



WHAT'S

ON YOUR

MIND?

**14 new digital commissions exploring what's
on the minds of our local communities**

ARC
Stockton Arts Centre

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

What's On Your Mind? was a series of digital artist commissions designed to reflect what was at the forefront of our local communities' minds in 2021. Led by a freelance Creative Director, Paula Clark, the project included a consultation process with our communities to develop a number of provocations. These provocations were shared with 14 artists who each created a new, short piece of digital work in response to the provocation they were given.

The 14 provocations were:

- Change · Welcome · Escape · Before · Alcohol · Women · Anger · Care ·
- Community · Climate · Future · Money · Kindness · Lifelines ·

The 14 commissions were released twice weekly between 12 October – 3 December 2021. Acting in the role of creative rapporteur, Daniel Smith reviewed all 14 artworks and created a film to document the project as a whole.

Many Tees Valley communities feel very ignored, with their stories and voices rarely reflected in the mainstream media. This has been heightened by the pandemic, with many feeling invisible, hidden away in their homes, cut off from their support networks. For many, lockdown hasn't just been physical, but mental too.

This project was designed as a way for people's concerns to be aired and shared, and to provide a new way of listening and responding to our communities, where ARC does not become the filter, but enables the conversation to be held more directly between artists and communities.

Paula Clark - Creative Director



Originally from North Wales, Paula Clark is a freelance theatre maker and creative director based in the north. Paula has worked for 20 years producing and delivering high quality theatre, co-creation and talent development projects for children, young people and adults. Paula has previously worked as Outreach Director for York Theatre Royal and most recently Pilot Theatre and Paines Plough as well as developing her own work as a theatre maker.

As a theatre maker, Paula is concerned with making work that removes barriers, amplifies voices and brings people together. Paula was appointed as Creative Director of **What's On Your Mind?** to bring an independent, curatorial perspective to the project.

HENRY RABY - WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO TALK TO EACH OTHER

#CHANGE

They are knocking down all of the listed buildings. They are knocking down the shopping centre. This is a lovely open town. Look at that river, it's beautiful. I wish there were more big shops. People are struggling. It used to be thriving. There are always going to be critics. I don't care what anyone says there are a lot of positive things about this town. Things work. It's not too big and not too small. We need more police. It's always evolving. It's always changing. There are no jobs. There is a lot of poverty. Have you heard of the Battle of Stockton? Things are not equal. Be kind. Don't resist. Let's party. We don't know how to talk to each other.

Henry Raby

Henry Raby is a punk poet based in York. His work has been described as playful, highly-charged, passionate and anarchic! He's performed at festivals and in front rooms, equally at ease in the back rooms of pubs to large scale events. He writes about friendship and community, hope and anger all mixed together with an unruly approach to form and style. His debut collection, Nerd Punk, was published by Burning Eye Books in 2018.

Henry co-founded the poetry/spoken word organisation Say Owt. He is part of Vandal Factory theatre company who have toured shows across the UK to all manner of unique and underground spaces. He has worked with youth theatres to create urgent and exciting theatre, and is currently the Broadcasting Worker at Chapel FM Arts Centre. Here, Henry supports people getting into community radio and finding their voice.



We Don't Know How To Talk To Each Other

An audio piece written by poet Henry Raby, this collection of local perspectives looks at development and redevelopment and the thoughts and stories beneath the water's surface. At times fragmented, at other times united, this piece weaves both the past, the present and hopes for the future of Stockton on Tees. Featuring the voice of Lisette Auton.

How to access the piece

[Click here for the audio version](#)

[Click here for the BSL interpreted version](#)

[Click here to read the online transcript](#)

DERMOT DALY - THE GOOD OLD DAYS

#BEFORE

What? Our hearing aids don't work so we can't hear you. Run out of battery. Nobody can get an appointment. We are used to it now. Speak louder! I am a grandma, I am an artist. I am a widower. I was a wife. I am more than capable! I was a saxophone player in a band. I worked in the factory. I was stationed at the Suez Canal. I was a ballroom dancer, I won ballroom dancing medals! I met my husband in Nigeria. I was a photographer. There is nothing better than dancing with a pretty girl in your arms and oh I was good! I am mum. I am dad. I am brother. I am daughter. It was the saddest day of my life, the day she died. I came home. I don't regret a thing.

