dates: Monday 26 October – Monday 2 November 2026**

**Deadline for Applications: Friday 15 May 2026 (5pm BST)**

## OVERVIEW

Creative Residencies for Carers 2026 builds upon a successful pilot programme delivered by Cove Park in 2024. This expanded programme will support individuals who have established creative careers – working in all art forms and specialisms - but are unable to fully maintain or develop their practices due to their roles as unpaid carers for adults. Five residency places are available and the residencies will all take place at Cove Park from Monday 26 October to Monday 2 November 2026.

The pilot in 2024 demonstrated the acute need across Scotland for funded opportunities of this kind, offering valuable and supported time for artists working as unpaid carers to reconnect with and develop their creative work, but also to meet others sharing the same experiences. In addition to valuable self-directed time to focus upon their own work, we will facilitate group activities to bring the artists together for discussion, reflection, and recuperation.

## ABOUT COVE PARK

Cove Park is an international artists' residency based on an outstanding 50-acre rural site in Argyll on the west coast of Scotland. We host local, national, and international artists and creative practitioners working in all art forms and at every career stage. Cove Park provides the facilities, support, and care required for the development of new ideas and projects, collaborations, and interdisciplinary practice. Residents stay on site in private accommodation with access to private studios, communal work and meeting spaces, and a library.

We host up to 12 residents at any one time, offering every resident the opportunity meet and work alongside individuals and collaborative groups from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences. We organise informal peer-to-peer events to promote discussion, the exchange of ideas and experiences, and the development of new connections.

Please see <https://www.covepark.org/> for further information on our current programme and images of Cove Park's site and facilities. Our [FAQ page](#) answers general questions on Cove Park's residencies and access.



2024 Creative Residencies for Carers recipient, Heather Marshall (courtesy of the artist).

## WHO CAN APPLY FOR THE RESIDENCIES

The residencies are aimed at unpaid adult carers based in Scotland who may be working, or have worked, as artists and creative practitioners, but aren't now able to develop their own creative practice, careers, or interests due to their caring commitments. Those who have worked in the wider cultural or arts education sector are also eligible to apply. We are also happy to receive applications from those who have not had a formal training in the arts, but have participated in creative activity regularly, or organised creative activity for others, perhaps within community organisations and groups.

You are also welcome to apply if you are working part-time and juggling paid work with unpaid caring.

In addition, former carers – those that used to provide unpaid care for a family member, friend, or neighbour and no longer do so because of a bereavement or because the person being cared for has moved into a care home - are eligible to apply.

Your practice, experience, or interests may include, but are not limited to, visual arts, theatre, dance and choreography, music, composition, poetry, creative writing, songwriting, craft, design, architecture, cultural heritage, arts education.

If you have any questions concerning your eligibility to apply, please contact Cove Park's Senior Producer Alex Marrs (contact details given on the last page).

*A benefit of working at Cove Park was having access to quiet studio space, which allowed me to test my ideas without fear of disturbing anybody. This boosted my productivity. Such an opportunity would not naturally accrue to me as, due to my caring responsibilities, I can usually only work for short periods during the day. Cove Park allowed me to follow the flow of my creativity and give my ideas the attention they needed.'*

*Lucy Beth, Performer & Writer, Creative Residencies for Carers, 2024*



## CREATIVE RESIDENCIES FOR CARERS 2026: KEY POINTS

- This is a seven-night residency which will begin on Monday 27 October. The final full day of the residency will be Sunday 1 November 2026. Residents are welcome to stay on site until 10am on Monday 2 November 2026.
- This programme is for unpaid carers aged 18 years and over, who look after a friend or family member (aged 21 and over). As this is a residential opportunity, it is appropriate for those who are not the sole carer and have support in place to care for the friend or family member for the duration of this residency.
- Former unpaid carers may also apply.
- One facilitated group workshop and one trip (to a local National Trust for Scotland organisation, garden, or cultural venue) will be organised in response to the interests and specialisms of the residents.
- Although Cove Park's residencies are self-catering, one group dinner will be provided by Cove Park.
- No public presentation is required as part of this residency. This opportunity is designed to be stress free and without the pressures of a deadline or the requirement to complete or present a final work.

## WHAT COVE PARK PROVIDES

- Individual private accommodation (with private shower room and mini kitchen) on site at Cove Park.\*
- Workspace and meeting space within Cove Park's communal Jacobs Building, an award-winning space which also houses a library, workspace, open-plan kitchen and dining area, a communal larder, and laundry facilities. Private studios are available for those with studio-based practices.
- Artist Fee of £750 paid to each resident plus a travel allowance of up to £200.
- Wi-fi in the Jacobs Building and in all units of accommodation and studios.
- Unlimited access to the 50-acre site.
- One free artist-led facilitated workshop and one group dinner plus free travel and ticket entry as part of the trip.

