



Myers-Insole Local Learning CIC  
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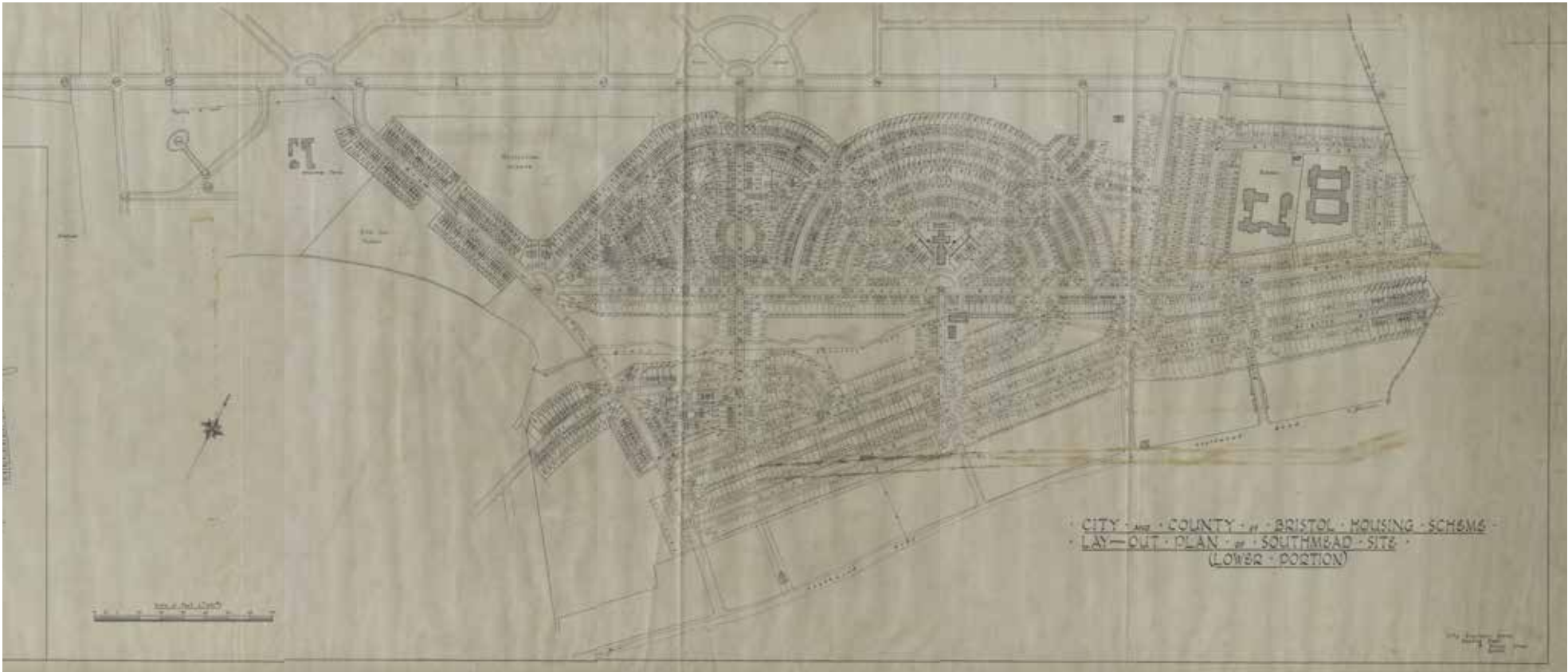
# MEADOWS TO MEADERS





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Original 1920s plan for the Southmead estate (courtesy of Bristol Archives)

All literature contained the Meadows to Meaders banner (see cover) which details the immediately recognisable concentric semi-circles from the original street plan of the area to bring the different elements of the project together and to indicate that all aspects were part of the same project. The banner made the project more identifiable and familiar within the community.

**The delight of local history and local memories being made accessible**

*Meadows to Meaders audience feedback*

# Introduction

**Meadows to Meaders begins in the 1930s housing crisis, when people were moved from all over Bristol to 1,500 newly built council houses on the outskirts of the city.**

The project name, Meadows to Meaders is an umbrella term that captures all elements of the project. People from Southmead are referred to locally as 'Meaders' and the local magazine, 'The Mead' plays on this. The move from meadows to meaders reflects the urbanisation of the area and specifies the era on which we wanted to focus.

Myers-Insole Local Learning Community Interest Company (MILL) received generous funding from Arts Council for England (original project name: 1930s Southmeaderz), Heritage Lottery (original project name: Know Your Southmead), Heritage Schools and #fourteen (Quartet Community Foundation) to work with:

- Bristol Old Vic (BOV) theatre engagement team
- Calling the Shots (CtS) film and production company
- Travelling Kitchen (TK) social enterprise cookery company
- Wildman and Herring Ltd multi-media production company
- University of Bristol
- Southmead Development Trust (SDT)
- Orchard Secondary School
- Fonthill Primary School
- Southmead community

To deliver a multi-faceted project involving all members of the community in exploring the area's past.

The original aims of the project as laid out in the Activity Plan were:

- Participatory historical research
- Oral history collection
- Inter-generational cookery workshops and recipe cards
- Community drama and theatre programmes
- Historical documentary films and a film documenting the project as a whole
- A website for the project

Due to the project and all its elements being so well received by Southmead residents, both young and old, Meadows to Meaders has gone far beyond our initial concept and as well as the original activities we also offered five additional outcomes:

- Exhibition of objects
- Decorated bespoke Meadows to Meaders apple for the Art and Sole trail
- Archaeological surveys and sharing memories at an inter-generational picnic at Henleaze Lake
- Writing workshops with members of the community to produce a legacy booklet for the project
- A collaboration with the national social activism movement, Journey to Justice, Orchard School and local residents building on documents from 1948 that surfaced during the meadows to Meaders project.



From October 2016 MILL have also had a 3rd year History undergraduate, Tanya Tribbell on placement as part of the History in the Public Realm unit who has been heavily involved with the Meadows to Meaders project. She promoted the project through a dedicated Facebook page that she created specifically for our project and participated in the final session.

We have been overwhelmed by the wealth of stories, goodwill and the extent to which Meadows to Meaders played a significant role in revealing such an appetite for local heritage and dramatic arts.

**The sense of arts activities being part of Southmead too**

*Meadows to Meaders audience feedback*



## Funded by

Arts Council England

Heritage Schools

University of Bristol (in kind)

Myers-Insole Local Learning (part in kind)

# 1 Launch event

## 1.1 Aims

- To promote the project
- To encourage local residents to become involved
- To encourage older members of the community to contribute their memories and memorabilia
- To introduce all the partners to the community in familiar surroundings

## 1.2 Promotion

We wanted to hold an introductory event on Ascot Road outside Fonhill Primary School, providing a taster of the free activities in which the community could become involved.

MILL delivered a series of sessions in Fonhill Primary School (Years 4 and 6) and Orchard Secondary School (Year 7) in preparation for the launch.

- Year 4 (20 students): Designing questionnaires that could be taken home and filled out by parents and grandparents and brought back on the launch day. Extra questionnaires were printed to be distributed across Southmead and on the launch day

- Year 6 (27 students): Exploring 1930s architectural features of the school and the nearby houses (using the original drawing plans for houses along Ascot Road), allowing them to be architectural advisers during the launch
- Year 6: Building on their knowledge of 1930s Southmead and architectural designs, designing bunting for Meadows to Meaders with the words reflecting the move from rural to built environment
- Year 7 (30 students): Using the Bristol City Council Know Your Place website to learn about Southmead's past and to introduce interview techniques for a future event at the 50+ forum

As well as using Fonhill Primary and Orchard Secondary as platforms to reach the wider community, MILL liaised with various communities across Southmead, promoting the launch and the project:

- The SCART shop managed by the WISH charity (Working in Southmead for Health) and the central information point for the Southmead Community hosts many different services for residents such as the Credit Union, Job Club and Food vouchers and played a pivotal role in reaching out to the community and displayed materials related to Meadows to Meaders including; the replica George V postbox serving as a memory box for people to post Southmead memorabilia and responses to the Year 4 questionnaire; a giant map of the Bristol Corporation's plan for Southmead circa 1929 annotated with comments from local residents in the window; flyers promoting upcoming events

- Local History Group
- 50+ forum at the Southmead Community Centre
- Local pubs, cafes, shops, community centres
- The Mead (local quarterly magazine delivered to 4,000 houses across Southmead) in hardcopy and online to ensure that residents not online were able to access information, regularly featured front page news about the project
- The associated online magazine, The Mead set up a designated page to Meadows to Meaders and published stories and associated articles to maintain interest and momentum. This is also linked to the designated facebook and twitter account
- Events and information about the project have been available through [www.locallearning.org.uk/meadows2meaders](http://www.locallearning.org.uk/meadows2meaders) and has been linked to from partners in the project
- Southmead Development Trust



A 1930s style post box was created out of cardboard to promote the project and help collect completed questionnaires



### 1.3 Participants

The launch was coordinated by MILL and was delivered in collaboration with all of our partners for this project.

- The Know Your Bristol bus and associated team from Bristol University History Department
- Social enterprise cookery company, Travelling Kitchen who provide practical workshops for schools and community groups celebrating the history and culture of food
- Multi-media producer, Tot Foster from Wildman and Herring Ltd
- Film and media company, Calling the Shots
- Bristol Old Vic Engagement team including scriptwriter and directors
- Young ambassadors from Fonthill Primary and volunteer former teacher
- Playing Out CIC (partially on a voluntary basis)

### 1.4 Audience

Our initial idea was to collect formal written evaluation from this event, but decided that given our main aim was to involve people and encourage them to participate in future activities we did not want to put up any barriers. We were already asking people to fill out questionnaires and so did not want to over burden people with filling out forms.

Head count of around 50 and the questionnaires provided some extra information about people's interests and likelihood of getting involved.

We used the launch to promote the drama, documentaries and sharing memories, but also to promote specific events such as visiting Bristol Archives and cookery workshops.

