



PLAYING OUT IN CANLEY



Introduction

For the last 3 years Warwick Arts Centre and the people of Canley have worked together on a collective co-produced project, Playing Out in Canley. With a focus on creativity, wellbeing and community cohesion, seven artists in residence have designed and delivered activities across community venues and schools focusing on music, movement, visual arts, poetry and social history. These culminated in the Canley Parade and the Big Lunch; a day of joy, colour, sound, friendship, food and pride. This publication celebrates our most recent parade and the creative outcomes made by residents and artists.

This year the Canley Parade theme was 'Proud as a Peacock', celebrating all things Canley and why it is a special place to live, work and play. In the workshops a recurring theme of birds emerged, signifying the migration of people arriving to the area, the diversity present in the community and the importance of social connection and coming together.

As you scroll through the publication you'll see photographs, props, costumes and banners created by residents with artists Jane Thakoordin, Niall Singh and Carrie Backhouse. You'll also see a new poem written for Canley by poet Navkiran Kaur Mann celebrating some of the community leaders and residents that make this project happen. Then social historian and Canley kid, Dr Ruth Cherrington, transports us to the Canley Parade and Big Lunch through a written documentary piece that reminds us of the area's past and its present, and all the people who came together on that very sunny day.

Finally, artists Francesca Robson and Dave Barrett brought movement and sound to the day. **To see the parade in action you can watch our Canley Parade film [here](#).**

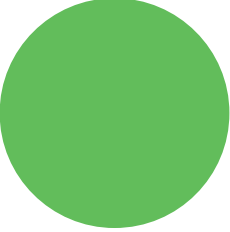
Thanks to everyone that joined our flock, put on their 'Sunday Best', and cheered us on. As the local motto goes, 'We Can in Canley!' We hope you enjoy reading...

Gemma Wright
Head of Creative Learning, Warwick Arts Centre
Steering Group Member, Playing Out in Canley

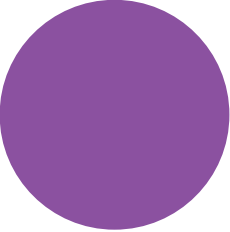
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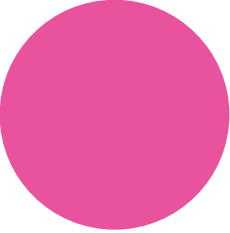
Canley Community Church Established in November 1956, first as the Gospel Hall, its origins go back to 1950 when a group of young evangelical Christians started children's services on a patch of open grass in the newly built part of the Canley estate. These became very popular and plans for a permanent church building were drawn up. When the brewery that owned the Half Sovereign (now Sovereign) Pub returned a plot of land surplus to requirement to the Council, the founders snapped it up. The land was where the first open air meetings had been held so a fitting site for their new church.



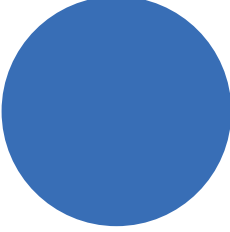
St. Stephen's C of E Church When he consecrated St. Stephen's in 1955, the Bishop of Coventry described it as 'a new outpost from which Christian witness would spread. There was a mass of souls around the church in very great need of God's mercy and truth.' He thought they had lost contact with the Church when they moved to Canley and had been 'drifting aimlessly,' so urged the congregation to pray for the whole community.



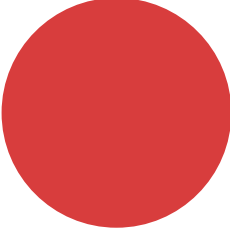
Willowbrook Retirement Home This is built on land that used to house the old Charter Primary School. That was mostly pre-war, red brick hostel buildings which was turned into a school for the children of new residents of post-war Canley. This shift of use from children to older people reflects the changing demographics of Canley between the middle to late 20th century.



