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Historic England

‘Looking out for Each Other’ an Everyday Heritage project

Artist Call Out

Students and staff at High Spen Primary and Ryton Junior School would like to meet artists to work with us on our exciting project. You must:

- **have experience of working on arts engagement projects in schools.**
- **be excited to take on a commission that responds to the research we have been doing about the working-class women heroes from our villages.**

Our schools:

High Spen Primary and Ryton Juniors are pals. We want to work together on this project to bring artists, collaboration and our local history together to celebrate our working class histories to create a lasting artwork in each school.

This artist call out was co-created with the students and staff of both schools. We are very excited to meet artists who might like to work with us to create a commission about our working class women heroes.

Project Funder:

The funding is from Historic England’s Everyday Heritage grant program, to celebrate working class histories and to explore untold stories and celebrate the people and places at the heart of our history.

Funding has been awarded to 56 projects across England, which seek to tell the stories of our nation’s working-class heritage.

Projects are all community-led and people-focused and aim to further the nation’s collective understanding of the past.



‘Looking Out for Each Other’ project:

Both schools will research histories of local, working-class life in our villages to unearth stories women heroes to celebrate, alongside the heroes of war and mining that we commemorate in school and around the villages.

There will be a focus on the everyday lives of the women and their families as well as the impact of the mining, industry and Category D villages.

Both villages, after which the schools are named, are ex-mining villages. A Category D village was ear marked for demolition between the 1950-60. High Spen was a labelled Category D village, within Ryton, two smaller villages were category D and were demolished. There was a huge campaign by local people to oppose this policy.

Our project aims:

- To involve children and staff in the process of commissioning and working with an artist.
- To create opportunities for children, staff and the local community to have a greater understanding and celebrate the diversity of heritage around them.
- For schools to learn more about working with artists.

What are the commissions?

There are two commissions to apply for. You can choose which inspires you most. Each school will commission their own artist.

We want to commission you to collaborate with us, to create something great that will celebrate our history and our heroes and that will last for generations to come.

In addition to the fees there is a materials budget of £1000 to be shared between both schools.

You must feasibly be able to travel from you home to the school within the same day. We do not have budget to support long distance travel or accommodation for artists. We have a small transport budget to support artist travel if your home is more than 15 miles from the school you are working in.

Commission 1: High Spen Primary

To create a large, 2D visual art piece in our enclosed Victorian Era yard that can be duplicated on vinyl in our street facing window.



- To offer extended art sessions with 7 classes (reception to year 6) to share skills, inspiration, insight into your work and to consult/learn about the schools' research into women working class heroes of High Spen.
- To create a large scale, 2D commission in our yard that celebrates working class women heroes of High Spen. (that can be re-created in our street facing window)
- To lead a professional development session with our staff after school one day.
- To celebrate the grand opening of the art work with us.

Fee: £3000

Interviews: 23rd April. (option for online and in person interviews) between 9am-12noon.

Duration of project: 29th April to 19th July 2024

We had workshops with every class in school to decide the qualities we would like our artist to have:

We would like our artist to:

- **Have flexible energy, energetic and have calm time.**
- **Use our ideas as fuel.**
- **Be curious, kind, friendly and you should like children.**
- **Respectful and patient.**
- **A good listener who gives clear instructions.**
- **Skilled in their art.**
- **Get everyone involved.**
- **Not force their ideas on us. Be open to lots of ideas.**



We would like to:

- **Make brave and courageous art.**
- **Try new ways of making art, take small steps before taking big steps.**

We would like our artist to leave us with:

- **Something that pops out and blows our mind, a central, visual focus for our school.**
- **Something that represents us and our community.**
- **Some thing that takes our ideas and grows to be bigger than us.**
- **Something sustainable.**
- **A hero to remember.**

- **Be active, be outside and inside.**
- **Be messy and make big things.**
- **Be artists ourselves.**

Our teachers would like to:

- **See the steps and process an artist goes through.**
- **Do some art we don't usually get a chance to do.**
- **Celebrate our community.**

Commission 2: Ryton Junior School

We are keen to work with an artist to create something where we can be hands on creative with some way of also trying something digital. We would like to have a digital output. We would like to hear from artists about what the possibilities might be.

- To offer extended art sessions with 5 classes (year 3, 4, 4/5, 5 and 6) to share skills, inspiration, insight into the work of an artist and to consult/learn about the schools' research into women working class heroes of Ryton.
- To create a piece of art that helps us to share the story of our working-class women heroes digitally.
- To lead a professional development session with our staff after school one day.
- To celebrate the sharing of the art work with us.

