



Myers-Insole Local Learning CIC
www.locallearning.org.uk

MEADOWS TO MEADERS



BAC workers in the 1950s, image courtesy of Miriam Edwards

Meadows to Meaders 6

BAC in Time



A BSL
Interpreted
Event

Friday 8th May 2026

Boarding 6.45pm - M2M6 will take off at 7pm

Performed inside the Concorde Hangar at
Aerospace Bristol Museum, Hayes Way, Patchway, Bristol

Cast in order of appearance

ROSE MEADOWS
CAROL MEADOWS
IRIS MEADER
HARRY
TEACHER
ALEX
BENNY
CHARLIE
DEBBIE
UNA
ERIC
GENE
FREDDIE
MARION
EDNA
DELPHINE
EDITH
RUBY
BETTY
VERA
ALF
FLOSSIE
JIM
PHYLLIS
BOB
GEORGE
STATION GUARD
CONCORDE STEWARDS

STAGE HANDS
BSL INTERPRETATION
SOUND TECH
DESIGN:

THEATRE PROGRAMME
THEME TUNE COMPOSER
STAGE MANAGER
SCRIPTWRITER &
CREATIVE PRODUCER
DIRECTOR:

Deana Perry
Winnie Atkinson Harris
Sher Fowler
Chloe Ball
Claire Butler
Felicity Sumsion
Kayley Maggs
Maya Dass
Krissen Starr
Anna Pollard
Aviana Hibbert
Esmee Rudland
Amelie Alner-Morgan
Amber Illingworth
Freya Harries
Ali Prince
Sue Richards
Andie Fowler
Pam Fowler
Pat Newport
Dan Bryant
Melanie Ashworth
Martin Neary
Janet Moreton
Kristian Baxter
Harley Prince
Craig Edwards
Sarah Francis and Clare McLoughlin aka
Travelling Kitchen
Ethan Prince, Chris Rogan and Bert Heavens
Sherrie Eugene-Hart
Rufus Buchan and Hendrix Allan
Lana Futcher, John Gardiner, Bert Heavens
and Men's Space
Imogen Heins and Bella Lock
Jack Orozco Morrison
Lydia Seymour

Ruth Myers
Craig Edwards

In memory of Jacqui Searle who was with us from the beginning and will always be a part of M2M.

Meadows to Meaders 6, BAC in Time is dedicated to Ron Brooks, our much loved and much missed cast member.

Ruth Myers remembers Ron as one of the kindest and considerate people she has ever known. "I met Ron in 2016, when we first started collecting stories from people who have lived, worked and grown up in Southmead to weave into what became our established community soap opera, Meadows to Meaders. Many of our stories come from Ron. Stories from before the NHS when Ron's Uncle Bill, a bus driver risked his job and took a detour to take Ron's mum and her poorly baby to the Children's Hospital. Or VE day, when his sister painted a very large V in permanent paint on their front wall (Bristol City Council were not happy). Ron could recall the Brabazon being built and a family picnic to watch it take off."

Ron's stories continue to appear in this latest version and given what a talented and prolific writer Ron was, Deana Perry (aka Rose Meadows) has captured our thoughts in a poem.



Ron-Our Fellow Meader

*From the first time we met
The path was set.
It was so clear to us, no mystery
Ron was passionate about
Southmead's history*

*He had so many great stories to tell
But was an excellent listener as well.
When it came to props-big or small
No problem, he had them all*

*From Wartime newspapers
To Gramophone players.
He performed anywhere-just take
your pick
From inside an old wardrobe to the
stage at the Old Vic!*

*His kindness & enthusiasm left us all
in no doubt
We knew what this man was about.
His generosity knew no bounds
As tomatoes from his garden did the
rounds*

*Such a great man was he
It's impossible to see
How anyone can fit the bill
For the large hole he has left to fill.*

*His accomplishments are too many
to list
But know this-he will be sorely missed
He will forever be our
"Fellow Meader"*

Meadows to Meaders is BAC!

