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INTRODUCTION

Imagine: 100 Years of Housing in Bath was commissioned by Creativity Works and Bath Record Office as part of a Wellcome-funded public engagement project creatively exploring housing and health impacts in Bath over the last 100 years.



The project consisted of a series of creative workshops with two community groups, Get Creative and Genesis Trust, running throughout Summer 2022 and culminating in a one day exhibition as part of Museum's Week in Bath in October 2022.

Through varied workshops exploring architectural drawing, map making, poetry, clay modelling and more the group responded to archive material from Bath Record Office as well as their own lived experiences of housing and health to create their own personal archive boxes. These boxes have now been donated to Bath Record Office, bringing previously unheard local voices into the archive to offer new perspectives and local knowledge around housing and health in Bath.

WHO WE ARE

EACH GROUP TOOK PART IN SIX WORKSHOPS WITH ARTIST ELLIE SHIPMAN AND STAFF FROM BATH RECORD OFFICE, RESPONDING TO THE ARCHIVE MATERIALS.

GET CREATIVE GENESIS TRUST

Get Creative are an art group for anyone that wants to explore different art techniques and support their wellbeing through creativity.

'Creativity Works uses the power of the creative process to bring people and places together to create a better future for themselves and their communities.'

With huge thanks to:
Ange, Tom B, Claire, Cosmo,
Christina, Deborah, Anna
Newman, Lee, Jack, John,
Tom A, Olivia, Julie,
Julia, Lisa, and Hazel.

Volunteer: Yvonne Eaton Staff: Karen Blake creativityworks.org.uk The Genesis Trust group are people who have experienced insecure housing who attend Genesis Trust workshops and support sessions.

'The Genesis Trust
exists to offer immediate
practical help to people
who are hungry, homeless
and vulnerable, and
provide long-term help and
opportunities for them to
rebuild their lives. We
work individually with
people on their journey
from despair to hope, from
crisis to independence.'

With huge thanks to:
David Wake, Daniel, Harri
James Wrigley, John,
Katherine, Kim, Lorraine
Colquhoun, Marian Lassam,
Nessa Donovan, and Olivia
Hyman.

Volunteer: Nick Staff: Denise Weikert genesistrust.org.uk



BATH RECORD OFFICE ARTIST

Archivists Drew Westerman and Hannah Whittingham cofacilitated and provided the archive materials.

batharchives.co.uk

Artist and illustrator Ellie Shipman devised and co-facilitated the project and designed this zine.

eleanorshipman.com

Photo: Edward Major Sketch: Hazel

ARCHITECTURE

IN THE FIRST
SESSION, WE
EXPLORED HOUSING
STYLES OVER THE
LAST 100 YEARS,
DRAWING OUR
FAVOURITE ERAS.

We investigated architectural plans of social housing from the 1950s, Georgian blueprints and architectural photographs of the city to explore the questions:

What were the first types of dwellings in Bath and how have they changed over the last 100 years?

What are the pros and cons of the same style housing estates and individual properties?



REFLECTION POINT

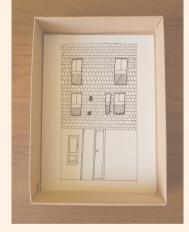
What is your favourite era of housing and why?











Artists (clockwise from top left)

- 1. Julie
- 2. Cosmo
- 3. Lisa
- 4. Lee
- 5. Tom B
- 6. Jack





ACTIVITY

Use pen and watercolour to draw your favourite house in Bath

OUR HEALTH

IN THE SECOND SESSION, WE EXPLORED HOUSING AND HEALTH, REFLECTING ON OUR OWN EXPERIENCES AND WRITING POETRY AND LETTERS INSPIRED BY THE ARCHIVE MATERIAL.

We read through residents' complaint letters, guessed the first name on a Round Robin and investigated newspaper clippings to explore the questions:

What can the archives tell us about resident's health over the last 100 years?

What health issues do we still face as a result of poor housing?

How has housing improved our mental and physical health?





REFLECTION POINT

How has housing impacted your health in your life?

This House Has Seen (Extract) Marian

This house has seen many lives. Some happy, some sad. It used to be the local prison. My flat is in the previous governor's house.

It is spacious, with two bedrooms, high ceilings and in a good location. I worry about the cost of heating but would be reluctant to move.

This house was happy when I moved in. This house struggled when I struggled with my finances.

