



LET'S GET BOTANICAL TOGETHER

THE DEREK JARMAN POCKET PARK AT
MANCHESTER ART GALLERY

THE AIM OF THE PROJECT WAS TO CREATE A GREEN SHARED SPACE INSPIRED BY DEREK JARMAN'S GARDEN AT PROSPECT COTTAGE IN DUNGENESS AS A COLLABORATION BETWEEN PRIDE IN AGEING AT THE LGBT FOUNDATION, MANCHESTER AND MANCHESTER ART GALLERY. THE TIMING OF THE POCKET PARK WAS IN LINE WITH THE OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION 'DEREK JARMAN PROTEST!' AT THE GALLERY ON 1 DECEMBER 2021.

THE DEREK JARMAN POCKET PARK IS SUPPORTED BY THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING, COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT POCKET PARKS, PRIDE IN AGEING AT THE LGBT FOUNDATION MANCHESTER, THE IGNITION PROJECT, ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY, EXTERIOR ARCHITECTURE, THE POSTCODE LOTTERY TRUST, UNITED UTILITIES, GREATER MANCHESTER MENTAL HEALTH TRUST, MANCHESTER WELLBEING FUND, AND THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

THE FIRST MASSIVE THANK YOU GOES TO THE FIVE PRIDE IN AGEING COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO MADE THIS PROJECT POSSIBLE.

LUCIANA LANG IS GRATEFUL TO DR RBIGAIL GILMORE'S MENTORING ON ALL MATTERS RELATED TO PARKS, TO PROFESSOR CHRIS PHILLIPSON FOR HIS GUIDANCE ON ALL MATTERS RELATED TO AGEING AND INEQUALITY, AND TO MEMBERS OF THE MURRG GROUP FOR FRUITFUL DISCUSSIONS ON CO-PRODUCTION METHODS.

ALL ARTWORK REPRODUCTIONS COURTESY AMANDA WILKINSON GALLERY/KEITH COLLINS WILL TRUST.

ALL PHOTOS WITHOUT CREDIT ARE BY MEMBERS OF THE COLLECTIVE.



The University of Manchester
Institute for Collaborative
Research on Ageing



Inspiring everyone to grow



THE PRODUCTION OF THE ZINE WAS MADE POSSIBLE THANKS TO GENEROUS FUNDING FROM SOSS SMALL GRANTS INTERNAL COMPETITION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

FRONT COVER PHOTO: HELLEBORUS AT THE DEREK JARMAN POCKET PARK.
PHOTO BY MINDY MELEYAL, 2023.

LET'S GET BOTANICAL TOGETHER

THE CO-CREATION OF A POCKET PARK INSPIRED BY DEREK JARMAN'S WORK AS GARDENER, ARTIST, AND ACTIVIST

THE STORY CONTINUES...

MANCHESTER ART GALLERY AND PRIDE IN AGEING AT LGBT FOUNDATION HAVE BEEN WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP TO CREATE A DEREK JARMAN POCKET PARK AT THE MOSLEY STREET ENTRANCE OF MANCHESTER ART GALLERY. THIS NEW COMMUNITY GARDEN SPACE HAS BEEN DESIGNED AND PLANTED BY A VOLUNTEER GROUP OF GREEN-FINGERED LGBTQ+ OVER 50s FROM GREATER MANCHESTER, WITH SUPPORT FROM ARTIST JULIET DAVIS-DUFAYARD. FUNDING WAS PROVIDED BY THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING, COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT POCKET PARKS, POSTCODE LOTTERY TRUST AND THE MANCHESTER WELLBEING FUND. AS WELL AS PROVIDING A FUNCTIONAL SPACE FOR MANCHESTER ART GALLERY'S CLIMATE AND WELLBEING WORK THE GARDEN IS A PLACE FOR THE PEOPLE OF MANCHESTER AND THE WIDER WORLD TO COME TOGETHER, RELAX, SHARE IDEAS AND ENJOY A TASTE OF "IMMERSIVE NATURE" IN THE CENTRE OF THE CITY. GARDEN DESIGN SUPPORT HAS BEEN KINDLY PROVIDED BY EXTERIOR ARCHITECTURE, ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY AND UNITED UTILITIES (AS PARTNERS IN THE IGNITION PROJECT), AND THE GARDEN CONTAINS A NUMBER OF INNOVATIVE URBAN SOLUTIONS TO COMBAT THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

THE DEREK JARMAN POCKET PARK IS INSPIRED BY FILMMAKER, GAY RIGHTS ACTIVIST AND GARDENER DEREK JARMAN'S CELEBRATED GARDEN IN DUNGENESS AS WELL AS THE LIFE EXPERIENCES OF OUR LGBTQ+ VOLUNTEER GROUP, WHO ARE OF THE SAME OR SIMILAR GENERATIONS TO JARMAN. ALMOST 30 YEARS ON FROM JARMAN'S LANDMARK 'QUEER' EXHIBITION AT MANCHESTER ART GALLERY, THIS VOLUNTEER GROUP CONTINUE TO BE INSPIRED BY THE MESSAGES AND MOVEMENTS FOR LGBTQ+ EQUALITY WHICH JARMAN AND OTHERS STARTED IN THE 1980s, AND ARE SUPPORTING LGBT FOUNDATION TO CONTINUE THEIR WORK TOWARDS A FAIR AND EQUAL SOCIETY WHERE ALL LGBTQ+ PEOPLE CAN ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL. THIS ZINE DRAWS ON THE WORK OF THE COLLECTIVE TO TELL THE STORY OF THE CO-CREATION OF A GARDEN SPACE WHICH OPENED FOR PRIDE MONTH IN JUNE 2022.

IN THE WORDS OF MEMBERS OF THE VOLUNTEER GROUP... LGBTQ+ OVER 50s

LET'S GET BOTANICAL TOGETHER!

LET'S GET BOTANICAL TOGETHER



THE STORY

WE'VE COME TOGETHER AS A COLLECTIVE OF GREATER MANCHESTER'S OVER 50S LGBTQ+ COMMUNITIES, A BUNCH OF KNOWLEDGEABLE, AND NOT SO KNOWLEDGEABLE, AMATEUR GARDENERS, AND A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO ALL SHARE A PASSION FOR THE BEAUTY AND POWER OF GARDENS, PLANTS AND NATURE. AND WE'RE VERY EXCITED TO BE WORKING WITH PRIDE IN AGEING AT LGBT FOUNDATION, MANCHESTER ART GALLERY, EXTERIOR ARCHITECTURE, RHS IGNITION PROJECT AND ARTIST JULIET DAVIS-DRUFAYARD TO PLAN AND CREATE A JARMAN-INSPIRED GARDEN IN THIS SPACE, WHICH EVERYONE WILL BE WELCOME TO USE.

THE PEOPLE

- DEREK JARMAN, THE SOURCE OF INSPIRATION
- PHILIP, MINDY, DAVID, HAZEL, AND PAUL: THE STORYTELLERS
- LAWRIE, THE VISIONER
- FIONA, THE CURATOR
- JULIET, THE ARTIST
- ROSIE, THE HORTICULTURALIST
- JONNY AND SOPHIE, THE ARCHITECTS
- LUCIANA, THE ETHNOGRAPHER
- LEON, THE GARDEN DESIGNER



Philip and Mindy preparing the garden space with some much needed weeding!

"TRUE LOVE FOREVER"- DEREK JARMAN

Derek Jarman's Garden, 1995



THE SETTING

SOME OF YOU MAY RECOGNISE THIS STRIP OF LAND IN MANCHESTER CITY CENTRE – THE STONE FLAGS, VICTORIAN IRON FENCING, A BACKGROUND OF OFFICE BLOCKS AND A GLIMPSE TO THE RIGHT OF A GRADE I LISTED BUILDING. IT'S A SMALL PART OF THE LAND SURROUNDING MANCHESTER ART GALLERY. MOST OF US HAVE PROBABLY GIVEN IT LITTLE THOUGHT AS WE WALK DOWN MOSLEY STREET, BUT FOR A SMALL GROUP OF US, IT WAS THE SUBJECT OF MANY ZOOM MEETINGS DURING 2021.



OUR GROUP INCLUDES FIVE PRIDE IN AGEING LGBT FOUNDATION VOLUNTEERS, LGBT FOUNDATION'S PRIDE IN AGEING MANAGER, A GALLERY CURATOR, AN ARTIST AND AN ANTHROPOLOGIST! WHY? WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?



DEREK JARMAN PROTEST! (DEC 2021 – APRIL 2022), FOCUSED ON THE DIVERSE STRANDS OF JARMAN'S PRACTICE AS A PAINTER, FILM-MAKER, SET-DESIGNER, POLITICAL ACTIVIST AND...GARDENER.

IMAGINE A WILD AND WINDSWEEP CORNER OF THE BRITISH COASTLINE, A HEADLAND OF PEBBLES AND SHINGLE, BLASTED BY THE SUN IN SUMMER AND BATTERED BY WINTER STORMS AND SALT SPRAY, AND ALL WITHIN THE SHADOW OF A NUCLEAR POWER STATION.

NOT EXACTLY A PLACE THAT CONJURES UP THE BEAUTY OF NATURE, AND YET FOR ARTIST, FILM MAKER AND GAY ACTIVIST DEREK JARMAN, THE GARDEN HE CREATED AT PROSPECT COTTAGE IN DUNGENESS, KENT, WAS BOTH A 'THERAPY AND A PHARMACOPOEIA'.

ALMOST 30 YEARS ON FROM JARMAN'S LANDMARK EXHIBITION 'QUEER' AT MANCHESTER ART GALLERY, THE GROUP OF VOLUNTEER GARDENERS, MANY OF WHOM ALSO CAMPAIGNED FOR GAY RIGHTS AND AGAINST HOMOPHOBIC POLICIES AND ATTITUDES, CONTINUE TO BE INSPIRED BY THE MESSAGES AND MOVEMENTS FOR LGBTQ+ EQUALITY WHICH JARMAN AND OTHERS CAMPAIGNED FOR IN THE 1980S.



**DUNGENESS, DUNGENESS, YOUR BEAUTY IS THE BEST, FORGET THE HILLS AND VALLEYS. THIS LANDSCAPE IS LIKE THE FACE YOU OVERLOOK, THE FACE OF AN ANGEL WITH A NAUGHTY SMILE
- DEREK JARMAN, GARDEN, 1995**

KEY PRINCIPLES FOR DEREK JARMAN POCKET PARK AT MANCHESTER ART GALLERY - BY THE COLLECTIVE

1. RADICAL AND STRIKING SPACE, WHICH STIMULATES ALL LIFE FORMS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

IN PRACTICE: YEAR ROUND PLANTING FOR INTEREST/ROTATING PLANTS; STRUCTURAL PLANTS OF DIFFERENT HEIGHTS, SO YOU CAN SEE THEM THROUGH RAILINGS AND DIFFERENT VIEWS.

2. CELEBRATES DIFFERENCES AND RESILIENCE, LIFE STORIES OF JARMAN, HIS PEERS, AND ALSO LOCAL STORIES. OFFERS A WINDOW INTO DIFFERENT LGBT LIFE EXPERIENCES. INSPIRES PEOPLE.

IN PRACTICE: STORIES AND ENGAGEMENT WITH DIFFERENT GENERATIONS. PARALLEL DRAWN BETWEEN HIV/AIDS HISTORICALLY AND AREA TO COMMEMORATE THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED.

3. A MULTI-SENSORY JOURNEY THROUGH THE GARDEN, WITH FOCUS ON ACCESSIBILITY

IN PRACTICE: COLOUR. SCENT. TEXTURE. SHINGLES. SOUNDSCAPES. COTTAGE/SHELTER AS A FINAL DESTINATION.

4. BRINGING THE EXHIBITION TO THE POCKET PARK, SYMBOLICALLY, COMBINES NATURE, ART, TEXT AND WORDS (SPOKEN OR WRITTEN)

IN PRACTICE: A SENSE OF JARMAN THROUGH THE GARDEN.

5. SPACE FOR REFLECTION AND REVELATION

IN PRACTICE: REFLECT (USE OF MIRRORS TO REFLECT WHAT IS IN THE GARDEN) & REVELATION (WHAT IS HIDDEN).

6. INSPIRES PEOPLE TO GARDEN AND TAKE ACTION FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE.

IN PRACTICE: SHARING GARDENING & ACTIVIST KNOWLEDGE. BUILDING IN SUSTAINABILITY. CONSERVE WATER CONSUMPTION, SEEDED ROOF ON SHELTER AND PLANTING TO ENCOURAGE BIODIVERSITY

ZOOM ACTIVITY BY THE ARTIST
JULIET: WHEN EVERYONE HAS READ THEIR PRINCIPLES, WE ALL VOTE USING DEMOCRACY: WE EACH GET A CERTAIN NUMBER OF 'DOTS' (COULD BE 3 OR 5 'X' CROSSES) AND WE EACH ANONYMOUSLY TYPE A CROSS NEXT TO OUR TOP CHOICES. IF YOU ONLY HAVE ONE TOP CHOICE YOU CAN TYPE ALL YOUR CROSSES NEXT TO THAT ONE.

ONCE EVERYONE HAS VOTED WE COUNT WHICH PRINCIPLES HAVE THE MOST VOTES, THESE ARE THE ONES WE KEEP.

DUNGENESS...



View from Prospect Cottage, Dungeness. Courtesy Howard Sooley

DEREK JARMAN - THE ARTIST, WRITER AND FILM-MAKER

WE HAVE SOUGHT
EQUIVALENCE IN DESIGNING
A GARDEN IN AN OSTENSIBLY
ADVERSE ENVIRONMENT.
HOW CREATIVITY THRIVES IN
THE MARGINAL SPACES...FOR
ME THIS IS AN ASPECT OF
ABSTRACTION IN ART. - MINDY



View from Prospect Cottage, Dungeness. Public Domain

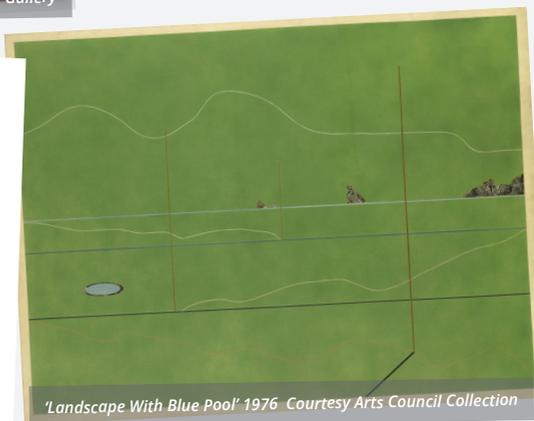


Prospect, 1991, oil on canvas, Courtesy Amanda Wilkinson Gallery

DEEP RED SUN CLIMBING FROM A
STILL SEA, THE WET SHINGLE ABLAZE
WITH REFLECTIONS. WALKED
INTO THE GARDEN FLOATING ON
A SEA OF PEARLS. THE GARDEN
CASTS MYSTERIOUS SHADOWS.
NOT A BREATH OF WIND. -DEREK
JARMAN, MODERN NATURE, 1991

PLEASE READ THE CARES OF THE WORLD
I HAVE LOCKED IN THESE PAGES: AND
AFTER PUT THIS BOOK ASIDE AND LOVE.
MAY YOU OF A BETTER FUTURE, LOVE
WITHOUT A CARE AND REMEMBER WE
LOVED TOO.

AS THE SHADOWS CLOSE IN, THE STARS
COME OUT. -EXTRACT FROM SMILING IN
SLOW MOTION - DEREK JARMAN, AT
YOUR OWN RISK: A SAINT'S TESTAMENT,
1992



'Landscape With Blue Pool' 1976 Courtesy Arts Council Collection



THIS IS LIKE HE WAS REFLECTING UPON HIS LIFE, AND INEVITABILITY OF BEING DIAGNOSED WITH AN AIDS RELATED DISEASE. HE LIKE I HAD AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE. HIV DIDN'T DISCRIMINATE, THE INEVITABILITY OF SURVIVAL OR DEATH UNKNOWN. IT MADE ME THINK AND REMEMBER LIFE BACK IN THE 90'S. IN PUTTING THESE THOUGHTS ASIDE. I TOO WAS ABLE TO BUILD A BETTER FUTURE, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY TO LOVE AND BE LOVED. I AM A SURVIVOR. - PHILIP

PARADISE HAUNTS GARDENS, AND SOME GARDENS ARE PARADISES. MINE IS ONE OF THEM. OTHERS ARE LIKE BAD CHILDREN - SPOILT BY THEIR PARENTS, OVER-WATERED AND COVERED WITH NOXIOUS CHEMICALS. -DEREK JARMAN'S GARDEN, 1995

ALWAYS BECOMING, NEVER ARRIVING. LIFE IS AT A STANDSTILL - ONLY IDEAS FLASH PAST. IN SUCH CONFUSION I FIND MYSELF RUNNING AFTER THEM: HEY! STOP! STOP! BUT THEY ESCAPE, LEAVING ME STARING AT A GREY ENGLISH SPRING. - DEREK JARMAN, MODERN NATURE, 1991

A SEA MIST SHIMMERS IN THE DAWN. STILL AIR. DEW SPARKLES ON THE SHINGLE. A SOLITARY MAGPIE PERCHED IN THE DRIFTWOOD. - DEREK JARMAN, MODERN NATURE, 1991

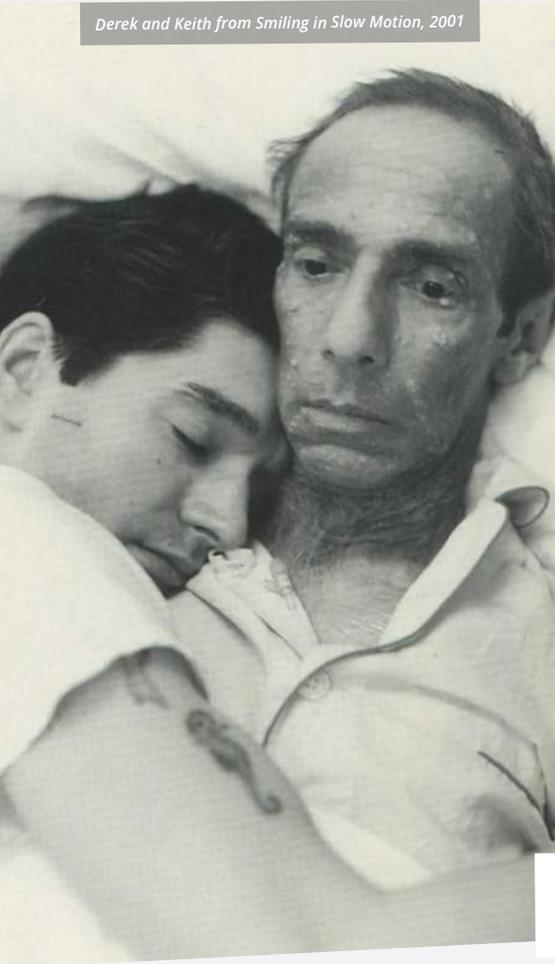
DEREK JARMAN THE ACTIVIST

JARMAN -1942-1994 WAS AND IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF LGBTQ+ HISTORY IN THE UK, SPEAKING OUT PUBLICLY FOR GAY RIGHTS AND FIGHTING HOMOPHOBIA THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE. ALONG WITH MANY OTHER GAY MEN IN THE 1980S & 90S, JARMAN WAS DIAGNOSED HIV POSITIVE AND DIED FROM AN AIDS-RELATED ILLNESS AT THE AGE OF 52.