Meadows to Meaders 6 BAC in Time has been a Local Learning collaboration with the communities of Southmead, Filton, Patchway, Brabazon and beyond. This project has been funded by South Gloucestershire County Council Stronger Together and Southmead Development Trust. We are also very grateful for the kind and generous support of Aerospace Bristol and Southern Brooks, without whom our performance could not have happened.

Based on original characters created by professional playwright, Bea Roberts the storyline for this live 'soap-opera' style show has been collectively shaped by the cast and a final script produced by Ruth Myers, that follows the story of two fictional families, the Meadows and the Meaders, as they grow up together on the estate from the 1930s to the 1970s.

'BAC in Time' (Bristol Aeroplane Company) is the latest instalment telling true stories of the tales of families living in North Bristol and South Gloucestershire and will be performed underneath Concorde at Aerospace Bristol.

Production of the shows has been a longstanding and valued partnership between Southmead residents, Myers-Insole Local Learning CIC, Bristol Old Vic, and Southmead Development Trust; this collaboration has been at the heart of every performance. Together, we have built something genuinely rooted in place; the shows are a living archive of the memories and experiences of people from Southmead, and now, for this special 6th episode, also of people from Filton, Patchway and beyond.

Previously Meadows to Meaders 5, Fab Living on the Mead was performed in Southmead, focusing on the 81 post World War II prefabs secreted in Badocks Wood where now only a handful of photos remain. Having built the prefabs, the BAC is at the heart of this story, but we knew that there was more to tell.



*Photograph Bowness Gardens prefabs
© Julian Lea Jones courtesy of Friends of
Badocks Wood*

Aerospace Bristol already shares 100 years of aviation innovation, but the museum have been working with Local Learning and their local communities to gather lesser-known stories to enhance their World War 2 exhibition as part of Aerospace Bristol's VE 80 Commemoration project.

Many of these true stories informed the script for our latest M2M performance, including from original cast member Mike Murch who shared childhood memories of competing with RAF soldiers to be first in the air raid shelter and the unusual decision to be evacuated from Bristol to London.



VE celebration on Fonthill Road, Southmead, courtesy of Mike Murch. "The young lady on the left side is a young Jeanne Woolcock, later to become Mrs Jeanne Murch"

Stories passed down through the generations revealed the unspoken etiquette when searching for 'souvenirs' the morning after a night raid, of a first bicycle made from spare parts leftover from the war, of the medieval village of Charlton before it was demolished to make way for the Brabazon runway.

And beyond the war, we heard tell of union meetings on Gypsy Patch Lane, the feared anticipation of a nuclear war and how women coped in the 1970s working in an environment dominated by men. Meadows to Meaders 6, BAC in Time has been directed again by Craig Edwards and we are delighted to include in our cast Patchway Community School Drama Club making their debut performance and of course, our traditional cameo appearance from the multi-talented culinary duo - Travelling Kitchen!

Local Learning have been collectively making theatre with Southmead communities since 2016, the same year also saw the beginning of our friendship with the University of the West of England. An initial collaboration with the late Professor Peter Fleming and his History students on placement with Local Learning continues today with Peter's successor, Dr Rose Wallis – researching, writing and sometimes even performing! And this time we have also greatly appreciated undergraduates from other disciplines volunteering behind the scenes through UWE's Civic and Community Engagement programme, helping our director, Craig to bring the play off the page to the stage, everyone playing their part to bring those stories to life.

More collaborations

Southern Brooks brings communities together, engaging with people to help them reach their full potential, through active partnership, working to create changes that lead to stronger families, healthier communities, increased independence and people having greater say in the decisions that affect them. Southern Brooks started life as a tiny team in the back office of Patchway Library, and now has hubs in Patchway, Yate and Kingswood, and a team of over 50 staff working across the whole of South Gloucestershire and into Bristol. M2M6 BAC in Time started with a conversation with then Community Coordinator for Patchway and Brabazon, Anna Malina and has been supported by Anna's successor, Surabhi Miah to help that idea get off the ground.

Southmead Development Trust has been "a key partner from the very first M2M production, supporting the shows to bring residents' stories to life. Through sustained financial investment, provision of community space, and dedicated outreach work, we have helped the Meadows to Meaders project to reach the people and communities whose stories need to be told. This consistency of support speaks to a shared vision: that the arts can be a powerful vehicle for community cohesion, local pride, and civic engagement."