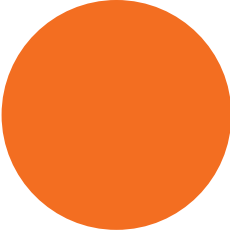
Charter Academy Primary School Opened in 2013, this new school was a merger of the two previous ones- Sir Henry Parkes in Prior Deram Walk and Alderman Harris on Charter Avenue. The latter had replaced the old redbrick Charter Primary. This merger was partly intended to bring together the children and community from both 'ends' of Canley and hopefully the communities.



John Rous Avenue Some older residents recall there being farmland at the bottom of John Rous Avenue, towards the brook and the railway line. This was before houses were built post-1945 but after the development of Prior Deram housing pre-1939. They remember some pig sties there as well. A man would go round the estate collecting potato peelings and other scraps of food for the pigs and would give people a shilling for their food waste. One person said that 'The pigs would eat anything!' Some people took their waste to the farm. The pigs got fattened up and those recycling in this way got a bit of money: nothing got wasted.



Dolphin Pub Memories of the Dolphin Pub include the 'outdoor': 'You could buy beer there to take out, had to take your own container.' Joan lived in Queen Margaret's Road as a child. 'I was one of seven children, so we were quite poor. My dad worked on the buildings. There was a pub called the Dolphin and he would sit on the bridge there waiting for it to open every day. He loved his pint.'



Prior Deram Park This site had some swings and slides for many decades, but the children's play area was revamped in recent years and some housing built on part of the open space. There were doubts about whether this was safe with older local people talking of the rubble from the war being dumped there, possibly making the land toxic. Some remember bomb craters there as well. During the war, Canley area was a target because of the nearby factories, close to Prior Deram, across Fletchamstead Highway. Tests were done on the soil and shown not to be toxic, allowing the development to go ahead.

Canley

by Navkiran Kaur Mann



Canley's silent understanding
walks
through streets
smiling
to herself

her kind eyes
are welcoming
judgment
suspended
she knows where you've been

she inhales
scents
of Nor's kitchen curry *mee*
tantalizing
her rose silk hijab
billowing

sees Anna-Marie, the Italian matriarch
unfold
an artichoke heart
healing
wrapping around you like linguine

John's wearing 4 inch
peacock boots
bottle green flares
on his way to dance with his
blond haired girl with
roots

Dotti rides on
a blue smile
longer than the battery on her mobility scooter
whizzing
down Prior Deram

whispers of Malay, Chinese, Mandarin
float
up to the Canley brook
messages from
down under

a community of
bonds
where everyone
who comes
belongs





The Canley Parade

by Dr Ruth Cherrington

Early morning, Saturday June 10th and the ‘big day’ has finally arrived!

After months of planning, preparation, workshops, meetings on and offline, it's all go for the Canley Parade and Big Lunch. These are the main events of a community-focussed day organised by Warwick Arts Centre in collaboration with local community groups.

Gathering and Preparing for the Parade

Canley Community Church (●) is the gathering point for the Parade with the destination being Prior Deram park, just over a mile away, where the Big Lunch will take place. This represents a literal coming together of two parts of Canley which have sometimes seemed distant from each other: the ‘top’ and ‘bottom’ ends as they were often referred to.

9am and it's already feeling very warm with a hot day predicted, perhaps the hottest of the year so far. People were hoping for a fine day, no rain on our Canley Parade please, and it seems like the day's temperature will match that of last year's Parade. Hopes are expressed that the day will match the excitement, enthusiasm and engagement of that Parade as well. We can expect much weather chat plus a lot of bottled water and sunscreen being handed out.

The main organisers of the Parade are gathering in the vestibule area to run through all they need to do before the timed arrivals of the different groups: staff, artists, volunteers and participants. Pink hi-viz vests and clipboards are already in evidence.

Stewards and staff begin to arrive shortly after for the briefings about the route, safety and how the road closures will work. Safety is uppermost and there are volunteers assisting to make sure things go smoothly.

The vestibule is where the serious ‘stuff’ is being dealt with and it soon starts to become a little crowded. The toilets are also located there plus a serving hatch for hot and cold refreshments plus the registration desk, so this is bound to be a busy area.