Photo: Stephen Mayes.
Courtesy of OutRage!

Derek and Keith from *Smiling in Slow Motion*, 2001



FOUR TIMES IN 1988 WE BROKE THE RECORD FOR EUROPE'S LARGEST DEMONSTRATION 12,000;15000;20,000;25,000. WE LEARNT WHO OUR TRUE ALLIES WERE, AND OUR FAIR-WEATHER FRIENDS. THE LABOUR PARTY DESERTED US AT THE FIRST HURDLE, THE GUARDIAN TOLD US THAT CLAUSE 28 WAS OUR OWN FAULT. THE CLAUSE BECAME LAW-PLAYS BANNED, EXHIBITIONS STOPPED, TEACHERS SILENCED. BUT FOR WHAT? HAPPY CHRISTMAS MARGARET. -DEREK JARMAN, AT YOUR OWN RISK: A SAINT'S TESTAMENT, 1992

New Year day howard and
Sarah are off to London. me
play is doing well in Bussets
me
Barney fireworks
HB true love.

AS A POSITIVE ELDER THIS IS QUITE POIGNANT TO ME. - PHILIP

TIMELINE OF DEREK JARMAN'S LIFE AND WORK

1942

MICHAEL DEREK ELWORTHY JARMAN BORN IN NORTHWOOD, MIDDLESEX ON 31 JANUARY.

1946

JARMAN GIFTED THE BOOK BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS AND HOW TO GROW THEM BY HIS PARENTS, BEGINNING HIS LIFE-LONG LOVE OF GARDENS



1968, "ballet for small spaces" courtesy of the Keith Collins Will Trust - Amanda Wilkins

FROM 1942 - 1950

THE JARMAN FAMILY LIVE IN ENGLAND, PAKISTAN AND ITALY, MOVING FOR JARMAN'S FATHER'S WORK AS A SERVING RAF OFFICER.

TIMELINE OF LGBT HISTORY IN MANCHESTER

EARLY 1940S

THE UNION PUB, NOW THE NEW UNION, PLAYS HOST TO DRAG SHOWS DURING WORLD WAR II. THEY WERE POPULAR WITH AMERICAN TROOPS STATIONED NEARBY.

1952

ALAN TURING IS PROSECUTED FOR BEING IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH ANOTHER MAN. HE DIES BY SUICIDE IN 1954.

1960S

MANCHESTER'S GAY SCENE IS BASED IN AN AREA BETWEEN ALBERT SQUARE AND DEANSGATE WITH PUBS SUCH AS THE ROCKINGHAM AND ROUGE BEING POPULAR ALTHOUGH THE UNION CONTINUES TO BE FREQUENTED BY THE GAY COMMUNITY.

1964

THE NORTH WEST HOMOSEXUAL LAW REFORM COMMITTEE IS FOUNDED BY LABOUR COUNCILLOR ALLAN HORSFALL. THE FIRST MEETING IS HELD IN MANCHESTER.

1967

SUMMER OF LOVE. HOMOSEXUALITY DECRIMINALISED IN ENGLAND FOR CONSENTING ADULTS OVER 21.

1973

THE MANCHESTER GAY ALLIANCE IS FORMED

1951

JARMAN WHIPPED AND SHAMED AT HORDLE HOUSE FOR CUDDLING IN BED WITH HIS FRIEND GAVIN, 'SOWING TERRIBLE SEEDS OF DOUBT AND SELF-HATE'.

1955-60

JARMAN BEGINS GARDENING WITH CACTI IN THE GARDEN AT NORTHWOOD. YVES KLEIN PRESENTS HIS WORK: AN EMPTY WHITE ROOM ENTERED THROUGH A BLUE CURTAIN.

1963

HAVING COMPLETED HIS DEGREE IN ENGLISH AND HISTORY AT KING'S COLLEGE, JARMAN STARTED AT SLADE, STUDYING PAINTING AND SET DESIGN.

1967

IMMEDIATELY AFTER FINISHING AT SLADE, JARMAN EXHIBITS WIDELY IN LONDON, LIVERPOOL AND PARIS.

1970

DESIGNS THE SETS FOR KEN RUSSELL'S THE DEVILS, SHOT AT PINWOOD STUDIOS.

1972

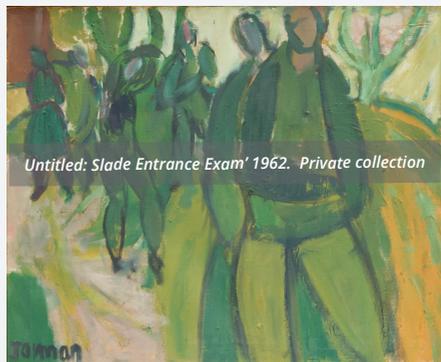
PUBLISHES POETRY COLLECTION A FINGER IN THE FISHES MOUTH

BEGINS PROLIFIC PRODUCTION OF SUPER8 FILMS. DESIGNS SETS AND PRODUCES PAINTINGS AND FURNITURE FOR KEN RUSSELL'S FILM SAVAGE MESSIAH.

BY THE UNIVERSITY'S LESBIAN & GAY SOCIETY, CHE, A LESBIAN GROUP AND TRANSVESTITE / TRANSEXUAL GROUP.

1975

2 JANUARY - THE MANCHESTER GAY ALLIANCE OPENS THE MANCHESTER GAY SWITCHBOARD TO PROVIDE SUPPORT AND INFORMATION TO CALLERS. IT ORIGINALLY OPERATED IN THE BASEMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER. BY 1990, THE SWITCHBOARD TEAMED UP WITH THE LESBIAN LINK HELPLINE TO FORM THE MANCHESTER LESBIAN AND GAY SWITCHBOARD.



Untitled: Slade Entrance Exam' 1962. Private collection

1978

THE FIRST EDITION OF THE MANCUNIAN GAY MAGAZINE IS PUBLISHED.

1979

MARGARET THATCHER ELECTED PRIME MINISTER.

1984

MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL FORMS THE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE.

1976

RELEASES FIRST FEATURE FILM, *SEBASTIANE*, IN SARDINIA. A QUEER RETELLING OF THE MARTYRDOM OF ST. SEBASTIAN, THE FILM IS NOTABLE FOR ITS HOMO-EROTICISM AND ENTIRELY LATIN DIALOGUE.

1977

MAKES BRITAIN'S 'FIRST PUNK FILM' JUBILEE. FEATURING ELIZABETH I TIME-TRAVELLING TO 70S BRITAIN. MAKES MUSIC VIDEO FOR SEX PISTOLS.

1979

MAKES *THE TEMPEST*, A RETELLING OF SHAKESPEARE'S PLAY. MAKES *BROKEN ENGLISH SUITE* OF 3 MUSIC VIDEOS FOR MARIANNE FAITHFUL.

1986

NOMINATED FOR THE TURNER PRIZE FOR HIS CONTRIBUTION TO FILM. MAKES *CARAVAGGIO*. MEETS KEITH COLLINS, JARMAN'S COMPANION UNTIL HIS DEATH. IN DECEMBER, JARMAN IS DIAGNOSED AS HIV-POSITIVE.

1987

BUYS PROSPECT COTTAGE WITH HIS INHERITANCE FROM HIS FATHER. DIRECTS VIDEO FOR PET SHOP BOYS *IT'S A SIN*. MAKES *LAST OF ENGLAND*.

1988

BEGINS WORKING EXTENSIVELY FOR RIGHTS FOR GAY PEOPLE AND AIDS SUFFERERS.

1985

MANCHESTER PRIDE IS BORN FOLLOWING A £1,700 GRANT FROM THE MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL TO PUT ON A TWO-WEEK CELEBRATION, COMPLETE WITH A HUGE BANNER ADORNING OXFORD STREET.

1986

EUROPE'S FIRST PURPOSE-BUILT GAY CENTRE BUILT IN MANCHESTER.



'Landscape' 1991

1988

SECTION 28, PASSED INTO LAW PROHIBITING LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND SCHOOLS FROM "PROMOTING" HOMOSEXUALITY AND PREVENTED COUNCILS FROM FUNDING MUCH-NEEDED LESBIAN AND GAY INITIATIVES AT A TIME WHEN GAY PEOPLE WERE STRUGGLING TO COPE WITH THE AIDS EPIDEMIC.

A HUGE ANTI-SECTION 28 PROTEST IS HELD IN MANCHESTER.

1989

THE NORTHWEST CAMPAIGN FOR LESBIAN & GAY EQUALITY ORGANISES MANCHESTER'S "CELEBRATION OF GAY AND LESBIAN DIVERSITY".

1989

MAKES WAR REQUIEM.

1990

MAKES THE GARDEN.

1991

PUBLISHES MODERN NATURE. CANONISED AS ST. DEREK OF DUNGENESS BY THE SISTERS OF PERPETUAL INDULGENCE. MAKES EDWARD II.

1992

PUBLISHES AT YOUR OWN RISK. QUEER, AN EXHIBITION OF NEW PAINTINGS INCLUDING LARGE 'SLOGAN' WORKS AT MANCHESTER ART GALLERY.

1993

MAKES WITTGENSTEIN. MAKES HIS LAST FEATURE FILM BLUE. DIRECTS MUSIC VIDEOS FOR SUEDE, PET SHOP BOYS AND PATTI SMITH.

1994

RELEASES CHROMA. EVIL QUEEN: THE LAST PAINTINGS EXHIBITION AT WHITWORTH ART GALLERY, MANCHESTER.

JARMAN DIES OF AIDS-RELATED COMPLICATIONS ON 19 FEBRUARY AFTER A LONG ILLNESS

1995

PUBLICATION OF DEREK JARMAN'S GARDEN, WITH PHOTOGRAPHS BY HOWARD SOOLEY.

1990

THE ALBERT KENNEDY TRUST OPENS IN MANCHESTER TO SUPPORT YOUNG HOMELESS LGBTQ+ PEOPLE.

1992

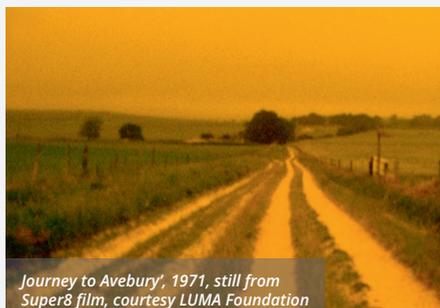
FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF LESBIANS AND GAYS IS LAUNCHED.

1994

HEALTHY GAY MANCHESTER IS FORMED; BIPHORIA IS LAUNCHED.

1995

THE UK'S FIRST CONFERENCE ON POLICING LGBTQ+ COMMUNITIES "POLICE AND DIVERSITY: AN AGENDA FOR CHANGE" IS HOSTED BY THE GREATER MANCHESTER LESBIAN AND GAY POLICING INITIATIVE AT MANCHESTER TOWN HALL.



Journey to Avebury', 1971, still from Super8 film, courtesy LUMA Foundation

1996

THE FIRST POPTASTIC CLUB NIGHT TAKES PLACE IN MANCHESTER.

MANCHESTER PRAIRIE DOGS LINE DANCING GROUP DANCED OUTSIDE THE REMBRANDT FOR THE FIRST TIME AT THE MARDI GRAS

1996

RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION AT THE BARBICAN, LONDON.

2000

PUBLICATION OF DEREK JARMAN'S *SMILING IN SLOW MOTION: DIARIES, 1991 - 94*, VINTAGE BOOKS.

2008

DEREK JARMAN: *BRUTAL BEAUTY*, CURATED BY ISAAC JULIEN AT THE SERPENTINE GALLERY, LONDON

EXHIBITION *LIGHTBOX: DEREK JARMAN*, TATE BRITAIN, LONDON

THE JARMAN AWARD IS ESTABLISHED TO RECOGNISE AND SUPPORT ARTISTS WORKING WITH MOVING IMAGE.

2013

EXHIBITION *BLACK PAINTINGS AND WAITING FOR GODOT*, WILKINSON GALLERY, LONDON

2014

EXHIBITION *PANDEMONIUM DEREK JARMAN*, KING'S CULTURAL INSTITUTE, LONDON

2016

EXHIBITION *PURE ROMANCE: ART AND THE ROMANTIC SENSIBILITY*, THE REDFERN GALLERY, LONDON

1998

THE BOLTON 7 ARE CONVICTED OF GROSS INDECENCY.

MANCHESTER'S GAY AND INCLUSIVE RUGBY UNION TEAM MANCHESTER VILLAGE SPARTANS IS FORMED.

1999

23 FEBRUARY - THE FIRST EPISODE OF *QUEER AS FOLK*, A DRAMA SERIES BASED ON MANCHESTER'S GAY SCENE, IS BROADCAST ON CHANNEL 4.

2003

MANCHESTER HOSTS EUROPRIDE. IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE EVENT WOULD NOW BE KNOWN AS "MANCHESTER PRIDE".

2004

GENDER RECOGNITION ACT INTRODUCED

2005

MANCHESTER'S GAY AND INCLUSIVE FOOTBALL TEAM VILLAGE MANCHESTER JOINS THE GFSN NATIONAL LEAGUE.

2010

EQUALITY ACT INTRODUCED.

2012

1-3 JUNE - MANCHESTER HOSTS THE BINGHAM CUP, AN INTERNATIONAL RUGBY UNION TOURNAMENT FEATURING GAY RUGBY UNION TEAMS FROM ACROSS THE WORLD.

2013

MARRIAGE (SAME SEX COUPLES) ACT 2013 PASSED.

2017

EXHIBITION THE LAST OF ENGLAND,
WILKINSON GALLERY, LONDON

DEREK JARMAN: BLUE, TATE BRITAIN,
LONDON

2018

EXHIBITION BLUE AND EDN, WHITECHAPEL
GALLERY, LONDON

PROSPECT COTTAGE WAS PUT UP FOR SALE
AFTER KEITH COLLINS' DEATH.



Saint David of the Avant-Garde and Sisters of
Perpetual Indulgence. Photography: Lee Baxter

2019

LAUNCH OF EXHIBITION PROTEST!,
IMMA, DUBLIN, IRELAND

ENGLISH HERITAGE UNVEILED A BLUE
PLAQUE COMMEMORATING JARMAN AT HIS
FORMER RESIDENCE AT BUTLERS WHARF
BUILDING, 36 SHAD THAMES, LONDON.

2020

ART FUND LAUNCHED A CAMPAIGN TO RAISE
MONEY FOR PROSPECT COTTAGE.

RAINBOW NOIR, A SOCIAL AND PEER
SUPPORT GROUP FOR LGBTQ+ PEOPLE OF
COLOUR ESTABLISHED.

2016

CARL RUSTIN-BEHAN BECOMES
MANCHESTER'S FIRST OPENLY GAY LORD
MAYOR.

2017

UK ISSUES POSTHUMOUS PARDONS FOR
THOUSANDS OF GAY AND BI MEN.

2019

PRIDE IN AGEING IS LAUNCHED AT LGBT
FOUNDATION.

2021

DEREK JARMAN PROTEST! OPENS AT
MANCHESTER ART GALLERY.

2022

INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED PERFORMANCE
ARTIST DAVID HOYLE CANONISED
SAINT DAVID OF THE AVANT-GARDE,
AT MANCHESTER ART GALLERY BY THE
MANCHESTER CHAPTER OF THE SISTERS OF
PERPETUAL INDULGENCE.

THE DEREK JARMAN POCKET PARK OPENS
AT MANCHESTER ART GALLERY.

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO OUT IN THE
CITY FOR EXTRACTS IN THE TIMELINE.



MANCHESTER AND BEING LGBTQ+ IN THE 1980S

1984, building work on our lovely lesbian house in Hull.- Mindy

NOWADAYS WE ARE LARGELY COMMONPLACE, AS ORDINARY AND NORMAL AS ANYBODY ELSE, WHICH ISN'T THE SAME. WHEN WE HAD THAT THING OF SPECIAL PLACES TO GO TO, AND NOBODY ELSE WANTED TO GO TO: THE MONDAY NIGHT LESBIAN LINE DISCO, HOW ASPIRATIONAL WAS THAT? BELONGING TO A VERY CLOSE GROUP THAT NOBODY ELSE WANTED TO GO. THE REST OF THE TIME, YOU JUST KEPT YOUR MOUTH SHUT...NOW IS LIKE LOSING THAT SENSE OF BELONGING TO SOMETHING REALLY SPECIAL, RADICAL AND TRANSGRESSIVE.- MINDY

THINKING ABOUT WHAT THE 80S WAS LIKE, BEING NEWLY OUT AND HEARING ABOUT THOSE WEIRD THINGS HAPPENING IN NEW YORK, THIS "GAY PLAGUE", ALL THAT STUFF, WE HEARD RUMOURS COMING OVER THE ATLANTIC, THINKING ABOUT THE MARGINALITY OF OUR LIVES. DOING THE GARDEN HAS REALLY MADE ME THINK ABOUT THOSE TIMES AND THE EQUIVALENCY BETWEEN THE HARSHNESS OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF DUNGENESS AND MOSLEY STREET.- MINDY

DAVID: IT WAS IN THE MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS: MEN ARRESTED ACCUSED OF GROSS INDECENCY, THEN THERE WAS A PROTEST AGAINST THE TRIAL. SOMEBODY TOOK A PHOTOGRAPH OF ME UNDER THIS POSTER [THAT DENOUNCED THE ARRESTS]. I WAS QUITE EMBARRASSED AT THE TIME THINKING WHAT IF SOMEBODY SEES ME AND RECOGNISES ME? I WASN'T TELLING EVERYBODY I'M GAY, OTHER THAN MY FAMILY AND MY FRIENDS'

MINDY: DOING THIS GOT ME THINKING BACK TO WHAT THE 80S WERE LIKE; IT HAS BEEN ILLUMINATING. I WAS SO ANGRY, BACK IN THE 80S WE WOULDN'T BE SPEAKING WITH EACH OTHER BECAUSE YOU WERE GAY AND I WAS A LESBIAN.

DAVID: THERE WERE MEN GETTING ARRESTED BECAUSE THEY WERE KISSING EACH OTHER. IF IT WAS TWO HETEROSEXUALS HAVING SEX SOMEWHERE THEY WOULDN'T BE ARRESTED.

PHILIP: BUT BACK IN THE 70S THAT WAS THE ONLY OPTION. WHERE DO YOU MEET MEN? IN THE TOILETS!

DAVID: SOME WOULDN'T HAVE THE NERVE TO GO TO A GAY PUB SO COTTAGES WERE THE ONLY OPTION. THE POLICE USED TO DRAG PEOPLE OUT OF THE TOILETS AND ARREST THEM.