Aerospace Bristol have fully supported M2M6, building on the previous collaboration with Local Learning and the co-creation of 'A BAC wartime community', to enhance their Second World War VE 80 museum exhibition and sharing local histories that might otherwise be forgotten. The Aerospace VE 80 project – A BAC Wartime Community was made possible with funding by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and awarded by Museum Development South West with thanks to support from Arts Council England.

Travelling Kitchen is a Bristol-based social enterprise working with schools and community groups. For the past 10 years they have been working to inspire children and the wider community to engage creatively with food and feel confident about cooking. Travelling Kitchen have been a part of Meadows to Meaders since the beginning and have elevated each performance through their culinary expertise. They bring to life local memories through food, conducting historical research themselves in order to create an immersive performance year after year.

Southmead's Men's Space is based in St Stephen's Church and is a group for all men over the age of 16 to come together every Friday to play cards, do woodwork, socialise. The group have been a big part in the making of our set and props for the Meadows to Meaders performance. Can you spot some wonderfully crafted wooden ammunitions boxes in Meadows to Meaders 6 courtesy of Men's Space?

Patchway Community School and Drama teacher, Claire Butler have been involved for the first time. "Being involved in Meadows to Meaders 6; BAC in Time has been a really positive experience for both myself and the drama club. The students have thoroughly enjoyed being part of the project and have embraced the opportunity to work creatively together. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow, as well as their teamwork, commitment, and enthusiasm throughout the process. For many of the students, it has been a chance to try something different, develop performance skills, and connect with the wider community through drama. Seeing them take pride in what they have achieved and enjoy the experience together has been the most rewarding part for me as a drama teacher."

And ongoing collaboration with BSL interpreter, **Sherrie Eugene-Hart** continues to help us make our shows accessible and inclusive.



Rehearsals at Patchway Community School



travelling KITCHEN

Travelling Kitchen CIC has been involved with the Meadows to Meaders project since the first performance on Fonthill Road, providing refreshments and putting in the occasional appearance! This year watch out for the trolley 'dollies' serving your in-flight snack.

You may be wondering what food passengers would have received during their flight on Concorde. Lunch or dinner would start with canapés and consist of at least three courses which would be accompanied by champagne and fine wines. Menus were often created by famous chefs such as Paul Bocuse and Michel Roux Snr. as well as the English chefs Shaun Hill and Richard Corrigan.

In keeping with the luxury brand, food was sophisticated and menus lavish, with a strong French influence, showcasing luxury British and French ingredients such as Scottish Smoked Salmon, lobster, foie gras and Aberdeen Angus beef. Lunch or dinner would finish with French and English cheeses and delicious puddings including the gateau Concorde, an amazing creation of chocolate mousse and chocolate meringue designed by the French chef Gaston Lenôtre for the launch of Concorde in 1969.

There was not a plastic tray in sight with food being served on tables covered with Damask table cloths on specially designed fine bone China accompanied by silver-plated cutlery and crystal glasses. The airline aimed to meet all dietary requirements and Halal and Kosher meals were available.

Recipe for Concorde Biscuits

You can find biscuit cutters in the shape of Concorde online (other shapes are available!)

Ingredients

- 90g of unsalted butter
- 80g of caster sugar
- 1 egg
- ½ a teaspoon of vanilla extract
- 220g of plain flour
- ½ a teaspoon of baking powder
- A pinch of salt

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C
2. Cream the butter and sugar together in a bowl until it is pale and fluffy. An electric whisk will make this easier if you have one.
3. Beat the egg and vanilla into the creamed butter and sugar.
4. Add the flour, baking powder and salt and gently mix until you have a smooth firm dough.
5. Wrap the dough in cling film and place in the fridge for at least an hour for it to firm up.
6. Take the dough out of the freezer and sprinkle a light dusting of flour on to your work surface. Place the dough on the floured surface and dust some more flour on top before rolling the dough out so that it is somewhere between ¼ and ½ a cm.
7. Cut the dough using the biscuit cutter of your choice



*Concorde flying over Filton, c.1970,
Bristol Archives, 40826/AIR/10*

Working with UWE History students

On this 10th anniversary of Local Learning and UWE partnership, it is fitting that students have compiled this theatre programme alongside Creative Producer, Ruth Myers.