**“I love the hubbub
of the community all
together in one place.”**

9.30 am

There is already a lot happening in main part of the church hall with various artistic creations being laid out on tables around the room, on the floor or propped against the wall. There are splashes of colour, of shiny fabrics and attractive items to inspect as the WAC artists set out their 'wares.' These have been co-created over the past few months in various workshops they've ran with local community groups and school students.

There is still some work to do, finishing touches to be made. Artist Jane is fully immersed in attaching pretty paper birds on light poles so they can be carried along the route and hopefully flutter in the breeze- if there is any on this hot day. We're back to talking about the weather again but that does keeps cropping up.

There is a large, almost totemic bird-like feature on the stage, with outstretched arms or wings. It gives the impression of overseeing all that's going on, that it's the star of the show. The bright colours suggest it was inspired by a parrot. This feature will be part of the Parade, plus a real parrot, probably the actual 'model' for the one on the stage.

The theme of birds had often emerged during the previous months when the team was considering imagery for Canley today.

Birds flocking together can represent people flying in from distant lands and making new homes, forming new communities. Canley has seen much inward migration over recent decades, so the paper birds are a colourful, visual way of viewing this. Some Canley people have also 'flown' off to other countries to make new lives, outward migration, and the birds can represent them as well.

The banners propped against the wall that will be carried along the route are receiving attention as well. The 'We Can in Canley,' slogan stands out very clearly, a positive message for Parade participants and spectators.

Artist Niall is busy sorting through flat caps with different decorations that can be attached to them. These are laid on tables for people to choose from. He has been working with schools and community groups on these, as well as images that show some key moments in time for Canley people. The flat caps can be seen as a 'nod' to the generations of working men employed in the local car and other factories as many would have worn one to and from work. They are also looking like useful headwear on a hot day, to help keep the sun off people's heads as they walk the Parade route.

More items are emerging from big bags. These include fancy waistcoats and other items of clothing made of different fabrics by the artists, school and community groups.

These relate to another theme that emerged, that of 'peacocking.' This term is used to describe getting dressed up to show off a bit, getting noticed, especially for males, as with the peacock displaying his fascinating fan. It's linked as well to the tradition of having 'Sunday best' clothes. This dates back to when Sunday was the one day off work a week and 'best' clothes were worn for going out. And it's another bird, so we have parrots, peacocks and flocks of birds, all coming together in different visual and tangible ways around the hall pre-Parade.

10am

Security staff, ambulance technicians and other support staff are now here. Participants are arriving and registering, children are wandering into the hall, some quite gingerly others running in enthusiastically, closely followed by parents. There's much mingling and looking around at what's on the tables, at what's going on generally. People are invited to select from the items to wear or carry during the Parade.

Excited children are going from table to table, picking up this, choosing that, trying something for size, deciding if they want to carry a paper bird and if so which one. Adults are also checking out the items, picking up and trying on the caps and waistcoats. Niall and Jane are pointing things out to people, explaining some of the imagery and how it relates to Canley. They're also providing information about how they were made and by who.

Some children have come in their pretty party frocks, dressed up for Canley's big day which fits in very well with the theme. The Parade is 'Sunday best' on a Saturday and is being treated as a special occasion by those joining it.

The Canley Samba band arrives with their instruments and sound equipment. Some are put on the floor while band members go to collect others. They then go into a side room to start warming up and then outside to practice. We soon hear the drumming which will be the backing sound to the Parade.





Feelings of excitement and anticipation about how it will all go are being shared. Also, some expressions of relief that the day is finally here, that all the once seemingly disparate parts of the Parade- the artistic creations, music and dance, poetry, different community groups, are coming together as a whole for this event. There are some anxieties shared as well, about whether everyone who's signed up to participate will turn up, whether Canley residents will come out to watch.

Dance and movement artist Frankie is hoping that the school students she's worked with on dances and chants come as planned, to do the short performances along the route. She hopes that they will remember the moves she's been teaching them. There are some students already in the church hall and Frankie encourages them to practice the moves. With a growing number of people now in the hall, the items all around the room being inspected and held up, the sounds of the Samba band, it's getting lively, noisier.