PHILIP'S STORY

BRILLIANT, GORGEOUS, PAINTED GAY
VIVID, FLAUNTING, LURID LOUD
SCREAMING, SHRIEKING, MARCHING PROUD
MELLOW, MATCHING, DEEP AND SOMBRE
PASTEL, SOBER, DEAD AND DULL
CONSTANT, COLOURFUL, CHROMATIC
PARTY COLOURED, AND PRISMATIC
KALEIDOSCOPIC, VARIEGATED
TATTOOED DYED ILLUMINATED
DAUBED AND SCRAMBLE, DIP AND DIE
HIGH-KEYED COLOUR LIE

-EXTRACT FROM DEREK JARMAN'S CHROMA: A BOOK
OF COLOUR, 1993



I GENUINELY THINK THAT THE 80'S WERE
PROBABLY THE BEST OF TIMES. WE
WERE INVINCIBLE AND PROUD. PART OF
BRISTOL AND BATH GAY WEST SOCIAL
GROUP. VERY FOND MEMORIES TO LOOK
BACK AND REMEMBER. - PHILIP

NOT ONLY DOES THIS REFLECT
UPON THE MYRIAD OF COLOURS,
WITHIN THE GLORY OF NATURE.

IT VERY MUCH DESCRIBES OUR
LIFE'S JOURNEY AS GAY MEN.
THE ONGOING POLITICAL CLIMATE
OF THE 60'S 70'S AND 80'S.
FIGHTING FOR EQUALITY. BUT
THE FLAMBOYANT, HEDONISTIC
CAREFREE LIFESTYLE WE CRAVED.
THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF
NEW BEGINNINGS.

MY LIFE CHANGED CHRISTMAS
2007 IRREVOCABLY, WHEN A BRAIN
TUMOUR WAS REMOVED. AS A
RESULT I LOST ALL SENSE OF TASTE
AND SMELL.

NO LONGER ABLE TO DRIFT
THROUGH THE FRAGRANCE OF
NATURE. A LOST MEMORY GONE
FOREVER. HOWEVER IT DOES
POSE AN INTERESTING THOUGHT. I
WONDER IF HE WAS USING COLOUR
AS A METAPHOR FOR PEOPLE -
PHILIP

I THINK THAT IT'S IMPERATIVE THAT THESE
STORIES ARE TOLD TO A WIDER PLATFORM.
I HOPE THAT LISTENERS COULD HEAR THAT
DESPITE THE ATROCITIES, ONE COULD LEAD
A FULFILLING LIFE. WE DID THE BEST WE
COULD IN THE WORLD THAT WAS OFFERED
TO US...WHEN I WAS 8 OR 9, GAY MEN
HADN'T BEEN INVENTED. BUT I JUST KNEW.
WHEN I WAS 7 I STOOD IN A SCHOOL
PLAYGROUND AND I KNEW DAMN WELL
WHERE I WAS GOING. - PHILIP

DAVID'S STORY

Manchester police arrest 13 in gay pub raid

01 May 1994



"My friend and I aged about 10".

I GUESS I KNEW I WAS DIFFERENT FROM A VERY EARLY AGE. I WAS MORE INTERESTED IN THINGS LIKE COOKING AND KNITTING THAN FOOTBALL OR OTHER MAINSTREAM MANLY THINGS.

WHEN I WAS ABOUT 8 I MET A BOY FROM AROUND THE CORNER FROM ME WHO BECAME A LIFE LONG FRIEND AND THERE WAS ALSO MY SECOND COUSIN TOO AND THE THREE OF US USED TO HANG AROUND TOGETHER.

WE ALL FELT WE WERE DIFFERENT AND ALTHOUGH WE LIKED GIRLS WE WERE ATTRACTED SEXUALLY TO THE SAME SEX. I THINK I WAS LUCKY REALLY TO BE IN THIS SMALL GROUP AS WE ALL WERE THERE TO SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER THROUGH OUR TEENAGE YEARS.



"Me and my band Fusion in 1975".

LATER WHEN I WAS ABOUT 16 AND WORKING AT THE POST OFFICE I MET A GAY TRAFFIC WARDEN AND IT WAS HE WHO ACTUALLY INTRODUCED ME TO THE GAY SCENE. I LEFT HOME NOT LONG AFTER MY MOTHER PASSED AWAY FROM CANCER WHEN I WAS 17. MY DAD MARRIED AGAIN AND HE WAS OF THE VICTORIAN MINDSET AND I DON'T THINK HE COULD ACCEPT ME BEING GAY.- DAVID

COTTAGING: A GAY SLANG TERM, ORIGINATING FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM, REFERRING TO SEX BETWEEN MEN IN A PUBLIC LAVATORY OR 'COTTAGE'. THIS IS BECAUSE OLD ENGLISH TOILETS IN PUBLIC SPACES LIKE PARKS RESEMBLED SMALL COTTAGES.

MINDY'S STORY

WHEN I CAME OUT IN 1980S I KNEW MY CHANCE OF HAVING CHILDREN AND MY CAREER WOULD BE AFFECTED, AND I LOVED MY CAREER AND I WANTED TO HAVE CHILDREN... AND THE PROMISE I MADE TO MYSELF IS THAT I'D NEVER WALK ROUND ANYBODY, ANYBODY, ON THE SUBJECT OF MY SEXUALITY, BECAUSE I'D ALREADY PAID MY PRICE...I WAS ACTUALLY A BLOODY GOOD TEACHER.

IN 1983, I WAS IN HOSPITAL FOR CERVICAL CANCER SURGERY, AND WHILST I WAS ON THE WARD ANOTHER LESBIAN CAME IN. THREE MONTHS AFTER I LEFT HOSPITAL SHE TURNED UP AT A PARTY AT MY HOUSE AND SAID THAT I HAD MADE THINGS EASIER FOR HER BECAUSE I OUTED MYSELF AND OPENED



HER LIFE WAS EASIER BECAUSE OF ME. SHE WAS JUST THE SECOND LESBIAN OF THE WARD...IF YOU ARE IN A POSITION TO DO SOMETHING THAT ALLOWS OTHER PEOPLE TO WALK BEHIND YOU THEN DO IT... MY MESSAGE FOR PEOPLE COMING OUT NOW? ENJOY.

IT'S EASIER; IT'S NOT EVEN A THING. YOUNGER GENERATIONS JUST DON'T GET THE DIVISION; 'WHAT'S ALL THIS LABELLING ABOUT?' ON THE OTHER HAND, WHEN IT WAS ALL IN THE CLOSET YOU GOT THAT THING ABOUT JOINING A SECRET CLUB, WITH SECRET JEWELLERY, LIKE THE LABRYS.

IN THE EARLY 90S I DISCOVERED I'D BEEN OUSTED TO THE POINT I COULDN'T GET A JOB, THAT'S WHY I MOVED TO MANCHESTER. I MOVED TO MANCHESTER BECAUSE I HAD FRIENDS HERE AND I KNEW THAT MANCHESTER WAS A GAY-FRIENDLY CITY. - MINDY



LABRYS: IN THE 1970S, THE LABRYS WAS ADOPTED BY THE LESBIAN COMMUNITY AS A LESBIAN FEMINIST SYMBOL REPRESENTING STRENGTH AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY.

HAZEL'S STORY

THINGS I HAVE LEARNT ABOUT DEREK JARMAN AND HIS GARDEN

I CAN TELL YOU THAT DEREK JARMAN LOVED HIS GARDEN. HE NEVER SET OUT TO START A GARDEN. IT WAS AN ACCIDENTAL GARDEN. SEA KALE, GORSE, CISTUS, SALVIA, FENNEL AND POPPIES. HE FOUND THE RIGHT PLACE FOR EACH PLANT SO THAT IT COULD THRIVE IN THE SHINGLE THAT IS DUNGENESS. HE FELT THAT HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN A GARDENER ALL ALONG.

I CAN TELL YOU HOW HE SEEMED TRADITIONAL AND YET HIS WORK WAS RADICAL, HOW HIS GARDEN WAS OUTWARD-LOOKING YET CONTEMPLATIVE, VAST YET INTIMATE, WILD YET PRECISE. I CAN TELL YOU THAT HIS GARDEN HAS NO BOUNDARIES OTHER THAN THE HORIZON, AND HOW THE HUMMING OF DUNGENESS B MIXES WITH THE SEA BREEZE.

I CAN TELL YOU HOW HE RAGED WITH FURY AT THE WAY IN WHICH HIS GENERATION OF GAY MEN WAS TREATED.

HOW THEY DIED PAINFUL DEATHS AND IN MANY CASES, LONELY, ESTRANGED FROM THEIR FAMILIES. BUT ALSO, HOW THEY BELONGED TO THEIR OWN CHOSEN FAMILIES, EVEN IF THEY DIDN'T ALL GET ON. I CAN TELL YOU THAT DEREK JARMAN DIDN'T IDENTIFY WITH THE STONEWALL PEOPLE OR CASHMAN OR SOME OF THE OTHER MEDIA GAYS.

I CAN'T TELL YOU WHAT DEREK JARMAN FELT ABOUT HIS TOO-SOON DEATH OR LEAVING HIS FRIENDS OR THE PLACES AND PEOPLE HE LOVED. OR LEAVING HIS GARDEN. I'M NOT EVEN SURE THAT HE WOULD LIKE WHAT WE'RE DOING IN MANCHESTER, CREATING A GARDEN ALL ABOUT HIM.

HE NEVER WANTED A PANEL ON THE AIDS QUILT, IN FACT HE SAID HE WOULD 'HAUNT' ANYONE WHO MADE ONE FOR HIM. SO WHAT WILL HE THINK OF OUR GARDEN, INSPIRED BY HIM AND HIS HOME AT PROSPECT COTTAGE, INSPIRED BY HIS REFUSAL TO BE SILENCED BY THE STATUS QUO, INSPIRED BY HIS INSISTENCE THAT LOVE IS A HUMAN RIGHT FOR US ALL?

HAZEL'S THOUGHTS ON JARMAN'S LINES

*"I walk in this garden
holding the hands of dead friends.
Old age came quickly to my frosted generation,
cold, cold, cold, they died so silently."*

*The outrage, sadness, bewilderment and loss
of young men dying too soon.
Leaving behind their dignity, bravery, fury
and witness,
we have the privilege of loving who we want
and growing old.*

*"Up hill, down dale we go to Prospect Cottage,
which grows like a tree - more beautiful as it ages."*

Here you can hide and heal;

*or you can stand up, speak up,
defy the odds, protest and rage,
make things change. I am who I say I am.*

*"If a garden isn't shaggy, forget it.
try this wildness in a corner. It will bring you great
happiness."*

*Find your wild corner and protect it like mad.
It's all we've got.*

*"Lizards you are bent not straight.
Lizzy the lezzy
is quite the best..."*

*This garden speaks
of difference and resilience, tradition and
radical thinking, pleasure and beauty, formality
and playfulness.*

Quotes in colour from the book called 'Derek Jarman's Garden' (Thames & Hudson 1995)

PAUL'S STORY

IN THE SUMMER OF 2020, DURING A BRIEF BREAK FROM COVID LOCKDOWN, I VISITED THE SOUTH COAST FOR A WEEK WITH A FRIEND. ONE HOT SUMMER'S DAY WE CYCLED FROM RYE OUT TO DUNGENESS, THROUGH THE WIDE FLAT EXPANSES OF ROMNEY MARSH AND THE PRETTY VILLAGE OF LYDD BEFORE EMERGING OUT ONTO THE SURREAL LANDSCAPE OF DUNGENESS.

I WAS COMPLETELY MESMERISED BY THIS 'OTHER WORLDLY' PLACE, A VAST LANDSCAPE WITH NO HORIZON AND DOMINATED BY A NUCLEAR POWER STATION, NOT SOMETHING YOU COULD CALL BEAUTIFUL BUT YET THERE WAS SOMETHING MAGICAL ABOUT THE RAWNESS AND SIMPLICITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT.



Derek Jarman, Dungeness. (St Derek and the Laying on Hands) 1991 - Courtesy and © Ed Sykes

Blue, 1993, (still) Photo Liam Daniel, courtesy Basilisk Communications

WE HAD GONE TO SEE DEREK JARMAN'S COTTAGE AND GARDEN ALTHOUGH AT THE TIME I DIDN'T KNOW THAT MUCH ABOUT HIM. I INSTANTLY FELL IN LOVE WITH THE BLACK TAR COTTAGE, IT'S SIMPLE AND GEOMETRIC SHAPE AND YELLOW FRAMED WINDOWS SURROUNDED BY A GARDEN CONTAINING ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS OF THE SEA. AS AN ENTHUSIASTIC AMATEUR GARDENER, I MARVELLED AT HOW ANYONE COULD GROW PLANTS IN THIS INHOSPITABLE LANDSCAPE AND THAT'S WHEN I BEGAN TO READ AND DISCOVER ABOUT JARMAN THE GARDENER AND DIARIST.

THROUGH MY INVOLVEMENT IN THIS PROJECT, I'VE STARTED TO LEARN SO MUCH MORE ABOUT DEREK JARMAN; JARMAN THE GARDENER, WRITER, ARTIST, POET, FILM MAKER, AS WELL AS HIS ACTIVISM FOR LGBT RIGHTS AND HIS VERY PERSONAL BUT PUBLIC BATTLE WITH HIV AND AIDS.

WE ARE A SMALL GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS, AMATEUR BUT ENTHUSIASTIC GARDENERS, ALL WITH OUR OWN CONNECTION TO JARMAN AND IT'S BEEN FASCINATING AND A PRIVILEGE TO HEAR THEIR STORIES. THE LANDSCAPE OF MANCHESTER CITY CENTRE IS AS INHOSPITABLE AS DUNGENESS! - PAUL

DO WORDS MATTER? 'QUEER ELDERS', LGBTQ+ IDENTITY, AND INTERGENERATIONAL CONVERSATIONS

THE COLLECTIVE IS KEEN TO TALK ABOUT HOW THINGS HAVE CHANGED FOR LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY, AND USE OF TERMINOLOGY, LIKE 'QUEER':

"YOUNGER PEOPLE SAY THAT GAY PEOPLE HAVE RECLAIMED THE WORD."

"WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?"

"TO ME QUEER WAS LIKE VERY OFFENSIVE AT SCHOOL. IT HAS TAKEN ME A LOT TO GET USED TO IT."

"IT'S SO COMMON-PLACE NOW;
EVERYTHING IS QUEER."

"I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY IT HAS BECOME SO POPULARISED."

"I THINK IT IS BECAUSE IT ALLOWS PEOPLE WHO ARE HETEROSEXUAL WHO CAN ACTUALLY BE INCLUDED AS QUEER. IT'S BECOME A VERY INCLUSIVE TERM; YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A PRACTICING HOMOSEXUAL TO LABEL YOURSELF QUEER."

"I THOUGHT IT HAD BEEN RECLAIMED IN THE 80S AND THAT WAS IT, DONE, LIKE DYKE. MY WIFE DOESN'T LIKE THE WORD DYKE."

"DYKE, I THINK THAT'S OFFENSIVE AS WELL. IF YOU SAID TO A LESBIAN 'YOU'RE A DYKE', THAT WOULD BE LIKE INSULTING HER."

"TITLING THE SHOW, HOWEVER, WAS A GROUP DECISION. ORIGINALLY TITLED 'SHIPWRECKED' -AN OBLIVIOUS DIARY REFERENCE FROM DEREK DESCRIBING 'A CESSPIT AT THE HEART OF MANCHESTER' THE TITLE WAS SOON AFTER DECLARED AS 'QUEER'.

AUDACIOUS, BLATANT, INTENTIONALLY PROVOCATIVE, WE HAD MANY SERIOUS CONVERSATIONS, WHICH WERE NEVERTHELESS LACED WITH HUMOUR DUE TO THEIR ABSURDITY, AS TO WHETHER DEREK JARMAN QUEER OR QUEER DEREK JARMAN WAS THE MOST APPROPRIATE WORD ORDER FOR THE PUBLICITY BANNERS.

BUT THE TITLE WAS NOT WITHOUT CONTENTION. I WAS INVITED TO THE OFFICE OF A PROMINENT COUNCILLOR WHO, WHILST STATING CATEGORICALLY HIS SUPPORT FOR THE SHOW, DREW MY ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT THE OPENING DATE WAS THE WEEK FOLLOWING THE LOCAL ELECTIONS, WHICH WERE SCHEDULED FOR THE SEVENTH OF MAY.

"I WAS ADVISED NOT TO USE THE TITLE 'QUEER' BEFORE THE ELECTION DATE."

- EXTRACT FROM QUEERING THE CITY: MANCHESTER 1992, BY JEFFREY HORSLEY, THE CURATOR OF THE 1992 DEREK JARMAN'S EXHIBITION AT THE MANCHESTER ART GALLERY.



Exterior Manchester Art Gallery, 1993
'Queer' banner. Courtesy of Howard Sooley

IT WAS GOOD THAT HE CHOSE A TERM THAT WAS INCLUSIVE. BACK IN THE DAY, GAY MEN WERE REALLY SEPARATE FROM LESBIANS.- MINDY

SO, WORDS DO MATTER... BELOW, SOME EXAMPLES OF A HELPFUL LGBTQIA+ GLOSSARY PRODUCED BY THE NATIONAL MUSEUMS LIVERPOOL

COMING OUT

SHORT FOR 'COMING OUT OF THE CLOSET', THE PHRASE IS USED TO DESCRIBE A PERSON TELLING OTHERS THEY ARE GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, TRANS OR QUEER.

INTERSECTIONALITY

ACKNOWLEDGES THAT A PERSON'S IDENTITY IS INFORMED BY THEIR GENDER, SEXUALITY, RACE, CLASS AND ABILITY, AMONGST OTHER THINGS, AND THAT THEIR EXPERIENCES OF OPPRESSION WILL BE INFLUENCED ACCORDINGLY.

GENDER

GENDER REFERS TO THE SOCIALLY CONSTRUCTED CHARACTERISTICS OF WOMEN AND MEN. IT VARIES FROM SOCIETY TO SOCIETY AND CAN BE CHANGED.

BACK IN THE DAY I WOULDN'T HAVE ANYONE CALL ME GIRL, OR LADY. A WOMAN IS GOOD ENOUGH! LESBIANS WERE SO ANGRY ABOUT EVERYTHING. FEMINISM AND LGBT RIGHTS, IT WAS A DOUBLE WHAMMY. LESBIANS WERE DESPISED BY EVERYBODY IN THE SAME WAY THAT BEING CAMP FOR MEN WAS DESPISED, IT WAS LIKE LOWERING YOURSELF, IT WAS ALL VERY PATRIARCHAL. ALL THIS HAS MOVED ON, BUT I SAY TO THE YOUNG ONES, IF YOU REALLY FEEL YOU'VE GOT THE RIGHT WORD, THE RIGHT POLITICAL ANALYSIS, ENJOY YOURSELF BECAUSE IT WON'T LAST. - MINDY

I WAS MORTIFIED WHEN A RADIO HOST ANNOUNCED ME AS A QUEER ELDER. I HAVE ALWAYS FOUND THIS TERMINOLOGY DEROGATORY. HAVING GROWN UP IN THE 50S 60S WHERE IT WAS A VERY REGULAR OCCURRENCE BEING CALLED QUEER. I WAS NEVER QUEER. I WAS AN INDIVIDUAL DISCOVERING WHO AND WHAT I WAS. WHAT I FIND INCOMPREHENSIBLE IS THAT IT SEEMS ON TREND TO USE THIS AS RECOGNITION AS BEING GAY LGBT... I JUST WONDER HOW MANY OTHER ELDERS ARE AFFECTED BY THE TERMINOLOGY.

