

Contents. (Funded projects)

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Current partners for 'WAM' 2026

1. Megan Pirt Chair of Mountsorrel Parish Council & Critical friend.
2. Anne Currie. Library Manager/Volunteer coordinator.
3. James Nelson. Manager. Mountsorrel Memorial Centre
4. Mug and mingle group (Antony Marvin, Cade, Nobby
5. PCSO (Mr Shaheen)



Above: *Untitled Roads 2024; Acrylic on canvas*

1. Artist Biography: Nita is originally from Birmingham, now based in Mountsorrel, Leicestershire. Her work explores psychogeography, mapping, psychology, sense of place and belonging. She graduated with first-class honours in Art & Design from Birmingham City University (2009) and qualified as a teacher in 2011. Nita worked as course leader for Foundation Art and Design Studies at Cadbury College, and has been a freelance artist and art history lecturer since 2008. Nita intends to reestablish her conceptual practice within this new community.

Nita teaches art in various community settings including Friction Arts, colleges, and universities, fostering creativity in her students by encouraging diverse techniques with a deep understanding of art history, context, and critical perspectives. Nita has received ACE funding for personal projects and acted as project manager and community worker for Heritage Lottery and Children In Need funded projects; most of which have been community focused.

Through making Nita explores the need for physical and emotional connection between people and place. Nita's minimal aesthetic is a response to space and place, employing a variety of media including drawing, painting, sound, video, and installation. Her work has been showcased in notable venues such as Birmingham's IKON Gallery, Showcase Gallery, Cobalt Blue, the Birmingham Wholesale Markets, Birmingham Museums Trust, New Art Gallery, Walsall, Friction Arts Birmingham, MADE*, Leicester Museum and Art Gallery, and The Sock Gallery in Loughborough.



Untitled Roads 2024



Contact 2023



A Black Country vaguery, 2015

2. 'For the people'. Queens Platinum Jubilee 2022 & 85th Anniversary event for West Heath Community Centre, Longbridge. ACE/Heart of England. Ref: Report - A638453/OGM102339 Grants Programme: Queens Platinum Jubilee Fund Date Awarded: 30/03/2022

Artistic project manager and bid writer for this Heart of England and Arts Council-funded celebration designed to rebuild confidence and participation post-pandemic. We brought together centre users; guides, cubs/scouts, radio, bowling, fitness, knit and natter, dance/tap, and the art class groups. Community filmmaker John Hemming, Rainey Community Creations, and Birmingham Museums Trust ("Museum in a Box") worked together to enable people to return to normal activities after the pandemic, learn about other groups, encourage participation or try something new. The project culminated in a well-attended fete and helped sustain a centre previously at risk of closure.

Outcomes & legacy

- 45-minute documentary made with five teenagers who learned film recording production skills with filmmaker John Hemming. Plus, a 5-minute highlights film for future audiences/archives Queens Platinum Jubilee event at West Heath 2022
- Permanent corridor murals from scouts/cubs/guides' artwork and a photography exhibition pairing historic images with contemporary activity.
- Artist led cross-group collaboration presented as an exhibition and participatory mural; participants shaped how they were represented, strengthening value placed on volunteers, longevity, diversity, friendship and community.
- Morris dancers performed with audience participation.
- Management & evaluation: Co-ordinated delivery and monitoring, co-managed the budget with the finance officer, led reporting, with Centre Manager Anita Jeskins and the admin team overseeing marketing.
- Partnership impact: BMT delivered heritage/art workshops; demand rose (our first post-pandemic waiting list). BMT later won a Museums Change Lives award (Oct 2025).



Art students draw tap dancers in motion



Student drawing of Knitters hands added to murals



Student drawing of Tap Dancers feet



Scout, guide and cubs contribution to the community center corridors (with Rainey Community Creations)

3. Shifting Birmingham: 900 years drawn and erased (2017) ACE Funded.

Scope:

Shifting Birmingham (SB) was developed to reveal how the original center of Birmingham (Where the Wholesale Markets were situated) moved northward from 1100. SB was targeted towards a variety of interests such as historians, walkers, fine art followers and students. SB aligned itself with my practice of Psychogeography, Friction Arts 'Wholesale Memory' (Heritage Lottery oral history project) and Heritage Open Days.

SB supported and mentored artists. I employed and mentored young apprentice (15 years old) Georgia Chapman, who was commissioned to draw portraits of market traders as part of the final exhibition and a print maker to work with Bournville College and Queensbridge Special School. Georgia now works at the Midlands Arts Centre teaching fine art.

