

'We found it in Chesil'

Community Art Project

Commissioned by Winchester City Council



Mr Harold Harris and Yuk Sin Lee,
Married 28 August 1952-No Children



Winchester
City Council

Introduction & background

New Homes in Winchester

The cost and affordability of housing in Winchester District is a serious problem. There is a genuine shortage of affordable properties in Winchester, with demand for affordable homes massively outstripping supply and the number of people on the waiting list is increasing monthly.

Providing affordable housing can help tackle these problems and delivering new homes is a Council priority. The Council is constructing new affordable Council Homes and also working with Registered Providers (sometimes known as Housing Associations) to provide new affordable housing across the District. Housing will not be built for profit; it will be to meet the needs of Winchester people who cannot afford a home of their own.

About extra care

There are growing numbers of older persons in Winchester (25% increase in over 85 year olds since 2001) this has resulted in an increased need for housing and services that meet older persons' needs. Winchester City Council is committed to ensuring that older persons have a choice of accommodation to meet their needs. Whilst some peoples needs' will be better met by staying in their existing home, moving in with relatives or into nursing or residential care, others will fair better in extra care housing.

Extra care housing consists of groups of individual houses or flats with communal facilities that allow residents to retain independence whilst having access to 24 hour care. Research shows that people who live in extra care housing enjoy better health and have fewer hospital stays. A number of new extra care schemes have been built across Hampshire in recent years; however provision in Winchester is very limited. It is planned to increase provision so the needs of the community can be better met.

The Extra Care Scheme at Chesil Street

The scheme will provide 52 flats with a mix of one and two bedroom accommodation. In addition, communal facilities will include a lounge area, laundry and sitting areas. A day care facility will be managed on site by Hampshire County Council. The majority of the flats will be for rent from the Council, with some shared ownership and open market flats will also be available.



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As part of the development scheme, Winchester City Council commissioned Salisbury based artist Laurence Dubé-Rushby to produce some artwork that might reflect the local history of the area and that could be displayed on the site hoardings of the development during its construction.

The following pages are the designs that were inspired through her engagement with local residents, businesses and community organisations. We hope you like them.

On completion of the development the artwork will be donated in the first instance to the local groups and organisations involved in the project. If for any reason the artwork is unable to be passed on to the local groups, then other groups and facilities will be considered. All enquiries should be made to Mark Maitland (Community Officer) Tel. 01962 848518 or email mmaitland@winchester.gov.uk

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This community art project was undertaken by Salisbury based artist Laurence Dubé-Rushby during the spring of 2016.

Laurence worked with a variety of local organisations in the area (see list below) as well as many residents and visitors to understand the history of Chesil Street and to share the memories, stories, photographs and other images people had. All in all, approximately 200 people engaged with the project. Much of the artwork focuses on the history of the area and the people associated with it. There is reference to Winchester-born Mr Harold Harris, who made a substantial bequest to Winchester City Council for the provision of housing for the elderly which has contributed towards the cost of this development at Chesil. This very generous gift and story helps us to understand the places and communities evolve, and that - over time - new developments become part of the history of a place.

You can view other photographs from the project on our Facebook page: facebook.com/wefounditinthechesil

Acknowledgements

The following organisations have provided support or have contributed to the collection of memories and images used for the project:

All Saints C of E Primary School
Hampshire Cultural Trust
(including Hampshire Wardrobe)

Chesil Theatre
St John's Winchester Charity
The Soke

The Black Boy
The Black Bottle
The Chesil Rectory

Sovereign Bathroom
www.trevbish.co.uk
Creative Palaver (Human Statues)

Message from the Artist

During the spring of 2016, I visited Chesil Street as a 'French artist' discovering a new place. I engaged with the surrounding community and discovered a life and a history I did not know Winchester had; Chesil Street, or may I say Cheese Hill, has a life of its own in the city of Winchester. The enthusiastic Winchester Dramatic Society, resident in Chesil Theatre brought much life to the project with a youth group street show and many adult members engaged, reminding us that we make history every day. Children, adults and older people all contributed to the life stories I collected in the street, at Winchester City Mill, in pubs, restaurants and cafes, and at All Saints School. They brought the past and current buildings to life and made me a part of it for a while. The images invite you to enter the past, visit the present and become part of the future of Chesil Street.

Chesil Street is the place to celebrate; I discovered the vibrant community of Chesil Street during the project and found an amazing range of opportunities to go out in style.

The Street is now shared between wonderful award winning restaurants, quirky wine bars, and pubs, all have at heart to echo the history of each building;

The life in 'the Soke' has a unique identity; once ruled by the Bishops, and passed onto the nuns, the queen and finally given back to the people of Winchester.

Celebrating in Style at Chesil..



a tradition which remains..

History through the eyes of the children sent me into a spiral through time with a unique circular view of the noticeable events which made the street what it is today. The children of Chesil Street now hold its future.

The pupils of All Saints School took part in the project and inspired the designs you see today.



The Winchester City Mill, once managed by the nuns, became a youth hostel in 1929 until 2004.

Many people have sent details of their fond memories and stories of a changing place through history.

The Chesil Theatre Youth Group helped to bring it to life during an outdoor performance in May 2016.

The Changing Life of a Mill



From word of mouth to best kept secret, the life behind the doors of Chesil Street was revealed to the French Artist; the stories came alive through conversations with residents, historians and passers by. From Soke House to St Peter's Church, hidden paintings, displaced church bells and rehomed stained-glass gave place to a new life for families and communities.