I get up in the morning and I put the television on. It's good company. I am happy in my own self. I do what I want. I tell the kids, if I want 30 cardigans, I will buy them. I can afford it. Don't tell me what to do! I live alone, I left my husband, my dad still calls me every day. When is it my turn? I don't have a television anymore. It's too upsetting. Before I could make a difference. I have to protect myself. If I can't change anything then I am better off not knowing. I close my eyes and my ears or I would never get up in the morning. I don't listen to the kids. I don't care anymore. I wish there was more equality. Nobody listened to us. I don't want to know. I don't vote anymore. This country is dying and it's bloody cold. I gave up after Brexit. It's never going to be as good as it was before.

Dermot Daly

Dermot Daly, amongst other things, is a filmmaker, photographer, and sound artist. His artistic work also incorporates theatre and radio.

The Good Old Days

The final sentence of the provocation that triggered this piece is "it's never going to be as good as it was before", but just how good was it 'before'? What have we gained? What have we lost? What might we be?



"it's never going to be as good as it was before"

How to access the piece

[Click here to watch with audio description](#)

[Click here to watch without accessibility features](#)

KHALED ALJAWAD - WELCOME TO MY WORLD

#WELCOME

Everybody says good morning here. So friendly. When I came here it was so cold. My mum died. I want to get out. I am not from Stockton, I'm from Harrogate. I am from Brazil. I am from Ireland. I am from Darlington. I am from Dubai. I have been a Stockton girl all of my life. I am an asylum seeker here. I am completely accepted. I am afraid to go out in Stockton at night. Mum was a Stockton girl for all of hers. I like my friends and neighbours. There are so many people who are homeless in this town. It's very nice here. It's very surprising. I sit in my flat and I get really lonely. I don't want to go outside. I did Uptown Funk dance on the high street, loads of people came to watch. The people are really rough in Stockton. It's a place where you can sit or wander. I can't wait to leave to be honest. I am here for the circus. It's the right time for people to be who they want to be here. Most people are afraid to go out at night. Stockton, it's a busy little place.

Khaled Aljawad

Khaled is a photographer and budding filmmaker from Syria. He is a Creative Associate of Stand & Be Counted; the UK's first Theatre Company of Sanctuary. Khaled joined SBC's International Ensemble with his brother Mohammad – they love gaming so Khaled pitched an idea to them during lockdown about a computer game of their lives and together they made Have Your Passport Ready.



This was Khaled and Mohammad's first professional writing and performing job and they were excited to see the impact it has had on people and for it to be named Game of the Week by The Observer. Before moving to Sheffield Khaled was a photographer for Inclusive Theatre in Za'atari Refugee Camp Jordan, supporting children to get involved with theatre and photography. He was a member of the Youth Committee in IMC where he helped to create theatre and plan and deliver creative activities for children and the community. Khaled is a proud volunteer for the Refugee Council.

Welcome to My World

Welcome to My World is a new film by first time filmmaker Khaled Aljawad Alhussaini. Following his life from Syria to Jordan and then to the UK, Khaled explores what it's like to start again and what it means to feel welcome.

How to access the piece

[Click here to watch with BSL interpretation](#)

[Click here to watch with audio description](#)

[Click here to watch without accessibility features](#)

[Click here to read the online transcript](#)

LEO SKILBECK - TRANSITIONS

#ESCAPE

I want to be rich. I want to be famous. I want a mentor. I want to be the protagonist of my coming-of-age movie. It's not fair, I've reflected and it's not fair. I can get overwhelmed sometimes thinking about it. I want to live. What would I discover about myself if I did? Escape this. I'm stuck. I'm trapped. I'm lonely. I'm happy. Should I stay or do I go now? Get me on an aeroplane. LET'S GO CAMPING!! I am lost. I never thought this place would be my forever. I think I will always be stuck here. I want an early night. I want some company, some close company. I want to party.

I want a good cathartic cry, I want some help please? I want to be seen. I just full on just want to chill the fuck out. I want a bath and an early night, I want a vegetarian pizza with a big dollop of GARLO SAUCE please and thank you. I want to learn from my mistakes. I want a dog. I want to be you. I want never gets.