**I learned that there are a lot of 1930s features in our school – I learned the names of different houses – I learned how to tell the difference between the houses.**

*Mapping Southmead – Fonthill, Year 6*

### Number of participants and volunteers

Fonthill Year 4 (20 pupils + 1 member of staff)

Fonthill Year 6 (27 pupils + 1 member of staff)

Orchard Year 7 (30 pupils + 2 members of staff)

University of Bristol – Know Your Bristol Team x 4 (inc 2 x volunteer researchers)

Travelling Kitchen (2 members of staff)

Tot Foster (Wildman and Herring)

Calling the Shots (1 member of staff)

Playing Out (1 member of staff)

Will Boulton (volunteer 1930s music equipment)

Lori Streich (volunteered to devise evaluation tool)

Former teacher at Fonthill volunteered delivering some of the Primary School activities as well as volunteering at the launch

Promotion assisted by volunteers, Karen Green (SCART shop), Suzanne Daggar (The Mead online), Natalie Bailey (SDT) and Trish Claverley (NHS Trust)



Memories and memorabilia were collected using the University of Bristol's Know Your Bristol bus (top)

Terry (above) recognised his mother in a photograph of a VE day street party that a member of the public brought to the event



A 1930s style gramophone provided music at the launch event

### 1.5 Outcomes

- TK provided free samples of 1930s cooking and a display of early 20th century kitchen equipment
- Bristol University brought their Know Your Bristol bus complete with digitising equipment to produce copies of the photos and items that people brought along. Bristol University provided all contributors with their own memory stick of their recorded items for them to keep. One unexpected outcome was in reference to a photo of VE day on Fonhill Road that had been brought in by local resident, Mike Murch. Terry Johnson, who did not previously know Mike and hadn't seen any photos of the VE Day celebrations recognised himself in the photo, but then also recognised his mother in the photo and was particularly moved as he had very few photos of her. Bristol University were able to provide him with his own hard copy.
- Wildman and Herring's Tot Foster was on hand to record people's stories or arrange a more convenient time to do so after the event
- BOV Engagement team were present to meet potential participants for the street performance and Young Company director, Lisa Gegan provided some informal drama sessions for the young people throughout the day. Scriptwriter, Bea Roberts was also there to meet people and explore the area in which the play was to be set
- CtS filmed the event as part of documenting the process, to capture the early stages of the project.
- Playing Out CIC played games on the road with local children, exploiting the opportunity to reclaim the street during the road closure
- We had a replica George V pillar box made out of cardboard by Cardboard Creations artist, Nicola Wren to encourage people to correspond with us in a pre-digital age format, ensuring that we did not miss opportunities for communication as a result of people not owning a computer, smart phone or being online. The pillar box became a focal point throughout the project and encouraged people to post their responses and engage with the project
- After the launch, the pillar box was moved to the SCART shop (a base for the community in Arnside Shopping Centre in Southmead) for people to post their stories, photos, memories and communications and was a prop and form of communication with the audience on the day of the final performance
- As well as designing promotional flyers, Year 4 helped to design questionnaires that were used throughout the project for collecting stories and gauging initial interest in the various aspects of the project
- Year 6's bunting was also used throughout the project and after the performance was used as part of the exhibition in Southmead Library
- Ruth Myers and Pete Insole from MILL managed and coordinated the event as well as promoting the fully funded opportunity to visit Bristol Archives to research the history of Southmead houses and their inhabitants
- The launch provided an opportunity for local residents to meet the people involved in delivering the different aspects of the project

**'I attended the Ascot Road event with my life long friend, who lives in Southmead. Very informative. Very interesting.'**

*Southmead resident*

**'I learned that open questions are more interesting than closed questions.'**

*Devising questionnaires – Fonhill, Year 4*



Travelling Kitchen providing a taste of the 1930s (top) and completed questionnaires in the M2M post box



### 1.6 Evaluation

Lori Streich volunteered to help MILL develop an evaluative tool for the Meadows to Meaders project to specifically assess the impact of this project in relation to heritage, the Arts and community.

All school based activities and community events were evaluated through formal written feedback using forms MILL use in all school based activities to ensure they are constantly assessing and improving their practice. Verbal feedback was also collected as well as both qualitative and quantitative data.

The launch offered an opportunity for partners to liaise and discuss the project. This was the beginning of a very successful partnership that developed over the course of the project and resulted in collaborations outside of Meadows to Meaders.

We collected 45 completed questionnaires indicating interests in the following areas as well as hinting at the wealth of stories to come. Some of these were shared with Bristol Post journalist, Eugene Byrne who printed a selection in the first of two double page spreads about the project with a readership across Greater Bristol and often picked up by the Western Daily that reaches beyond the city to its neighbouring authorities (previously Avon).

The Arts does not play a huge role in Southmead and through discussions with members of Southmead Development Trust, #fourteen fund for Southmead, staff and parents from the participating schools as well as other members from the community we knew that it would take time and effort to involve a significant proportion of the community and to ensure this was an inclusive project whose participants reflected the demographic of Southmead.

The written feedback collected from Years 4 and 6 from Fonhill suggested an appetite for learning about local heritage and to engage with the local community. Identifying 1930s architectural features inside and outside the school and surrounding houses was popular as was transferring designs based on these architectural details onto bunting for our project.

**If this activity were to be offered again...**

**'You should keep looking at the houses around because you could go home and see what your house is.'**

*Mapping Southmead – Fonhill, Year 6*



Playing Out at the launch event in Ascot Road

**'I enjoyed noticing all the 1930s features in our school.'**

*Mapping Southmead – Fonhill, Year 6*

**'I learned that my school, Fonhill was the first one, primary school in Southmead.'**

*Mapping Southmead – Fonhill, Year 6*

## 2 Community research

### 2.1 Aims

- To digitise records from Bristol Archives
- To use a printed copy (size AO) of the 1920s proposed plan of Southmead scanned at the archives for people to share stories
- To map movements of people in the 1930s from across the city to live in Southmead
- To encourage local residents to tell the story of Southmead
- To involve local residents in researching the area's history
- To use the community research to inform the drama and documentary films
- To increase the number of points on the community layer of Bristol City Council's online mapping resource Know Your Place

### 2.2 Promotion

In order to tell stories about Southmead's history, we recognised that the people best placed to do this were local residents who had grown up in the area and been there from the start. We wanted the final performance to be as participatory as possible and for it not just to be performed by local residents, but informed by them as well.

Community research activities:

- The Launch – initial gathering of stories, recipes and digitising materials
- i) Inter-generational Know Your Place event at 50+ forum with Orchard School
- ii) Community visit to Bristol Archives; Fonthill Year 6 accompanied by parents and carers in the morning and members of the community in the afternoon

i) Five lessons took place with 1 x Year 7 PSHE class from Orchard Secondary School in preparation for the Know Your Place (KYP) event training students in interview technique, note taking skills, communicating with an older generation and using the Know Your Place website.

The 50+ forum (average age mid 80s) were also primed ready for the visit and members were encouraged to bring in photos, postcards, letters, rent books, artefacts dug up in the garden that would then be photographed and added to the KYP community layer to enhance everybody's understanding of Southmead and its history.

A hard copy of the 1920s plan of Southmead was also to be populated with memories, images and additional information that can only be known by people who have grown up in Southmead and are familiar with the area.

The objects and their associated stories were later used to create an exhibition about the history of Southmead.

ii) The community session at the Archives was promoted at all events, particularly through the Southmead History Group and the KYP event at the 50+ forum.

It was at the Archives that BBC Radio Bristol first picked up the story and came to collect footage at the Archives and then invited local residents and school children from Fonthill to the BBC studios to talk in more depth about the project and the area's history. This also appeared on Radio Bristol's Facebook page and received over 32,000 hits.

**'Although they were old they had pretty good stories. I learnt to not underestimate elders.'**

*Orchard Year 7 visiting 50+ Forum*



Year 7 pupils from Orchard Secondary School worked with members of the 50+ Forum to add information to the 1920s map of Southmead



### 2.3 Participants

(i) Jamie Carstairs from the University of Bristol Know Your Bristol team attended the 50+ Forum event and digitised several images brought to the forum by members of the community.

Volunteer researcher, Dr. Elin Jones researched 1920s and 30s city council records pertaining to the creation of Southmead using documents available at Bristol Archives and newspaper articles accessible via the British Newspaper Archive.

TK attended the Forum and provided a selection of desserts with a 1930s theme to promote the cookery workshops.

ii) Specific research was carried out regarding Fonthill Primary School, admissions and headteacher's comments in preparation for the visit to the archives with Year 6 and their parents and carers in November.

Due to community interest a separate trip to the archives to research Southmead was organised for the afternoon.

### 2.4 Audience

i) The objects brought to the 50+ Forum and their associated stories were later used to create an exhibition about the history of Southmead.

The 1920s plan of Southmead with comments added by members of the community was displayed at the SCART shop for visitors and visible to passers by.

The Orchard School pupils created a display at the school based on the interviews and images.

Stories were written up and published in the Post's Bristol Times section. "The Post sells about 25,000 newspapers daily, but possibly a few more on Tuesdays because of Bristol Times. Actual 'Readership' though will be higher on the basis that more than one person will see each copy, and of course we know that Bristol Times gets packaged up and sent to lots of ex-pats, too. Approximately 60,000 readers", Eugene Byrne (Bristol Times editor).

ii) Radio Bristol attended both morning and afternoon sessions at Bristol Archives, and followed up the event the following Thursday at the studio with pupils from Fonthill and long standing Southmead residents, Mike Murch and Marion Garland.

### Number of participants and volunteers

50+ Forum (30 members + 4 staff)

Year 7 Orchard (30 pupils + 3 staff)

Year 6 Fonthill (27 pupils + 8 parents and 2 staff)

16 local residents visit to Bristol Archives

4 members of staff at Bristol Archives

MILL (2 members of staff)

TK (2 members of staff)

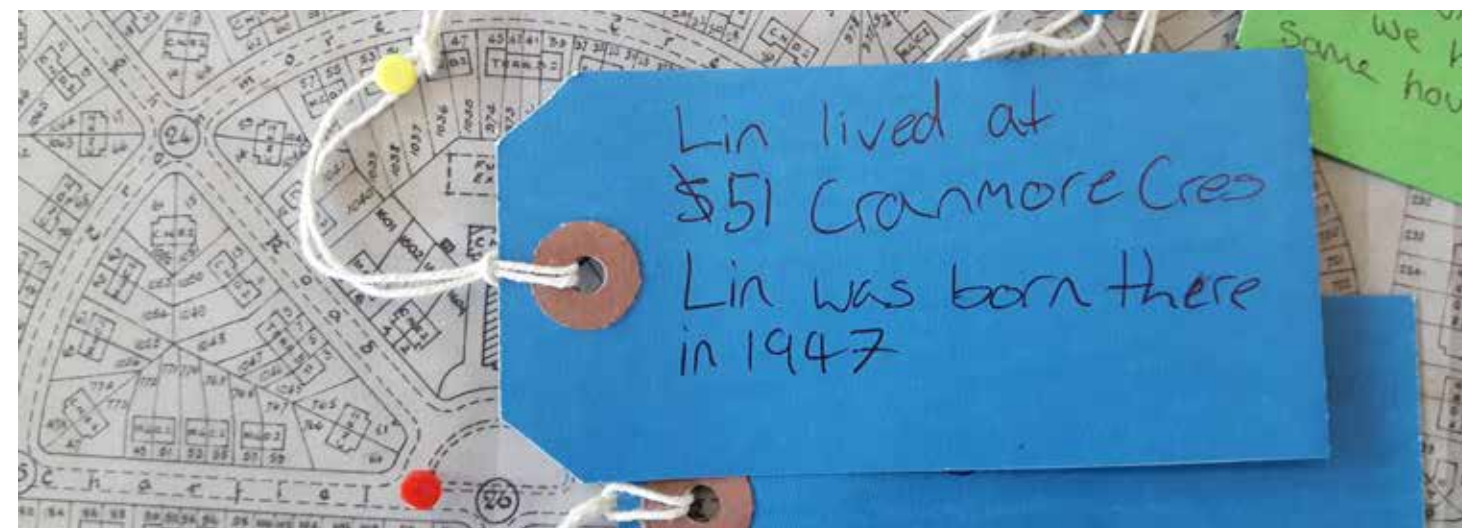
Bristol University (1 member of staff)

Tot Foster (Wildman and Herring)

CtS (1 member of staff)

BOV (2 members of staff)

Volunteers - 2 Bristol community drivers, Celia Jenkins, Tanya Tribbell (UWE), Shona Stone (UWE), Prof Peter Fleming (UWE), Nick Nourse (Bristol University), Dr Elin Jones,



Collecting stories at the 50+ Forum



## 2.5 Outcomes

i) Inter-generational event with Orchard students and the 50+ forum was the best attended Forum session in some time and recruited new members (30 in total).