There is very little storage space so paperwork is everywhere. My bed is my refuge. [...] I spend a lot of time in it - sleeping, listening to the radio, reading and thinking.

My House: 2003 - 2022 (Extract) Hazel

My mood, changing over the years spent within these walls, becomes influenced by the times gone by and feelings encapsulated by others gone before me.

The history of my home since the 1700s remains much of a mystery, except for the tales of local residents and historic documents. As I move into a new chapter of my life, like my personal belongings, packed into boxes; my deepest, darkest memories of difficult times remain locked in the walls today to be left behind.

With a new home, comes new positivity. I live in hope.

ACTIVITY

Write a letter or poem about your home

THE CITY

IN THE THIRD SESSION, THE GROUPS CREATED THEIR OWN GUIDE TO BATH, EXPLORING HISTORICAL CITY MAPS.

We looked at historical maps of Bath showing the floods of the 1960s; bomb damage during the 1940s; the green belt surrounding Bath and the modern illustrated map of the city centre. We explored the questions:

What can the archives tell us about how changes in the city have affected housing?

What can historical maps tell us about housing and the city?

Top map: Anna Bottom map: Tom B



REFLECTION POINT

What would you include on a map of your city?

Our guides to the city included best places to walk your dogs, music memories, places we have lived and eaten and places we just love.

ACTIVITY

Draw / write your own map
/ guide to the city!

CITY OF BATH

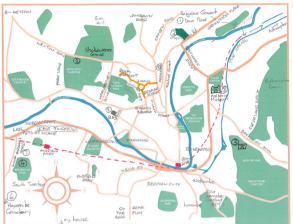
AS SEEN BY Anna

This map explores Memories of Bath with my dagie (and human) family and friends.

MY PLACES

- Selgran Ges o Geoveria
- Hedgemead Bork Both Skyline to Sham Gatle
- Brickfields Park
- Botanical Gardens + Shakespeare Grove
- Haycombe Constery
- King George's Road
- Holborne Museum Both Artists Studios

(10) MoBA



Museum of Both Architecture 1 volunteered here, 1 love the archives, upstaus looking over the museum Ichapel

Bath Artist Studios - Creative Perspection memories of my work in 3 separate exhibitions there

My time with Image Art group, my bead backet in an exhibition there.

king George's Road, coffee with Doreen, Briant Ang after walkies every day.

My hoose to mum's bungalau, along the canal with my dogs Holly pre- 2004

ublices with Monty, and Holly and Afrie, with Barney + Helga. pre-2004 Lots of happy wolkies with Holly, Alfie, Monty, Milli, Ben, Pippi+022y

pre+post 2004

Happy times with Billy, Rowie, Rhianne Sparky, Ashley, and their Friends, and my Stew + Wendy and our doggles, Milliozzy, Appi, Rhionna, Sparky, Billy + Blanco. friends (human!)
post 2014

My beautiful mum, 1920-2012

1 ORGANISED TORGANISED
FUND RAISING GIRS
FIRE THE YMCA.
ALAN WHITE
EX PLASTIC OND
BAND DID A CIK
HIG BAND WAS
CALLED BALLS

---- RAILWAY

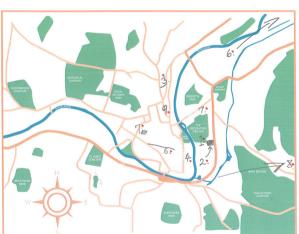
AS SEEN BY TOM BROWNE

This map explores WE BUILT THIS CITY ON ROCK N'ROLL

1967 to 1972.

MY PLACES

- The Recreation The Par Pavilion
- THE DIMENSION GUINEA LANE 1967-68
- THE APOLLO CLUB DISCO in MANVERS ST
- THE MOUSE TRAP. THE KEEL CLUB.
- BATHAMATON. THE REGENCY BALLROOM SAWCLOSE
- BATH UNIVERSIT SMALL HALL
- THE OLD YMCA



THE REGENCY ONGINARY THE PALACE THEATRE. SMALL FACES OF AN EVINCE and WANY MORE PLAYET HERE. CLESSED ABOVE 1968. THE LIMB - 1964 ALL-MCHTERS WER POPULAR. THE MOUSETRAP in what is now window ARTS. A disco that I ran in late Bos-I ratil it was closed because of a fight!

