



Hillfields Walking Winter Trail

As part of the Masters of Architecture Year 1 course, four students (Arian Horst, Cai Thomas, Georgia Ball, Holly Roberts) assisted by two History students (Harry Withers, Emily Cadden) from the University of the West of England have teamed up with Local Learning to create a Winter Trail as part of the centenary celebrations of Hillfields. Through this project, the hope is to bring alive stories of the last 100 years to make connections between the past, present and future.

Through zoom and phone calls, in light of the current pandemic, local residents were able to share their stories and memories of their time in Hillfields, particularly over the winter period. These were then used to identify key themes to allow them to be developed into stops for the winter trail which will primarily focus on how the architectural environment changed over the winter. It also allowed for parallels to be drawn between now and years of the past.



Photo supplied by Carol Humphrey

Using these ideas Minvera Primary School have been tasked with making their own decorations inspired by the residents' stories. The children will be shown videos teaching them about different winter celebrations before being given a task to complete which will then be turned into some of the stops on the trail or will be used to decorate their own homes. These will include the making of paper chains, lanterns, poems, house models and even developing their own post-WW2 rationed menus.

The trail will be held on the 18th of December.

The enthusiasm and openness of residents to share stories have inspired us to then use the trail to inform two other creations. The first being a board game which will help to encourage new stories to emerge about their own experiences in Hillfields as well as acting as an educational tool. The second will be a proposal of a transformative space which will motivate storytelling as well as give back something of the past to the community.



Photo supplied by Carol Humphrey

Our hope is that both the board game and the outdoor space will act as a bridge between generations to keep sharing their stories and keep their enthusiasm and love for Hillfields alive.