AS I SAID IT JUST SEEMS TO BE BANDIED AROUND NOW AS A NORMAL PART OF OUR VOCABULARY. IT ALMOST FEELS LIKE WE'RE THE LOST GENERATION AND NOT TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN THESE DECISIONS ARE MADE. - PHILIP

INTERGENERATIONAL CONVERSATIONS

WHEN I WAS LITTLE THERE WERE TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE, BOYS AND GIRLS AND YOU DIDN'T SWAP TEAMS, THERE WERE STRAIGHT MEN AND THERE WERE STRAIGHT WOMEN AND THAT WAS IT THAT WAS THE WORLD I GREW UP IN AND EVENTUALLY I BEGAN TO REALISE THAT THAT WASN'T THE WHOLE TRUTH OF IT. SO WE'VE MOVED ON.

MY CURRENT THINKING IS, BINARY IS GREAT FOR COMPUTERS, ZEROS AND ONE, GREAT FOR COMPUTERS IT DOESN'T EXPRESS THE COMPLEXITY OF HUMAN PEOPLE AND THE WAY I SEE IT IS ... I BELIEVE IN EVOLUTION AND I THINK THE FACT THAT LGBT FOLK ARE STILL IN EXISTENCE SHOWS THAT WE ARE NECESSARY TO THE EVOLUTION OF OUR SPECIES BECAUSE IF WE WEREN'T WE WOULD HAVE BEEN BRED OUT OF EXISTENCE LONG SINCE BECAUSE ITS ONLY RECENTLY THAT WE HAVE BEEN HAVING CHILDREN.

PHILIP AND I LAUGH ABOUT THE FACT THAT BACK IN THE DAY, WE WOULD NOT HAVE SPOKEN TO EACH OTHER, IN THE 80'S LESBIANS AND GAY MEN DIDN'T GET ON. BUT NOW, WE AS A GROUP ARE COOPERATING AND COLLABORATING.

MY MESSAGE TO YOUNGER LGBTQ+ IS A] GRAB EVERY OPPORTUNITY – THE GOOD ONES DON'T COME TWICE. B] SORT YOUR PENSION AND HOUSING SECURITY AS FAR AS YOU POSSIBLY CAN – THE YEARS WILL FLY BY AND THEN YOU WILL WISH YOU HAD MORE OF A BUFFER ZONE. C] LOOK AFTER YOUR FRIENDSHIP NETWORKS YOU MAY NEED THEM IN THE FUTURE. D] NEVER FORGET THAT YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO BE YOU AND A RIGHT TO THE SAME RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES AS ANYONE ELSE – IT'S AN EQUALITY ISSUE.

A VISITOR TO THE POCKET PARK ALSO TALKED ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF INTERGENERATIONAL CONVERSATIONS:

I SAW THE PROTEST! EXHIBITION A COUPLE OF TIMES, AND IT GIVES PEOPLE FOOD FOR THOUGHT. HE HAS LAID DOWN FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF LGBT AND THIS GARDEN IS ALSO REPRESENTING LGBT. ALTHOUGH WE'VE COME A LONG WAY WE STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO – AND DEREK JARMAN GIVES US THE PUSH FOR THAT. IF THERE'S STILL PEOPLE WHO ARE ANTI-GAY, WHICH THERE WILL ALWAYS BE, WE CAN TRY AND MAKE PEOPLE MORE AWARE. LGBT HISTORY LIKE THE AIDS PANDEMIC FOR EXAMPLE – CHILDREN NEED TO LEARN ABOUT THIS HISTORY AT SCHOOL.

THE SPACE CAN BE USED TO EDUCATE AND INFORM, AND ENCOURAGE THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW ABOUT JARMAN AND HIS CAMPAIGNS AND THE FIGHT FOR EQUALITY. IT'S A SPACE TO BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER TO TELL THIS STORY. IT CAN BE FULLY INTERGENERATIONAL.



WHILE SITTING IN THE PARK A CONVERSATION STARTED ON THE LAST OF ENGLAND, A DEREK JARMAN FILM THAT CAME OUT IN 1988, AND OTHER FILMS:



LEWIS: I LIKE THE WAY THE FILM FLITS BETWEEN CHILDHOOD AND ADULTHOOD, IT'S THE SAME PERSON TRYING TO CLING ONTO THE INNOCENCE OF BEING A CHILD AND NOT HAVING THAT FEAR OF JUDGEMENT. IT'S INTERESTING THAT WITH IT BEING FROM 1988 THIS FILM HAS LINKS TO THATCHER ERA BRITAIN AND SECTION 28.

PHILIP: DID YOU KNOW THAT YEAR MANCHESTER HAD THE LARGEST PROTEST MARCH, THE CLAUSE 28 ONE, IN THE WHOLE OF EUROPE AT THAT TIME - OVER 25,000 PEOPLE TURNED UP?

LEWIS: WHICH OTHER FAMOUS DIRECTORS OR HOBBYISTS WHO MAKE FILM COME TO YOUR MIND?

MINDY: SIOBHAN FAHEY AND HARRI SHANAHAN WHO MADE THE DOCUMENTARY 'REBEL DYKES' - CHECK THEM OUT!

PHILIP: WORKS BY JOE ORTON WHICH WERE ADAPTED FOR SCREEN - 'ENTERTAINING MR SLOANE' FOR EXAMPLE AND 'PRICK UP YOUR EARS' ABOUT HIS LIFE. HE WAS SO GREAT AT PORTRAYING 'GAYNESS' AND LIFE OF THE GAY COMMUNITY AT THAT TIME IN STARK, DARK REALITY - WHILST BEING HILARIOUS AND RELATABLE, BUT HAVING SERIOUS SIDE. AND THESE FILMS ARE A WHOLE CHUNK OF OUR GAY HISTORY WHICH NO ONE IS TALKING ABOUT. WHAT COMES TO MIND FOR YOU LEWIS?

LEWIS: 'NEW QUEER CINEMA' IS A SUBCULTURE OF UNDERGROUND, EXPERIMENTAL FILMS - AND WASN'T COINED UNTIL THE EARLY 90S. MANY OF THESE FILMMAKERS SEEMED HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY THE WORK OF JARMAN. GREGG BRAKI IS THE FIRST PERSON THAT COMES TO MIND WHEN I THINK OF NEW QUEER CINEMA. THERE WAS A NIHILISTIC, PUNK/GRUNGE ATTITUDE UNDERLYING ALL OF HIS FILMS (ESPECIALLY IN THE 90S), WITH POLITICAL OPPRESSION FELT BY REBELLIOUS GROUPS OF LGBT TEENS BEING A KEY THEME LINKING THE FILMS. I THINK THIS WAS SPURRED ON BY THE FALLOUT FROM THE HIV/AIDS CRISIS - IGNITING UNREST WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

BRAKI'S SMALL-TEAM, LOW-BUDGET MOVIES WERE ESSENTIALLY A MIDDLE-FINGER TO MAINSTREAM CULTURE, AND DEFINITELY OFFERED A SENSE OF BELONGING AND UNDERSTANDING FOR MANY LATE TEENS/ EARLY TWENTIES QUEER PEOPLE OUT THERE AT THAT TIME, AND EVEN NOW! THIS UNDERGROUND COLLECTIVE OF FILMS HAS COME FULL-CIRCLE AND IS BEING APPRECIATED AND UNDERSTOOD BY QUEER PEOPLE IN 2023, JUST AS THEY WERE IN LATE 90S - I BELIEVE THAT'S THE DEFINITION OF TIMELESS.



DIFFERENT VOICES FROM VISITORS TO THE PARK HELP US PUT THIS CONVERSATION INTO PERSPECTIVE:

I CAME TO THE EXHIBITION OF DEREK JARMAN'S WORK 20 YEARS AGO HERE. AND MET HIM AT THAT TIME AS HE WAS HERE IN MANCHESTER. THE EXHIBITION WAS CALLED 'QUEER' AND IT WAS REALLY CONTROVERSIAL AT THE TIME TO USE THAT WORD AND HAVE IT DISPLAYED OUTSIDE.

IT'S STILL CONTROVERSIAL NOW FOR THE OLDER GENERATION - NOT EVERYBODY BUT FOR SOME. THE CURRENT PROTEST! EXHIBITION WHICH HAS BEEN HERE RECENTLY IS MORE ACCEPTABLE BUT DEREK JARMAN'S LIFE WAS ALL ABOUT PROTEST AS FAR AS I CAN UNDERSTAND AND THERE'S STILL THINGS TO DO - COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD WHERE PEOPLE CAN BE KILLED JUST FOR BEING GAY. IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE THESE PROTESTS, THESE EXHIBITIONS AND THIS GARDEN WILL HELP TO SHOW US MORE WHAT JARMAN DID.

I SAW THE PROTEST! EXHIBITION A COUPLE OF TIMES, AND IT GIVES PEOPLE FOOD FOR THOUGHT.

HE HAS LAID DOWN FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF LGBT AND THIS GARDEN IS ALSO REPRESENTING LGBT. ALTHOUGH WE'VE COME A LONG WAY WE STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO - AND DEREK JARMAN GIVES US THE PUSH FOR THAT. IF THERE'S STILL PEOPLE WHO ARE ANTI-GAY, WHICH THERE WILL ALWAYS BE, WE CAN TRY AND MAKE PEOPLE MORE AWARE. LGBT HISTORY LIKE THE AIDS PANDEMIC FOR EXAMPLE - CHILDREN NEED TO LEARN ABOUT THIS HISTORY AT SCHOOL.

THE SPACE CAN BE USED TO EDUCATE AND INFORM, AND ENCOURAGE THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW ABOUT JARMAN AND HIS CAMPAIGNS AND THE FIGHT FOR EQUALITY. IT'S A SPACE TO BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER TO TELL THIS STORY. IT CAN BE FULLY INTERGENERATIONAL.

WE HOPE THE POCKET PARK BECOME ANOTHER GAY PLACE IN MANCHESTER FOR PEOPLE OF ALL GENERATIONS. (PRIDE IN AGEING)



PERIPATETIC ENCOUNTERS WITH URBAN NATURE



BEFORE ROLLING UP OUR SLEEVES AND GETTING STUCK INTO CREATING OUR OWN LITTLE GREEN OASIS, THE DEREK JARMAN POCKET GARDEN AT MANCHESTER ART GALLERY, WE TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT SOME GREEN SPACES IN AND AROUND MANCHESTER. OUR VISITS INCLUDED PLACES REFLECTING THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY'S STRUGGLE FOR RECOGNITION AND RIGHTS AS WELL AS PLACES OFFERING A MUCH NEEDED BREATHING SPACE WITHIN OUR CITY ALONG WITH HOPE FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT.

OUR FIRST VISIT AT THE END OF MAY 2021 WAS QUITE MOMENTOUS AS WE WERE ABLE TO MEET EACH OTHER IN PERSON FOR THE FIRST TIME AFTER MONTHS OF ZOOM MEETINGS.

WE MET AT SACKVILLE GARDENS, WHICH SEEMED THE BEST PLACE TO START AS ONE OF THE MOST WELL-KNOWN GREEN SPACES IN THE CITY LINKED TO THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY.



APART FROM ENJOYING THE PEACEFUL GREEN SPACE, WE TOOK OUR TIME TO ADMIRE THE VERY FIRST STATUE AND MEMORIAL FOR ALAN TURING AND TO REFLECT ON THE NATIONAL TRANSGENDER REMEMBRANCE MEMORIAL, AND THE BEACON OF HOPE MEMORIAL. WE ALSO VISITED THE COMMUNAL GARDEN AT THE GRADE II LISTED BUILDING VICTORIA SQUARE IN ANCOATS, WHICH WAS THE FIRST MUNICIPAL HOUSING BUILT IN MANCHESTER IN 1894 AND NOW HOUSES AROUND 170 OLDER PEOPLE. PETER, WHO IS A RESIDENT AT VICTORIA SQUARE, SHOWED US ROUND AND TOLD US THE STORY OF THE LATE DAME GRACY, THEIR GARDENER FOR SEVERAL YEARS.

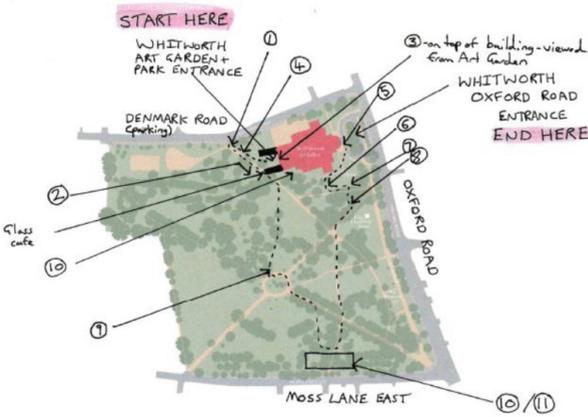


Climbing Engel's head at Salford Art Gallery

FROM JUNE TO SEPTEMBER 2021, WE VISITED A RANGE OF PARKS, GARDENS, AND URBAN GREEN SPACES INCLUDING THE NEWLY OPENED RHS BRIDGEWATER. DURING A SUNNY STROLL AROUND PEEL PARK (A FAVOURITE SUBJECT OF SALFORD ARTIST L.S. LOWRY), ROSIE NAYLOR FROM RHS BRIDGEWATER AND MIRANDA CLARKE FROM CITY OF TREES SHOWED US THE FANTASTIC WORK THE IGNITION LIVING LAB IS UNDERTAKING AT SALFORD UNIVERSITY.



THE VISIONER'S VISION



LAWRIE IS CALLED THE VISIONER FOR A FEW REASONS, NOT LEAST FOR HIS ABILITY TO CREATE SIGHTS OUT OF WORDS, AS SEEN IN HIS DESCRIPTION OF ONE OF OUR PERIPATETIC ENCOUNTERS.

HE TOOK THE COLLECTIVE AROUND SECRET GREEN SPACES IN MANCHESTER GIVING US ALL FOOD FOR THOUGHT AND INSIGHTS INTO NATURE FOR INSPIRATION.

TO HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK ON A NEW POCKET PARK FOR THE PEOPLE OF MANCHESTER HAS BEEN SUCH AN INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE, BUT THE FACT THAT THIS GARDEN HAS BEEN DESIGNED AND PLANTED BY A GROUP OF VOLUNTEER GARDENERS FROM OUR OVER 50s LGBTQ+ COMMUNITIES IN GREATER MANCHESTER MAKES IT A REALLY SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT.

THE GARDENERS ARE OF A SIMILAR GENERATION TO DEREK JARMAN, AND THERE HAS BEEN MUCH REFLECTION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF HIS WORK IN RAISING THE VISIBILITY OF ISSUES FACING LGBTQ COMMUNITIES, AS WELL AS HIS POWERFUL EXPRESSION OF IDENTITY THROUGH HIS WORK. UNFORTUNATELY THIS GENERATION OF LGBTQ PEOPLE ARE NOW FACING A LACK OF VISIBILITY BOTH WITHIN LGBTQ COMMUNITIES AND WIDER SOCIETY, AND MANY ARE FACING GREATER LEVELS OF

ISOLATION DUE TO BEING LESS LIKELY TO HAVE CHILDREN AND A LACK OF CONNECTION TO FAMILY (WHO MAY HAVE OSTRACISED THEM DUE TO THEIR LGBTQ IDENTITY) ALONG WITH DISCRIMINATION IN HOUSING AND CARE SPACES. WE REALLY WANTED THIS GARDEN TO BE A RECOGNITION OF THEIR LIVES AND CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY, RUNNING IN PARALLEL WITH THE CELEBRATION OF DEREK JARMAN'S LIFE AND WORKS IN THE MAIN EXHIBITION SPACES.

LGBT FOUNDATION EXISTS TO CONTINUE THE WORK TOWARDS AN EQUAL AND FAIR SOCIETY FOR ALL LGBTQ+ PEOPLE, WHICH ACTIVISTS SUCH AS JARMAN AND HIS PEERS BROUGHT TO WIDER PUBLIC CONSCIOUSNESS IN THE 80S AND 90S. WE ARE DELIGHTED TO BE CELEBRATING HIS LEGACY, HISTORIC LINKS TO MANCHESTER AND THE LAUNCH OF THE PROTEST! EXHIBITION AT MANCHESTER ART GALLERY THROUGH THIS PROJECT.- LAWRIE

THE CURATOR'S VISION

"THE EXHIBITION DEREK JARMAN PROTEST! CAME ABOUT THROUGH A CONTACT WITH THE WRITER AND BROADCASTER JON SAVAGE, WHO KNEW JARMAN. WE CONTACTED THE GALLERIST AMANDA WILKINSON, WHO IS PART OF THE KEITH COLLINS WILL TRUST (WHO OVERSEE JARMAN'S ESTATE AND THE EXISTING WORKS THAT ARE NOT IN PUBLIC OR PRIVATE COLLECTIONS).

AMANDA HAD ALREADY BEGUN DISCUSSIONS WITH IMMA IN DUBLIN ABOUT A JARMAN RETROSPECTIVE, AND SEAN KISSANE THERE HAD ALREADY DONE QUITE A LOT OF RESEARCH. LUCKILY, IMMA WERE OPEN TO WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP, SO PROTEST! WAS BORN. WITH JON'S INVOLVEMENT, WE INCLUDED MORE OF A FOCUS ON JARMAN'S CONNECTION WITH ACTIVISM, PUNK AND POPULAR CULTURE HERE IN MANCHESTER, THERE WAS ALSO A STRONG FOCUS ON THE GARDEN AT DUNGENESS.

WHEN WE WERE PLANNING THE EXHIBITION WE WANTED TO THINK ABOUT WHAT JARMAN'S WORK MEANT TO PEOPLE TODAY, AND WHAT HE MIGHT BE DOING IF HE WAS HERE WITH US. LAWRIE AND I HAD DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE PRIDE IN AGEING GROUP, HOW WE COULD CONNECT AND WHAT WOULD MATTER TO THEM.

JARMAN HAD A GROUND-BREAKING EXHIBITION AT MAG IN 1992 CALLED QUEER AND WE OWN THE TITULAR PAINTING. HE WAS IMPRESSED BY THE CITY AND OUR HISTORY OF PROTEST AND CHALLENGING AUTHORITY. MANY OF THE THINGS THAT JARMAN PROTESTED OR CAMPAIGNED FOR RESONATED WITH AND WERE RELEVANT TO THE PRIDE IN AGEING GROUP.

WE MET THE ADVISORY GROUP TO DISCUSS WHETHER THEY WANTED TO WORK WITH US AND WHAT WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO THEM. ONE IDEA WAS TO CREATE A GARDEN SPACE INSPIRED BY JARMAN'S PASSION FOR HIS GARDEN AT DUNGENESS.

