

Hawes Side Stories began with an intervention into the Hawes Side surroundings through 'lost letters'. It then developed into a weekly meeting & walking group where 'story' material was collected through audio recording and conversation. A final culmination was an ephemeral, performance-based live transcription of the stories in a disused space on Bostonway: the Visitors' Room. The work has since been developed into a physical publication.

The project draws on the concept of a 'side story'; the lived, everyday experience that is often hidden from popular or political discourse surrounding housing, welfare, and economic policy-making.

It aims to act as communication and connection between and amongst the people of Hawes Side, and also on a wider level in the distribution to Blackpool Coastal Housing staff and further, online dissemination.

HawesSide
Stories



Letter distribution around Hawes Side - 200 letters



sometimes the air
smells like liquorice
up by vicarage lane
people queue from
twelve til two
fridays. walking
back with arms full

“It felt like a love letter had been addressed to me”

Kath - Participant

Hawes side / Marton Moss tomatoes.

5 messages

To: hawessidestories@gmail.com

Thu, Jan 24, 2019 at 4:23 PM

Your Reference Number 05319894
I found your package on Lowesway as I walked to ASDA'

You ask, Why were they so popular? did you ever taste them, there were no tomatoes to touch them for taste, and in the days before food miles they were local, not necessarily the cheapest but worth every penny.

The main cash crop might have been tomatoes, but local growers grew both indoor and out door lettuce in the spring for the summer market. Bedding plants were a good money spinner, as were sweet peas. In the early winter, in time for Christmas chrysanthemums bloomed in many greenhouses.

The growers used 'cinder' a cheap by product from the manufacture of Town Gas, to heat their greenhouses. it was available from Marton gas works on Clifton Road, another no miles product. The end of growing local produce came with the introduction of North Sea Gas, growers thought the Government of the day would subsidize the conversion of their boilers to either oil or gas, how naive they were, no subsidy was forthcoming. Conversion to oil or gas proved to expensive so the growers tried alternatives to cinder, one grower tried burning old shoes, he bought a truck load, but after the first day or two had to stop after being threatened by his wife because of the stink. Another grower bought a waggon load of scrap wood, old furniture, doors, floorboards and the like, they burnt OK, but it was a full time job feeding the boiler. Towards the end of local tomatoes it was costing more to pick, pack and ship them to market, more than one grower received a bill instead of a cheque for the boxes of tomatoes they had shipped to market.

As an aside to the story of locally grown produce, one of the local growers, in an effort to save money, bought a truck load of 'spent' mushroom manure. He spread it liberally around his tomato plants. Overnight the earth turned white, he had more mushrooms than he could pick, he invited the local children to pick as many as they wanted and to take them home to their mothers. The mushroom glut only lasted a few days but we locals were glad it was over.

I have lived in the Marton area for over fifty years and my wife was born and bred on the 'Moss'. It is my intention to repackage your notes in the hope that someone else might respond. I look forward to receiving your news letter. Regards, Dave (the guy with the little black and brown dog)

Hawes side / Marton Moss tomatoes.

To: hawessidestories@gmail.com

Sat, Jan 26, 2019 at 9:48 AM

Hi Natalie, I repackaged your letter soon after sending you my mail. I copied you by placing it in a door crack of the telephone junction box at the corner of Macauley Ave and Halton Gardens, that's the middle of Macauley not the end. I placed it at 10pm and it wasn't there the following morning at 8-30, I walked the dog all round the nearby streets just in case kids had found it and discarded it soon after, but there was no trace of it. I would love to meet you, I can reminisce at great (boring) length about all sort of things, School days, life in uniform, employment etc. Enjoy your break

Regards, Dave.



did you know they used to grow tomatoes round here?



that's 1970

05319894

BLACKPOOL TOMATOES - WHY THEY WERE SO POPULAR. ?



EVERY WEDNESDAY 1-3PM
BOSTONWAY COMMUNITY CENTRE

Are you interested in exploring the history, present and future of the local area?

Want to meet new people and socialise?

Got any good *stories*?

SIDE STORIES IS AN INFORMAL, FRIENDLY GROUP THAT AIMS TO CELEBRATE THE AREA OF HAWES SIDE AND MAKE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THOSE THAT LIVE THERE. ALL WELCOME. COME ALONG!

tea - cake - chat



IS LOOKING TO HEAR FROM PEOPLE ABOUT THE HISTORY, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF THE LOCAL AREA. GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR STORIES, QUESTIONS, THOUGHTS, OR OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE PLACE WHERE YOU LIVE - THEY COULD EVEN THEN BE SHARED IN A NEW LETTER!

email: HAWESIDESTORIES@GMAIL.COM

leave a message on the side stories phone: 07897542893

come and say hello!