The vestibule area is crowded and the refreshments hatch is doing a brisk trade in bottled water, cups of tea and coffee with biscuits being handed out too. There are people queuing for the toilet.

Not all the activity is going on inside. Venturing outside we can see quite a few people gathering on the church steps and the pavement below. This has become another social space as people spill out of the crowded entrance area.

There is a lot of chat and laughter as people who know each other catch up and others who have just met strike up conversations. It's an informal coming together. Some have come out to get some sunshine and to see what's going. The weather again is a key point of discussion as a WAC staff member goes round offering sunscreen.

This can be seen as an intermediate space, between inside and outside, a space of transition as the time to start lining up for the Parade draws near. This space is not inside and yet clearly linked to all the activities going on there. It's a space for conversation but also for assessing the situation, who is here, the numbers, what's going on, who's going to be doing what and where in the Parade?



We are shifting from the preparation stages which involved briefings, registration, the final preparations of the banners and items to be carried or worn, to getting together outside and start readying ourselves for moving off. With people gathering on the pavement, the thoroughfare has become a bit congested. A mobility scooter user can't see his way through so people are asked to make way for him. He's invited to join the Parade and says he might do once he's done his shopping. Other members of the public walk past, to and from the shops and look at the gathering, unsure of what's going on. Some Canley residents arrive and ask where to register for the Parade.

There are also Parade- related preparations going on externally on both sides of the church. The grass area on one side has been designated for the choreography and chant practice. Plus, for lining up the different sections of the Parade. On the other side, next to the Sovereign Pub, the Canley Samba Band are already going strong, their music is hard to ignore. It's starting to affect people, some of moving from side to side, swinging their hips, or dancing a bit. It's getting rather festive in the sunshine.

The arrival of Lady Godiva causes much excitement inside and outside the church among both adults and children. Pru Porretta MBE, dressed in a blue and white Medieval outfit, has been Coventry's very own Lady Godiva for over 40 years and is a well-known, highly respected ambassador for the city. She's made very welcome by people happy to see her.

Many have fond memories of her attending a wide variety of community events over the decades. It's hardly surprising that many people gather round her asking if they can have a photo taken with her. She is very gracious and does her very best to give all those who asked the chance for a photo. Small children are fascinated by her and want to get near to her to get a closer look. The news goes round that Pru will walk the Parade route with us, not ride a white horse as in the famous legend.



10.30

... and there are attempts to start grouping people into Parade sections, with participants finding who they will be with and in which position. The timetable has slipped slightly as people are still chatting, trying get a photo with Lady Godiva, making final toilet trips.

There is a short wait for all the Parade sections to come together and the choreography, chanting and band run-throughs to finish. Eventually, the groups are lined up under the direction of stewards and volunteers. Some of the latter have the job of pulling small trolleys along the route with bottles of water, speakers and other items that might be needed.

There are final briefings, 'thank you's,' a reminder to be careful and hope that there are no problems with traffic and road closures.



And so, it begins.... Slightly after the planned 11am, the Parade starts to move off with the sounds of Samba, cheering and some whooping.

Summary of main spaces in the Church Pre-Parade

- 1.The vestibule
- 2.The main hall
3. Church steps and pavement
4. External -pub side
5. External -grass area



The Parade- Walking the Route

Some early drinkers outside the Sovereign pub watch us go by. Then we pass the small row of shops, what used to be called the 'little shops', as opposed to the 'big shops' at Prior Deram Walk. Next on our right is **St Stephens Church** (●), which is all quiet at the moment.

At George's Chip Shop we turn right into Glebe Close, some striding up the few steps, others going up the slope. The name Glebe refers to the land belonging to the church and the vicar's house is there plus a few houses in this small street. On the left is **Willowbrook retirement home**. (●)

The parade comes to a halt here so a dance performance by school students can take place under Frankie's direction. Several Willowbrook residents are sitting on the grass area by the road for a close-up view while others are sat further back by the entrance, where there is some shade. We wave, some wave back whilst some 'paraders' are chatting to those near the road.