MANY MEMBERS OF THE GROUP SEIZED UPON THAT IDEA. A BIG PART OF THAT DECISION WAS THE IMPORTANCE OF RAISING VISIBILITY OF LGBT+ OLDER PEOPLE. WE ALSO TALKED ABOUT WHAT JARMAN WOULD HAVE BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT TODAY AND WE IMAGINED THAT HE WOULD HAVE FOUGHT FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE.

HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECONNECT WITH THE LGBT+ COMMUNITY IN MANCHESTER TO CREATE THE DEREK JARMAN POCKET PARK GAVE US THE OPPORTUNITY TO HIGHLIGHT JARMAN'S PASSION FOR GARDENING (SOMETHING THAT WAS DIFFICULT TO COMMUNICATE IN THE EXHIBITION ITSELF) AND CREATE A LASTING TRIBUTE TO HIM HERE IN THE CITY WHERE HE HELD HIS FINAL EXHIBITIONS.

THE PROJECTS HAVE NOW LED TO THE ACQUISITION OF TWO ADDITIONAL ARTWORKS BY JARMAN FOR THE CITY'S COLLECTION, WHICH WILL HELP US REFLECT FURTHER ON LGBT+ HISTORY AND TELL NEW STORIES. THE GARDEN HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT PLACE FOR BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER (VOLUNTEERS AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY), DEVELOPING OUR KNOWLEDGE ABOUT JARMAN, ACTIVISM AND CLIMATE CHANGE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO BUILDING MORE FRIENDSHIPS, PARTNERSHIPS AND POSITIVE IMPACTS AS THE GARDEN GROWS."

THE ARTIST'S VISION

I REALLY APPRECIATED TAKING PART IN THE PROJECT AS A FACILITATING ARTIST, TO SUPPORT THE GROUP TO CO-PRODUCE THE GARDEN: DE-CENTERING FROM MY OWN CREATIVE DECISIONS, BRINGING MY ONLINE/OFFLINE GROUP FACILITATION SKILLS WITH AN ECOLOGICAL FOCUS TO SUPPORT THE GROUP IN MAKING DECISIONS.

WE STARTED THE PROJECT IN JUNE 2020 AND WORKED ONLINE THROUGHOUT SUMMER, AUTUMN AND WINTER. A LOT OF THAT TIME WAS SPENT IN LOCKDOWN AND MOST OF US DIDN'T KNOW EACH OTHER BEFORE THE PROJECT, SO WE TOOK EXTRA CARE TO CREATE WAYS TO CHECK-IN -AND CHECK-OUT WHICH EACH OTHER, GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER AS PEOPLE AND OUR RELATION TO JARMAN, SO WE COULD BUILD A COMMON GROUND DESPITE BEING PHYSICALLY ISOLATED FROM EACH OTHER.

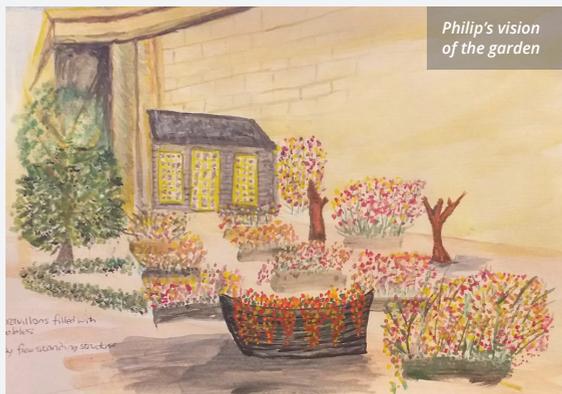
ONE OF THE MAIN THINGS I'M TAKING AWAY IS THE NEED FOR MORE INTERGENERATIONAL LGBT EXCHANGES. IT WAS AN IMMENSE PRIVILEGE TO HOLD SPACE FOR LGBT PEOPLE OF OLDER GENERATIONS WHO WERE FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM WHEN I WASN'T BORN OR VERY YOUNG, AND WHO HAD VERY DIFFERENT LIFE EXPERIENCES FROM MINE.

ONE PARTICULAR ASPECT IS THE CONVERSATIONS AROUND LANGUAGE: I IDENTIFY WITH THE WORD 'QUEER' IN ITS VERSATILITY AS A VERB/ADJECTIVE AND ITS COMMITMENT TO QUESTIONING; THIS WORD ALSO HAS PAINFUL CONNOTATIONS



Mindy's collage

FOR OLDER PEOPLE WHO REMEMBER IT BEING USED AS A SLUR AGAINST THEM, SOMETHING I WAS UNAWARE OF WHEN I MOVED TO THE UK. THIS IS SOMETHING I HAVE TAKEN FORWARD IN EVENT DESCRIPTIONS, USING BOTH 'LGBTQ+' AND 'QUEER' WHEN THINKING ABOUT MAKING THE SPACES MORE ACCESSIBLE TO SEVERAL GENERATIONS, NOT JUST MINE - JULIET.



Philip's vision of the garden

THE HORTICULTURALIST'S VISION



I MET LAWRIE IN 2019, WHEN WE STARTED TO TALK ABOUT SOME IDEAS, THEN WHEN I JOINED THE PROJECT LATER IT WAS A REALLY EXCITING WAY OF CONTINUING ON THAT DISCUSSION, GOING ON JOURNEYS WITH PEOPLE. WE ALL MET ONLINE FIRST, BUT TO MEET EVERYONE IN REAL LIFE MADE ME SEE HOW IT ALL FITS TOGETHER. THE GARDENING SESSIONS HAVE BEEN FASCINATING BECAUSE PEOPLE HAVE DIFFERENT TAKES ON THE PROJECT. BECAUSE WE ALL LOVE PLANTS, BUT SOME SUPPORT THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT, OTHERS HAVE ARTISTIC AND CREATIVE DIRECTIONS; EVERYONE BRINGING DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES. THE FACT THAT A GARDEN, A PUBLIC SOCIAL SPACE, CAN BE ALL THOSE THINGS, IT'S VERY EXCITING.

I'M GAY AND I HAVEN'T ALWAYS HAD MUCH OPPORTUNITY TO SPEND TIME WITH OTHER LGBT GENERATIONS; IT'S BEEN IMPORTANT TO ME TO LEARN ABOUT THEIR, AND OUR COMMUNITY'S, PAST EXPERIENCES. I KNEW DEREK JARMAN AS A GARDENER AND QUEER ACTIVIST, BUT THEY BROUGHT SO MUCH MORE MEANING TO IT. THIS IS A VERY COMPLEX PROJECT IN TERMS OF SOME CHALLENGES. A LOT OF STAKEHOLDERS ENDED UP BEING BROUGHT INTO THE PROJECT, IT'S TAKEN US

LONGER, AND THERE WERE ISSUES ABOUT SOURCING MATERIALS AND FIGURING OUT WHAT PLANTS WERE GOING TO LOOK LIKE AS THAT TIME OF THE YEAR.

IT'S A HARSH ENVIRONMENT TO GREEN, AND TO PUT A GARDEN OR A PARK IN, BUT IT'S BEEN GREAT TO SEE THE WATER CONSERVATION AND RAIN WATER PROJECT COMING INTO FRUITION. WATER WAS ALWAYS GOING TO BE A LIMITING FACTOR AND THE PLANT CHOICES HAVE BEEN WELL-THOUGHT OF. SO MANY LEARNINGS CAN COME FROM THIS TO INFORM FUTURE LANDSCAPING. CREATING RAIN GARDEN PLANTERS, THE SHELTER WITH THE GREEN ROOF, PIPES AND WATER BUTTS.

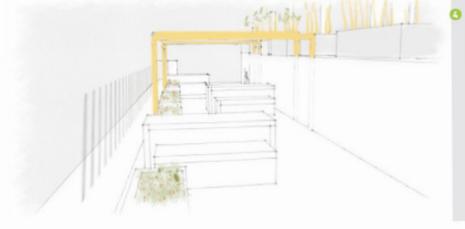
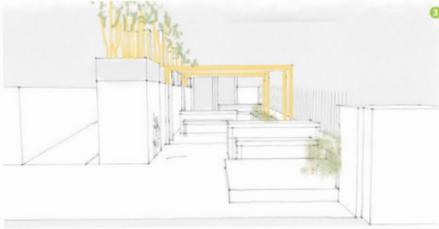
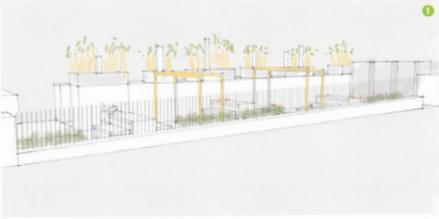
PLANTERS HAVE RESERVOIRS BUILT INTO THEM SO THIS IS A RAIN WATER HARVESTING PROJECT. IT'S A SMALL-SCALE PROJECT THAT IS SCALABLE. HAVING MULTIPLE PEOPLE INVOLVED WITH DIFFERENT SKILLS MEANS THIS COULD BE A GENUINELY SUSTAINABLE PROJECT; NO POCKET PARK HAS BEEN DESIGNED OR ENGINEERED IN THIS WAY. - ROSIE

THE IGNITION LIVING LAB WITH ITS INNOVATIVE IDEAS AND DESIGN, GOT US THINKING ABOUT HOW URBAN GARDENS NOT ONLY BENEFIT MENTAL WELLBEING BUT ALSO SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN A TIME OF CLIMATE EMERGENCY. AS A RESULT OF THIS VISIT, AND WITH THE SUPPORT OF IGNITION AND RHS BRIDGEWATER, THE PLANTERS FOR OUR GARDEN WILL BE SUSTAINABLE AS WELL AS STYLISH! - PAUL

THE ARCHITECT'S VISION

Sketches

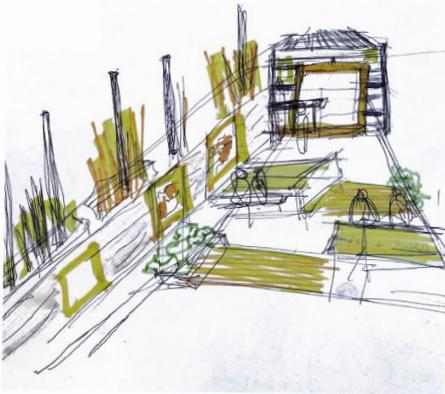
EARLY DRAWINGS FOR THE POCKET PARK



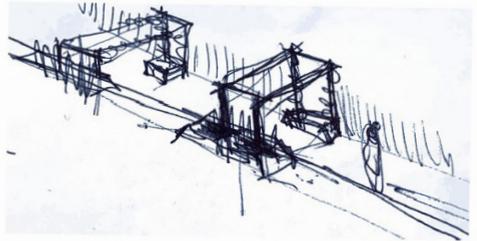
2. Concept development

Design process

PROJECT NAME GOES HERE



Caption goes here



Drawings courtesy of Exterior Architecture

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5 | EXTERIOR ARCHITECTURE

THE ETHNOGRAPHER'S VISION

IN 2020, I INTERVIEWED MINDY FOR ANOTHER PROJECT AND SHE TOLD ME ABOUT THE POCKET PARK IDEA. I WAS IMMEDIATELY SMITTEN. I FELL IN LOVE WITH JARMAN'S WORK IN THE LATE 80S THROUGH MARIANNE FAITHFULL'S BROKEN ENGLISH VIDEO, AND LATER WITH CARAVAGGIO. AS I GOT INTO FILM AND VIDEO MAKING IN THE EARLY 90S, I FOUND SNIPPETS OF JUBILEE AND THE GARDEN HAUNTING EVEN IF I HAD TO CONSUME HIS WORK IN SMALL DOSES.

I DON'T KNOW ANY OTHER FILM MAKER THAT MATCHES HIM IN HIS SKILLS OF MAKING THE ONEIRIC SO PALPABLE. BUT, ALONG WITH HIS SET DESIGN, SUPER 8 FILMS, AND ACTIVISM, IT IS THE WHOLE OF JARMAN'S LIFE-AS-ART THAT TRULY INSPIRED ME, WITH THE GARDEN IN DUNGENESS AS THE MASTERPIECE ENCAPSULATING ALL THE CREATOR'S OPPOSING FACETS. THE EXPERIENCE OF BEING INVOLVED IN THE CO-CREATION OF A POCKET PARK TO CELEBRATE THIS MULTI-FACETED, KALEIDOSCOPIC GENIUS HAS BEEN THRILLING. FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF AN ANTHROPOLOGIST OF GREEN SPACES, THE RESEARCH REVEALED JUST HOW SOCIAL HUMAN-NATURE INTERACTION CAN BE.

I KEPT A FIELD DIARY OF THE CO-CREATION PROCESS WITH OBSERVATIONS ABOUT HOW THE DIFFERENT PARTS ASSEMBLED TOGETHER. I PARTICIPATED IN MEETINGS AND GATHERED STORIES ABOUT THE PEOPLE IN THE COLLECTIVE. PEOPLE'S ENGAGEMENT WITH THE IDEAL AND ACTUAL GARDEN BROUGHT DIFFERENT ACTORS TOGETHER AND CONNECTIONS WERE MADE.

AN ARCHITECTURE SUPERVISEE WHO HAD NEVER HEARD OF DEREK JARMAN USED THE POCKET PARK AS A CASE STUDY ELABORATING DESIGNS THAT WERE FREE FROM THE SPATIAL-TEMPORAL CONSTRAINTS OF REAL LIFE.

THE WAY THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT BY AND THROUGH THE COLLECTIVE IS AN EXAMPLE OF PARTICIPATORY APPROACH AT ITS BEST. STILL ONGOING, IT KEEPS US WALKING, BECAUSE IT IS ABOUT THE PROCESS.



Drawing courtesy of Qirui Wang

THERE WERE OTHER RESEARCH FINDINGS WHICH WILL BE EXPLORED ELSEWHERE, BUT FOR NOW IT SUFFICE TO SAY THAT THIS PROJECT IS A VALUABLE CASE STUDY FOR CO-PRODUCTION. STILL ONGOING, IT KEEPS US WALKING, BECAUSE IT IS ABOUT THE PROCESS. - LUCIANA

"GARDENING IS CENTRAL, ONE IS ENTERING ANOTHER TIME, INTO ETERNALS, RETURNS AND CYCLES, THOSE ARE THE RESURRECTION CYCLES IN MY LIFE." - DEREK JARMAN IN THE BBC ARENA DOCUMENTARY (1991)

COLLABORATING THROUGH THE PANDEMIC



MANY OF OUR GROUP OF VOLUNTEER GARDENERS HAD THEIR LIVES TOUCHED BY JARMAN'S WORK AND ACTIVISM IN THE 1980S AND EARLY 1990S AND HAVE REVISITED HIS LEGACY AND INFLUENCE THROUGH WORKSHOPS AND DISCUSSIONS VIA VIDEO CALLS DURING THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWNS OF 2020. THESE ONLINE SESSIONS HAVE KEPT THE GROUP CONNECTED AND OFFERED A SOURCE OF CREATIVITY AND WELLBEING.

"I TRAPPED PURE SPIRIT IN MATTER."
-FROM CARAVAGGIO, 1986

JULIET'S PROMPTS:

WHAT MOVES YOU ABOUT DEREK JARMAN'S WORK AND GARDEN?

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO CELEBRATE, AMPLIFY, MAKE VISIBLE IN THE GARDEN AT MANCHESTER ART GALLERY IN 2020?

WHAT DO YOU WANT THE "DEREK JARMAN POCKET PARK" TO LOOK/SMELL/TASTE/FEEL/SOUND LIKE?

MEETING MINUTES - 13TH JULY, 2021

PHRASE DURING MEETING: "PAIN FROM BEING OSTRACISED CAN'T BE ALLEVIATED".

FIONA MET WITH PLANNER; DECIDED TO GO FOR THE SIMPLER STRUCTURE/HAVE THE ARCHES/WHAT CAN BE DONE INSIDE THE SHELTER: QUOTES?/FINALISING THE LIST OF PLANTS/GARDENER WORKING WITH CHELSEA GARDENS/START ORDERING THE PLANTS AND TREES/PUT TEXT ONTO PLANTERS.

HOW GROUP DYNAMICS WORK AMIDST THE PANDEMIC: PEOPLE WERE FEELING ANXIOUS: WILL IT HAPPEN?; 'DRAGS ON' 'I'M VERY POSITIVE NOW'.

RESTRICTIONS OF GRADE I BUILDING ADD TO ANXIETY; CONSTANT BATTLE WITH GRADE I LIMITATIONS AND HOW TO REPRESENT PROSPECT COTTAGE.

DIFFICULT TO BALANCE OUT PRIORITIES, PLANTERS AND TEXT.

PRAISE TO FIONA FOR BEING PERSISTENT.

BUT, WE CAN GET STARTED AT LAST!

PRIDE WEEKEND: POSTPONING THE LAUNCH/NEED TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE ABOUT THE LAUNCH/ DRAWING NEW SCHEDULE OF WHEN THINGS COULD HAPPEN/FOCUS ON THINGS WE CAN DO AND BE SAFE/INFORMATION AND RISK ASSESSMENT/DOING WORK IN THE GARDEN ON MONDAYS AND TUESDAYS WHEN GALLERY IS CLOSED.

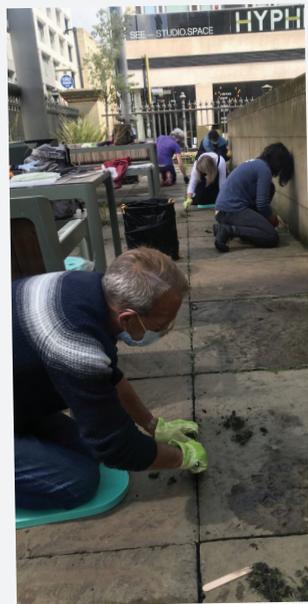
COVID, WAITING, RESILIENCE & PREPARING THE GARDEN

THE DAY WHEN WE ARE ACTUALLY PLANTING UP THE GARDEN, THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT. – MINDY



DAVID DONATED SEVERAL TRAYS OF ORIENTAL RED POPPY SEEDLINGS ALONG WITH VARIOUS SUNFLOWERS AND DARK FLOWERING HOLLYHOCKS GROWN FROM SEED DARK PURPLE/BLACK (THESE MIGHT LOOK WELL IN THE SHINGLE BED) AND COSMOS. ALSO, VIVID ORANGE QUITE TALL TIPHONIA (ANNUALS), CARDOON AND A TEASEL COULD BE DONATED FOR THE SHINGLE BED TOO.

PHILIP HAS SEVEN SUNFLOWERS POTTED UP AND READY TO GO TOO. RED JASMIN, JASMINUM BEESIANUM AND ALSO THE WINTER FLOWERING JASMINE, JASMINUM NUDIFLORUM. BOTH JASMINES ARE PROLIFIC CLIMBERS. FOR THE SHINGLE BEDS: FENNEL AND TEASEL.



BACK TO OUR SPACE OUTSIDE MANCHESTER ART GALLERY...

THE TIMEFRAME FOR THE POCKET PARK AND OF THE EXHIBITION WAS EXTENDED BECAUSE OF COVID, INCREASING THE TEMPORAL DIMENSION AND ADDING DEPTH TO THE RELATIONS WITHIN THE GROUP.