THE HAWES SIDE STORIES GROUP MEETS EVERY WEDNESDAY 1PM - 3PM @ BOSTONWAY COMMUNITY CENTRE FY4 4YQ
(STARTING 13TH FEBRUARY 2019)

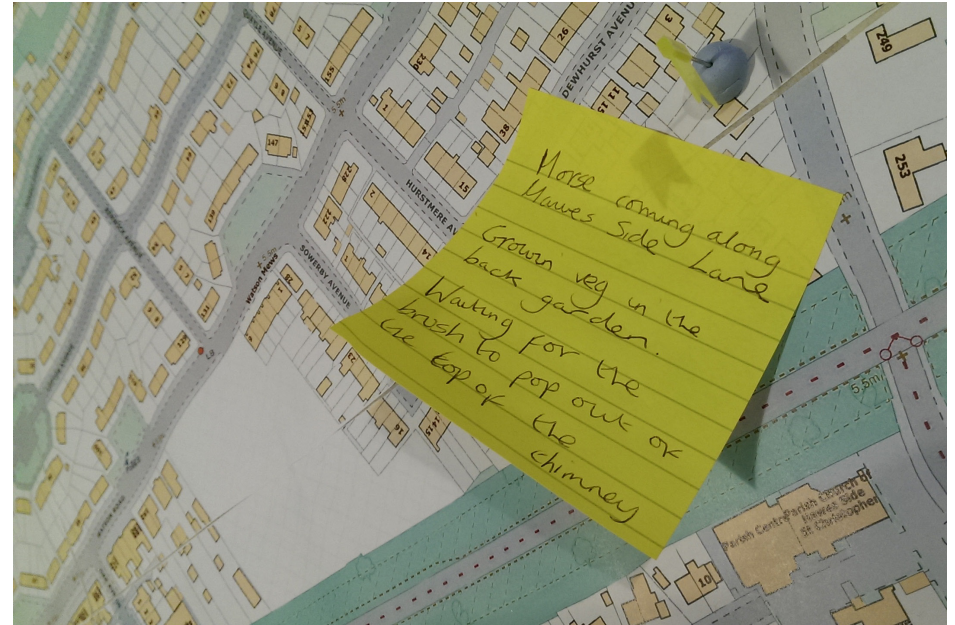
ALL WELCOME *tea - cake - chat*

#hawesidestories

Included in all distributed letters

Additional leaflet advertisement

Hawes Side Stories group activities: mapping, photography, visiting artists.



Hawes Side Stories group: walking, talking, exploring





Visitors' Room renovation



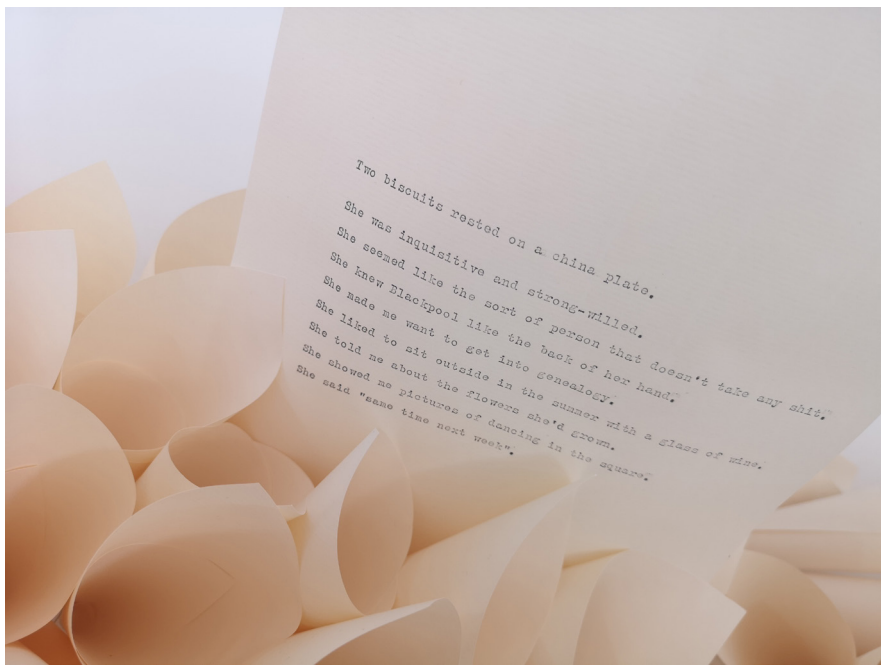
Visitors' Room: live transcription of recorded material