Imogen Heins and Bella Lock (UWE History students):

Meadows to Meaders has operated with the same group of intergenerational volunteers since 2016. It has been building year by year, becoming a part of people's weekly routine, surviving throughout Covid and the loss of community members, as this fantastic group of individuals have formed a loving community of their own.

Over the past year we have been working on placement with Local Learning as part of our History in the Public Space module through our University of the West of England 3rd year History course. We have had the privilege of working specifically with Ruth Myers and this year's community volunteers to help create Meadows to Meaders 6th performance 'BAC in Time'.

Throughout this process we both have had the opportunity to not only learn about Bristol's Southmead community and heritage but also the skills needed to record oral histories from our wonderful volunteers. These skills have been vital for us throughout the completion of our History in the Public Space module, we have been learning the value and implementation of public history, with a key focus in heritage and community led projects.

Meadows to Meaders, and the community formed by its volunteers, has taught us so much on how to conduct oral histories and formulate outstanding public history performances. However, our time on placement with Local Learning, most of all, has taught us the importance of public history and the power community connect holds.

Through the incredible cast and volunteers, we have met and worked with over the past year, we both have seen the impact public history can have, how it not only educates but brings people together who would never have met otherwise. It has shown us the importance of connection and preserving the history/heritage around us. We would like to thank everyone for having us be a part of this year's Meadow to Meaders performance.

Imogen and Bella asked the cast what they had most enjoyed about being involved in M2M6 BAC in Time and any connections to the BAC:

Deana: "I have really enjoyed finding out about the work environment and how women played a really important role in the war effort! I have always had a connection with the BAC as my dad was a sheet metal worker there for 25 years."

Pam: "Being in Meadow to Meaders has brought back so many memories. My mother worked in the BAC munitions in the war, Winifred Dance, in later years my father worked on Concorde, Frank Dance. My brother's father-in-law was Finley Harrow, a main engineer on Concorde."

Ali: "I have enjoyed telling history through drama and working with my children. My dad Alan Shute is pollution control manager at Aerospace Bristol he has worked there for many years."

Martin: "I've most enjoyed the sense of community that Ruth and Craig have developed within the group. Their professional and thoughtful encouragement, supported us all. My wife Angela had a job pricing spare-parts for Concorde, which she was very proud of. It might seem strange now, but there was a great deal of national pride in the technological achievement of developing and building Concorde."



Kristian: "I have enjoyed taking part in the rehearsals and reading the characters' stories in the script. It has been interesting to explore the different people and bring the story to life. One interesting memory I have is seeing Concorde fly over my school during its final flight in 2003."



Aviana: "I have enjoyed being in the rehearsals because I got to meet new people and because I just love being involved in drama."



Sue: "I joined M2M when I retired. I'd always wanted to do acting, and it was just what I was looking for on my bucket list. I've really enjoyed, over the years, being part of it, and having a sense of what people in Southmead went through during the war years, and post war. At the heart of it are the communities who have all pulled together. Just ordinary working-class people trying to get by the best way they can. There were so many stories to be told, and I don't think there will ever be any shortage of storylines for M2M to carry on with for ever and a day! My brother-in-law Tim did 3 monthly stints in Toulouse where the French Concorde was built! He was sent to do French lessons each time before he went over. His father was employed as an official photographer (after WW2), taking photos of the Brabazon here and abroad. Sadly, he died in his 40's and never saw Concorde. His mum stayed on working and later won a competition to fly on Concorde from Filton to Heathrow Airport."



Melanie: "I've enjoyed how the group connect over a shared interest with people who have been telling the stories, and also having the privilege of being guided and encouraged by theatre professionals who can also have fun with us. I can picture my mum hanging the washing out and being utterly delighted that she'd seen and heard Concorde flying over. I also lived in Gracie Fields' old home in North London for some months as a baby as she donated it to the hospital that was bombed, the song we sing by her was my oldest son's favourite when he was about 2 years old."

