

dingy
butterflies

Dingy Butterflies CIC

Dingy Butterflies CIC is a social enterprise that works across the area of Bensham, Gateshead, developing high quality participatory art projects. By inviting local, national and international artists to work with local community and cultural organisations and residents we aim to increase creative engagement and participation within the community, develop and improve creative and digital skills, pride amongst residents in the area and increase active engagement in local decision-making. Dingy Butterflies CIC takes as its starting point the ethos and values of creativity, education and social justice that have run through Bensham Grove from Robert and Elizabeth Spence Watson's time living there, through the educational settlement and its current use as an adult education centre.

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'Walking Together', Angela Kennedy

16 & 19 July 2015

Walking Together takes as its starting point Bensham Grove Community Centre, its history and the current Bensham communities. The invitation to respond as an artist, embraces the development of Kennedy's body based practice examining embodiment, including performance, drawing, movement, dance, text and video as poetic responses to site, deeply rooted in social justice and community art principles.


From conversations Kennedy decided to invite people to partake in a walk together and become involved in shared arts activity in the form of collective poetry and sketching. This would be a small offering to Bensham and the rich diversity of communities within it, as a way to gently discover people and place, and create simple conversations with one another, that might otherwise, not happen.

Kennedy hopes the walks offer a curiosity and respect for our own creative and physical responses to place that enable us to engage and get to know one another in a shared activity.




Toddlers tumble
fall, roll, trees shade,
pushing prams, smiling,
walking, striding, sunny,
text, twitter, tweet

5
4

 Back

16/07/2015

 Shared note

Our old house is fallow now, a ghost, a husk, in a dry field in sniffing distance of the chip shop. The council scattered seeds for grass there but the birds ate them before the rain even had a chance to fall. The wind will bring others, straggly goose grass, dandelions, it will resist order and grow a different kind of beauty.

A Crow picks
and picks
and pulls
the horizon blows
around the horses

Feeling,
Masquerading tumbled
brittle
once wild Sealed
and held by Sol

uprooted.
People gone
Houses gone
Memories pecked tightly
and taken with them

Sweetness full of
a tears
For, with Banister
and its lovely high
hills.

'Walking Together', Angela Kennedy
16 and 19 July 2015

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'The Gift', Jane Dudman and Gillian Naylor

10 July 2015

Dudman and Naylor questioned what people do to volunteer and care for their community. This took the shape of actions and interventions on the streets of Bensham, to enhance the ordinary environment of the area. These interventions included sweeping the pavement with a dustpan and brush, cleaning bus shelters, attaching flowers in recycled plastic bottles to lampposts and bus stop signs. These actions were practical to visibly care for the environment, to start conversations, to do something for the sake of it, to do something to make the street look nice, to be open to all, to be public, to be free, to make it for anyone who works or walks down that street.

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Q: How do we care for our community?

A: Our street
we live in the middle
the wind blows from either side and
all the rubbish collects near our house.
We pick it up, it makes the street
look better.
If we are walking on the street we
pick it up and take it home.



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