Populated 1920s plan of Southmead (BCC) with stories and memories.

We are continued to receive photos and letters via email or post that were added to the Know Your Place community layer. This continued engagement is evidence of the successful promotion within Southmead, via The Mead both online and in hard copy, as well as the coverage from Bristol Times and BBC Radio Bristol and the dedicated Facebook page created by 3rd year History undergraduate, Tanya Tribbell.

**What aspects of today's visit are most likely to encourage you to visit the Record Office again?**

**'All of it. I feel a door has been opened into the gaps in my knowledge.'**

*Southmead resident at Bristol Archives*

ii) This was an added extra – it was always intended to take members of the public to Bristol Archives to explore the documents there, but Fonthill were interested in participating in this activity as well. There was such a positive response from the community that there were too many people for one combined visit and it would have been a strain on resources there so we organised 2 separate visits, but allowed people who couldn't make the community visit to join the school trip.

Transport was arranged to take Year 6 students from Fonthill and their parents and carers, grandparents and great grandparents to the archives to research the history of Fonthill Primary School.

Outcomes from this research informed the documentary films about the creation of Southmead with a focus on early significant buildings being coordinated by film and media company, Calling the Shots.

MILL created a digitised map conveying movements across city to Southmead in 1931 with key indicating reasons for move.

## 2.6 Evaluation

i) A very successful event with an impressive turnout recruiting more 50+ Forum members than they had had for some time – people making special effort to attend.

ii) Feedback for both morning and afternoon was very positive, with all afternoon attendees stating that they were either likely or very likely to return to Bristol Archives to carry out further research. None of the local residents had visited the archives prior to this event.

**Most enjoyable aspect of today's activity...**

**'Encouragement to be hands on, finding stuff out**

**Talking and meeting people, discussing memories**

**The excitement and chatter of all those attending.'**

*Southmead resident at Bristol Archives*



Community visit to Bristol Archives



**If this activity were to be provided again what would you keep?**

**‘Definitely the trip to the strong room but I think that all the activities were absolutely fascinating.**

**The strong room tour because there is old books that they might want to see – because I think it is a really interactive way to learn – because most of the public can’t go there and it’s also really interesting – to see old books and the medal – because it gives you lots of information.’**

*Fonthill Year 6*

**Most enjoyable aspect of today’s activity?**

**‘Finding a photograph of Southmead Road 1910, finding my father’s name in directory.’**

*Southmead resident at Bristol Archives*

**Most likely to tell somebody else?**

**‘Pretty much all of it – I find the whole project fascinating.’**

*Southmead resident visiting Bristol Archives*

**‘How the school children were really interested in Southmead of long ago. Conversations shared amongst local people.’**

*Community member of 50+ Forum*



The 50+ Forum with Year 7 pupils from Orchard Secondary School

**I have enjoyed looking at maps and looking at Fonthill’s admission paper and learning that they would only write down their father’s name.**

*Fonthill Year 6*



## 3 Cooking in the community

### 3.1 Aims

- To deliver a series of inter-generational cookery workshops exploring 1930s cooking
- To provide hard copies of recipes for residents to take home
- To carry out research into 1930s cooking and table etiquette
- To research the food culture and habits of the 1930s and recipes from that era
- Research to inform workshops with the Orchard School and Fonthill and to explain to pupils what food people were eating at the time, where their food came from and what equipment was available to them
- To encourage community members of all generations to explore the social history of the 1930s and their community through food
- To bring people together, particularly young and old and encourage engagement in the wider project through cooking and sharing food together

### 3.2 Promotion

Promotion for these activities began at the launch and gauging interest from the older generation via the questionnaires.

Travelling Kitchen catered for the 50+ forum/ Orchard Know Your Place event in October as a way of promoting the inter-generational cookery sessions. Together with their display of early 20th century cooking implements which attracted a lot of attention, the delicious food and positive interactions between Orchard students and members of the 50+ forum TK's involvement helped to promote the forthcoming inter generational activities at Orchard.

Many Year 7 students were interested following on from the Year 7 PSHE class who already had some knowledge of the project and this activity from the sessions preparing for interviewing at the 50+ forum

Flyers were circulated across Southmead and sent home with Orchard and Fonthill school students as well as being posted in the SCART shop, Greenway Centre, Southmead Community Centre and Southmead Library.

This was also promoted via our designated Facebook page, managed by volunteer, Tanya Tribbell on placement with us from UWE History department, creating a further platform for people to find out about what was going on. Tanya also promoted the project using the online feature of The Mead, liaising closely with Suzanne Daggar who heads this up and volunteered a lot of her time to helping promote the project and creating a dedicated online project page within The Mead.

TK also promoted the project through a blog on their website and twitter posts on project activities and progress.



As part of the fully funded Meadows to Meaders project exploring the history of Southmead and its creation in the 1930s, we have an exciting opportunity for all members of this community wanting to promote the area's fascinating heritage.

We are looking for Southmead residents to explore some tastes from the past.

**Would you like to join us in cooking some authentic 1930s recipes with students from Orchard Secondary School in November?**

If you would like to get cooking, talk about your food memories or share some recipes with us please contact Sarah or Clare at [info@travellingkitchen.org](mailto:info@travellingkitchen.org).

To find out more about the Meadows to Meaders project contact Ruth Myers [ruth@locallearning.org.uk](mailto:ruth@locallearning.org.uk) or visit [locallearning.org.uk/meadows2meaders](http://locallearning.org.uk/meadows2meaders).



Travelling Kitchen is a Bristol-based social enterprise working with schools and community groups. We run practical cookery workshops that celebrate the history and culture of food and encourage people to enjoy cooking and sharing food together



We'd love to hear your food stories:

- What did you or your parents or grandparents eat in the 1930s and does your family still enjoy some of these dishes today?
- Where did you and other people in Southmead get their food from in days gone by? What were your favourite food shops?
- What were your family food rituals? Was it always fish on Fridays?
- Are manners around the table different today?
- Do you know how your grandparents or parents cooked and what appliances were available to them?
- What appliances and equipment make your life in the kitchen easier today?



Travelling Kitchen promotional flyer for cookery workshops



### 3.3 Participants

(i) The inter-generational cookery workshops were delivered by Travelling Kitchen and supported by MILL.

The sessions were oversubscribed and had to be capped at 15 students.

Initial take up suggested 8 x local residents, but due to various commitments and illness this dropped to 2.

(ii) A one day cookery workshop at Fonthill involved 30 Year 3 pupils cooking for 40 parents, grandparents and siblings.

### 3.4 Audience

(i) At each workshop, TK ensured that there was extra food for participants to take home to their families.

At the final session, before Christmas, as well as all participants (17), members of staff (6) were invited in to enjoy a Christmas spread at the end of the session. This was also filmed by Calling the Shots for documenting the process and their team of Orchard School student filmmakers that they had trained up.

UWE chose the Christmas event to capture film footage of our 3rd year History student on placement to promote volunteering opportunities at UWE. (Audience = extra 4 CtS and 2 UWE) as well as the audience for the final footage on the UWE website.

TK also provided food for an oral history collection event at the Woodnook Residential Home in Southmead (about 25) and have been liaising closely with 2 volunteers who coordinate events at the home for TK to deliver cookery workshops in the morning, which would result in all participants sitting down together to eat the 3 course lunch they have cooked for themselves

A selection of recipes feature in the dedicated section of our legacy booklet (3000 copies distributed across Southmead as well as online).

### Number of participants and volunteers

Fonthill Year 3 (30 pupils + 1 member of staff)

Orchard Year 7 (17 pupils + 2 members of staff)

Travelling Kitchen (2 members of staff)

40 community participants at Fonthill (including parents, grandparents, siblings and other school staff)

2 community participants for all Orchard sessions

7 community participants at the final Christmas session

Tanya Tribbell (UWE student volunteer for some Orchard sessions)

Ruth Myers (MILL) assisted at some sessions

Suzanne Dagger, The Mead



Cookery workshop with Year 3 at Fonthill

### 3.5 Outcomes by Travelling Kitchen

The research, together with recipes and anecdotes from the Southmead community were used to inform the inter-generational cookery workshops taking place weekly throughout Term 2 at Orchard Secondary School from November.

#### Food stall at Meadows to Meaders launch event

This included a small display of vintage kitchen equipment and recipe books from the time to encourage people to talk about their food memories and recipes that they cooked or may have been handed down to them from that period. TK talked to some of the older members of the community about the kitchens in their houses in Southmead when they moved and what appliances and equipment were available to them. TK provided seven different savoury and sweet dishes for people to try. The recipes for these were all taken from cookery books and magazines from the 1930s and included cheese and tomato roll, rice and apple cups and 'National Mark' brown bread.

#### Attending Southmead Over 50s Forum

TK attended the Southmead Over 50s forum and had a similar stall to the one at the launch event to encourage people to share their food memories. TK also attended the forum prior to the workshop at Fonthill Primary School to discuss what people remembered of school dinners and favourite meals from their childhood.

### Workshops at Orchard Secondary School

Research, together with recipes and anecdotes from the Southmead community were used to inform the 6 inter-generational cookery workshops that took place weekly throughout Term 2 at Orchard Secondary School.

The emphasis was on cooking a meal economically 'from scratch'. Residents of Southmead today don't have access to a huge range of shops and so the dishes cooked used readily available ingredients such as tinned salmon rather than fresh in the fish cakes. At the end of the day participants took the meal/dish that they had cooked home to share with their families. During the final session TK cooked a Christmas tea to which staff from Orchard School were invited

Both the regular older attendees live alone and were particularly thankful for having food that they could take home and freeze or have for a second meal. June Bull was gluten intolerant and TK ensured that each meal had a gluten free alternative and tested all the foods beforehand.