Shifting activities outcomes and legacy:

- **Exhibition across 5 venues.** Charcoal drawings, photographs of market traders and installation with an animated projected map of Birmingham (based on the flip book)
- **Flip book publication:** Birmingham maps from 1553- present. Plus an essay about space by Dr Joseph Lilley (Astrophysicist)
- **Animated map of Birmingham 1553- 2015: Showcased on You Tube and installation.** Shifting Birmingham: 900 years Drawn & Erased. Two versions (Fast; 35 seconds) and a slow (13 minutes)
- **Photographic exhibition:** Photographs commissioned by Friction Arts; photographed by Dan Burwood.
- **The paid apprentice:** Large scale charcoal portraits of market traders by 15 yer old Georgia Chapman. She went on to do illustration and now teaches art at mac Birmingham.
- **School, college and university engagement:** Mono Print Workshops with Holly O'Meara with Bournville College; 40. Level 2 and 3 BTEC and Degree level Students visited the exhibition. Shifting Birmingham delivered a workshop to 12 Students from Queensbridge Special School Erdington. Queensbridge Tutor had never done Mono print before, so she could add a new skill to her CPD.
- **Walking Tours:** Two photo walking tours of Birmingham
- **Visitor quote:** "Very interesting exhibition – stuff all brummies should know! Would be wonderful to see the exhibition gain a permanent space in a brum Museum or historic building. Heart and soul of Brum stuff! Thank you. " Kirstie 10.09.17
- Audience reach: 234 Physical 56,000 Digital.



Animated map projection

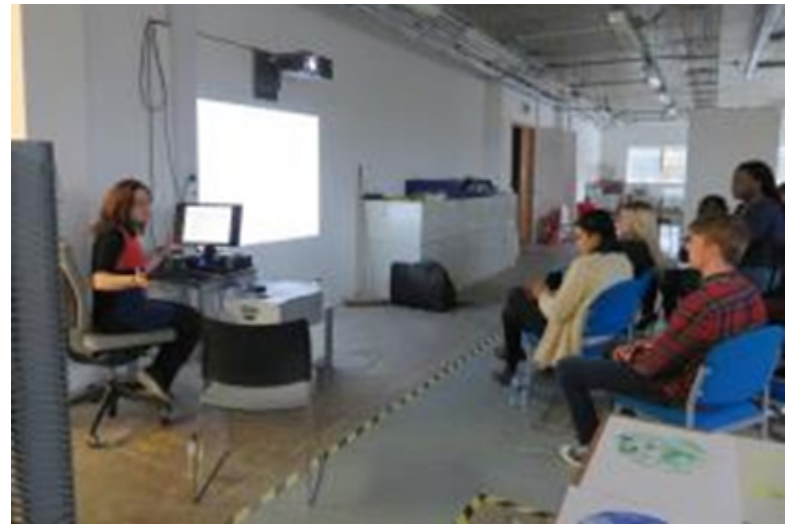


Bournville College students- Artist talk & printmaking session

4.

Project Title: Space and Time: The Histories of Birmingham	
OCR Extended Diploma in Art and Design	
Unit 14: Presenting, Displaying, Promoting and Selling Artwork Unit 53: Upcycling Fashion Products Unit 65: Fine Art Printmaking	
Tutors: A.Blake, C. Cowdrill, B Leatham	Verified by: Lisa Thompson
Start Date: w/c 04/09/17	Assessment Deadline: w/c 08/01/18

Bournville college were so inspired by the exhibition, they wrote a module based on it.



Discussing employment, self employment & higher ed. at Bournville College.



Artist talk about the installation



Above: Artist apprentice with her work



Nita Newman on Twitter

"Lovely to see @ThatTittle (and others) on the #Shiftingbirmingham walk & talk today."

TWITTER.COM

Like Comment Share

David Tittle It was a pleasure Nita Newman. A fascinating afternoon and some great work.