Leo Skilbeck

Leo Skilbeck is a writer/director for stage and screen and the artistic director of queer performance company Milk Presents.

Leo's work spans a decade and centres trans and queer narratives and bodies. Their work has many forms including film, theatre, photography and cabaret, and has been commissioned by venues including the Young Vic, Derby Theatre and Northern Stage.

Leo is the host of the Perverts Podcast, and is currently writing a short film with BFI Film Hub North. You can find Leo @leojkskilbeck and @milkpresents. www.milkpresents.com

TRANSITIONS

From a provocation of 'Escape', writer / director Leo Skilbeck (Milk Presents) explores a moment of simultaneous confusion and pure clarity in this short film. For queer, trans, non-binary and gender diverse people, for those who think they might just be too, and for anyone looking to make an escape of their own.

How to access the piece

[Click here to watch with audio description](#)

[Click here to watch with BSL interpretation](#)

[Click here to watch without accessibility features](#)

[Click here to read the online transcript](#)

ROSS MILLARD - DIGGING

#ANGER

After the consultation was over someone stayed behind to tell me exactly what was on their mind. They were angry and upset. They instructed me to write down exactly what they had to say. I haven't been able to get this exchange out of my mind since. They told me:

They had been a coal miner in a mine that was closed, despite still producing coal, by Margaret Thatcher's government. They said she was getting her own back. They were angry about the imbalance of power and inequality in society then and now. "This is control." they said. "This is about the government keeping the poor people poor." They said there are more people than jobs. That there is nothing left after bills. That they have worked their whole life, that people can't afford to eat. "My mum used to say the poor are always with you. I think it's from the bible. Well, it's true. I am so angry, it's the injustice, it's criminal. Who cares about us?"

Ross Millard

Ross Millard is a musician, songwriter and composer who, with his Sunderland-based band The Futureheads, has recorded 6 studio albums (including one BPI-certified Gold album) and toured around the world to commercial and critical acclaim.



Ross has worked as a sound artist on various projects ranging from the BBC's 'Great North Passion', to working with theatre companies such as Wildworks and Unfolding Theatre. Since 2013, he has also worked as guitarist and songwriter with Sunderland band Frankie & The Heartstrings. He is currently in the process of developing a new musical with the National Theatre.

Digging

Digging is a work song death poem.

It's a short rumination on the relationship between life and work. In the song, work becomes an endless act – one that comes to engulf the singer's identity.

When is it time to enjoy the rewards of one's labour?

What reward is there, truly – beyond fuel given towards another day's work?

Do we do it because we have to do it?

Do we do it because we've always done it?

Do we do it because we're told to do it?

What would it feel like to just stop?

How to access the piece

[Click here to watch the audio described version](#)

[Click here to watch the BSL interpreted version](#)

[Click here to watch without accessibility features](#)

AUDREY COOK - HOW THIS EMAIL FOUND ME

#FUTURE

OK boomers, listen up! You had it all, you know. Property, prospects, prosperity. We have inherited a housing crisis, broken economy, fractured society. The planet is dying.

We are young, yes. We are spirited, yes. We have a good time, oh yes. We have ideas, yes. We are activists, yes. We have hope, believe things can change. We have got this, yes. We are the future. But c'mon a little help wouldn't go amiss. Listen to us, yes?

“OK boomers, listen up”



Audrey Cook

Audrey Cook is a live performance practitioner, based in Teesside. They perform, direct, and develop performance art for stage, exhibitions, and most recently, digital, online spaces. Their passion involves creating work that empowers the side of our identity that we're so commonly shamed for.

Being ugly, being angry, being dirty, poor, or imperfect, and often likes to work within their own identity of being working class, queer, and neurodivergent. This often involves whimsical, provocative, or absurdist visuals, exaggerated personas, composed using interdisciplinary art forms in an entertaining and empowering way.

How This Email Found Me

'I hope this email finds you well!'

Performer, and creative practitioner Audrey Cook collaborates with sound artist Joseph Browning to create a cacophony of contradiction.

This digital short follows young people and their growing state of emptiness, as they are expected to repair a world they didn't destroy, and live a lifestyle they didn't ask for.

Grow a business. Grow a brand. Go to space. Save the world. Be a good person. Lead the revolution. Remember your laundry. Remember your credit score. Treat yourself to a mortgage. Don't leave the house without your keep cup. Remember the earth is boiling. You ought to make a start on that really...