JULIET HAD MORE TIME TO DO CREATIVE WORKSHOPS, HAZEL AND PAUL GOT INTO WRITING BLOGS NARRATING THE PROCESS, LAURIE ENVISIONED NEW LANDSCAPES FOR THE COLLECTIVE TO EXPLORE OUTDOORS, DAVID AND PHILIP DISPLAYED THEIR

COMPREHENSIVE KNOWLEDGE OF PLANTS, FIONA AND ROSIE DEvised WAYS OF MAKING THE GARDEN MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND, AND LUCIANA KEPT ASKING QUESTIONS AND COLLECTING STORIES.

"THERE'S PEOPLE WITH EXPERTISE IN PLANTING, PEOPLE WITH EXPERTISE IN MAKING A BLOG; I'M GOOD AT MAKING CONNECTIONS!" - MINDY

RAISED AREA (WALL BY THE ENTRANCE RAMP):	BEDDING PLANTS SUGGESTED BY PHILIP AND DAVID:
<p>PLANTERS WITH ALTERNATING SCHEME OF GRASSES AND SEASONAL FLOWERS: MELICA ALTISSIMA AND CAREX.</p> <p>THE FOLLOWING SPECIES COULD BE WORTH CONSIDERING AS THEY HAVE GOOD FORM AND PROVIDE SEED HEADS IN THE WINTER, AND AS DAVID SUGGESTED COULD WORK NICELY WITH OTHER TALL PERENNIALS LIKE JAPANESE ANEMONES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• HOLLYHOCKS• JAPANESE ANEMONES• SUNFLOWERS• POPPIES• ALLIUMS• POLYSTICHUM• NASTURTIUMS <p>CLIMBERS FOR WOODEN ARCHES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CLEMATIS• JASMINE WHITE STAR (GREAT SCENT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AFRICAN MARIGOLD• TRAILING PETUNIAS• BUSY LIZZIE• COSMOS• ANTIRRHINUM• COLEUS (MIXED) GAZANIA• BEGONIA• POLYSTICHUM POLYBEPHAURM• TRAILING PETUNIAS• BUZZY LILIES• POPPIES• COLEUS• RUDBECKIA• HELIANTHEMUM• PRIMULA VIALI• ECHINACEA• SELENIUM

LAUNCHING THE EXHIBITION AND ZINE 1ST DECEMBER 2021 - WORLD AIDS DAY



THE PROTEST! EXHIBITION IS THE VERY REASON FOR THE CREATION AND EXISTENCE OF OUR LITTLE GARDENING GROUP AND OUR AIM IS TO REFLECT JARMAN THE GARDENER BY CREATING OUR OWN POCKET GARDEN IN A SPACE ALMOST AS INHOSPITABLE AS DUNGENESS!

THE EXHIBITION WAS A MAJOR RETROSPECTIVE OF DEREK JARMAN'S WORK AND PROVIDED AN AMAZING OPPORTUNITY TO SEE WORK NEVER BEFORE SEEN IN PUBLIC.

RED PROTECTS ITSELF. NO COLOUR IS AS TERRITORIAL. IT STAKES A CLAIM, IS ON THE ALERT AGAINST THE SPECTRUM." - DEREK JARMAN

THROUGHOUT OUR TIME TOGETHER WE HAVE BEEN REFLECTING ON WHAT IT MEANS TO BE GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL OR TRANSGENDER IN BRITAIN. JARMAN'S ART STIRS POWERFUL MEMORIES AND EMOTIONS.



LAUNCHING THE EXHIBITION AND ZINE



BY ALLOWING THEM A SPACE TO EXPLORE THEIR VOICE AND THEIR STORIES THE ZINE WILL INCREASE THE VISIBILITY OF THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY OF OLDER PEOPLE. (A VISITOR TO THE EXHIBITION)

THE ZINE HIGHLIGHTED THE PROCESS OF CREATING THE POCKET PARK AND DISSEMINATED THE SPACE AMONGST THE PUBLIC AND ORGANIZATIONS, GREATLY INCREASING THE VISIBILITY OF THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY OF OLDER PEOPLE. THE SPACE WAS ALSO DOCUMENTED IN THE BIG MEDIA ([HTTPS://WWW.BBC.CO.UK/NEWS/UK-ENGLAND-MANCHESTER-61917539](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-61917539)). PRIDE IN AGEING BECAME MORE INVOLVED WITH A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES RELATED TO THE AGE-FRIENDLY AGENDA BY MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL. THE GROUP BELIEVES THAT THE SECOND ZINE WILL DISSEMINATE THE POCKET PARK TO AN EVEN WIDER AUDIENCE.

PEOPLE ARE SELLING OUR ZINE ON EBAY! I GAVE IT TO PEOPLE FOR XMAS. MY XMAS GIFT TO FRIENDS WAS, 'LOOK WHAT I'VE DONE, LOOK WHAT I'M PART OF.

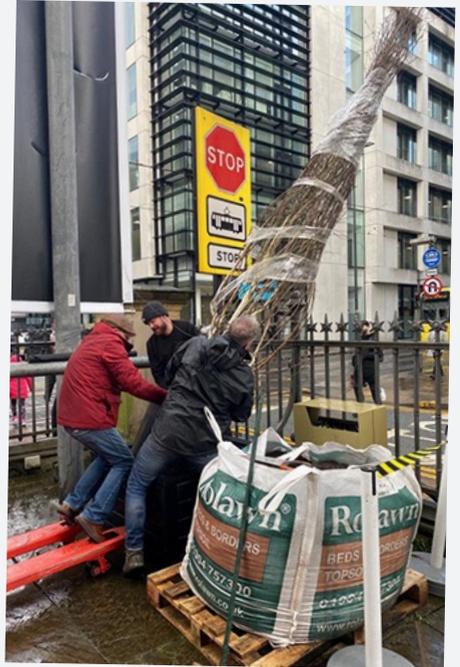


GROWING CONNECTIONS AND BUILDING BRIDGES

AFTER MONTHS OF CAREFUL PLANNING AND OVERCOMING MANY CHALLENGES, WE FINALLY MANAGED TO GET OUR HANDS INTO SOIL AND START PLANTING. TO REFLECT THE TIME OF YEAR, WE HAVE PLANTED A SELECTION OF BEAUTIFUL HELLEBORES, YELLOW STEMMED DOGWOOD AND PITTOSPORUM. AS WE MOVE INTO SPRING AND SUMMER, THE TULIPS AND DAFFODILS WILL COME INTO FLOWER AND PERENNIAL GRASSES SUCH AS MISCANTHUS WILL START TO SHOW THEIR NEW FOLIAGE.



DEVELOPING THE GARDEN WAS A CHALLENGE; WE HAD A DESIGNER WHO SELECTED THE PLANTS, WHICH WERE DIFFERENT FROM THOSE IN DUNGENESS AND COVID HAD PUT THE MOCKERS ON CHOICES. THOUGHTS ON PLANTS CHANGED GIVEN THE ATYPICAL SUMMER WEATHER. DUE TO THE PANDEMIC DELAYS WE HAD MORE TIME TO RESEARCH CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE POSITIVE IMPACT THAT URBAN GREEN SPACE CAN HAVE. WE STARTED TO BUILD IN SUSTAINABILITY TO OUR PLANS, HAVING CONVERSATIONS ABOUT PLANTERS WITH RESERVOIRS, RAIN CHAINS AND GREEN ROOFS.



SPACE FOR REFLECTION: WE WERE PLEASED TO SPEND A MORNING AT THE ART GALLERY WITH AN INSPIRING GROUP OF YOUNG PEOPLE FROM ACTION FOR CONSERVATION, AN ORGANISATION COMMITTED TO BRINGING 'THE MAGIC OF NATURE INTO YOUNG PEOPLE'S LIVES, INSPIRING A YOUTH MOVEMENT COMMITTED TO CONSERVATION AND TO THE EARTH.' ACTION FOR CONSERVATION HAS FIVE CORE VALUES THAT DEFINE THEIR APPROACH TO CREATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CONSERVATIONISTS: DIVERSITY, WONDER, HOPE, ACTION AND CHANGE.



AS TIME WENT BY MORE BRIDGES WERE BUILT: THE PROTEST GARDEN WITH YOUNG PEOPLE FROM ACTION FOR CONSERVATION, LGBT FOUNDATION AWARDS, AND INCIDENTAL CONNECTIONS. PRIOR TO THE LAUNCH, WE WERE OUT AND ABOUT IN MANCHESTER TALKING ABOUT THE DEREK JARMAN POCKET PARK, ENCOURAGING PEOPLE TO COME & VISIT. WE WERE PLEASED TO GIVE A PRESENTATION AT THE MANCHESTER FLOWER SHOW IN EXCHANGE SQUARE AT THE BEGINNING OF JUNE. WE TOOK PART IN SEVERAL LOCAL RADIO INTERVIEWS AND APPEARED ON BBC NORTH WEST TONIGHT TO PUBLICISE THE GARDEN AND TALKING ABOUT THE PROJECT.



Figure 1 - Protest Garden

THE POCKET PARK WAS ALSO THE SUBJECT OF A SHORT FILM CREATED AND PRODUCED BY HUBBUB, AN ORGANISATION THAT DESIGNS CAMPAIGNS TO INSPIRE WAYS OF LIVING THAT ARE GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT. IT'S GREAT TO SEE THE GARDEN BEING USED BY LOTS OF DIFFERENT PEOPLE; SOME TAKING A BREAK FROM THEIR OFFICE, OTHERS HAVING A COFFEE AFTER VISITING THE GALLERY OR JUST TAKING A MOMENT TO SIT AND ENJOY THE PLANTS.

Figure 2 - Flower Show 2022





*...try this wildness in a
corner. It will bring you
much happiness.*

IN JUNE/JULY 2022, A FEW WEEKS BEFORE LAUNCH, GARDEN & LANDSCAPE DESIGNER LEON DAVIS WORKED HARD TO ENSURE THAT ALL THE INTERPRETATION WAS IN PLACE. WE HAVE PLACED DEREK JARMAN QUOTES, AS WELL AS TWO INTERPRETATION PANELS AROUND THE GARDEN, GIVING THE BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT AND THE SUSTAINABILITY FEATURES. THERE ARE ALSO QR CODES AROUND THE GARDEN SO THAT ANYONE CAN ACCESS RECORDINGS OF OUR PERSONAL STORIES AND DOWNLOAD THIS ZINE.

WE HOPE THAT THE QUOTES CAN ADD TO PEOPLE'S ENJOYMENT OF THE SPACE, ENCOURAGE THEM TO DWELL AND THINK ABOUT THE CAREFULLY CHOSEN WORDS, AS WELL AS INTRODUCING THEM TO THE EXTENSIVE WRITING OF JARMAN, ANOTHER OF HIS MANY CREATIVE TALENTS.

THE DEREK JARMAN POCKET PARK ALSO FEATURED IN AN EXHIBITION AT RHS BRIDGEWATER IN 2022. 'PLANTING FOR THE PLANET' CELEBRATED DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES' CONTRIBUTIONS TO TAKING CLIMATE ACTION BY GREENING GREATER MANCHESTER. WE ALSO TOOK PART IN RHS BRIDGEWATER'S PRIDE IN NATURE EVENT AND WILL RETURN THERE THIS YEAR.



SUMMER 2022 - LAUNCHING THE POCKET PARK



OUR LAUNCH AND OPENING OF THE GARDEN TOOK PLACE ON WEDNESDAY 22 JUNE. IT FELT GREAT TO SEE SO MANY PEOPLE COME TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE THE PROJECT AND TO ENJOY THE GARDEN IN ALL ITS SPLENDOUR. WE DECORATED THE SPACE WITH RAINBOW BUNTING FOR THE OCCASION.

ROB COOKSON, DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE LGBT FOUNDATION AND NEIL MACINNES, MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC LEAD FOR LIBRARIES, GALLERIES & CULTURE GAVE SPEECHES AND WE ALL RAISED OUR GLASSES TO CELEBRATE!

INVOLVEMENT IN THIS PROJECT HAS HAD SOME REALLY PERSONAL BENEFITS, IT HAS MADE ME REFLECT ON AND ARTICULATE THE DIFFICULTIES WE EXPERIENCED IN THE 70'S, 80'S AND 90'S BUT THE MAIN THING IS THAT IT HAS REKINDLED MY CREATIVITY.

I ALSO FEEL A GREATER SENSE OF CONNECTION TO MANCHESTER, MY ADOPTED HOME. MY CHOSEN FAMILY, LGBT MANCHESTER, IS INCREDIBLY PRECIOUS TO ME. WALKING IN TO MAG AND FEELING 'I BELONG HERE' IS TREMENDOUS. (MINDY)

THE DEREK JARMAN POCKET PARK CAN BE SEEN AS A CONTACT ZONE FOR MANCHESTER ART GALLERY WHERE PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT IDENTITIES, ETHNICITIES, AGES, AND TASTES ARE ENCOURAGED TO OVERCOME THRESHOLD FEARS AND ENGAGE WITH THE MUSEUM BUILDING AND COLLECTIONS AS A COMMONS, A SPACE THAT BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE. AT THE LAUNCH, WE DECIDED TO DO A VOX-POPULI TO GET A SENSE OF THE VISITOR'S EXPERIENCE:



"I'VE BEEN COMING TO THE ART GALLERY FOR A YEARS AND THIS (OUTSIDE SPACE) WAS ALWAYS A DEAD SPACE, AN INBETWEEN SPACE, AN UNCOMFORTABLE SPACE, A SPACE WITHOUT PURPOSE, A SPACE WITHOUT IDENTITY. EVEN THOUGH IT'S A SMALL AND SIMPLE SPACE THE KIND OF PERSONALITY AND IDENTITY AND THE FACT THAT THERE'S SOMETHING TO EXPERIENCE, VISIT AND UNDERSTAND IN THE SPACE DOES RADICALLY CHANGE IT.

THIS SPACE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HIS GARDEN, BUT WE ARE IN MANCHESTER AND I THINK HE'D LIKE IT, HE'D APPRECIATE IT. "

"I THINK THE GARDEN IS LOVELY. IT'S NICE TO HAVE A GREEN SPACE IN THE CITY CENTRE BECAUSE THERE ISN'T MUCH ASIDE FROM PICCADILLY GARDENS.

"BEFORE IT WAS WEEDS, WITH FLOWERS TRYING TO GROW OUT OF THE WEEDS. IT'S VERY WELL MAINTAINED, VERY WELL DONE, AND TASTEFUL FOR A CITY CENTRE. I REMEMBER WHEN THEY WERE GREENING EMPTY SPACES OUTSIDE OF THE CITY CENTRE,

BUT THIS IS A NEW GREEN SPACE IN THE CITY CENTRE".

"I DISCOVERED DEREK JARMAN IN THE LATE 80S AND MY MAIN UNDERSTANDING OF HIM WAS AS A HIV ACTIVIST PERSON. SO THE BRINGING TOGETHER OF GAY AND LESBIAN CULTURE HERE IN AN OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT IS VERY DEREK JARMAN I WOULD SAY. AND BEING ABLE TO CELEBRATE WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED AND HOW WE HAVE OVERCOME HIV TO THE EXTENT THAT WE HAVE DONE I THINK HE'D BE VERY PROUD OF.

IT ALSO CELEBRATES MANCHESTER'S WORK ON THIS - I'VE LIVED HERE FOR 40 YEARS NOW - I THINK THIS PROJECT CELEBRATES JARMAN AND MANCHESTER AT THE SAME TIME.

"I DO KNOW THE WORK OF DEREK JARMAN. THE END RESULT IS BASED ON JARMAN'S PRINCIPLES IN HIS OWN WORK - A CELEBRATION AND SPACE OF SANCTUARY IN A VERY BUSY CITY CENTRE. IT ABSOLUTELY WORKS AND IS A FANTASTIC LEGACY FOR JARMAN AND EVERYTHING HE WAS ACHIEVING".

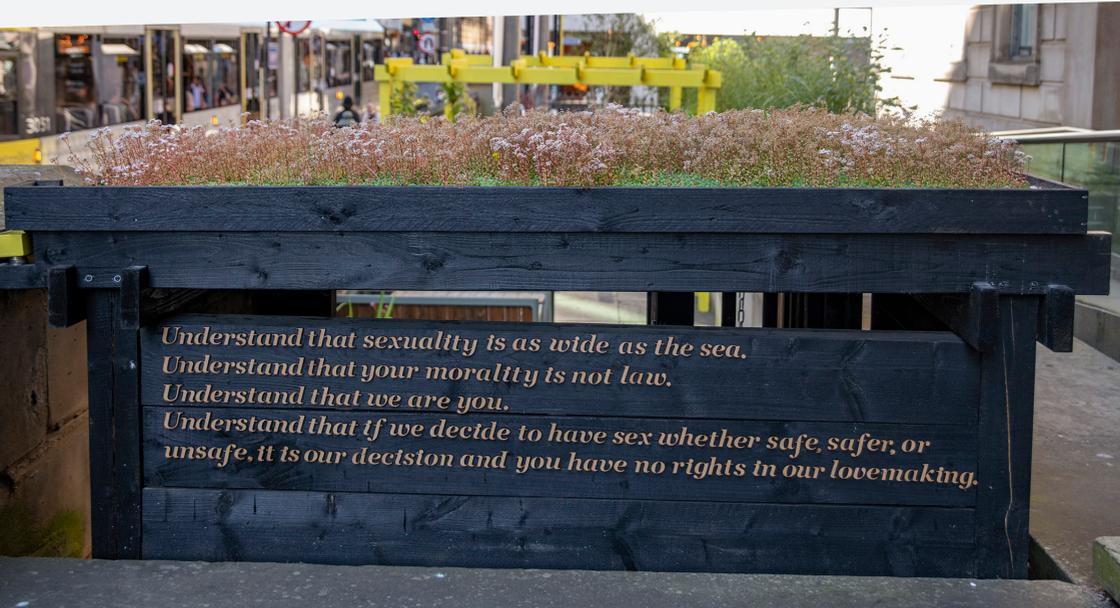
THE SUSTAINABLE GARDEN

WHILE DEREK WRESTLED WITH A WILD SEA AND THE OCCASIONAL STORM, WE HAD THE CHALLENGES OF A CITY CENTRE LOCATION AND LISTED BUILDING STATUS TO CONTEND WITH. DURING OUR PLANTING SESSIONS AND AS THE GARDEN TOOK SHAPE, WE REFLECTED BACK TO OUR SUMMER VISITS TO OTHER GREEN SPACES IN AND AROUND MANCHESTER, PARTICULARLY THE IGNITION PROJECT AT SALFORD UNIVERSITY. AT THAT TIME, WE HAD NO IDEA HOW WE WOULD ACHIEVE THE LEVEL OF WATER CONSERVATION THAT WAS NEEDED TO MAKE THE GARDEN SUSTAINABLE. IT WAS ONLY THROUGH THE ADDITIONAL UNITED UTILITIES FUNDING AND THE INGENUOUS, BESPOKE DESIGN CREATED BY LEON DAVIS FOR THE GARDEN'S SHELTER THAT THIS VITAL ASPECT OF THE GARDEN HAS BEEN REALISED.