Fee: £2250

Interview date – Thursday 25th April between 1pm and 3.15pm (option for online and in person interviews)

Duration of project: 22nd April to 19th July 2024.

We had workshops with every class in school to decide the qualities we would like our artist to have:

We would like our artist to be:

- **Welcoming and kind.**
- **Passionate about art.**
- **Open to our ideas.**
- **A good communicator and give clear instructions.**
- **Someone who dreams big with our ideas.**
- **Someone who loves children.**
- **Flexible about how we work together.**

We would like to:

- **Be digital and make hands on art.**
- **Work with our ideas and your own.**



Our teachers would like to:

- **Be creative**
- **Do some art we don't usually get a chance to do.**
- **Celebrate our community.**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring something that we don't usually get to do in school. • Make something that show our history and our hero. • Have a vision. 	<p>We would like our artist to leave us with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Something about our village history. • Something we can share digitally. • Something we didn't know we wanted to make!
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How will schools work with artists?

There is flexibility in approach to how the artist will work with us. We know we want the artist to respond to our research and women heroes we unearth. We would like artworks to capture our strong sense of community and anchor us, and future generations, in our working-class heritage.

We want to have a chance to work in an extended way (usually an art lesson might last 50mins) with an artist to learn new skills, try new things and collaborate about our research and ideas. That might mean a half day with each class or two long sessions per class.

We might make things for your commission, we might inform your commission, we want to see our choices and ideas in the final artwork.

How many children are in school?

High Spen has seven classes, reception to year 6. One class per year group.

Ryton Juniors has five classes, yr3, yr4, yr3/4, yr5, yr6. One class per year group.

What is the Professional development session (CPD) for?

Staff from High Spen and Ryton will come together after school one day. Teachers would like to learn and be inspired by you. It could be skills you share with teachers for them to use in the classroom to continue the classes' creative journey before and/or after your workshops in school. It could be a session they learn from you to do with their class to prepare for your workshop in school. You might have another idea.

Who is the Project Producer?

The project is supported by a project producer, Debbie Beeks in collaboration with High Spen Primary and Ryton Junior School.

Debbie will be the main contact for this project and will work with the artist and the schools to plan and produce the logistics of the project for and with the artist.

Application Process:

Application window closes - Thursday 11th April at noon.

Interviews for **Commission One at High Spen**, a virtual interview option will be available. Tuesday 23rd April, am.

Interviews for **Commission Two at Ryton Juniors**, a virtual interview option will be available. Thursday 25th April, pm.

Project Timeline:

Week beginning 29th April - Virtual or face to face meeting between artist and teachers to consult on CPD opportunity and workshops in class.

29th April to 30th June. (7 weeks) - Window for artists to work with classes in school, develop the commission.

1st – 19th July - Window to finalise commission and attend celebrations.

To apply:

**Remember: Your application will be read or watched by a panel of children and staff in school who will be involved in choosing which artists we interview and work with. We really want to get an idea of who you are and what it will be like to work with you!
We love watching films and we like to read clear, ordinary language.**

A) Please send us a copy of your CV, with a brief email with an overview of:

- a. Confirm that you have previous experience of arts engagement work with schools,
- b. Confirm you have a DBS and
- c. Confirm you have public liability insurance
- d. Your transport considerations: the schools are in West Gateshead, you must feasibly be able to travel to the school. We have a small transport budget to support artist travel if your home is more than 15 miles from the school you are working in.
- e. Any access adaptations that you will need at interview.

B) Please tell us a bit about how you work by answering the questions below:

- No more than 2 side of A4 in 12pt font (you can email links or examples of your work alongside this)

Or

- A short film no longer than 3 mins (you can email links or examples of your work alongside the film)

The questions we would like you to answer are:

1. Tell us about you and your art work.
2. Show us some examples? (Theses can be a separate file or links)
3. Please tell us about work you have done in schools before with an example.
4. Tell us about what you propose to do with us on this project. What are your ideas?
 - a. What will you make for the commission?
 - b. Tell us about what kind of workshops you would do with us in school?
 - c. How will you connect with our local heritage research?
 - d. What training might you do with our teachers?

Please email your application to lookingoutforeachother24@gmail.com by noon on Thursday 11th April.

Questions about this commission can be sent to the same email address.