### Workshop at Fonthill Primary School

TK spent a day with year 3 at Fonthill primary school during which they cooked a total of seven dishes from the 1930s as well as teaching the children about what children and their families in the 1930s would have eaten.

During this workshop TK talked to children about how people cooked and ate during this period. TK brought along a display of vintage kitchen equipment and recipe books from the time. Parents, grandparents and other family members were invited to join the children for the meal at the end of the workshop.

Discussions with the students at Orchard and Fonthill about food in the 1930s enabled discussions of topics of huge relevance today such as food waste, food miles and seasonality. Many of the recipes that were cooked deliberately used common leftovers, such as mashed potatoes and bread crumbs in the fish cakes and leftover bread in the bread and butter pudding to show people how waste can be avoided.



June Bull, a regular attendee at the Orchard cookery sessions

**I look forward to coming and joining in with the children to make things that we did in the 1930s. It keeps the memories going.**

**When I'm not around if I haven't shared them then they're forgotten.**

*June Bull, Southmead resident*



A collection of recipes from the 1930s that were used or adapted for tasting sessions at the launch of Meadows to Meaders project and during the cookery workshops with Orchard School and Fonthill School. These have subsequently been published in the Meaders to Meadows project booklet and on-line so they are available to a wider audience

Extra recipes gathered throughout the project have been made available online as well as those in the booklet.

Thank you

We love cooking

WE

Travelling Kebab

Keep calm and enjoy cooking

Bread

summer Pudding

dumplings

broccoli butter Peas

skewers

Meadows to Meaders  
Project Report 2017

### 3.6 Evaluation

The sessions at Orchard were oversubscribed.

Because this took place early on in the project, when many local people were still cautious about getting involved we had fewer members of the older generation, but have since had interest in building on this. Other partners felt however, that this helped them to recruit people as the cookery workshops had already taken place and people were beginning to become familiar with the project as a whole.

Though not in the original activity plan, it was sensible for TK to attend the 50+ forum and to introduce themselves and their cooking to people in a familiar environment.

Pupils at Fonthill were fascinated to hear that probably only one person out of their class would have had a refrigerator in 1930s Southmead and how this would have affected storage methods and shopping habits.

Discussions about the food memories at the launch event and the over 50s forum really helped people to engage with the project. They may not have known about the early development of the Southmead Estate but everyone could tell us what their favourite recipe was from their childhood and what foods they most missed. Taste is a fantastic way to evoke memories; children enjoyed trying new dishes and older community members were able to reminisce about the dishes and how they or their families may have cooked them. Some dishes were new to many people such as the luncheon cake.

The older members were able to share their food memories and experiences of living in Southmead with the students and this helped to develop those relationships

The parents and other family members of pupils who joined us at Fonthill also shared their memories of dishes from the past and the adults loved the bread and butter pudding and talked of how they had eaten this and other dishes as children.

The workshops at Orchard School and Fonthill taught students basic cooking skills such as safe use of knives, pastry making, bread making and how to make a meal from readily accessible and economical ingredients. It was heartening to note that students reported cooking some of the dishes at home, such as one boy who had made the vegetable pasties again at home. Whilst the dishes we cooked had the origins in the 1930s we showed how they could be updated to be just as tasty today.

It was fantastic to see how the older members of the community and the students worked together and how their relationships developed as the project progressed. June one of the participants had bumped into one of the students on the bus and both groups felt that the project had helped to break down misconceptions that teenagers may have of older people and vice versa. The older members were also able to impart tips on various methods and cooking skills to the pupils.

The two adult participants in the Orchard workshops both lived alone; one admitted that they often didn't feel like cooking for themselves and one having previously had a partner that did all the cooking lacked confidence in cooking. Both enjoyed cooking in a group and having a meal (or several) to take home from the workshop and reported increased confidence in their cooking skills. They also enjoyed the company of the students from Orchard.

The feedback from the session at Fonthill Primary School was overwhelmingly positive from both teachers and students with both reporting that the children had learnt new skills which they would use in future and that they had really learnt about food in the 1930s. A large number of the dishes demonstrated how leftovers could be used for example bread in the bread and butter pudding and summer pudding, foraged fruit such as blackberries in the summer pudding, leftover vegetables and stale bread to make bread crumbs in the vegetable rissoles. Some dishes, such as the vegetable stew also introduced pupils to some new tastes such as pearl barley and surprisingly parsnips.

The older family members of pupils at Fonthill school really enjoyed tasting the food the children had made and remembering tastes from the past. Feedback such as 'this was just like my mother used to make' or 'I haven't eaten this in years' were common. Some parents were also encouraged to see their children enjoying cheap, nutritious food such as the vegetable stew, vegetable rissoles and wholemeal bread. When children have cooked the food themselves, they are far more likely to try, eat and enjoy it.



Claire from Travelling Kitchen at the 50+ Forum

**What I found very encouraging was how the lovely pupils of the school helped each other and me as well as the fact that I could help them. "Youth assisting age"...I found this course a very enjoyable experience one which I will never forget.**

*June Bull, community participant at the Orchard cookery workshops*



Teachers at Fonthill were asked to complete a feedback form rating the workshop as to how it had increased cooking skills and knowledge of the 1930s amongst pupils. It was rated as 'outstanding' in all aspects.

TK really enjoyed working with the other partners and the project has led to other opportunities such as catering for a residential weekend that CtS were holding for young film makers.

We are hoping to do some further workshops with older members of the community at the Woodnook sheltered housing site in Southmead

**What a brilliant opportunity for the children. It was lovely to come with the other parents and share what they had made. His Grandad will be delighted!**

*Fonthill parent*

**I can't believe they didn't have fridges in the 1930s. Well only some people. Lots of the food was the same as what we eat though. The bread was really yummy.**

*Fonthill Year 3*

**My class thoroughly enjoyed their 1930s cooking day with Clare and Sarah from the Travelling Kitchen and were so proud with what they had made. From soup to summer pudding, the children loved being a part of the whole process. A huge thank you to Meadows to Meaders for organising and funding this wonderful workshop.**

*Fonthill Class 3 teacher*

**I LOVED our cooking day! My favourite part was when we made the summer pudding and had to squash the bread into the bowl. I'm going to make it for my Mum. It's really easy actually.**

*Fonthill Year 3*

**I think the highlight was sharing the meal at the end and it was lovely to extend this to the children's families. The feedback from both children and parents about the day has all been positive.**

*Fonthill Class 3 teacher*

## 4 Oral histories

### 4.1 Aims

To collect, edit and transcribe 15 interviews that could be used to inform the script for the performance and to ensure that living memories were preserved and could be accessed by the general public.

In addition to the funded aims it was agreed to create an Exhibition of Objects to widen the reach of the community stories.

### 4.2 Promotion

We used the launch as the first opportunity to promote this element of the project and introduce ourselves to members of the community.

By having a regular and frequent presence in the community, Ruth Myers (MILL) was often approached by people keen to share their stories, and the pillar box played an invaluable role in creating a communication system with people who have no email or online access – often older residents and the very people we were trying to reach.

Some people were not keen to be recorded and so preferred to write their stories down or have them written down for them. A selection of these were printed in the Bristol Post. This helped to further promote the project and encourage people to share their stories as well as widening the sharing of the area's heritage.

The Exhibition of Objects appeared at Fonthill Primary School alongside the performance and then relocated to Southmead Library further promoting the stories that had informed the script.



Stories being collected at the 50+ Forum



### 4.3 Participants

As well as the launch oral historian, Tot Foster also joined Local Learning at the Archives event, the visit to Woodnook Residential Home, the community writing group and then visited people's own homes both in Southmead and other districts at times that were convenient to them.

Collecting stories from people who are unfamiliar with this kind of project necessarily involves flexibility with time and efforts to encourage people to feel comfortable to share their stories and become involved.

### 4.4 Audience

Written accounts of the oral histories were published in the Bristol Times section of the Bristol Post (an estimated readership of 60,000).

Some of the stories used in the play were reaching a combined audience of 300 through the drama.

Radio coverage for the exhibition and run up to the exhibition launch in the library involved playing a selection of the stories on 6 different occasions as well as an interview with Tot Foster and Ruth Myers about the collection of these stories. Interestingly, the radio presenter had grown up in Southmead and had a good understanding of the area and the issues it has faced over the years – her interview thus provided more in depth opportunities to explore and discuss the project and its impact on the community.

Around 10 people listened to the audio at the exhibition, though 10 times that number engaged with the exhibition and the associated objects. At both the performance and the library, the audio was made accessible via computers at the venue so that people who did not normally have access to online information would be able to hear the stories and have assistance getting online and working the technology.

There are links to the oral histories in the booklet for people to access.

2305 visitors to Southmead Library were recorded during August for the 18 days that the library was open and the exhibition of objects was on display.

### Number of participants and volunteers

Tot Foster volunteered 6 days beyond the time allocated in the budget for oral history collection

Karen Green at the SCART shop and three other members of staff volunteered to promotion assistance

Trish Claverley (NHS Dementia Group), Janie Adams, Natalie Bailey, James Creed (SDT), Serge Chapman (SDT), Maxine and Shirley (Woodnook vols) Deana Perry (SDT)

Alison Laity – Henleaze Lake vol help with organising brother in law's oral history collection and provided venue – 3 hours

Marion Baynes – taking her sister out with Ruth to Kings Weston House to share her story – not wanting to be recorded so shared information and written contribution – 3 hours

Helen Howard volunteered to assist with the oral history collection on her days off

16 community interviewees and 5 voice actors (including 3 students from Orchard Secondary School) contributed to the oral histories



Tot Foster demonstrating the oral history section of the web pages at the performance day



93 year old local resident, Joyce Williams listening to the stories

#### 4.5 Outcomes

Tot Foster collected and edited oral histories, sometimes assisted by Ruth Myers.

The scriptwriter preferred raw, unedited audio to allow herself to properly immerse herself in the interviews and get a proper understanding of the characters.

Some extra interviews were written up and not recorded – some people preferring not to be recorded – also using the questionnaire responses for informing the soap opera.

In order to provide a platform for as many community stories as possible, beyond those that were used to inform the soap opera, it was decided to create an Exhibition of Objects to accompany the oral histories. This was an extra outcome that was not envisaged at the project planning stage.

The exhibition was an added attraction on the day of the performance, but was then moved to Southmead Library and was accessible to the general public for a further 2 months.

The library hosted a launch event for the exhibition, which was promoted by Radio Bristol. 23 visitors, who had participated in some way towards the exhibition; through contributing oral histories, objects and artifacts attended this event and MILL provided light refreshments.