THE SHELTER NOT ONLY PROVIDES A FOCAL POINT AND A PLACE TO SIT BUT ALSO

INCLUDES A SEDUM ROOF, CAREFULLY HIDDEN WATER TANKS AND A RAINWATER CHAIN. ALL THESE FEATURES ALONG WITH THE CLEVERLY CONSTRUCTED PLANT CONTAINERS, MEAN THAT LIMITED ADDITIONAL WATER (ALONG WITH MANCHESTER'S GENEROUS RAINFALL!) WILL BE NEEDED FOR THE GARDEN THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

DESIGNED BY AWARD WINNING LANDSCAPE ARTIST LEON DAVIS AND BASED ON HIS (GOLD WINNING!) RESILIENCE GARDEN FROM RHS FLOWER SHOW TATTON PARK IN 2021. THE DESIGN REFERENCES JARMAN'S PROSPECT COTTAGE MATERIALS AND COLOUR SCHEME. NOT ONLY DOES THE SHELTER PROVIDE AN ESCAPE FROM MANCHESTER'S INCLEMENT WEATHER AND VIEWPOINT TO THE GARDEN, IT ALSO INCLUDES A NUMBER OF INGENUOUS ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES.



*Understand that sexuality is as wide as the sea,
Understand that your morality is not law,
Understand that we are you,
Understand that if we decide to have sex whether safe, safer, or
unsafe, it is our decision and you have no rights in our lovemaking.*



"THE GARDEN IS SPECTACULAR, ABSOLUTELY OUTSTANDING. I WORK ACROSS FROM IT IN THE TOWN HALL AND HAVE BEEN WATCHING THE SPACE EVOLVE, WATCHING IT GROW AND SEEING IT COME TO FRUITION – AND NOW IT WILL CONTINUE TO THRIVE AND GROW. IT'S SUPERB." (VISITOR TO THE POCKET PARK)

"THE PANDEMIC MADE US ALL REALISE HOW IMPORTANT OUR GREEN SPACE IS, AND PROVOKED CONVERSATIONS ON HOW IT IS USED. THERE WAS NOTHING HERE BEFORE, JUST BENCHES – AND THIS FEELS LIKE A REAL STARTING POINT, THAT THIS PROJECT WILL BUILD ON WHAT'S BEEN STARTED WITH MORE PLANTS, EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES, AND THAT THIS SPACE HAS A LINK WITH PROSPECT COTTAGE.

IT'S LOVELY HOW THIS PROJECT HAS COME FROM THE ENDING POINT OF HIS LIFE, BUT ALSO A RENEWAL BECAUSE IT'S GARDENING, IT'S LIFE GIVING, IT'S NURTURING AND THERE'S A THEME OF SUSTAINABILITY TO IT – WHICH GIVES A LOVELY POETICNESS TO IT." (VISITOR TO THE POCKET PARK)



A JOURNEY TO DUNGENESS



WITH THE GARDEN BEGINNING TO ESTABLISH ITSELF THOUGHTS NATURALLY TURNED TO OUR LONG-AWAITED LONG AWAITED VISIT TO PROSPECT COTTAGE AND DUNGENESS. THE ORIGINAL VISIT WAS PLANNED OVER TWO YEARS AGO, AT THE VERY BEGINNING OF OUR GARDEN JOURNEY, BUT COVID HAS MEANT WE'VE HAD TO USE OUR IMAGINATION AND CREATIVITY TO DRIVE THE PROJECT FORWARD.

BUT NOW THE TIME HAD COME! WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE MANCHESTER WELLBEING FUND WE SET OFF FROM MANCHESTER PICCADILLY ON A BRIGHT AND SUNNY SEPTEMBER MORN FOR THE JOURNEY SOUTHWARDS.

THERE WAS A MIXTURE OF EXCITEMENT BUT ALSO APPREHENSION AS WE BOARDED THE TRAIN.

HOW WOULD IT FEEL TO FINALLY BE STANDING IN THE PLACE WE'D ALL THOUGHT ABOUT, TALKED ABOUT, AND IMAGINED FOR SO LONG? WOULD IT BE AS WE IMAGINED?

THE MORNING OF OUR TRIP TO PROSPECT COTTAGE WAS BLESSED WITH GLORIOUS BLUE SKIES, SUNSHINE AND HARDLY A BREATH OF WIND AS WE ARRIVED AT DUNGENESS.

WE WERE REMINDED OF DEREK'S OWN THOUGHTS ON THE LANDSCAPE AS WE STEPPED FOOT ON THE SHINGLE FOR THE FIRST TIME:

"DUNGENESS, DUNGENESS, YOUR BEAUTY IS THE BEST, FORGET THE HILLS AND VALLEYS. THIS LANDSCAPE IS LIKE THE FACE YOU OVERLOOK, THE FACE OF AN ANGEL WITH A NAUGHTY SMILE."

PROSPECT COTTAGE STOOD OUT WITH ITS WELCOMING YELLOW AND BLACK COLOUR SCHEME, STILL LOOKING A VERY LIVED-IN COTTAGE AND A VERY LOVED HOME. HOWEVER, THE SURROUNDINGS BEYOND THE COTTAGE AND ITS GARDEN WERE STRANGE – THE VAST SHINGLE BEACH STRETCHING AWAY FROM THE COTTAGE BUT THE SEA NOT QUITE VISIBLE, THE NEIGHBOURING COTTAGES AND BUNGALOWS SPACED OUT ALONG THE ROAD, LOOKING A BIT LIFELESS IN COMPARISON TO PROSPECT COTTAGE AND CLOSER THAN I IMAGINED, THE DOMINATING PRESENCE OF SIZEWELL NUCLEAR POWER STATION.

WE WERE LUCKY TO HAVE SUCH A LOVELY MORNING TO SPEND TIME IN THE GARDEN AS IT'S THE SORT OF GARDEN THAT ENCOURAGES YOU TO WANDER, NOTICE SOMETHING, PONDER ON IT FOR A WHILE AND THEN MOVE ON. WHAT FEELS LIKE A NEVER-ENDING MAZE OF PATHWAYS TAKES YOU IN UNEXPECTED DIRECTIONS, THE CONSTANT SOUND OF CRUNCHING PEBBLES AS YOU WALK ADDING TO THE EXPERIENCE, CALMING AND MEDITATIVE. THE SCULPTURES WERE EVERYWHERE, SOMETIMES HIDDEN AMONG THE PLANTING AND AT OTHER TIMES STANDING OUT – I LOVED THE WAY HE HAD USED SO MUCH RUSTED METAL AS WELL AS THE DRIFTWOOD AND HAG STONES AND HOW EVERYTHING BLENDED TOGETHER TO CREATE SUCH AN INTRIGUING AND UNEXPECTED GARDEN. (HAZEL)

WE SPENT MOST OF THE DAY EXPLORING THE GARDEN; LOOKING AT THE PLANTS, THE AMAZING ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS AND TAKING IN THE SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE. UNDERTAKING THIS VISIT TOGETHER AS A GROUP WAS VERY SPECIAL, SHARING IN EACH OTHER'S IMPRESSIONS, FEELINGS, AND THOUGHTS.

DEREK SETTLED HERE, IN DUNGENESS READY TO FACE THE INEVITABLE END BUT WHILE DOING SO HE MADE A GARDEN FOR THE FUTURE, FACING OUT TO SEA, TO THE FAR HORIZON. (MINDY, VOLUNTEER GARDENER)



FOLLOWING DEREK JARMAN'S DEATH IN 1994, HE BEQUEATHED PROSPECT COTTAGE TO HIS CLOSE COMPANION, KEITH COLLINS. KEITH LIVED AT THE COTTAGE UNTIL HIS DEATH IN 2018, MAINTAINING IT AS IT HAD BEEN WHEN DEREK WAS ALIVE. AFTER A PERIOD OF UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE FUTURE OF PROSPECT COTTAGE, A SUCCESSFUL ART FUND CAMPAIGN TOOK PLACE IN 2020 TO SAVE THE COTTAGE AND ITS CONTENTS FOR THE NATION. THIS MEANS THAT IT CAN CONTINUE TO BE A PLACE THAT ANYONE CAN VISIT TO LEARN AND BE INSPIRED BY JARMAN'S LEGACY. CREATIVE FOLKSTONE ARE THE CUSTODIANS, AND IT WAS THEIR STAFF, HAMISH AND RUEBEN WHO GREETED US AND SHOWED US ROUND THE COTTAGE DURING OUR VISIT.

THE TOURS OF THE COTTAGE ARE CARRIED OUT WITH GREAT SENSITIVITY AND RESPECT, ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THIS WAS DEREK'S FINAL HOME, CHERISHING HIS MEMORY AND ENSURING THAT IT DOESN'T BECOME TRIVIALISED OR TAKEN FOR GRANTED BY THOSE WHO ARE LUCKY ENOUGH TO VISIT. CREATIVE FOLKSTONE PURPOSEFULLY AVOID GIVING A SET GUIDED TOUR OF THE COTTAGE. INSTEAD, VISITORS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SPEND TIME QUIETLY IN THE COTTAGE, REFLECTING ON ITS CONTENTS AND ATMOSPHERE AS WELL AS BEING GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO ASK QUESTIONS OR DISCUSS DEREK'S LIFE AND WORK.

I HAD BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR TRIP TO DUNGENESS AND PROSPECT COTTAGE WITH A MIXTURE OF EXCITEMENT, ANTICIPATION BUT ALSO SOME NERVOUSNESS, HOW WOULD I FEEL ABOUT VISITING THE PLACE WE HAD TALKED ABOUT,

VISUALISED AND HAD BEEN OUR INSPIRATION FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS? I LOVED THE SENSATION OF CRUNCHING OVER THE STONES AS I WALKED AROUND THE GARDEN AND THE FEEL OF THE WOOD AND ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS. THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT PROSPECT COTTAGE WAS UNDOUBTEDLY THE HIGHLIGHT, I FELT HIS PRESENCE IN EVERY ROOM, IT WAS AN INCREDIBLY MOVING AND PERSONAL EXPERIENCE. (PAUL)

WE ALL FOUND IT A VERY THOUGHT-PROVOKING AND MOVING EXPERIENCE. DEREK'S SPIRIT TRULY LIVES ON AT PROSPECT COTTAGE AND EACH ROOM FELT LIVED IN. IT WAS AS THOUGH DEREK HAD JUST STEPPED OUT FOR A SHORT TIME, LEAVING HIS WRITING AND CREATIVE MATERIALS WHERE THEY WERE, HIS PAINTING SHOES TUCKED UNDER HIS STUDIO TABLE AND EVERYTHING READY TO MAKE HIS NEXT MEAL IN THE TINY KITCHEN.

I WAS AMAZED BY THE ATMOSPHERIC VIBE OF THE GARDEN AT PROSPECT COTTAGE AND FELT THE NEED TO LIE DOWN ON THE SHINGLE AND BATH IN THE SUNSHINE. INSIDE LOOKING AT THE ART WORKS GAVE ME SUCH INSPIRATION OF HOW I COULD INCORPORATE SOME OF THE IDEAS INTO MY OWN GARDEN AT HOME. (DAVID)

I FOUND THE INTERIOR OF THE COTTAGE TO BE EXCEPTIONALLY MOVING, THE FURNISHINGS AS HE LEFT IT. TO SEE AND FEEL HOW HE LIVED IN SUCH SERENE TRANQUILLITY, SO ATMOSPHERIC. (PHILIP, VOLUNTEER GARDENER)

THE FILM *A JOURNEY TO DUNGENESS*, MADE BY SCOUT STUART WITH ARTIST JULIET DAVIS-DUFAYARD, FOLLOWS THE GROUP'S JOURNEY TO JARMAN'S HOME AND GARDEN AND REFLECTS THE EXPERIENCE THROUGH THEIR OWN VOICES.

WE HAD PORED OVER PHOTOS AND DESCRIPTIONS OF JARMAN'S DUNGENESS HOME FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS, BUT THIS DIDN'T DAMPEN OUR EXCITEMENT AT SEEING THE REAL THING, ALMOST TO THE POINT THAT WE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SURPRISED TO SEE DEREK HIMSELF, STANDING IN THE YELLOW-FRAMED DOORWAY OR TENDING THE GARDEN...THE GARDEN THAT WE HAD READ AND HEARD AND THOUGHT SO MUCH ABOUT.

HAVING NO PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES, THE GARDEN INVITES VISITORS TO WANDER, FOLLOWING THE PATHWAYS BETWEEN SHRUBS AND SCULPTURES, CIRCLING THE COTTAGE ITSELF. THE SOOTHING CRUNCH OF SHINGLE BENEATH OUR FEET WAS A CONSTANT CALMING SOUNDTRACK THROUGHOUT OUR VISIT.

THE COTTAGE EVOKED SMELLS FROM MY CHILDHOOD: POLISHED WOOD AND RAG RUGS. WE WERE IN THE INTIMATE INTERIOR OF AN ARTIST AS HE FACED HIS ENDING ON THIS EARTH. THE BOOKSHELVES TRACK HIS READING AND I WANTED TO FOLLOW, TO SEE HOW HE CONNECTED THE TEXTS AND IDEAS. THE GARDEN HAD ME DWELL ON THE ACTION OF TIME AND LIGHT ON MATERIAL OBJECTS.

LOOKING UP I SAW A LINE OF MIGRANTS' SILHOUETTES TRUDGING UP THE SHINGLE BEACH, DID THEY EXPERIENCE THIS PLACE AS A HAVEN ON THE EDGE AS JARMAN DID? DEREK SETTLED HERE, IN DUNGENESS READY TO FACE THE INEVITABLE END BUT WHILE DOING SO HE MADE A GARDEN FOR THE FUTURE, FACING OUT TO SEA, TO THE FAR HORIZON (MINDY).

VIEW THE FILM HERE:

[HTTPS://MANCHESTERARTGALLERY.ORG/
EVENT/A-JOURNEY-TO-DUNGENESS/](https://manchesterartgallery.org/event/a-journey-to-dungeness/)



Courtesy of Howard Sooley.





REFLECTIONS

A photograph of a man lying on his back on a pebbly beach. He is wearing a dark blue jacket, a red sweater, light blue jeans, and red sneakers with white stripes. He is looking up towards the sky. In the background, there are some wooden planks and a small structure made of dark material. A black text box is overlaid on the right side of the image.

I LOVED BEING INVOLVED IN ALL THE DIFFERENT CREATIVE ASPECTS, BEING INVOLVED IN THE FILMMAKING AND THE GARDEN AND THE ZINE. (MINDY)

I NOTICED PREOCCUPATIONS: CIRCLES AND PATTERNS AND REPEATING THEMES. THE GARDEN IS A WORLD OF FOUND OBJECTS, WHERE THEIR PLACEMENT EXALTS THEM ABOVE MERE EXISTENCE. 'USE WHAT IS THERE' IS A START FOR ALL ART ISN'T IT? I WAS MOVED TO SEE THE GLASS FLOATS IN ONE CABINET. IN THE 1960'S THEY BEGAN TO BE REPLACED BY MORE DURABLE PLASTIC ONES AND THOSE THAT SURVIVED FOUND A NEW LIFE AS BEAUTIFUL THINGS. I HAVE A GREEN ONE, STILL IN ITS ROPE CASING, THAT I FOUND, BOBBING IN A POOL ON AN RINGLESEY BEACH IN 1963 (MINDY)

THE VISIT WAS AN AUDIO TRACK OF SHINGLES AS WE WALKED ON THEM, THEIR GRAINY SOUND BLURRED WITH PEOPLE'S VOICES AND MY OWN CORPOREAL UNSTEADINESS AS I STEPPED ON UNEVEN GROUND.

IT WAS ALSO AN EMBODIED EXPERIENCE OF SENSORIAL OVERLOAD UPON ENCOUNTERING JARMAN'S PERSONAL SPACES, TASTES, AND ALL THE IDIOSYNCRASIES THAT POPULATE THE WALLS OF PROSPECT COTTAGE. ONE OF US SUGGESTED WE SHOULD HAVE A LIST OF HIS BOOKS SO WE COULD CATCH A GLIMPSE OF HIS CREATIVE PROCESS.

REFLECTIONS ON CO-PRODUCTION

THE MOTIVATION FOR DOING CO-RESEARCH WAS ROOTED ON THE WORK CONDUCTED BY MUARG, THE MANCHESTER INSTITUTE OF COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH ON AGEING, AND BY THE PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPED BETWEEN AMBITION FOR AGEING EQUALITY PANEL AND THE LGBT FOUNDATION.

IN OUR UNDERSTANDING, CO-RESEARCH INCLUDES ENCOURAGING COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO SHAPE THE RESEARCH, AND INVOLVES SHARING STORIES AND EXPERIENCES TO THEN REFLECT AND LEARN THROUGH THE RESEARCH PROCESS.

PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH HAS THE POTENTIAL TO OFFER A WAY FORWARD IN ENGAGING OLDER PEOPLE IN A WAY THAT CAN BENEFIT THEM AS INDIVIDUALS, THEIR COMMUNITIES, AND THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING AGE-FRIENDLY CITIES. (TINE BUFFEL, MUARG DIRECTOR)

DEVELOPING CO-PRODUCTION APPROACHES TO INVOLVE OLDER PEOPLE IN THE REGENERATION OF THEIR COMMUNITIES HELPS MOVE BEYOND MAINSTREAM METHODS OF CONSULTATION. (SOPHIE YARKER, MUARG DEPUTY DIRECTOR)

BY SHIFTING THE POWER AND WORKING WITH OUR COMMUNITIES, A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE IS GAINED THAT WILL CHALLENGE AGEISM AND INCREASE OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE EXPERIENCE OF URBAN AGEING. (PATTY DORAN, MUARG DEPUTY DIRECTOR)



INHERITED FROM THE POLITICAL PAMPHLETS OF THE ABOLITIONIST ERA, AND LATER ADOPTED BY FEMINIST AND QUEER MOVEMENTS, ZINES ARE SELF-PUBLISHED MATERIAL THAT DOCUMENT THE VOICES OF COMMUNITIES AT THE MARGINS. WHEN INSTITUTIONS ADOPT ZINE-MAKING, IT IS CRUCIAL TO ACKNOWLEDGE THIS TOOL'S POLITICAL ROOTS AND PURPOSES. OTHERWISE, IT RISKS BEING DEPOLITICISED, ABSTRACTED AS A SIMPLE CRAFT. ZINE-MAKING IS A FORM OF VISUAL CARETAKING, A WAY TO EXCHANGE RESOURCES AND EMPATHISE WITH ONE'S PEERS. (TAMARA HART, VISUAL ANTHROPOLOGIST)

OUR VISION WAS TO CONNECT COMMUNITIES AND PEOPLE THROUGH THE CREATION OF RELATIONSHIPS, PUTTING OLDER PEOPLE AT THE HEART OF DESIGNING THE PLACES WHERE THEY LIVE. CO-PRODUCTION HAS BEEN A GOLDEN THREAD RUNNING THROUGHOUT THE PROGRAMME AS IT HELPED TO AMPLIFY THE VOICES OF OLDER PEOPLE FROM MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES AND PRIDE IN AGEING HAS BEEN AN EXEMPLAR OF SUCH AN APPROACH. (SHARON SUMMERS, AMBITION FOR AGEING)

CO-RESEARCH ALLOWS UNEXPECTED CONNECTIONS TO RISE TO THE SURFACE. THE LIFE STORIES OF THE GROUP REFLECT THOSE OF THE WIDER LGBTQ+ COMMUNITIES IN THAT MANY OF US MOVED TO LARGER CITIES LIKE MANCHESTER BECAUSE THEY ARE WONDERFUL, ACCEPTING PLACES TO BE – BUT THEN WE BEAR THE BRUNT OF THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON URBAN SPACES, SUCH AS EXTREME HEAT, POLLUTION AND LACK OF GREEN SPACE. I THINK THIS IS ONE OF THE REASONS WHY WE'VE FELT A STRONG EMOTIONAL DRIVE TO CREATING THIS SPACE, GIVING SOMETHING GREEN AND SUSTAINABLE BACK TO A CITY THAT HAS CELEBRATED AND WELCOMED US AS A COMMUNITY. (LAWRIE, PRIDE IN AGEING MANAGER)

SEEING THE DEVELOPMENT OVER TIME IS REALLY IMPORTANT. FOR EXAMPLE, THERE ARE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP THAT HAVE HEALTH CHALLENGES. SO, THE LONGEVITY OF THE INTERVENTION REALLY MATTERS AND THERE ARE THINGS THAT WE MAY NOT TELL YOU IN YEAR ONE THAT WE CAN TELL YOU IN YEAR THREE BECAUSE OUR LIVES WILL HAVE CHANGED. (MINDY, PRIDE IN AGEING)

CO-PRODUCTION TRANSLATES INTO CONSTANT HORIZONTAL LEARNING AS WE BOUNCE IDEAS AND INSIGHTS OFF EACH OTHER. IT INVITES US TO STEP INTO OTHER PEOPLE'S SHOES TO SEE THINGS FROM THEIR POINT OF VIEW. CO-PRODUCING ALSO MEANS HAVING TO WORK WITH OUR COMPANION SPECIES THAT ARE AN ESSENTIAL PART OF OUR COMMONS, SUCH AS PLANTS, INSECTS AND WATER IN A MORE SYMBIOTIC WAY.

