

THE

PENPAL PROJECT

## WE NEED YOU!!!

We're on the lookout for local people aged 50 + to participate in an exciting intergenerational Penpal Project in Collier Row!

We want to build connections and friendships between the generations in our town, using an **online** penpal system to share memories and stories of Collier Row, whilst tackling the feelings of social isolation and anxiety we are feeling during COVID 19.

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### 1.

### First you must register your interest.

Email: memoirsthroughmurals@thingsmadepublic.com by the 8th May 2020.

### **Plea**se include:

Your name

Age

A short biography

So that we can partner you with a suitable penpal.



# 2.

# We will partner you with a local child (aged 7-11) to create an intergenerational penpal exchange.

To ensure safeguarding we will act as the 'postman' between penpals at all times, ensuring that no sensitive information or contact details are shared. You will receive a short bio on your penpal prior to starting the project.



### 3.

4

Once you have been matched to a penpal Its time to start writing the first letter!

#### Things you could write about are:

What you love about Collier Row Things that you are missing at the moment First thing you want to do when isolation is over Favourite place What you have done that day

When your letter is finished email it to: memoirsthroughmurals@thingsmadepublic.com We will redirect it to yourpenpal.

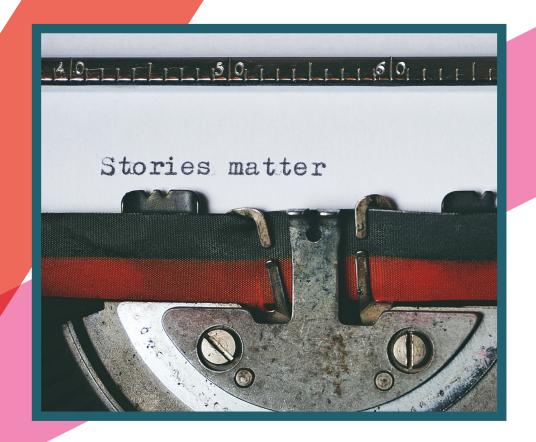


5.

Your penpal will compose a reply and send it to us, which we will redirect to you.

6

You and your penpal have until the 31st May 2020 to send letters back and forth.





### THINGS TO NOTE:

1) You **must** live in Collier Row and of course, like writing letters!!

2) The Penpal project closes on the **31st May 2020**. However, if you wish to keep emailing your penpal we can (with consent of both parties) share email addresses.

3) You may be asked to participate in filming and/or photography for the project (at your own discretion)

4) Snippets of the correspondence and stories shared between penpals will be used as inspiration for the 11 murals that will be installed in **September 2020**. You will be notified if your correspondence is used.

5) The letters shared may also be used in a special **Memoirs Through Murals** book that will be printed and delivered to 10,000 homes in Collier Row. They may also be shared on the **Memoirs Through Murals** website.

6) We hope you will join us for a great big party to celebrate the installation of the murals.



**Memoirs Through Murals** is an exciting, intergenerational project that will culminate in **11** murals being installed in Collier Row high street.

We started crowdfunding back in 2019 and following a **£30,000** donation from the Mayor of London, a further **£15,000** grant from Arts Council England plus some incredibly generous donations from local people we were able to raise over **£59,000** for the project.



### WHAT IS MEMOIRS THROUGH MURALS?



Our aim was to work with local children to depict memories of Collier Row, inspired by stories collected from their older counterparts, such as grandparents, parents, next-door neighbours and even the lollipop person. From there, 11 'winning' images were going to be translated by a renowned street artist and transformed into murals along Collier Row high street.

With the fantastic support of **Parklands, Pinewood, Clockhouse and Crownfield** schools we received over **800** submissions for the mural project, however there have been a few developments that we hadn't anticipated.



Firstly, due to a number of reasons, many of the children experienced difficulty in collecting stories or memories about Collier Row. These included being new to the area, not living in the area or not having family/older people to ask locally.

Secondly, we were hit by the Covid 19 pandemic. Something that no-one had anticipated and which has changed ALL of our lives dramatically.

With this in mind, we thought this period of isolation would be a fantastic opportunity to address the issues faced with the 'story collecting' part of the project and explore the intergenerational element of **Memoirs Through Murals** a little further by launching The Penpal Project. The 11 murals we install in Collier Row will now be inspired by not only the wonderful drawings we received from the local schools but also by snippets of the stories and memories shared via **The Penpal Project.** 

These will also be shared on a dedicated website and included in a booklet that will be delivered to **10,000** homes across Collier Row.



If you wish to receive more information or have any questions regarding The Penpal Proect, please email, **memoirsthroughmurals@thingsmadepublic.com**