

Trumpington Voices

A Public Art Project by Menagerie Theatre Company 2017-18, in collaboration with Clay Farm Community Centre.

Trumpington Voices is an exciting new arts project which records and shapes the voices of a diverse community undergoing a process of radical change and re-shaping. It aims to capture people's stories about how 'Place' impacts upon their lives. The place in question is the established community of Trumpington and the new communities of Clay Farm, Trumpington Meadows and Glebe Farm which are currently under construction.

The project involves interviewing up to 100 people who live, or who are about to live in the area, particularly around the interface of the new and established inhabited areas. We aim to interview as diverse a cross-section of the community as possible. Menagerie Theatre Company will use a playwright to compose these voices into a text performed by both community members and professional actors. The result will be a high-quality piece of spoken word, professionally conceived and supported, with the majority of the performers drawn from the community. It will be a major community event, held in June 2018. The legacy will feature a sound archive of the collected voices, a text of the performed play, an online photo gallery of the process, all of which will be freely available.

Patrick Morris, co-Artistic Director of Menagerie, leads the project. He will commission a writer and a sound artist to form the core artistic team working alongside him. Key people external to Menagerie are Alison Sutton, Manager of Clay Farm Community Centre, and Vicky Haywood, Community Development Officer. They are both supporting, and contributing to, the project with their extensive local knowledge of Trumpington.

The project also aims to accentuate the role of Clay Farm Community Centre as a place for community expression. The theme revolves around time 'past, present and future' hopes, dreams and stories for Trumpington: exploring participants' relationship to the place where they live and its impact upon them. We will train 2-4 local people – alongside 2 Menagerie associates – to be volunteer interviewers. Menagerie aims to talk to a diverse cross-section of Trumpington's inhabitants, so that the eventual text is authentically representative.

Trumpington Voices is about collecting stories, articulating them and creating memories of communities in transition. It takes place while construction is still ongoing, while people are still moving in, while houses may not even be on maps. More than capturing a moment in time, it aims to unearth a process of change through the voices of people who are both making and experiencing that change. If you would be interested in being interviewed for the project, please get in touch.

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