Best Wishes,

How to access the piece

[Click here to watch with audio description](#)

[Click here to watch with BSL interpretation](#)

[Click here to watch without accessibility features](#)

BARRA COLLINS - RED PILL | BLUE PILL

#CLIMATE

I couldn't care less. It's God's will! I do my bit. Did you know the concept of your personal carbon footprint was invented by Shell to pass responsibility onto the individual? I don't recycle, I'm sorry but what's the point. If I had all of the money in the world, I would use it to find a way to take all of the plastic out of the ocean. I would move us to another planet so we can start again. It's evolution simple as that. It's too late now. The protestors are going too far blocking the M25. The government does nothing. It's time for action. Would women have gotten the vote if the suffragettes hadn't blown shit up? How come the kids understand this better than the adults? This is a climate emergency.

“How come kids understand this better than the adults?”

Barra Collins

Barra is a theatre maker from the Republic of Ireland. His practice centres around participatory performance, working alongside communities to playfully develop a vocabulary to ignite and stimulate important conversations.

He leads organisations including family arts producer LAStheatre, sci-arts company The Enlightenment Café and the digital development outfit Neverthere.

Recent writing credits include: THE CURIOUS CASE OF ABERLLIW (Taking Flight & LAStheatre); THE RASCALLY DINER (Without Walls & LAStheatre); an adaptation of THE LION INSIDE by Rachel Bright and Jim Field (LAStheatre); ZOI (The Enlightenment Café); and an adaption of THE GIRL OF INK AND STARS by Kiran Millwood Hargrave (Bath Spa Productions & the egg, Theatre Royal Bath). | @BarraCollins | www.barracollins.com

RED PILL | BLUE PILL

The world is a beautiful, fragile place. Acknowledging the Climate Emergency makes each of us an activist. Everyday we use our resilience, our courage, and our imagination to respond in one of two ways. Both are human. Both are understandable. Both have side effects.

From the provocation 'Climate', writer/director Barra Collins crafts two monologues in response to quotes from the local community. Set in a virtual environment that the audience can enter on VR headsets or digital devices, this piece also provides a space to continue this important conversation.

Red Pill is performed by Rosanna Turton | Blue Pill is performed by Scott Turnbull
Music written and performed by Slowstepper

How to access the piece

[Click here to experience the full RED PILL | BLUE PILL digital space via Mozilla Hubs](#)

[Click here to watch RED PILL with BSL and captions](#)

[Click here to watch BLUE PILL with BSL and captions](#)

[Click to : Watch Honeybee](#) | [Watch Shorthorn](#) | [Watch Humpback](#)

TOMMY / THE QUEER HISTORIAN - TWENTY-TWENTY

#LIFELINES

This group, coming here, meeting up, Zoom rehearsals, my friends, my neighbours, the NHS, my mum, spending time with my kids, drawing, making paperchains, ukulele, ARC, nature, walking, outdoors, anti-depressants, red balloons, having someone to talk to, baking, the dogs, Macmillan nurses, furlough, food banks, social distancing, volunteering, volunteers, universal credit uplift, yoga, quiz night, my garden, the river, Joe Wicks, the woods, the park, the church, working from home, DIY, the eco café, this support, this place, these people, have been a lifeline.



“having someone to talk to”

TOMMY / THE QUEER HISTORIAN

Tommy/The Queer Historian is a multi award winning, queer, working class and disabled artist from Brighton. His work starts with a story from his past and works with community voices whose voices are often ignored in traditional spaces such as a theatre. The work he creates sits somewhere between theatre, live art and cabaret and often pushes audiences to have conversations that are pushed aside.

Twenty-Twenty

Inspired by the provocation of lifelines, Tommy delves into what helped him survive during twenty-twenty and dedicates this to those who helped him survive. This audio piece has been made with Sussex sound artist, Jon Griffin.

How to access the piece

[Click here to watch with BSL interpretation](#)

[Click here to read the online transcript](#)

SAYA ROSE NARUSE - MY RHYTHM

#CARE

I was taken off me mam. When I come here, I feel free. We put the disco ball on and when we dance, I feel this warm feeling inside. In the break I do back flips and springs across the room. I don't worry about what's happening back at home. I don't worry about the future. I feel light. I can be me.