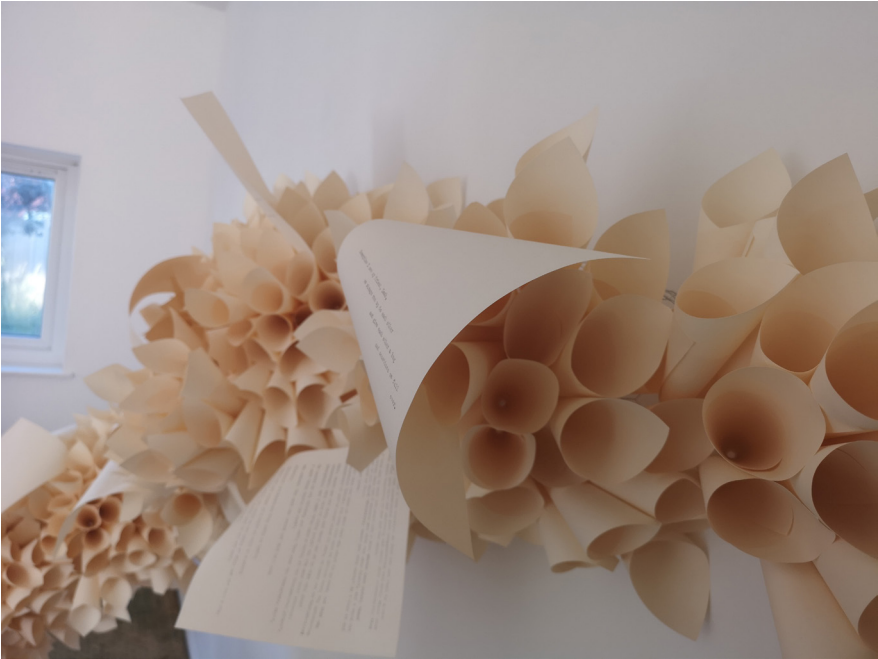
On-going story sharing/collecting



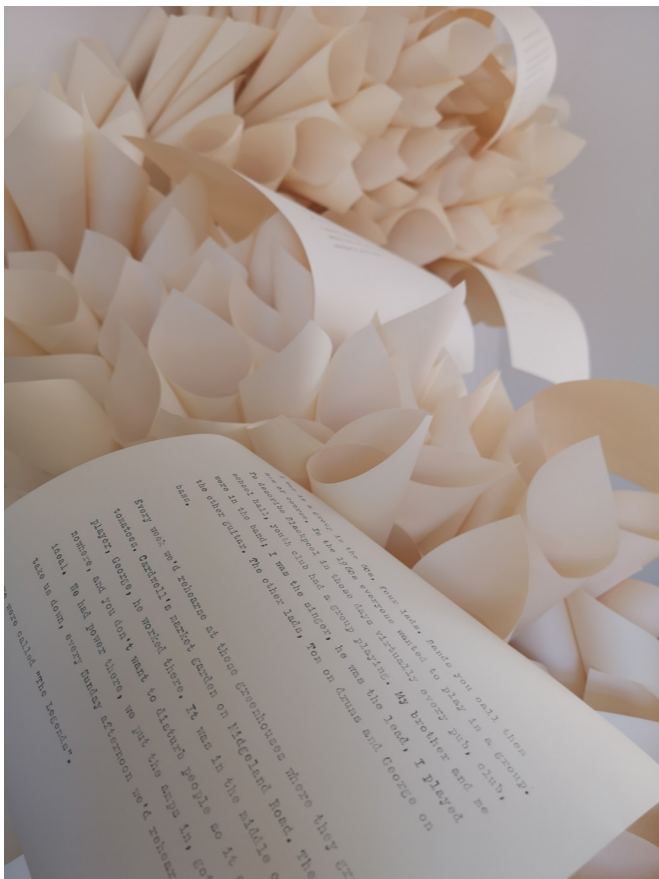
“You know it’s only the tea and cakes that keep me coming back - oh yes, and the chat!”
Dave - Participant



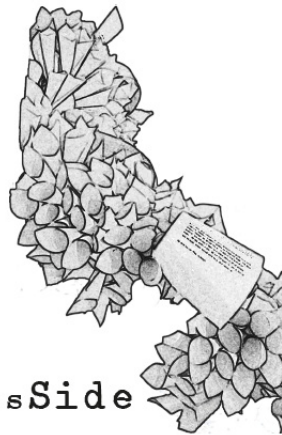
Visitors' Room: final installation



Visitors' Room: final installation



Hawes Side Stories publication



HawesSide Stories

This book is the culmination of a one-year artist residency in Hawes Side, Blackpool, UK.

Collected through conversation, walking, and quiet moments over cups of tea, the work explores the intricacies of place and how human connection, story and shared experience are woven into the identity of our surroundings.

Hawes Side Stories shares everyday moments of friendship, family, work, love, and the ever changing fabric of our communities.

Thank you to friends, neighbours, and the people of Hawes Side who made me feel welcome. With special thanks to Marie, Dean, Maureen, Kath, Sheila, Dave, Phil, Christine and all those who shared their stories with me.

N.

1. Tourist Town
2. Bingo
3. CB Radio
4. Raise a Glass
5. Tomatoes
6. Walk
7. Two Biscuits
8. Things Change
9. Map
10. Bug
11. Partying
12. Liquorice
13. Perception
14. Recipes