



DIFFERENT LIGHT COLLECTIVE

CLAY CROSS DIGITAL PROJECT 2021

REPORT #2



The Clay Cross Digital Arts Project has continued positively during January & February despite the National Lockdown restrictions, which at the time of writing, have no identifiable end in sight.

Different Light has continued to meet remotely on a weekly basis to discuss and plan the details and technicalities of the project as well as considering the implications of any Governmental announcements or rumoured possibilities.

WORKSHOPS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Regular update zooms have been held with Jane Wells from Junction Arts as well as Lucie Maycock, the project's community artist and on Tuesday 2nd February all 3 members of the Different Light Collective attended a zoom session with arts students & tutors from Chesterfield College. DLC's input into this session was introduced by Lucie and allowed the team to talk about Different Light's work and approach and to explain our collective role within the Clay Cross project and also our individual roles within our work in general and this project in particular.

Will Lindley, the Different Light commissioned projection artist, has since attended a further session with Lucie and the same students, where he was able to go into more depth about his practice and processes and was also able to answer students' questions too. Will has attended one of Lucie's sessions at the primary school that she is working with alongside one with the care home residents too.

A good deal of artwork has already been generated from Lucie's community sessions, much of which has been shared with Will, so that it can help inspire the eventual projected artwork that he will be creating (and some of the community artwork will also appear in some form within the projection piece too).

DIGITAL EXHIBITION / INSTALLATION

DLC has continued to engage with local property partners to try to secure a temporary rental of one or more properties for the project, still focussed on the old Job Centre unit right next to the ventilation shaft. Access to this property would not only offer the best site for a digital exhibition about the project, it could also provide an ideal base for the project team, be a perfect place to

house a third projector (ensuring the images covered 360° of the projection structure), as well negate the need for any generators, assuming permission to use the unit's power was granted.

Unfortunately, the process of securing any part of the building has been difficult, not least because someone has finally taken an interest in it and it is currently being divided up into separate units. At the current time it is unclear exactly which parts of the property might be made available and as our timetable may also be shifting (see below) we have not yet been able to pin any details down.

However, there are a number of other properties in the town which would work perfectly well for the digital exhibition aspect of the project, but which wouldn't be able to offer power or space for a third projector. Once the Government 'roadmap' announcement has been made on 22 February, it should become possible to move forward on the empty shopfront with some certainty.

POSSIBLE DELIVERY & TIMETABLE AMENDMENTS / OPTIONS

The current project timetable for the delivery of the projection artwork is for 9 nights [10, 11 12 and 17, 18, 19 and 24, 26 26 March] from 6pm to 9pm, as outlined in Project Report #1. Although DLC remains absolutely committed to working towards those delivery dates (and an initial version of the digital artwork will definitely be ready in time), if the National Lockdown is extended into the middle of March or even later, then the delivery dates, or at least the delivery model, will clearly have to change.

A number of options have been discussed including:

- Pushing the delivery dates back by just a week, so starting on 16 or 17 March but still fitting in up to 9 nights and concluding before the clocks go forward to BST (Saturday 27 March).
- Increasing the amount of guerrilla projection across the town and spending more time on filming and editing a piece to celebrate the project.
- Setting up the projections over some of the originally agreed dates, but doing so purely to film them to advertise the project over the summer.
- Postponing the delivery nights into April but accepting that the start times on each night will have to be later.
- Postponing (at least) some of the projection dates into the autumn, once the clocks have shifted back to GMT.

DLC is committed to delivering the project in a way that works for all the project partners, given the extraordinary circumstances we all find ourselves in. Allowing for other work commitments (which are of course subject to the same uncertainties) DLC is happy to continue talking through these and any other ideas with Junction Arts & NEDDC, to try to find the best way to deliver the project which makes the most sense to all parties concerned and looks forward – like the rest of the country – to hearing details on how lockdown restrictions are going to be gradually lifted in the coming weeks and months.

In the meantime, DLC is intending to be present in Clay Cross on the nights of Friday 26 & Saturday 27 February to undertake some guerrilla projecting of some initial artwork designs and ideas (see below) along with some community made images too. This will take place on a number of the town's ventilation shafts and possibly a few other buildings too and will be filmed and subsequently edited.

PROJECTION ARTWORK – WORK IN PROGRESS