There were opportunities to listen to the oral histories via the library computers, as well as add stories to the 1920s plan of Southmead and participate in activities such as spot the difference and gain better understanding for the reasons for migration to Southmead from across the city in 1931.

There were more people recorded beyond the 14 edited interviews whose stories were also used to inform the soap opera and the legacy booklet.

The themed audios and additional written accounts are also accessible on the Meadows to Meaders website.

**I have always enjoyed listening to the 'oldies' in my family – a treasure trove of gems, in their stories.**

*Exhibition feedback posted into Meadows to Meaders pillar box*



The launch of the exhibition at Southmead library provided another opportunity to bring people together



#### 4.6 Evaluation

General feedback at the library event was very positive with verbal comments about how the project had helped towards putting Southmead on the map and to some extent reversing the negative attitudes and reputation that Southmead has suffered in recent years.

Thanks so much for the exhibition we have really enjoyed having it in the Library over the summer.

I was very sad to see it go – loved the cardboard postbox especially!

There was a great deal of interest in the project and several people came to the library to listen to the sound recordings.

*Lucy Austin, Southmead librarian*



Launch event for the Exhibition of Objects at Southmead Library



Good to have reminders of times past. I grew up in Southmead from 1967 to 1970s when I left home. One of the first black families to live in the area. Had an enjoyable childhood.

*Exhibition feedback posted into Meadows to Meaders pillar box*



## 5 Drama

### 5.1 Aims

- To involve Southmead residents in performing a community drama
- To produce a script informed by stories from the local community
- To convey Southmead's heritage and 1930s history
- To explore the period of Bristol's history which involved the building of 1500 newly built council houses as part of the city's housing crisis in the 1930s
- To create opportunities for Southmead residents to perform live theatre regardless of previous theatrical experience
- To promote theatre and the Arts in Southmead
- To create a buzz about the project in Southmead
- To utilise the 1930s housing as a backdrop to the play

### 5.2 Promotion

Stories to inform the script were gathered from people at:

- The launch event on Ascot Road that included Bristol University's Know Your Bristol bus digitising memorabilia that people brought along – (digitised images were then given to the donor on a memory stick as well as uploaded to BCC free website KYP, free tasters of 1930s cooking provided by Travelling Kitchen, playing street games with Playing Out and drama workshops by BOV director – BOV also signed people up and offered free theatre tickets to their current show and a behind the scenes tour of BOV Theatre
- Inter generational activities between Orchard Secondary School interviewing members of the 50+ forum
- Fonthill Primary and older residents visiting Bristol Archives to research Southmead's history
- Shared stories posted through our purpose made George V letterbox in the SCART shop for easy access for people not online
- Coffee morning at the Woodnook
- Attending History clubs, community groups, schools and promoting via the Mead online and on paper, dedicated Facebook site, using the SCART shop (community hub) as a repository for our promotional literature and to enable a 2 way conversation between the project deliverers and the community that was free
- Recorded interviews carried out by Tot Foster (and a few by Ruth Myers)



Meadows to Meaders, Ascot Road, Southmead, Sunday July 2nd 2017



- Bristol Times first coverage encouraged people to share stories and promoted the community drama and opportunities available for Southmead people
- BBC Radio Bristol covered the drama angle from the Archives visit and broadcast an interview with the scriptwriter as well as a follow on piece at the studio with members of the community and pupils from Fonthill School

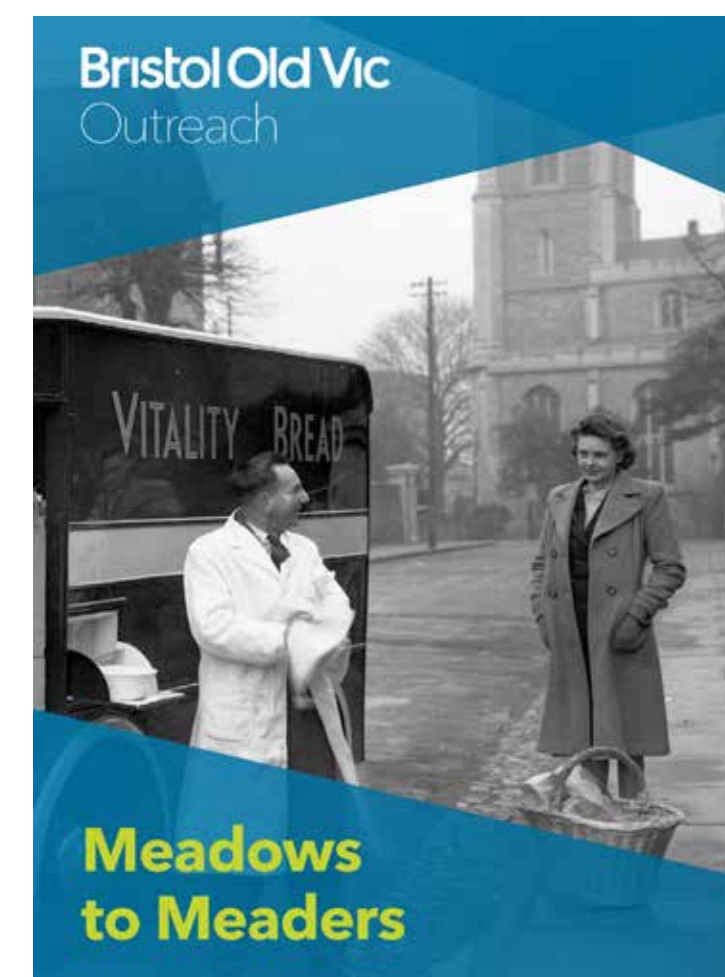
The following activities took place to maximise involvement in the community drama:

- BOV and MILL co-produced a flyer promoting the rehearsals and distributed across Southmead together with times and dates of rehearsals
- BOV ensured they had a presence at M2M activities from the outset, including the launch event (which involved drama workshops in the street for young people and a BOV stand and opportunities to converse with the public), 50+ inter-generational KYP event and the visit to Bristol Archives
- Opportunities to participate were promoted at every M2M event, including the activities listed above for collecting material to inform the script
- Community drama sessions offered at St Stephen's Church, Southmead from February, promoted across the area
- Introductory sessions across the whole of Year 8 timetabled in to the school day at Orchard Secondary School provided by BOV as well as a CtS produced one minute film advertising the opportunity to work with BOV broadcast to all tutor groups

- Introductory sessions for Year 5 at Fonthill Primary again timetabled into the school day to ensure all students had access to the activities
- Regular weekly 2 hour self selecting sessions built into the enrichment sessions at Orchard from Easter through to July
- Regular after school sessions offered at Fonthill Primary from Easter through to July
- Outreach through Facebook, The Mead online and on paper, promoting project across Southmead – in local shops, pubs, community centre, library, church, schools – talking and engaging with people out and about and maintaining a regular and frequent presence in Southmead – being a familiar face, approachable.

The community drama performance was promoted through the following:

- Separate flyer was created to notify people of the times of the performance
- Booking for free via Eventbrite at Bristol Old Vic
- In response to concerns from the community, we laid on a free bus service from the shopping centre in Southmead to the performance venue on Ascot Road
- Attendees at Southmead Festival, Saturday before the performance, had an opportunity to see a taster of the final performance on the stage at the Greenway Centre
- Radio Bristol and Bristol Times covered the event for a second time
- BBC Points West picked up the story and covered the drama prior to the event (and also filmed the first performance to cover again that evening on local news)
- Open dress rehearsal on the Friday before Sunday's performance for family and friends of the cast
- Revised posters to inc booking details via BOV
- Road closure leafleting included promotional details
- Radio Bristol in community rehearsal Tuesday 6th June
- Stories published by Eugene Byrne (Bristol Times/Bristol Post)
- BOV Theatre Club newsletter interview with Ruth Myers by Alex Turasiewicz
- Continued promotion via Facebook and The Mead online
- Henleaze Lake sharing memories event (June 9th)



Bristol Old Vic flyer widely circulated to encourage participation in the drama workshops

### 5.3 Participation:

From the very first community drama session held in St Stephen's Church (a rehearsal space kindly made available by Reverend Tanya Lord) there was a consistent attendance of 17 local residents, ranging from home-schooled children of 6 years old to retired people in their 80s.

Rehearsals at Orchard and Fonthill ran weekly alongside the community sessions and all 3 groups were excited to meet when the time came to combine the roles and scenes into one piece.

BOV brought in costume and set designer, Anna Orton who created a simple, yet fantastic 1930s household interior and exterior - with a proscenium arch implied via a line of washing hanging out to dry.

Due to a significant number of participants being less mobile, the roaming drama concept was replaced with a clearly defined outdoor stage area, allowing for a seated audience and to better control audibility and visibility.

BOV also appointed composer and sound designer, Jack Orozco Morrison to work with local musicians and collaboratively produce a theme song.

### 5.4 Audience:

- Open dress rehearsal - 30
- 2 July Performance day – 250 + audience
- After the performance, the cast organised a get together at cast member and local residents' house, Mike Murch, where we shared the photos with the cast that were taken by BOV photographer during the first performance and are now in a gallery on the website
- Film documenting the process will be shown at the #fourteen celebrations at the end of November and also at a community organised event at the beginning of December to bring the M2M participants back together to celebrate the project. This will involve people bringing food to share and an opportunity to discuss the future of M2M
- The legacy booklet, containing pages dedicated to the community drama and an interview with the scriptwriter were distributed to all members of the audience at the performance and later across Southmead.

### Number of participants and volunteers

Final cast numbers – 17 community members, 6 x Orchard and 3 x Fonthill

Initial drama workshops at Orchard x 240 year 8s

Initial drama workshops at Fonthill 35 pupils in year 5 and then after school workshops

Community participants in workshops – 32

BOV x 10

MILL x 2

TK x 2

CtS x 1

### Volunteers:

Anna Feledziak – driving 12 seater minibus to and from performances

Rev Tanya Lord - volunteering rehearsal space and promoting project

Glenn Lord – photography for legacy booklet

BOV assistants for 3 performances – setting up and backstage x 6 volunteers

Dawn Payne (local resident) who couldn't take on a role in the drama due to other pressures, but continued to support the cast and attend rehearsals

Alan Reese (Fonthill Deputy Headteacher) on the day  
SDT members x 10



Community rehearsal at St Stephen's Church



### 5.5 Actual outcomes

Scriptwriter Bea Roberts used the documentary films made by CtS and Tot's audio to immerse herself in the histories of the community about the Baptist Church Youth Club, Fonthill Primary School and that took a peek inside some of the original 1930s houses on the estate.

The script was originally written without knowing any of the cast, but later the scriptwriter adapted roles according to age and gender of cast members and addressed any issues actors had with their character following individual discussions with the cast – delivering tricky lines, stage directions.