*\* Please note, Cove Park can only accommodate the carer themselves, and not the person/s being cared for, a collaborator, partner, or the carer's family.*



Jacobs Building Interior  
(photography, Paul Tyagi)

## HOW TO APPLY AND HOW THE RESIDENCIES WILL BE AWARDED

Applications can be submitted via the online [Application Form](#).

We are happy to supply hard copies of this document and to receive applications in hard copy if preferred. Applications can be posted to the address at the bottom of this document.

We can accept applications in audio or video formats if this is preferable to a written application. If you have a disability, please tell us if there are any reasonable adjustments to the application process that would be of assistance to you. If you would like to discuss this, or need help making your application, please contact Cove Park directly.

The Application Form should include:

- Your full name and contact details.
- Confirmation that you are an unpaid carer.
- A brief statement (no more than 500 words) describing your creative work and the reasons for your interest in this residency.

In addition, you may submit examples of your creative work. This could include:

- Up to 6 images
- Film or video work submitted on a showreel (maximum duration 5 minutes, include time codes) uploaded to Youtube or Vimeo (please include the link in the application form).
- Audio work (maximum duration 5 minutes, include time codes) should be uploaded to Soundcloud, with the link provided in the application letter.
- Prose, no more than 1000 words (no more than 4 pages)
- Stage play or film script (no more than 1000 words)
- Poetry, up to 4 poems (no more than 4 pages)

This opportunity is open to those who may have been unable to work for some time due to their caring commitments, and to those who are just establishing or reconnecting with a creative practice or career, and therefore we are not asking for a full CV or expecting more than a small sample of your creative work.

The applications will be shortlisted by team members at Cove Park and advisors to our programme. Those shortlisted will be invited to an informal interview on Zoom with two member of Cove Park's team, and the opportunity to discuss your application and interest in this residency.

The shortlisting process and invitations to interview will be based upon:

- Your commitment to your creative work and your need for a residency for this kind.
- Your interest in working within a community of artists and your understanding of the benefits you will gain from this.
- We will prioritise applicants who have not accessed this kind of opportunity before.

## DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: FRIDAY 8 MAY 2026 (5PM BST)

We will acknowledge receipt of your application as soon as it is received. This acknowledgement will include a link to our anonymous Equalities, Diversity & Inclusion monitoring form for completion and we would be grateful for your time with this. If you do not receive this acknowledgement, please contact Cove Park directly to confirm receipt of your application. The applications will be shortlisted for interview by Cove Park Staff and Advisors.

**All applicants will be notified if their submission has been shortlisted for interview by Friday 15 May 2026. Interviews will take place via Zoom during the week of Monday 18 May 2026.**

### EQUALITIES, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

We want our residencies, programmes and resources to be open, inclusive and welcoming to all. We continue to assess how we work towards achieving greater equality and representation within all levels of our organisation and across all programmes.

Cove Park aims to provide a safe and positive environment for everyone, and to actively dismantle discrimination based on age, disability, gender identity, marriage or civil partnership status, pregnancy or parental status, race including skin colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation. Additionally, we aim to dismantle discrimination based on accent, educational background, gender expression, hair texture and hairstyle, immigration status, language ability, markings and/or tattoos connected to spiritual rituals from pre-colonial cultural practices, neurodiversity, physical and mental health, size, and socio-economic status or background.

As language, terms, and expressions inevitably evolve, Cove Park is committed to reviewing this statement regularly – and as often as it becomes appropriate – with our local, national and international communities.

### PERSONAL DATA

Please note, we will store applications electronically for one year. The data contained within your application will not be used for any purpose other than short-listing, running, and evaluating the programme. We will not share your details with any third parties without obtaining permission from you to do so.

We would prefer not to receive applications by post. However, if you would like to submit supplementary material, such as catalogues, with your application please post these to the address below. If you would like this material to be returned to you, please enclose a self-addressed and stamped envelope.

We can supply hard copies of the application form upon request and can receive written applications and supplementary material by post to the address below. If you would like this material to be returned to you, please enclose a self-addressed and stamped envelope.

**Alex Marris**

**Cove Park, Peaton Hill, Cove, Argyll and Bute, Scotland, G84 0PE**

**For further information please contact:**

Alex Marris

Cove Park

01436 850500

[alex@covepark.org](mailto:alex@covepark.org)

[www.covepark.org](http://www.covepark.org)

**We are grateful to The Binks Trust for making this residency possible.**



Making Tracks group residency, 2024  
(courtesy of Merlyn Driver)