Janet: "This Meadows to Meaders seems to have been more challenging than some before; but I think it's good to be challenged sometimes. I don't have any personal memories of Concorde, but my brother was involved in planning from the early days and had to have French lessons. His schoolroom French was rusty, and he needed to be able to chat to his counterparts when he travelled there to liaise."

Craig: "It is always lovely working with this group of actors and volunteers. I have especially enjoyed welcoming in and meeting the new members who have joined us. Whilst researching this show we met some ex-BAC staff who now work at the museum. Some of their stories are in the show."

Ruth: "I have many favourite parts of the process we go through together to make theatre, from gathering the true stories - my favourite one this time sadly didn't make it into the script, about Patchway resident, Chris's mum having made the curtains for the cockpit of the Brabazon - the fun we have meeting up as a cast to shape the story and then the magic that is performed by our director, Craig. And I watch as the words fly off the page, onto the stage and his creative vision takes off. The very first M2M was supposed to be a one-off but I love that here we are a decade later, a Meadows to Meaders family, all on board and reaching for the sky!"

Sher: "I enjoy the way we all support and genuinely care about each other; we are a family. I was in the playground at Baddock's all excited about Concorde and got the kids a bit too excited too."

Felicity: "I enjoyed rehearsals because they were fun to do and we were always laughing with each other and supporting each other when something went a little wrong, I also enjoyed learning about what it was like for kids during the second world war."

Pat: "No connections to the BAC, but remember hearing them test aircraft engines many times, part of living in Southmead. And who could ever forget seeing Concorde flying over! Once saw it flying over the M4 once as well, what a sight."



M2M6 BAC in Time rehearsals

Acknowledgements

Local Learning and the M2M cast would like to say a huge thank you to all of the following organisations and people who have come together and contributed in many ways, generously giving us their time and support to help create Meadows to Meaders 6; BAC in Time: **Adam Jones, Alan Tizzard, Alan Vickers, Alex Sermulins, Alicia Hallatt, Alison Harries, Amy Kinnear, Andy Leggett, Ann de Graft-Johnson, Anna Malina, Ann Richards, Anne Rogers, Anne Wright, Anthea Mustard, Anthony Prescott, Audrey Dart, Barbara Lansdown, BBC Radio Bristol, Bethany Bates, Beverley Baker, Brenda Ratcliffe, Brian Stacey, Bristol Old Vic Engagement, Carlota Matos, Cathy Truman, Cecilia Casadio, Charli Clark, Chris, Christine Stacey, Coniston Community Centre, David Corbyn, David Ratcliffe, David Stacey, Debbie Warren, Denise Stanfield, Dorothy Greenhill, Elaine Morris, Emily France, Esther Myers, Eugene Byrne, Filton Library, Flightline Canteen, Florian, Francesca Romita, Reverend Gabby, Gary Birt, Geoff Green, Georgia Bates, Geraldine Leavy, Harriet Hand, Harriet Smith, Harry Cockle, Irene Parker, Janet Cockle, Jenny Stacey, John Curry, John**

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Myers-Insole Local Learning and the M2M cast would like to thank **Patchway Community School** and their after school Drama Club run by their teacher and co-star, **Claire Butler**. We are also particularly thankful to student volunteers and 3rd year History undergraduates at the University of the West of England on placement with Local Learning who have helped to gather the stories and worked behind the scenes: **Alex Simms, Bella Lock, Cait O'Neill, Charlie Brunt, Hayley Ngan, Hendrix Allan, Imogen Heins, Lana Fletcher, Madeleine Samuel, Michael McCourt, Rufus Buchan, Tamana Waterhouse** and **Thomas Bilston**.

This theatre programme has been printed by **Sprinters Printers**.

We continue to gather stories from our local communities, with hopes for the next episode of Meadows to Meaders. If you have memories to share or are interested in getting involved with our production, we would love to hear from you.

Please get in touch via Ruth@locallearning.org.uk

For more about Meadows to Meaders including previous episodes, visit www.locallearning.org.uk/meadows2meaders



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