“When I come here, I feel free.”



Saya Rose Naruse

Saya is a photographer, filmmaker and puppet-maker with a background in theatre. She is based in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne but travels all across the UK for her work.

Saya is passionate about sustainability and creating art that is meaningful and thought-provoking.

She seeks to centre her work around creativity, human experience and environmentalism.

Saya trained as an actor at East 15 Acting school and specialises in working as a photographer/ filmmaker for theatre companies, dancers and creatives. She also works as a maker and workshop facilitator to help nurture a playful and creative environment for all.

My Rhythm

In response to her provocation #Care, Saya was inspired to create a film that explores the feelings of release, freedom and joy through movement.

My Rhythm is about finding that space to be unapologetically you and do the things that make you feel alive and free. It is about looking after yourself and allowing yourself that time to focus entirely on your own needs. So many of us struggle to find peace at home; Whether that is due to family issues, care roles or unstable living arrangements. This film is a tribute to you and is hopefully a reminder to shine some of your love and care back on to yourself.

How to access the piece

[Click here to watch with audio description](#)

[Click here to watch with BSL interpretation](#)

[Click here to watch without accessibility features](#)

PAULA VARJACK - SO... YOU HAVE A DRINK...

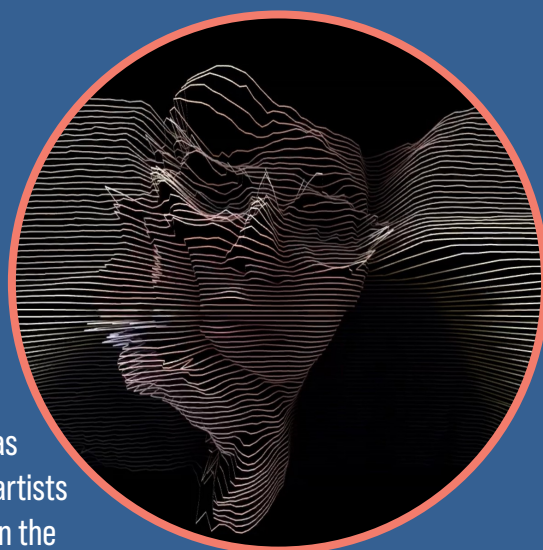
#ALCOHOL

Street drinking. Anti-social behaviour. People walking about the town drunk amongst families. Hang on, a bottle of wine in front of the telly? That's different right? Or two? It is a pandemic. Eat out to help out, the pubs are open! A few beers with the football, hen doo, hump day, feels like a Friday, long day at work, celebrate, commiserate, Saturday night, Sunday lunch, wine o'clock, gin o'clock beer' o'clock, tick tick tick. People are struggling. It's a taboo subject. Nobody wants to spoil the party, kill the buzz.

"People need support, there is no help out there" It's time to talk about our relationship with alcohol.

Paula Varjack

Paula Varjack is an artist working in video, performance & participation. Show Me The Money stimulated dialogue and debate about money in the arts, while galvanising and giving confidence to artists to speak up about issues around artists' pay. The Cult of K*NZO created over sprawling layers of performance, video, sound design, social media and puppetry, shared stories of luxury brands, both those who create and worship them. Paula has created a number of collaborative art projects where she has invited other artists to participate with her, including: In The Time Before Everything reflecting on the period before the UK first went into lockdown. She is one half of Varjack-Lowry with filmmaker Chuck Blue Lowry, their recent iMelania explored their dual heritage while using Melania Trump an avatar of an acceptably foreign woman. Born in Washington D.C. to a Ghanaian mother and a British father, Paula considers East London to be "home".



So... You have a drink...

It's the end of a long day. You're looking at your phone. Paula Varjack wants to connect with you, in a conversation about – the last 18 months, the blurry work/life balance that comes from working at home, and how all of this relates to drinking. So... you have a drink is a six minute film designed to be watched alone, and on your phone, created and performed by Paula Varjack with sound design by Robbie Gunn.