DAVID'S FRIENDLY INSECT REPELLENT IS AN EXAMPLE OF THIS. (LUCIANA, ANTHROPOLOGIST)

AS TIME PROGRESSED WE BECAME MORE AND MORE AWARE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, AND THIS AFFECTED THE PLANTS WE CHOSE FOR THE GARDEN. WE HAD TO THINK OF WHAT PLANTS WOULD NOT NEED A LOT OF WATER. (HAZEL, PRIDE IN AGEING)

DAVID SUGGESTED NIGHT SCENTED STOCK FOR SMELL, BORAGE FOR TASTE AND LAMB'S EAR FOR TOUCH. INSPIRED BY THE SENSORY GARDEN IN DUNGENESS, DAVID REMARKED ON HOW HELICHRYSM FEELS LIKE PAPER WHEN YOU TOUCH THEM AND ON THE ABUNDANCE OF EVENING PRIMROSE IN JARMAN'S GARDEN. FIONA SUGGESTED QR CODES IN SECTIONS OF THE GARDEN SO VISITORS CAN HEAR PARTS OF DEREK'S STORY, AND ACCESS INFORMATION ABOUT THE PLANTS.

I WALK INTO THIS GALLERY AND I BELONG HERE, WHICH, GIVEN THAT I'M NOT FROM HERE, THERE'S JUST ME AND MY WIFE... HAVING AN ETHNOGRAPHER DOCUMENT MY LIFE REALLY MATTERS, I HAVE NO CHILDREN OR GRANDCHILDREN, NONE OF THOSE PEOPLE TO TELL IT TO. BY TELLING YOU I GET A VOICE ON THIS PLANET AND THAT FEELS AMAZING. (MINDY)



GROWING OLDER AND GREENER



MINDY AT THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PEOPLE, THIS YEAR DEDICATED TO THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE.

I HAVE 4 WATER BUTTS AROUND MY HOUSE AND THEY ARE FILLED WITH THE RAINWATER FROM MY ROOF GUTTERING. I TRY TO USE RAINWATER ONLY NOT JUST BECAUSE IT IS FULL OF GREAT MINERALS AND NUTRIENTS BUT ALSO I DON'T LIKE TO PUT CHEMICALS ON TO MY PLANTS FROM WASHING UP WATER ETC.

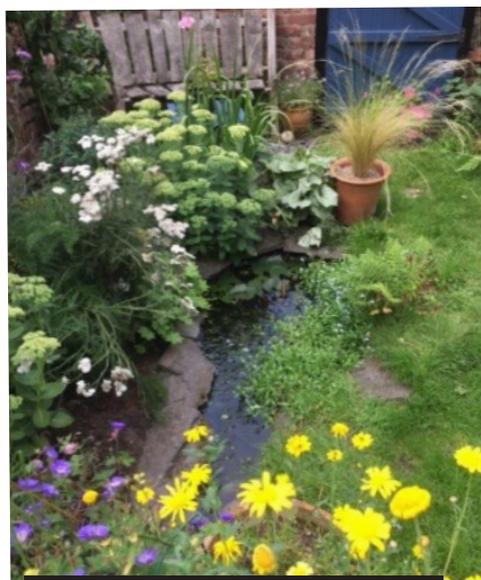


THE 16 PANELS GENERATE ELECTRICITY FOR THE NATIONAL GRID AND AN INCOME. THE TOP 2 ARE HOT WATER SOLAR PANELS. - PHILIP

INDEED ACID SOIL LOVING PLANTS, LIKE BLUEBERRIES AND CAMELIAS, ARE NOT TOLERANT TO THE LIME FOUND IN TAP WATER. I DISCOVERED THAT PLACING BANANA SKINS ON THE SURFACE OF SOFT FRUIT BUSHES AND FLOWERING PLANTS IS A GREAT WAY TO RECYCLE AS THEY QUICKLY ROT DOWN INTO THE SOIL ADDING NUTRITIOUS POTASSIUM THEREBY IMPROVING CROP YIELDS.- DAVID



WE ARE QUITE GOOD AT CONSERVING WATER IN THE GARDEN BECAUSE OF THE WAYS WE PLACED OUR GUTTERS TO CAPTURE RAINWATER. SO, THAT WATER RUNS BACK INTO THE GARDEN. WHEN YOU HAVE LOTS OF CATS IT'S NOT REALLY ETHICAL TO ENCOURAGE BIRDS IN THE GARDEN, SO WE HAVE FISH.- MINDY



IN MY HOUSE IT'S ALL TRIPLE-GLAZED AND INSULATED - PHILIP

THE GARDEN HAS COME TO REPRESENT SO MUCH MORE THAN JUST THE PLANTS IN IT, BEAUTIFUL THOUGH THEY ARE. IN THE SAME WAY THAT DEREK'S GARDEN AT DUNGENESS PROVIDED AN ESCAPE FROM LONDON, AN OUTLET FOR HIS CREATIVENESS AND SOLACE FROM THE BURDEN OF HIS HIV DIAGNOSIS, SO TOO HAS OUR GARDEN PROVIDED US WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO UNDERSTAND MORE ABOUT JARMAN'S LIFE AND ACTIVISM, THE POWER OF PROTEST, AND OUR OWN HISTORY AS GAY WOMEN AND MEN.

BACK IN OUR GARDEN HERE AT MANCHESTER ART GALLERY, WE ARE NOTICING THE SIGNS OF SPRING ARRIVING, AGAIN. WE'RE PROUD TO SAY THAT NEARLY EVERYTHING HAS SURVIVED, DESPITE THE UK EXPERIENCING THREE HEATWAVES IN THE SUMMER OF 2022 WITH RECORD TEMPERATURES. WE'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT DEREK JARMAN WOULD MAKE OF THE POCKET PARK CREATED IN HIS HONOUR. BUT IT FEELS GOOD TO HAVE A PERMANENT PLACE AT MANCHESTER ART GALLERY THAT HONOURS HIS WORK AS AN ARTIST AND GARDENER, AS WELL AS A PIONEER FOR GAY RIGHTS.

ON 20TH MARCH 2023 THE DEREK JARMAN POCKET PARK WAS THE SUBJECT OF SUPERNATURE, A REGULAR SLOT ON LAUREN LAVERNE'S BBC6 MUSIC BREAKFAST SHOW. LAURIE ROBERTS, PRIDE IN AGEING MANAGER AT LGBT FOUNDATION, WAS INTERVIEWED BY LAUREN ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GARDEN AND WHAT IT MEANS TO THE VOLUNTEERS. THE SUBSEQUENT TWITTER POST ABOUT THE INTERVIEW HAS BEEN VIEWED OVER 21,000 TIMES!

AGE FRIENDLY MANCHESTER AND BEYOND THE POCKET PARK

AS TO THE GROUP'S SUGGESTIONS TO MAKE MANCHESTER A MORE AGE FRIENDLY PLACE:

1. MORE PUBLIC SEATING AS WALKING FOR SUSTAINED PERIODS CAN BE TOO MUCH OF A CHALLENGE.
2. BETTER PUBLIC TRANSPORT INCLUDING STAFFING ON SAID TRANSPORT TO ENSURE SAFETY FROM HARASSMENT.
3. MORE PUBLICLY RESOURCED HEALTH AND WELLBEING ACTIVITIES SUCH AS SINGING GROUPS, WALKING GROUPS AND COMMUNITY GARDENS

AND HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS BY VISITORS TO THE DEREK JARMAN POCKET PARK:

"THERE'S A DEFINITE NEED FOR SPACE WHERE YOU CAN SIT DOWN AND BREATHE. I'M ALSO INTERESTED IN THE INFORMAL CONNECTIONS THAT CAN OCCUR IN A WELCOMING PLACE LIKE THIS, RATHER THAN A FORMAL EVENTS SPACE THIS PART OF THE ART GALLERY GROUNDS HASN'T BEEN USED THAT MUCH, THERE'S NEVER BEEN MUCH HAPPENING IN THIS SPACE. IT'S QUITE CORPORATE AROUND HERE BUT NOW YOU HAVE PLANTS, SPLASHES OF COLOUR.

I'D LIKE TO SEE MORE GREEN SPACES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, PLACES TO COME AND SIT DOWN AND WATCH THE WORLD GO BY. A MEETING PLACE FOR PEOPLE IN QUITE A BUILT-UP AREA, IT'S A NICE TO HAVE THIS POCKET OF RELIEF FOR PEOPLE TO COME SIT, AND RELAX.

THE GARDEN IS A WAY TO BRING PRIDE IN AGEING INTO PEOPLE'S MINDS. PEOPLE CAN COME AND SIT BUT AT THE SAME TIME LEARN ABOUT THE OLDER LGBT COMMUNITY. IT REALLY DOES BROADEN PEOPLE'S MINDS.

IT WAS ALWAYS ONE OF THOSE SPACES THAT PEOPLE TRAVEL THROUGH ON THEIR WAY TO OTHER SPACES. BUT NOW I THINK YOU'D STOP RATHER THAN WALK THROUGH. IT DRAWS YOU IN MUCH MORE THAN BEFORE."

IT'S FABULOUS, WHAT A DIFFERENCE - BEFORE IT WAS SO BARE WITH WEEDS AND IT'S BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO A PARADISE OF PLANTS, COLOURS AND SHADES. THIS IS WHAT PICCADILLY GARDENS SHOULD ASPIRE TO. I GREW UP IN MANCHESTER AND PICCADILLY GARDENS USED TO BE LOVELY GARDENS.

I'M 71 NOW, WHAT IF IT WAS STILL GOING IN 10 YEARS TIME? MY RELATIONSHIP TO THIS AS AN 80 YEAR OLD WILL BE DIFFERENT, I MIGHT HAVE MUCH BIGGER HEALTH PROBLEMS AND I MIGHT FIND THAT THIS GROUP IS PART OF MY NECESSARY SUPPORT NETWORK. ALL OF THAT IS PART OF BEING IN THE PRIDE IN AGEING PROJECT. YOU KNOW, YOU'VE GOT TO BE PROUD OF AGEING COS WHAT ELSE IS THERE? AGE STANDS FOR ALREADY GOT EXPERIENCE. THAT'S MY ACRONYM. I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO MAKING MORE ART, DOING MORE GARDENING, BEING MORE DEREK I SUPPOSE. (MINDY)

COLLABORATORS

TO THE ZINE

DAVID RHODES	PAUL EVERITT
FIONA CORRIDAN	PHILIP HARPER-DEAKIN
HAZEL ERREY	RICHARD BERTON
LAWRIE ROBERTS	ROSIE MAYLOR
LUCIANA LANG	SCOUT STUART
JULIET DAVIS-DUFAYARD	LEWIS HADFIELD
MINDY MELEYAL	



THE POCKET PARK INTO THE FUTURE

WE ARE LOOKING TO EXPAND THE VOLUNTEER GROUP TO INCLUDE MORE PEOPLE. THE GROUP WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THE GARDEN AND ARE NOW LOOKING AT HOW WE CAN HELP ENCOURAGE MORE ORGANIC PEST CONTROL AND BIODIVERSITY THROUGH PLANTING, TRIALLING ORGANIC PEST SOLUTIONS AND BIRD FEEDERS. THE GROUP ARE GROWING PLANTS AT HOME FROM SEED TO PLANT INTO THE GARDEN TO ENCOURAGE SEASONAL COLOUR (RATHER THAN BUY BEDDING PLANTS AND LESS SUSTAINABLE PLANTING OPTIONS).

WE ARE LOOKING FOR FUNDING TO CREATE PROGRAMMING, SUCH AS SKETCHING, CLIMATE JUSTICE KNOWLEDGE SHARING SESSIONS ETC., AND WOULD LIKE TO EMPLOY A GARDENER TO WORK WITH THE GROUP. HOWEVER, THIS ALL DEPENDS ON SECURING NEW FUNDING AS THE POCKET PARKS GRANT HAS NOW BEEN SPENT.

AS TIME GOES ON OUR GARDEN WILL
BECOME MORE JARMANESQUE...

CONTACT & FEEDBACK

WE WOULD APPRECIATE FEEDBACK AND COMMENTS REGARDING BOTH THE PROJECT AND PARTICIPATORY METHODS. YOU CAN DO THIS BY CONTACTING THE RESEARCHER-IN-RESIDENCE:

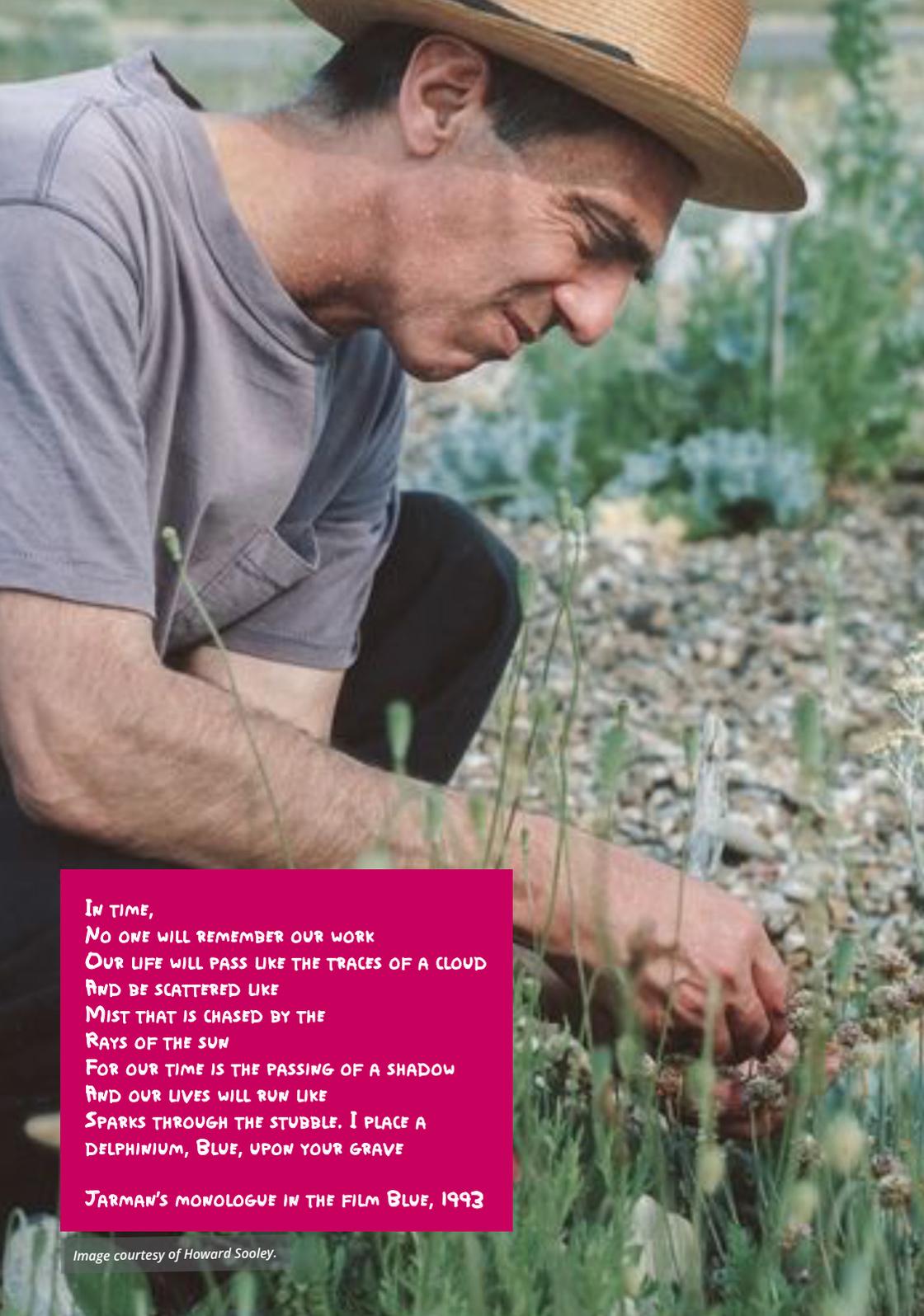
LUCIANA.LANG@MANCHESTER.AC.UK

OR USING #DEREKJARMANPOCKETPARK

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THE ZINE ARE THOSE OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROJECT AND GALLERY VISITORS – NOT THE ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PRIDE IN AGEING PLEASE CONTACT THE LGBT FOUNDATION:

WWW.LGBT.FOUNDATION/PRIDEINAGEING
0345 330 3030

A man wearing a straw hat and a grey t-shirt is crouching in a field, tending to plants. He is looking down at his hands, which are near some green plants with small flowers. The background is a blurred field of similar plants.

IN TIME,
NO ONE WILL REMEMBER OUR WORK
OUR LIFE WILL PASS LIKE THE TRACES OF A CLOUD
AND BE SCATTERED LIKE
MIST THAT IS CHASED BY THE
RAYS OF THE SUN
FOR OUR TIME IS THE PASSING OF A SHADOW
AND OUR LIVES WILL RUN LIKE
SPARKS THROUGH THE STUBBLE. I PLACE A
DELPHINIUM, BLUE, UPON YOUR GRAVE

JARMAN'S MONOLOGUE IN THE FILM *BLUE*, 1993