BATH FESTIVAL of BLUES 1969. JUNE, FLEETWOOD MAC, LED ZEPPLIN,

THE PAY so many legendary bands played here. My era was 1967-1972 ESPECIALLY RECOLL THE DIMENSION WAS a 'discothegue' CUSTOM GUILT 'N THE OLD METHODIST CHAPEL, Also had live bands, I was the resident DJ. 1967 - 68

THE APOLLO
CLUB, A Weekly
aliseo run, by
Brid Godfrey, a
local tharacter
I was one offted
sectoral religions for a while.

THE KEE CLUB in the Old Mill by the Weir at Both ampt A successful discovery the Keith Johnson. Occasional live Land

AME NEW BATH UNI (AME 1966) PAT ON BRYDDS & DISC. I DT'd at Many glisc ESPECIALLY HECA! REDBONE and MATTHEWS SONTMER

"Health can be tied to your home. Home can be a sanctuary from the outside world."



"Health - a reminder of the scale of the problem, duplicated all over the UK in the past - and it hasn't really gone away entirely."



"I knew something about the housing conditions - but it was great to see the detail in the documents."

"It was interesting learning about flooding and the measures taken to reduce it."

"Housing officers did genuinely care about people's health."

"Where a person lives can have an impact on their health (positive AND negative) whether that's their physical health or mental health."

"I am interested in archives as they reveal local history and improve my knowledge." "I enjoy living in Bath.
but I only see my
edited version."

"Better housing = better health."



OBJECTS

IN THE FOURTH SESSION, WE SHARED OBJECTS
WHICH MEANT HOME TO
US AND RECREATED THEM
USING DIGITAL DRAWING
OR CLAY MODELLING.

We brought in or remembered objects which reminded us of home, and looked at objects in the archives from ancient keys to the familiar crockery in photos of interiors of houses about to be demolished in the 'Sack of Bath' to discuss the questions:

What means home to us and how can it be recorded?

What are the gaps in the records of housing in Bath and why?



REFLECTION POINT

What object means home to you and why?

CLAY MODELLING



OUR VOICES

IN THE FIFTH SESSION, WE CREATED COLLAGES OR SIGNS SAYING EXACTLY WHAT WE WANT TO SAY ABOUT HOUSING IN BATH.

For our final session we looked at what was not in the archives - local voices, real lives - to explore the questions:

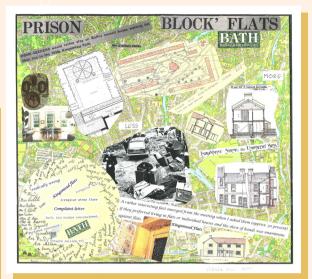
How can we identify or add in missing voices and lived experiences to the archives?

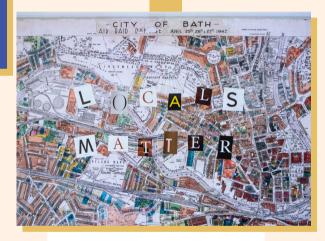
What do we think about the current state of housing in Bath?

What does it mean to have somewhere safe to call home?





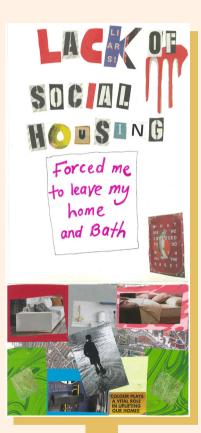






What do you want to say about housing in Bath?

Top: Anna Right: Lisa Bottom: Lorraine



ACTIVITY

Make a collage or sign saying what you want about housing in Bath! THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED AND PARTICIPATED IN THE PROJECT - AND THANK YOU FOR READING THIS!





VISIT

Each person who took part in this project created an archive box which is now housed in Bath Record Office, to add modern lived experiences to the archives for future generations to discover and learn from.

To view the artworks get in touch with Bath Record Office and ask to see Accession 1390 via: archives@bathnes.gov.uk
01225 477421

Access to the Record Office is by appointment only but staff will be more than happy to help you book a convenient time to visit.

Further details can be found on our website: batharchives.org.uk

FUNDED BY WELLCOME









"Uplifting.
Time to me.
Determination.
Will power.
End product.
Warming and comfort.
New horizons.
Networking.
Hope. joy. fun.
interesting."

"Really enjoyed the writing, having time to reflect. Wouldn't have done this, but the course facilitated it."

"Great session enjoyed expressing
personal views and not
feeling judged."

"Tried digital drawing which was an entirely new experience!"

"Love the archive maps."