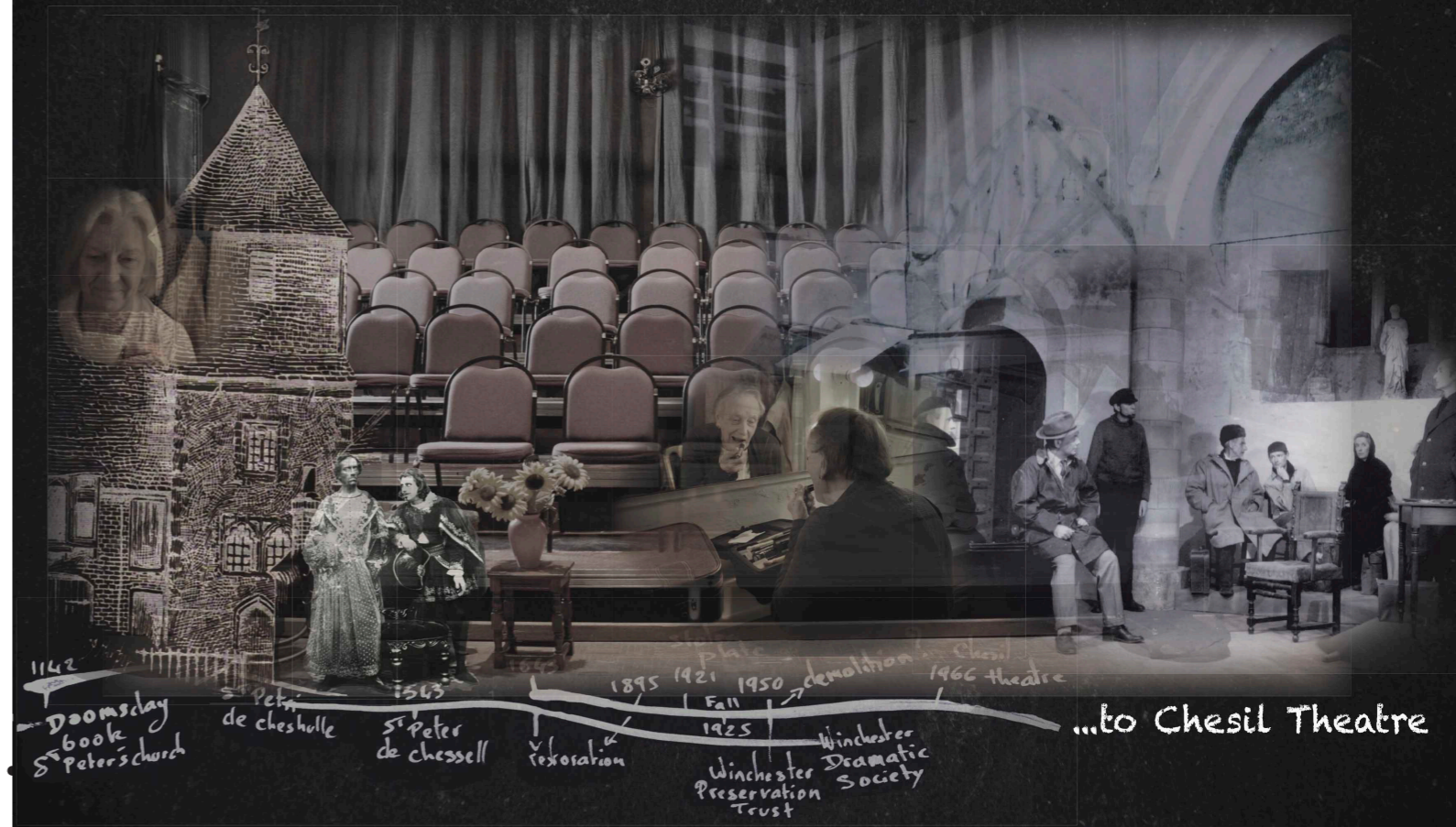
Chesil, behind the doors...



...a Street through the ages.

St Peter's Church found a new place in history when the Winchester Dramatic Society recovered the building to create their theatre which would provide many years of entertainment for Winchester residents and continues to do so to this day.

from 'St Peter de Cheshulle'...



The Old Station Approach and a semi circular door are the remains of what once was a lively train station which brought many visitors to Winchester.

From tourists, cycling, trekking or hitch-hiking, on their way to the South Downs to soldiers going to fight for their country, the place still echoes with the sound of the trains.

Chesil Street was also home to the King Alfred Bus Company buses for many years, until 1973.

Today it remains a gateway to the historic city of Winchester and the beautiful Hampshire countryside beyond.

Cheesehill, a traveller's pathway...



Laurence Dubé-Rushby

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The Artist – Laurence Dubé-Rushby

Laurence Studied Fine Art in Britany, France. She has 20 years of experience working as a freelance artist developing commissions for the private and the public sector. She has created art projects in museums, education and healthcare settings and was awarded 3 Grants for the Arts by Arts Council, England. Her work has been shown in Galleries, Arts Centres and Museums across England and France as well as non art settings such as farms, landscapes, Heritage centres, ex-military grounds, hospitals and city streets.

More recently she has developed large creative public consultations and managed projects for city councils and museums. She is also involved in collaborative research and practice with CAS, artist associates, based In Hampshire.

Laurence was commissioned by Winchester City Council to produce some designs which were to be displayed on the site hoardings of the Chesil Extra Care Scheme development. Laurence engaged with local residents, businesses and community organisations to get a better understanding of the Chesil Street area, sharing their stories memories photographs and other memorabilia. The culmination of that work can be seen within this booklet along with a description of the processes and influences that produced the designs.



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