[TW: you can talk more about any issues surrounding alcohol and seek professional help and advice here: <https://drinkaware.co.uk/advice/alcohol-support-services>]

Hey, can you do me a favour? Take 5 minutes to watch this on your own full screen, on your phone, and with headphones. And if you can, watch in a room at night, with the lights turned off

How to access the piece

[Click here to watch with captions](#)

[Click here to watch with BSL interpretation](#)

[Click here to watch with audio description](#)

LEO MERCER - MONSTERS ANONYMOUS

#COMMUNITY

We come together, we adapt, we include. We change lives for the better, we work hard, we make smiles happen, we support, we feed people, we cook together, we do what's needed, we create safe spaces, outside spaces, spaces filled with laughter, space to be, space to talk, space to shine, space to grow, space to share. We are volunteers, we are neighbours, we are friends, no longer strangers, we are family, we are intergenerational, we are stronger together.

Leo Mercer

Leo is a Mancunian writer and creative producer. With his company leo&hyde, his musicals use new tech and current sounds to explore life after the internet.

His Gogglebox-inspired adaptation of *The Marriage of Figaro*, *The Marriage of Kim K* (The Lowry, The Arcola), unpacked a couple's arguments about what to watch on TV. It received multiple four and five star reviews, and was nominated for a Manchester Theatre Award.

His gay love story, *GUY*, captures online dating in the world of the 2010s. It premiered at Hope Mill Theatre and The Bunker in 2018, and has since been performed at over 20 venues nationwide, including six venues in the North East as part of ARC Stockton's REACH programme.



Monsters Anonymous

From the creators of *GUY: A New Musical* comes the family-friendly tale of four monsters keeping each other company during lockdown. They've been chatting for months over Zoom – but when will be the right time to meet in person? @leoandhyde

How to access the piece

[Click here for watch with integrated BSL and audio description](#)

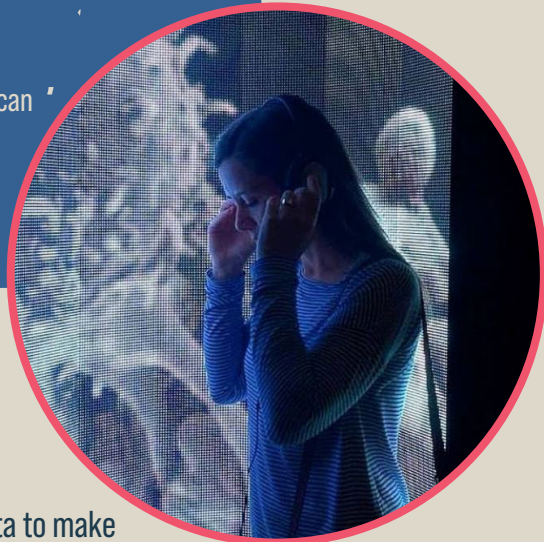
BEN FREETH - CONTAGION OF KINDNESS

#KINDNESS

I want a world where everyone is kind to each other. Where bullies don't bully and people are not mean. I would like a world where people helped each other, helped the homeless. I want to live in a world where people are kind to animals. Where everyone is treated equally and has the same chances. ▶

"I would like to be a doctor so I can help people" "I would like to be an engineer so I can invent ways to save the planet" "I want to adopt lots of children and animals"

Nobody knows what's really going on inside a person. Please let's be kind to each other. Just smile and say, Hi!



Ben Freeth

Ben Freeth is a non-binary digital artist whose arts practice uses sound and data to make sculptural installations that give audiences immersive uncanny experiences of the inaccessible. With an MRes. Digital Media from Newcastle University their work has been showcased internationally. Examples include:

Wreck One – Listening To The Inaccessible – a series of multichannel audio installations; Hybrid Cultures/Borderless Practice – exploring the Silk Industry in South Korea through sound recording. This led to collaborations with Korean artists and a networked sound art project; Clusters of Differentiation – a large scale LED sculpture sonifying and lumifying scientific data; Our Lives with GVOC and six community groups in Gateshead presented community issues to local government by inputting into decision making processes and giving community groups the power to influence these processes through technology. Outcomes were exhibited at Baltic, Gateshead a first for communities to access this gallery.

Ben is committed to digital inclusivity and enabling people to explore creative expression through digital technologies.

Contagion of Kindness

Acts of kindness are like a virus – they are catching – don't spread the virus, spread kindness!!!!

