

Number 17

100 years history of a Borrowwash house

a play by Chrissie Hall

As part of the ground-breaking 'Unexamined Lives' project, funded by the Heritage Lottery local artists were commissioned to lead exciting creative 'spin offs'.

The brief

Under the auspices of Wash Arts C.I.C. writer Chrissie Hall was commissioned to work with the children and staff of Ashbrook Junior School, a genealogist/researcher, a poet and two theatre professionals to research, write and bring to performance a play telling the 100+ years 'life story' of all the custodians of an Edwardian house in Borrowwash, Derbyshire.



The Unexamined Lives project proudly presents

Number 17

100 years history of a Borrowwash house

by Chrissie Hall

Directed by Julian Hanby



Pupils from Ashbrook Junior School have been working with local artists to create a unique view of Borrowwash through the story of one particular house. One hundred years - ten families - scores of memories.

Tuesday 15th December
6.30 pm

FREE

Ashbrook School
Victoria Avenue
Borrowwash
Derby DE72 3HF

Image by Mik Godfrey

Tickets are limited and must be booked in advance.

To reserve your space please RSVP to Stella Couloutanis by phoning 07854 777432 or emailing couloutanis@gmail.com, by noon on Tuesday 8th December.

www.unexaminedlives.org Unexamined Lives is a Heritage Lottery funded project



Ockbrook and Borrowash
Historical and
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Challenges

- To discover every 'custodian' of Number 17 Princess Drive from 1908 to 2016 and establish significant local, national and international events which impacted on them
- To work with teachers, poet and artistic director to plan and deliver drama workshops to pupils using themed activities relating to homes, social changes and the locality
- To write an accessible play suitable for children at Christmas, reflecting the impact international, national and local events had on 'custodians' of Number 17 from 1908 to 2016
- To work with school staff and Wash Arts establishing parental consent and availability before casting children in multiple roles
- To work with school staff, Wash Arts and Unexamined Lives on guest list /invitations and arrangements for performance

Solutions

- Establishing an accurate 'time line' of 'custodians' using primary and secondary sources from a number of contributors using personal archives, deeds and registers, linking their occupancy with local news, employment, social conditions, health, politics and world events
- Engaging children in exciting icebreakers, drama games, mime, improvisation, tableau and dramatic storytelling
- Intense period of researching and writing, using various sources, including transcribed interviews given by Borrowwash residents interpreted by Unexamined Lives Project Director
- Supporting and encouraging children in rehearsal, overcoming stage fright, learning scripts, costuming and through to performing in front of VIP guests, family, other children and staff

Outcomes

- An exciting and fulfilling multi-faceted learning experience for the children - drama, poetry, mime, local history, social history, 1st and 2nd World War
- Seeing children of all abilities growing in confidence, and developing a new awareness of 20th C. history, people and events through role play and drama
- Enthusiastic reception during and after performances by audience, VIP guests and performers.
- Excellent feedback responses from all the children
- A script available for future performances
- A cohort of children with a unique insight into life in Borrowwash throughout the 20th C. and lots of great memories of rehearsal fun and performance triumphs!
- An exhibition of the entire project in Erewash Museum



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