Artist Carrie is sitting with the roadside group. She has been working with Willowbrook residents in creative activity and reminiscing sessions for the past few months, encouraging them to talk about their life experiences. As one of them said, 'It's good to reminisce, to talk about the past.'

The performance goes well, people clap and cheer and then we're on the move again. It's only a short distance to the end of Glebe Close where we turn right into Thomas Sharp Street. We see groups of residents have turned out to greet us, some standing along the pavement, others sitting in garden chairs on the grass areas outside their flats. There is some interaction between them and the paraders: brief chats and a few waves of appreciation for coming out to support the Parade.

“A cacophony of rhythms and beats, that the whole family can play, participate and enjoy.”

The birds and banners are being held up high, there's music and chanting, some clapping too. The Parade looks a pretty and colourful sight under the blue sky. Looking up, we see some residents in the flats to our left are watching and waving from their windows.

We are soon at the junction where we turn left into Mitchell Avenue and after a few metres stop on the grassed area near **Charter Academy Primary School** for a short break. (●) The trees here provide some welcome shade.

The stop also allows for everyone to catch up, so we keep together and do not get strung out along the route. There are also some adjustments to props to be made and water to be drank. Then we're on the move again past the school and along Wendiburgh Street. This part of the route seems more supported, more of a crowd, with houses on both sides of the road. The proximity to the school and participation of school students are probably also factors affecting turnout here as well as familiarity. Many Canley parents walk or drive their children to Charter Primary along Wendiburgh Street.

Quite a few people are on the pavements or by the gates in front of their houses, noticeably families with small children. Parents are pointing out the birds and banners to their children and getting involved from the side lines. There are videos and photos being taken with Parade participants waving to the onlookers. All the time the sound of music and chatter resonates across the road.

About half-way along Wendiburgh, we stop for a Giddha dance and music performance. The women of the Coventry Giddha Group, looking resplendent in their beautiful costumes, capture people's attention in their section of the parade with their skilled moves. Remaining in this spot, the school students then do their dance routine and chants. There is cheering from the spectators plus the paraders, for all the efforts of the Giddha performers and school students.



Then we continue to the end of the street to **John Rous Avenue** where we turn left. (●)
There are a few people out to watch as we make our way down this road, though after the support along Wendiburgh Street it's a bit sparser here. The sounds of the Parade are still going strong as well as the carnival like atmosphere. The birds and banners are still in place though some may have changed hands by now as some children may have got tired arms and passed them on to mum or dad.

Once we turn right into Mayors Croft, our destination, the Park is within sight, but we have a short rest with the Samba Band still providing our background music, letting residents know we are here. It's looking busy down towards Prior Deram with people heading not only to the Big Lunch but to the shops there. We're a bit behind schedule so the Big Lunch, scheduled to start at 12.30, will probably already be up and running.

There used to be a pub near to where we are, the **Dolphin**, by the bridge on Sheriff Avenue and opposite Prior Deram. It's housing now, no sign of the pub left, but older Canley residents clearly remember it being there. (●)

Once we're off again, things seem to get louder and busier, building towards some sort of crescendo as we near the finishing line. More people are here, waiting for us to arrive, with friends and family of paraders waving and walking alongside us, some joining in.

We are greeted enthusiastically and it's a good feeling. Lots of smiles, cheering and a bit of dancing as we walk the final few metres. There are onlookers outside Prior Deram shops on the other side of the road. The Parade and Big Lunch have brightened up, livened up by some Saturday shopping trips.

Then we turn right into **Prior Deram Park** itself. (●)



The Parade has arrived, a bit late maybe, but we did it!





The Big Lunch

The Parade participants mostly enter together with the banners and birds, though some have already gone a different way, to the shops or staying on the street chatting.

Once inside the park, the group soon dissipates as people go off in different directions, some connecting with family and friends, some heading straight for the food stalls, some stopping to see what's going on in. There's a bit of uncertainty about what's meant to happen next for 9 the Parade participants. The schedule has lead to an end configuration and stop for 'photo moment' at this point but where that is going to be is not immediately clear, so some hang around to wait for information.