An interactive piece that explores stories of bullying that have emerged from lockdown, practical ways kindness spreads and safe places for reflection... The balance between escapism and the practicalities of actively seeking help. Takes us through stories from local people's experiences, to data from Perseverance and Curiosity, the two active rovers on Mars, and the gaming trope of the fire as a safe place to rest and exercise self care. Contagion of Kindness is an interactive work that can be explored on any device with internet (computer, tablet, phone).

How to access the piece

[Click here to explore the work on a desktop/laptop](#)

[Click here to explore the work on mobile](#)

[Click here to watch the film version with integrated audio description](#)

LISETTE AUTON - THE WEEK THE CLOCKS WENT BACK

#WOMEN

She was just walking home.

LISETTE AUTON

Lisette Auton is a disabled writer, activist, poet, novelist, spoken-word artist, actor, film and theatre-maker, and creative practitioner. She's an award-winning poet who has performed at Northern Stage, ARC, The Southbank Centre and the Sage, in pubs, in a crypt, at festivals, indoors, outdoors, on a bridge and in a launderette. She was the 2019 Early Careers Fellow for Literature at Cove Park and is on the TSS Publishing list of Best British & Irish Flash Fiction.

Her work has been commissioned by many organisations including the Courtauld Institute of Art and MIMA. Lisette works with many creative collaborators to create unique and innovative cross artform works. She is the Winner of 'Performance of the Year' at the Journal Culture Awards 2021 for Writing the Missing; A River Cycle a film commission for Durham Book Festival. The Secret of Haven Point, her debut novel, is forthcoming from Puffin in February 2022.

www.lisetteauton.co.uk

The week the clocks went back

A lyrical essay collage of overhearings, and an untangling and retangling of thoughts, the week that my walk home plunged from golden leaves and crisp blue skies into darkness.



How to access the piece

[Click here to watch with BSL interpretation](#)

[Click here to watch without accessibility features](#)

SARAH WATSON - EXTRA EXPENSE

#MONEY

They are taking £20 a week off the people who need it most. That is food out of our children's mouths. You can buy quite a lot for £20 if you are careful. Now it's the fuel crisis. Some of us have never had the heating on anyway.

Why is it ok that we live in a society where there is so much money but children go hungry, food banks are normalised and footballers have to fight the government to feed poor school children?

Nobody really knows what it's like to be properly poor. They say they do; they say they are working class. What does that even mean? I am not even working-class mate. If you really look there is another class that people don't want to see.

Sarah Watson

Sarah is an artist with a vision to change the world one story at a time.

Her raw authentic voice is something she prides herself on, as a woman who has been through the wringer. She stands tall, strong, with a fist ready to kidney blow the system.

She's a geek with a love for sci fi, thrillers and horror, which is often reflected in her story telling. Her work is centred around bringing about change.

She wants to open your eyes to what the media neglects to mention.

Sarah has previously worked with New Writing North, is the playwright of Zones, which was showcased as a Rehearsed Reading at Durham Book Festival 2019, and works regularly with Curious Monkey Theatre Company's Troupe, working with young people with experience of the care system and has written for their 360 films.



Extra Expense

A single mother of two is asked the question "What's on your Mind?" Her response is an emotional meltdown of the stress Christmas brings to people already struggling financially.

How to access the piece

[Click here to watch the BSL interpreted version](#)

[Click here to watch without accessibility features](#)

[Click here to read the online transcript](#)

DANIEL SMITH - CREATIVE RAPPORTEUR

Daniel Smith

Hailing from Stockton in the north of England, Daniel has written and directed a number of short films as well as a number of feature length documentaries including, 'Young, Fit and Dying' and also 'The Directors'. YF&D sold across Europe, Scandinavia and the Middle East, receiving glowing reviews along the way.

Daniel studied Film at Middlesex University, receiving a BA(Hons) as a scholarship student. His previous life as an Electrical commissioning engineer has also had a major impact on his fastidious approach to both writing and directing."



[Click here to watch the final film](#)

What did you think of What's On Your Mind?

We would love to know what you thought of **What's On Your Mind?**. You can share your thought with us by:

emailing us at artist.development@arconline.co.uk

or

Tweet using [#WOYMStockton](#)

What's On Your Mind was funded with a grant from Arts Council England



Supported using public funding by

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