There was an issue re reassuring community members that the script was a true reflection of Southmead's history, but not presenting the area in a negative light given its poor reputation over the years. This was resolved through regular consultation with the scriptwriter, project manager, members of the community – BOV director, Lisa Gregan and MILL project manager, Ruth Myers continued this conversation throughout community rehearsals addressing any questions, concerns as and when they arose until all in agreement re final wording or portrayal of character or incident.

In particular, Bea liaised closely with local resident, Kath Horseman to ensure that the balance was properly struck between family entertainment and honestly telling Southmead's history, that the community would be happy with how their history and their lives had been presented.

Kath Horseman conducted the interview with Bea that featured in the booklet.

A taster at Southmead Festival and the open dress rehearsal (for family and friends of the cast) were very well received and there was much excitement prior to the final performance. The 100 seated capacity was booked out for both performances and we anticipated having to make extra seating available on the day.

The final performance day took place on Ascot Road outside Fonthill Primary School. Bristol Old Vic created a set in the street with seating for an audience of over 100 people. The 1930s houses of Ascot Road formed the backdrop for the play that was performed twice during the afternoon.

Either side of the performances the audience could visit the Meadows to Meaders exhibition set up in one of the Fonthill classrooms where they could watch the documentaries and listen to the oral histories.

Every audience member received a copy of the booklet and were encouraged to post feedback in the M2M post box.

**Interesting and fun, brought back memories coming into the school I attended until I was 15**



## 5.6 Evaluation from BOV

### Successes

- A good moment for BOV to be delivering a project inspired by heritage
- Great partners with clear areas of expertise
- Good links made with Orchard school and young people
- Lisa made a real connection with some of the older cast members which has inspired her to find a way to continue working with them
- Local resident Deana Perry who played Rose Meadows in the drama has unofficially adopted her character name and signs off all correspondence as Rose Meadows

**Great for BOV to be working in such an intense way with completely new participants. Feels like strong relationships have been made despite a reticence at the start**

*Lucy Hunt, BOV Engagement Director*

### What do you think was particularly useful/interesting about working with Bristol Old Vic?

**Their expertise and direction and enthusiasm**

**How professional, approachable and lovely they are**

**Bringing the community together – across the ages**

**They made it fun but at the same time very professional**

**It gives the opportunity to be involved in a new adventure**

**Professionalism, patience, ability to bring a diverse community together. Very well done**

**Expert guidance and belief in each individual to do well**

*Community cast members responses*

### What aspects of the community theatre project have you particularly enjoyed?

**Community all working together**

**Community spirit. Meeting people. Pushing myself to do something I had forgotten I could**

**Seeing people who are shy and have 'issues' park them and join together**

**Making friends of all ages. Seeing it finally come together**

**Promoting Southmead**

**Being with people that I don't know – getting together and creating an atmosphere where we can inspire each other and also encourage**

**Working with people I don't know**

**Testing myself in a friendly, supportive manner**

*Community cast members responses*

### If this activity were to be offered again what parts do you think should be kept and why?

**I think that you need all the stages we have been through because you need to slowly bond with your cast members and this takes time**

**Everything should be kept – it was fun**

*Community cast members responses*





# Audience response

The generations all 'working together'

How brilliant it was!

I'm most likely to tell other people about the community pulling together

The community spirit and the comedy!

...a bright and comic insight into the history of Southmead!

The whole performance and seeing local people play the parts

A sunny and special afternoon. Also enjoyed memorabilia, displays and film in Fonthill School

Lovely to see community coming together to have fun and celebrate Southmead



I enjoyed seeing local Southmead residents telling local stories

I was surprised at the mix of ages, ethnicities, old and young

I enjoyed going around the school, the booklet, the play, all of it

Amazing cast and a very entertaining play

I was surprised at the level of participation and the skill people had and the fun! Kath's poetry – brill

Play in street, with the music and songs was brilliant, photos on display really interesting

I enjoyed seeing a child from my class perform in front of an audience. Talking to different people from the community

The play was very interesting, everyone seemed to enjoy it and the weather was lovely

Seeing the community old and young join together and produce such a wonderful piece of theatre

I'm likely to tell other people about the acting, the overcrowding in housing, the whole cleverness of the production

The play was fantastic...took me through all the emotions possible!

## 6 Film documentaries and documenting the process

### 6.1 Aims

- To create a series of documentaries about buildings that have played a significant role throughout Southmead's history
- To document the project as a whole and the process of creating a community drama
- To train students in film production for them to be able to collect footage for the documentaries and documenting process
- To involve Southmead community in the process and provide a number of platforms for them to tell the story of Southmead's history

### 6.2 Promotion

We promoted the opportunity to participate in these films throughout the early stages of the project including the launch event, community research activities and at the 50+ Forum.

Though our original concept was to cover 6 x residential houses from the 1930s estate, it emerged early on through discussions with members of the community that there were significant buildings and places within the area that have played an important role in people's lives. It was therefore decided to create four documentaries each focussing on these key places:

- Fonthill School
- Southmead Youth Clubs
- Ascot Road, one of the first roads in Southmead and a focus for the launch event and drama
- The lost village of Charlton, as one of the main changes in the early history of Southmead with a direct link to the local aircraft industry

Students from Orchard School were offered the opportunity to learn film and production skills in off timetable enrichment sessions.

Calling the Shots also produced a short promotional film to be played to Orchard students to encourage participation in the drama.



Year 8 students from Orchard Secondary School filming local residents reminiscing about their time at what was then Fonthill Road School



### 6.3 Participants

#### Fonthill School documentary

Former Fonthill School pupils were invited to an open afternoon at the school to meet present pupils and be interviewed and filmed by students from Orchard School.

#### Southmead Youth Club documentary

Participants were invited to a filming session at the existing Southmead Youth Club.

#### Ascot Road documentary

The filming for this was undertaken with Hazel Jeffery (Ascot Rd resident for 80 years) and Brenda Curry at Hazel's house on Ascot Road supported by Ruth Myers.

#### Charlton Village documentary

This film features Mike Murch at his house.

UWE student, Tanya Tribbell is interested in pursuing Film and Documentary making post graduate and has been assisting Calling the Shots.

### 6.4 Audience

Calling the Shots ensured the documentary films were subtitled, making them accessible to a wider audience and also possible to play in the Greenway café during the Southmead Festival when noise would have made audibility an issue.

The documentaries were aired at:

- The apple art trail (50 visitors approx.)
- Southmead Festival at the Greenway Centre (30 approx.)
- The performance day at the exhibition in Fonthill School (estimated 100 viewers throughout the day)

These documentaries together with the film of the project will be shown at an end of project celebration event called by Southmead residents at the beginning of December and the #Fourteen celebratory event in November.

There will also be 100 DVDs made available for participants and stored in the library as well as being available via the Local Learning project website.

### Number of participants and volunteers

CtS x 2

MILL x 1

Orchard Year 8 pupils x 8 + 2 members of staff

13 Fonthill alumni from the local community

2 Year 6 students from Fonthill Primary + 2 members of staff

10 members of the community associated with the Southmead youth clubs

3 local residents participating in the 2 residential based documentaries

Tanya Tribell (UWE)

James Creed (SDT)



CtS training Orchard students on the job at Fonthill Primary

### 6.5 Outcomes

Instead of focussing only on residential buildings, and after listening to the community, we chose to include films exploring important buildings that had served many local residents in the past.

CtS collected material for a series of documentaries about places of significance in Southmead.

As the first school built in Southmead. We chose to have Fonthill Primary feature as one of the documentaries. A further important building was the Baptist Church Youth Club – the building no longer exists so we held filming at Bristol City Council's Youth Club and explored youth provision over the decades.

For documenting the process CtS filmed the last TK inter-generational cookery workshop at Orchard School. This event was also covered by UWE for their marketing of extra curricular activities and volunteering opportunities.

The film documenting the whole M2M project has been much anticipated by the Southmead community and they have organised a celebratory event with an official screening of all the films at the community centre.

#### Additional outcomes,

- An extra promo film produced for the Old Vic to use as part of their outreach
- Increased development of working partnerships. Calling the Shots worked with Travelling Kitchen on the Random Acts (ACE funded project) as caterers
- Increasing sustainability of the sector, but developing new working partnerships (Calling the Shots had not worked with the Old Vic before)



Calling the Shots made four documentaries with pupils from Orchard Secondary School; Fonthill School (top left), Southmead Youth Clubs (top right), Ascot Road (bottom left) and Growing up in Southmead/Charlton Village (bottom right)



### 6.6 Evaluation

- Films shown have been well received
- Reframed the original expected outcomes to produce four longer films (rather than the 4x 5 minute planned) due to the value and unique nature of the content generated
- Volunteer (Tanya) helped massively with the picture research. Benefited her as well, as now really useful experience as historical researcher, her intended future career
- High level of engagement from students at Orchard. They were highly engaged and seemed to value the input and opportunity



Orchard students filming at Southmead Youth Club

## Funded by

MILL and Library in kind

Library 6 x 2 hour workshops in their meeting room (supported by staff)