Many photos are being taken, however, with people coming together in small groups just inside the park at this time. They want to have a picture with those wearing colourful costumes, family members, and Samba Band members. Many visual mementoes of the day are being made to go along with the memories.

For many, the priorities now are to seek shade, a cool drink and some food.

The Big Lunch is already looking very well attended, with the park very busy. Many people had headed straight here, the event made more attractive by the offer of free food. Long queues are forming.



What's on offer includes hot dogs and burgers, noodles, vegetarian curry, sticky rice balls and various sweet items. These are mostly prepared and cooked by volunteers. Those standing over BBQs grilling burgers and hot dogs are feeling the heat and sweating. But they keep calm, wipe their brows and carry on as hungry people wait patiently. They receive both sympathy and appreciation from the customers.

People are mingling, the Parade participants are now part of the Big Lunch: the two parts have come together.

Some paraders can be identified by their flat caps or brightly coloured clothes. A few of the birds are still bobbing around in the air.

Some people choose to pop over the shops to buy cold drinks and other food items rather than queue. There are also some requests for the toilets over at Canley Community Centre and someone goes to fetch the keys.

Away from the food stalls, the Samba Band give a performance and are cheered on.



“Amazing turnout and possibly the happiest, nicest vibe I’ve felt in a long time.”

A bit later, about 2pm

... there is a performance under a gazebo by local poet John Starkey from Willowbrook under the guidance of Coventry poet and WAC artist Navkiran. Navkiran has been working with Willowbrook residents over the previous few months and some fellow residents are there to hear John's recital and experience the Big Lunch. They all look quite comfortable sat in the shade of the gazebo with food and drinks available for them. Carrie is with the group and has facilitated transport to get them here. John's poems get an immediate positive reaction. They are light-hearted, entertaining but fitting summaries of some familiar Coventry places and people from the 1970s including the Round Café, the market and even the Ring Road.

When John reads out his 'Peacock Boy,' with its witty descriptions of when he used to don his flares and platform shoes back in the 1970s, there are smiles and laughter. It's clear that many recall such fashions and perhaps dressed up the same as John in their youth.

Given the earlier references to 'peacocking' this poem fits in well with one of the themes of the day so John has brought things together nicely across the decades. He receives very warm and loud appreciation for all his poems and clear encouragement to write and recite more in the future. The audience is left clearly wanting more from John!

Away from the food stands, there are a variety of stalls and table traders around the park also some charity and information tents and gazebos. The stall holders are selling a wide variety of items, both new and second-hand. There's much to browse through but at this point there are fewer people here than in the food area. It might just be too hot to shop right now, or to think about buying clothes and other items. But some stalls do have customers.



These are independent traders, some are local who set up stalls at a previous Canley community event, the Easter Fayre at the Community Hall on April 1st. Items on offer include trinkets and jewellery, soaps and 'smellies', cuddly toys, baby clothes, brightly coloured shirts and dresses, books and greetings cards.

One man has boxes of used 'odds and ends' on the grass for people to rummage through including old parts for various machines, bikes, and cameras, old tools, screws and more. It looks a bit like a boot sale. He sits in a garden chair as some people bend down to browse or sort through his wares. His offering is different to other traders, and he is also one of the few male traders: most of the stalls are run by women.

There are around 20 stalls and tables altogether including the charity and information stalls and tents. Charity stalls include Cancer Research and Soroptimist. Canley Library staff are also present running an information table outlining what they do, the events they hold, how to join, opening times with leaflets to pick up. The library is just across the road so having the stall here is very well placed to recruit new members.

Under the shade of one of the tents are two men giving information about and selling copies of the Coventry Medieval Colouring book for children. There is also an area for table-top children's activities that is quite busy, children happily colouring and making things under the supervision of a few women.

Near the park entrance opposite the shops, a small pony has arrived with its owner and is getting a lot of attention, especially from children. They are allowed, under supervision, to get up close to pet it.