Like Reply September 23 at 10:09pm

Nita Newman Thank you David, glad you liked it 😊

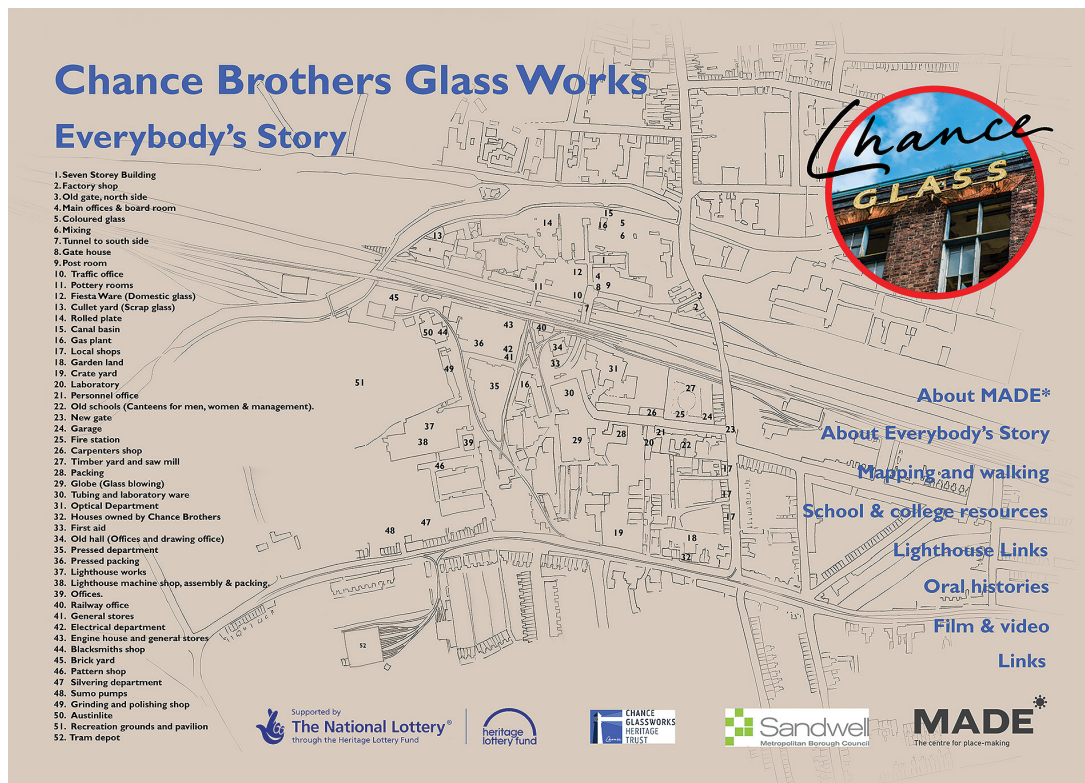
Like Reply September 26 at 6:04pm

Write a reply...

Above right and below: Birmingham's 'Missing Spaces' tour. Feedback from the secretary of Midlands Architecture in the designed environment (MADE*s); David Tittle. Plus photos of missing places (below)



5. Community Heritage worker, artist and joint project manager of Chance Glassworks (CGW) 'Everybody's Story' project. (2015–2017)



Background: CGW Smethwick is of significant historic and cultural value. Today only a few grade II listed buildings remain. The site is a scheduled monument.

Midland Architecture in the Designed Environment (MADE*) received funding from HLF for a project exploring the heritage of Chance Brothers Glassworks, Smethwick, (CGW).

CGW was one of the Midlands' most important industrial employers, employing around 3,500 people and producing specialist glass on a scale unprecedented in the UK, exporting worldwide; including its famed lighthouse lenses

Left: Chance Glass website front page (interactive audio map) inspired by oral history sessions.

The project captured and grew public interest in “Chances” and produced stand-alone outcomes, a website and short publication, offering, for the first time, an accessible single account of the company's story. Through a creative program of activities and events, people from the local community and beyond were able to explore and engage with heritage. Our total audience reach was 183,000.

Outcomes:

- Chances Research Group: managed a small volunteer team collating and interpreting company and site history. We archived around 20,000 pages of information. (lighthouses are being lost/damaged/automated)
- Lighthouse Links: paired individuals, groups & schools with lighthouses worldwide and their communities.
- Well attended walks, tours, talks: and family activities exploring the works, its people and its impact.
- Public and professional events: for general audiences and for heritage/built-environment practitioners.
- Website: Created a project site collating existing and newly uncovered material (later taken offline; documentation retained with Chance Heritage Trust).
- Publication & learning resources: Created a short introductory publication plus school and community art materials and learning resources for Holly Lodge School. Designed and delivered a BTEC level 2 textile module for Bournville College.
- Visit to Nash Point lighthouse: 30 students visited the landmark with Bournville College.



Final 'Chat about Chance' event



Walking tours, well attended, even when it rained!