# 7 Community writing workshops

## 7.1 Aims

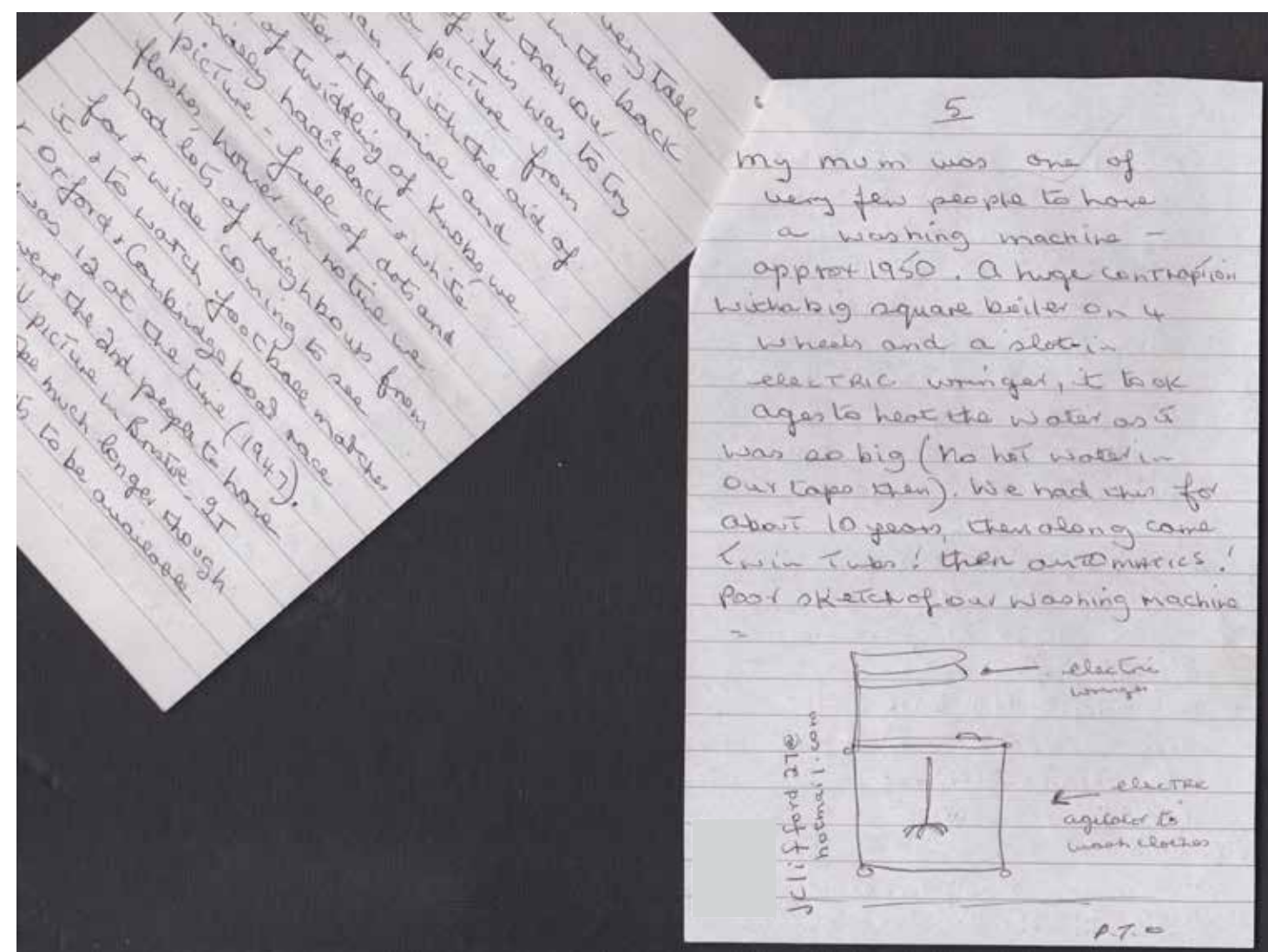
It was always intended that a theatre programme would be produced for the performance element, but given the growing enthusiasm for being involved in the project as a whole and the desire that people continued to have to share their stories, we decided to involve local residents in the writing process.

Southmeader, Kath Horseman had already been in discussions with MILL and the scriptwriter to strike the right balance between family entertainment and ensuring that the story being told is one that local residents would recognise as a true reflection of Southmead's history. Kath was also interested in helping with writing the theatre programme and had set up a local writing group in the 1990s following on from the ACTA play, but the group lost impetus as it lacked purpose after the play had taken place. Ruth worked with Kath to assemble a group of writers and MILL decided to develop the theatre programme into a legacy booklet that would cover all elements of the project.

## 7.2 Promotion

This opportunity was promoted via:

- 50+ forum
- Meadows to Meaders cast
- The Mead
- Word of mouth
- Southmead Library and SCART shop



Participants wrote their own stories for the booklet and website



**Number of participants and volunteers**

15 community participants  
MILL x 1  
Graphic Designer from Orchard Secondary School  
Library staff x 4  
Tot Foster attended one session to record stories

**7.3 Participants**

15 writers contributed, the majority in their 80s, for 6 x 2 hour sessions in the meeting room at Southmead Library (timetabled to take place earlier on the same day as the M2M rehearsals).  
Orchard School's Graphic designer, Becky Day attended all of the sessions.

**7.4 Audience:**

Some of the pieces that people wrote (most not online and wrote in longhand ahead of each writing session) were published in the Bristol Times weekly History section of the Bristol Post newspaper – in a second article on the M2M project again reaching an estimated 60,000 readers providing a much wider platform for these writers.

**7.5 Actual outcomes:**

The sessions allowed for discussions to properly develop and prompt memories of otherwise forgotten aspects of life in the first half of the 20th century. There were fascinating insights into life before the NHS and how houses were maintained, rules for the council houses and dividends at the Co op.  
Participants chose to use the workshops for discussion and then wrote up accounts as 'homework'. 2 individuals took responsibility for entire sections of the booklet (Fonthill Primary School and Baptist Church Youth Club).  
It became apparent through these discussions that there would be an abundance of material that could not be accommodated in the 32 page A5 legacy booklet alone, so we agreed early on to ensure that all stories would have a platform and with the graphic designer, decided to create extra web pages for stories.

**7.6 Evaluation:**

It was a lovely opportunity to share stories and memories. One session, someone asked how many of the then group of 8 had any formal qualifications and it turned out all had left school without – Kath Horseman had benefitted from adult education courses and this was what led to her writing poetry – 2 of which she performed in the play as 'bookends' to the piece as a whole.  
The workshops provided a unique opportunity to enjoy stories and insights and help to shape the outcome. It also continued to promote the project as a whole for many local residents. It was important to acknowledge everybody's input and ensure that they would see their names in print.  
This element was so successful and so enjoyable, that MILL have adopted this process for their current Arts Council and HLF funded project *In Someone Else's Shoes*.



Many of the people who came to the exhibition launch had attended the writing workshops at Southmead Library

**I was surprised at the level of participation and the skill people had and the fun! Kath's poetry – brill**

## 8 Legacy booklet

### 8.1 Aims

- To make 1930s recipe cards available to the general public and Southmead community in particular
- To provide theatre programmes at the community performance for all members of the audience

We decided to make the recipes and theatre programme part of the same publication to ensure they reached a wider audience (some otherwise only involved in recipes or drama might not otherwise gain access to other elements of the project).

### 8.2 Promotion

- Copies were made freely available at the community performance and distributed to all 250 audience members
- Extra copies available at the accompanying exhibition
- Copies made freely available at the exhibition launch at Southmead Library and further copies kept at the library for people to take away after visiting the exhibition
- Continuing to be distributed across the city, through MILL conferences and activities (Arnolfini, Heritage Forum, NW24 Inset training for 30 Bristol schools)
- Available in digital format on the MILL website, M2M web pages

### 8.3 Participants:

Volunteers: 15 x community editors gave their time to produce the legacy booklet.

Ruth Myers (MILL) spent 10 days in kind contributing to the production of the booklet

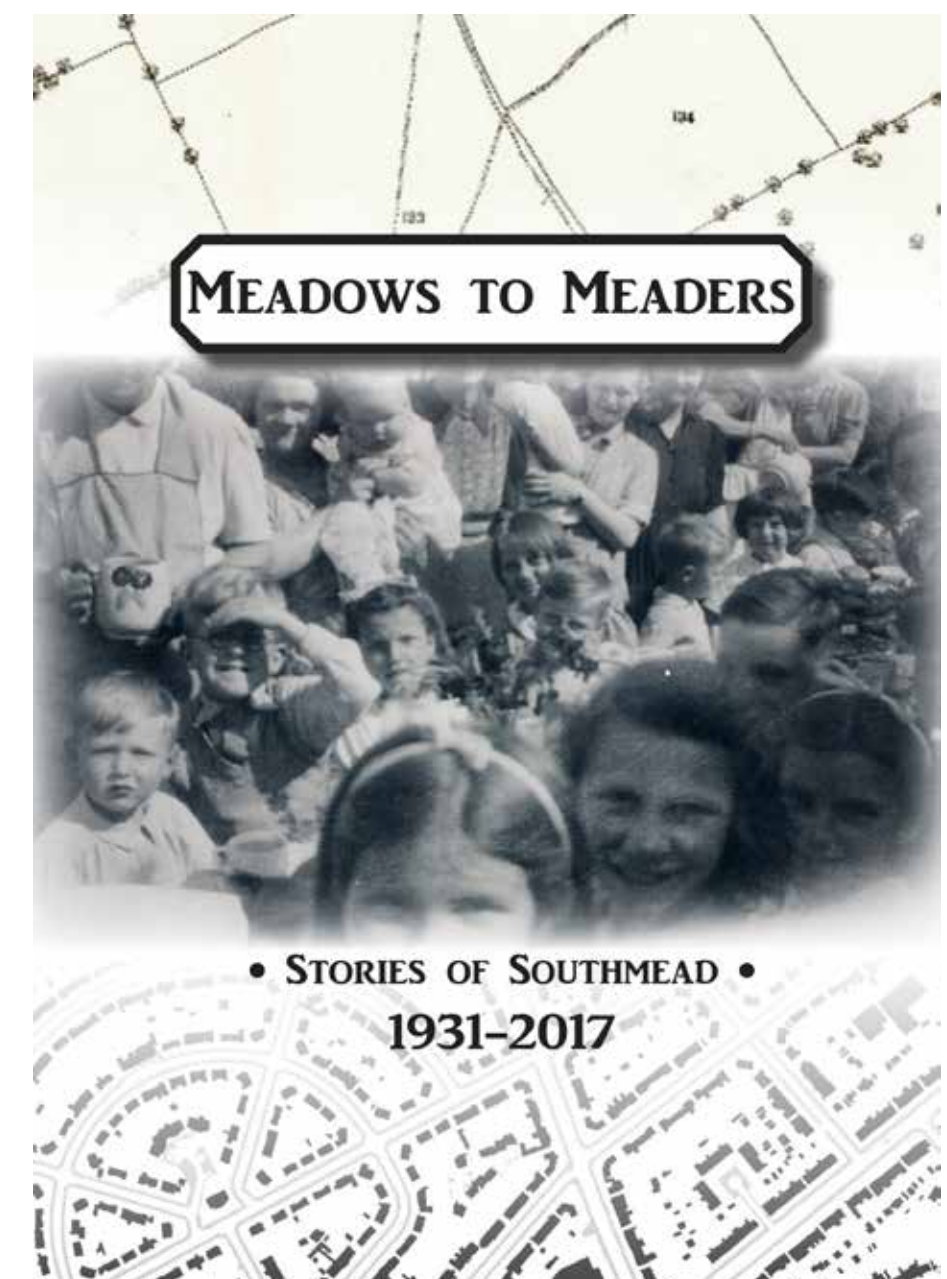
Becky Day, graphic designer worked with Ruth to decide on the final design and layout.

Printed by Sebrights Printers, locally on Stokes Croft (delivered to 3 different destinations at no additional cost)

### 8.4 Audience

3,000 printed and distributed to:

- Whole of Orchard Secondary School (inc staff) – 750
- Whole of Fonthill Primary (inc staff) - 250
- Southmead Library (and continued to stock them as part of the post performance display) - 500
- Greenway Centre - 500
- SCART shop (Karen Green also voluntarily redistributed to the local churches, community centres and health clinics). Only 20 left from 500 copies
- Distributed at both the performances - 250
- Posted to all participants in the project who couldn't attend any of the final events
- Given to the Year 7 class at Orchard and visitors at the follow-on Journey to Justice activity post project (40)
- Made available online on the Meadows to Meaders web pages



The cover of the Meadows to Meaders booklet



Number of participants and volunteers

15 community editors

MILL x 2

Graphic Designer from Orchard Secondary School

8.5 Actual outcomes (compare with initial aims)

The legacy booklet was to incorporate all elements of the project, as well as provide links to the website for the oral histories and films. Having a tangible, printed booklet made the project much more accessible to people not online.