The stalls, tents and gazebos can be summed up as fitting into several categories:

1. Information/charity stalls
2. Traders selling various goods, new and 2nd hand
3. Food
4. Activity areas

A long queue has been in evidence at one particular spot since we arrived at the park: the ice cream van!

Perhaps not surprising given the weather with many children and adults in need of a cooling ice cream or ice lolly. The van is doing a very brisk trade.

There are still people taking photos here and there and some Parade participants being interviewed to camera about the event over in a quiet spot of the park.

By mid-afternoon, around 3pm, things are winding down with food stalls as the grills are turned off and things being packed up. Some people have drifted off but there are still some browsing the stalls, buying ice cream or seeing what's left at the food stalls.



Around 3.30

... the Warwick Arts Centre team and volunteers start doing a litter pick to help clear up the park, picking up discarded food boxes, plastic boxes and bottles and paper. Once the rubbish is bagged up, they prepare to leave, saying their farewells and taking a last look at the park. For those who started off at the church at 9am and those who were preparing food from early on, it's been a long, hot day. But it's been Canley's day, 'Canley's festival' as some participants called it.

People are saying how good it was, how it all worked out though at times nerve-wracking and hard work. The birds flocked together and made some collective Canley memories but now are flying back to their own nests!





The Playing Out Team

Nor Aziz: Founder of Canley Pop Up Cafe, Canley Resident

Rev. Sarah Ashelby: Church Leader St Stephen's Church & Canley Resident

Marlene Brooke: Community Church Worker, Canley Community Church

Anna-Marie Corbett: Centre Manager, Canley Community Centre

Karen Curran: Community Church Worker, Canley Community Church

Jenni Dunne: Administrator, St Stephens Church

Anne Forgan: Community Coordinator, Warwick Arts Centre

Ben Hayday: Community Partnerships Manager, Warwick University

Tara Johnston-Comerford: Creative Learning Coordinator, Warwick Arts Centre

Mark Hinton: Community Engagement Development Manager, Warwick University

Anna Martin: Children's Discipleship Worker, St Stephens Church

Dotti Sallis: Canley Resident and creative

Julia Steventon: Library Development Manager, Canley Library

Diane Tolley: Chair of Canley Stakeholders, Canley Resident

Jenny Watson: Volunteer Development Officer, Warwick Volunteers

Sophia Welby: Creative Learning Apprentice, Warwick Arts Centre

Gemma Wright: Head of Creative Learning, Warwick Arts Centre



About

Playing Out in Canley is a programme of creative activity and partnerships taking place in Canley from 2021 to 2024. It is a collaborative project between Canley residents and Warwick Arts Centre designed for and by participants of all ages.

Working with a Community Steering Group and the wider Canley Community, the project has developed a significant presence through regular activities such as the Canley Samba Band, Creative Workshops, the Canley Newsletter and the annual outdoor cinema on Prior Deram Park. The biggest community event is the annual Canley Parade.

The project has been kindly supported by Spirit of 2012 and presented as part of Birmingham 2022.





Thank You

The Playing Out team would like to thank the following people and organisations for their support of the project.


With thanks to community partners and steering group members including: Bonneville Place, Canley Community Church, Canley Community Centre, Canley Library, Canley Pop-Up Café, Canley Stakeholders group, Cannon Park Primary School, Charter Primary School, St Stephens Church, Westwood Academy and Willowbrook Residential Village.

To the artists who have worked with us: Carrie Backhouse, Dave Barrett, Dr Ruth Cherrington, Pippa Church, Naviran Kaur Mann, Olubemi Moronfolu, Francesca Robson, Benny Semp, Niall Singh, Jane Thakoordin.

To all the staff and volunteers from Warwick Arts Centre and University of Warwick who have supported the project, handed out refreshments, cheered us on and walked the parades.

To our funders Spirit of 2012 and Birmingham 2022.

Most of all, to the Canley community that have made the Playing Out project what it is. To everyone that came to the workshops, events, parades, outdoor cinemas, community events and to the readers of the Canley Newsletter.



**“Fabulous, fantastic,
full of colour, fun filled
community event.
Thanks to all the
contributors, truly.”**



“We Can in Canley!”