Contents page lists:

- About the project p 3
- Research and memories pp 4-9
- Southmead Soap Opera pp10-15
- Documenting Southmead pp16-19
- Cooking pp 20-27
- Exhibition of Objects pp 28-29
- Acknowledgements pp 30-32

A local resident and member of the writing workshop explained that Bristol Corporation (now Bristol City Council) redecorated houses every 5 years with a choice of pastels for the bedrooms. We adopted this colour scheme for our booklet.

Additional recipes and stories from the 1930s, 40s and 50s are also available online on the website.

8.6 Evaluation

It was lovely to have something that captured the entire project and the many people who had participated and to be able to say thank you formally to the community for sharing their stories and being so welcoming.

The booklet became an accessible and lasting legacy of the project, providing a platform to disseminate the area’s heritage and learning gained throughout the project. It was a very democratic process that we have decided to adopt for future projects – involving the local community in all aspects of the project.

Given that many elderly residents are not online the booklet provides an easy reference to Southmead history.

Karen Green, volunteer at the SCART shop recently said that there were only 20 booklets left from the original 500 copies and that she felt out of all the #fourteen projects funded by Quartet, that Meadows to Meaders was the most successful, regardless of the fact that it received less funding than other projects in Southmead. She talked about the buzz and enthusiasm surrounding the project.

The booklet contained six recipes that had been collected by Travelling Kitchen



Fish cakes were common in the 1930s as they were cheap and tasty, using leftover mashed potatoes and a small amount of fish. They are good made with fresh or tinned fish.

Ingredients

- 2 large potatoes (weighing about 400g after peeling)
- Milk and small pat of butter for mashing potatoes
- 1 small onion
- Vegetable oil for frying
- Small tin of red salmon (about 200g), drained
- 2 tbsps of parsley or a teaspoon of chopped dill
- zest of half a lemon
- A dessertspoon of capers, chopped (optional)
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 to 2 slices of bread made into breadcrumbs

Method

1. Cut the potatoes into large cubes and place in saucepan of water with a teaspoon of salt. Bring to the boil, reduce the heat and simmer for about 10/15 minutes
2. Peel the onion and chop finely.

- Gently fry the onions until soft.
3. When the potatoes are cooked drain them in a colander. Return them to the pan and mash them until smooth with a knob of butter and a small amount of milk.
  4. Add the onion, salmon, lemon zest and herbs to the potatoes and mix well.
  5. Divide the mixture into 4 to 8 patties. Dip the patties in the beaten egg, then into the breadcrumbs. Fry until golden and crisp on both sides or place on a baking sheet brushed with oil and bake for about 20-25 minutes at 180C/Gas mark 4.

*Thai option:* replace parsley with coriander, the milk with 1-2 tsps of Tom Yum paste, a dessertspoon of light soy sauce and lime zest instead of lemon.

*Veggie option:* replace the fish with leftover cooked veg etables such as peas, carrots, spinach.



## 9 Project website

### 9.1 Aims

- To create a website to showcase the project
- To make oral histories, films and all outcomes accessible to a wider audience

### 9.2 Promotion

The website was promoted through the legacy booklet and much of the promotional literature distributed throughout the project.

The website was made accessible to people without computers at the exhibition on the performance day and later, when the exhibition moved to the library for the summer.

The radio interviews, Bristol Times articles and Points West television coverage were promoted via the designated Facebook site, maintained by volunteer, UWE History undergraduate, Tanya Tribbell and linked back to the website.

### 9.3 Participants:

Due to the high volume of stories that could not all be included in the legacy booklet and to ensure that the contributions that arrived after the deadline for inclusion in the script or exhibition, we decided to create extra web pages to provide a platform for all the stories.

### 9.4 Audience

Over 2000 visitors to the library exhibition accessing the oral histories online.

The M2M Facebook page has 100 followers and has had 97 likes.

The BBC Facebook page covering the project in November 2016 has had 7.1K views <https://www.facebook.com/bbcradiobristol/videos/1206838336039937/>



Project menu (click the images below)



[Community Research](#)

The Meadows to Meaders home page



Number of participants and volunteers

15 volunteer writers from the writing sessions + extra pieces via the postbox

Becky Day – graphic designer

Volunteer for Facebook

Volunteer for The Mead online

9.5 Actual outcomes

- During the project, the website provided us with an opportunity to:
- Promote elements that came as a result of the project
  - Provide access to fragile documents dating back to the 1930s
  - Keep people informed about forthcoming events
  - Access the oral histories

- After the project, the website offers:
- A platform for everybody’s stories (published with the author’s names)
  - Continued access to the oral histories, digital version of the legacy booklet, photo galleries and insights into the various project elements
  - New additional uploads to the films, extra stories not previously available, extra recipes beyond those featured in the booklet

9.6 Evaluation

75% of evaluation responses throughout the project said they were likely to visit the Meadows to Meaders web pages to learn more about the project.



Dinner ladies at the Greenway School in Southmead in 1974, photo shared by a local resident on the Facebook page



The Meadows to Meader Facebook page

## 10 Follow on activities

There are 5 extra outcomes beyond those featured in the original activity plan; the first 2 items have been covered in the main report.

- Exhibition of objects (discussed in Section 4 oral histories)
- Community writing workshop (discussed in Sections 7 and 8 as part of the development that led to the production of the legacy booklet)
- Community decorated apple contribution to the Art and Sole trail
- Archaeological survey and sharing memories at Henleaze Lake
- Participation in the Journey to Justice programme through inter-generational activities re-imagining Southmead

### 10.1 Community Apple decoration for Art and Sole trail

In preparation for the May Arts Trail, members of the 50+ forum and 4 Year 7 students from Orchard Secondary School decorated a 2 foot diameter apple with concepts representing the Meadows to Meaders project.

The 4 x artwork sessions were supported on a voluntary basis by Orchard's artist in residence, Anna Feledziak.

The completed apple featured in the Art and Sole trail encouraging visitors to explore Southmead and neighbouring Horfield and locate all the decorated apples.

We had around 50 visitors to our venue at Bristol Plays Music and used the opportunity to show the Calling the Shots historical documentary films and encourage visitors to share their stories on our 1920s map of Southmead.

This was an opportunity to further promote the forthcoming community performance and exhibition within the area and reach a wider audience.

- Volunteers: Anna Feledziak (Orchard artist in residence) - 4 x 2 hour sessions + transporting students to and from school and 50+ forum and 2 x days work prep and finishing off artwork
- Ruth Myers (MILL) – 4 x 2 hour sessions
- Pete Insole and Ruth Myers (MILL) – delivering M2M activities at apple trail – whole day
- Orchard School – provided art equipment and apple for decorating



The Meadows to Meaders apple



## 10.2 Henleaze Lake

Early in the M2M project, Local Learning were contacted by Henleaze Lake (via Professor Robert Bickers, Arts and Humanities Faculty Dean, Bristol University) to discuss possible overlap between M2M and their centenary celebrations in 2019. Heritage Schools agreed to fund MILL to work with Badocks Wood Primary School on pilot activities, including carrying out an archaeological survey of the Lake and an inter-generational picnic in June (hosted by the Lake) where we collected memories about using the Lake and added to KYP. Many of the visitors to the picnic were contributors to M2M.

It was a very successful day that also helped to further promote the M2M project and final performance as well as providing an opportunity for long time Southmead residents to visit and rekindle relationships with the Lake (some for the first time in over 50 or 60 years). The event allowed for the promise of future opportunities as well as creating positive relationships between the generations.

Though based in Southmead, there are few local members on their register and this has been a contentious issue for some years. Inviting participants to the M2M project helped to address this and was a positive gesture towards inclusivity.

The outcomes will be on display at Henleaze Lake and uploaded to the M2M web pages, as well as adding images and memorabilia from the picnic to the KYP community layer.

### Participants and volunteers

- 30 Year 5 students from Badocks Wood Primary, Southmead (plus 2 members of staff)
- 25 Southmead community visitors
- Digitiser, Jamie Carstairs from Bristol University
- Volunteer – Alison Laity, operations manager and Mark Thompson, chair of Henleaze Swimming Club



The picnic at Henleaze Lake with members of the swimming club past and present and pupils from Badock's Wood Primary School

### 10.3 Journey to Justice – Imagining Southmead

We were approached by Journey to Justice who were interested in M2M and the insights it provided into social activism.

We chose to use one of the objects that was donated to the M2M exhibition as a stimulus – a booklet from 1948, created by Southmead schoolboys.

70 years ago, when Southmead was only half built and the Welfare State was newly born, a group of schoolboys from Penpole created a vision of a perfect place to live.

Building on our Meadows to Meaders project, that had young and old working together to explore Southmead's history we invited local residents to work with students from Orchard Secondary School and Bristol artist Anna Feledziak, exploring themes identified in 1948 about what people considered was needed for a fairer society then and what is needed today.

As part of Journey to Justice [www.journeytojustice.org.uk/projects/bristol](http://www.journeytojustice.org.uk/projects/bristol) – learning from human rights movements past and present – we ran five sessions at Orchard for us to collectively design a map of an ideal Southmead for 2018.

The legacy booklet was distributed to the class ( a new academic year and first year at Orchard so not

part of original M2M project) and to the visitors for the final workshop (some of whom were from other parts of the city and had not been involved with the M2M project), giving the M2M project and one of its outcomes (the 1948 booklet) greater reach via the booklets to take home to families.

#### Participants and volunteers:

- Chris Pawson – UWE Head of Psychology – evaluated final session with students and visitors
- 3 x UWE History undergrads – attended 2 sessions and helped students with producing final outcomes
- Local Learning – including promotion, delivering sessions at Orchard x 5 and planning x 3 days as well as coordinating final event
- Helen Howard – coordinating at Orchard end and supplying materials
- Anna Feledziak – part voluntary – beyond paid hours re planning and delivery
- J2J team – promotion and coordination J2J side – Madge Dresser (attending and delivering intro event), Helen Johnson
- 20 x members of the Southmead community from M2M project volunteering their time to work with students exploring 1948 Southmead across 5 sessions
- Class of 26 Year 7 students and 1 teacher



Journey to Justice event at Orchard Secondary School



The Journey to Justice activity was a fitting ending to the project, drawing from the past to consider the future and bringing together old and new participants.



Meadows to Meaders was funded by



The project was delivered by



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