

Response

A new 'zine dedicated
to **BRADFORD'S** brilliant
creative talent

FREE

EDITION 01
August 2020



Welcome to the first edition of Response—a new ‘zine made in Bradford to showcase the city’s incredible creative talent.

Response was born out of a Bradford Council programme of the same name, which has supported 55 artists, creatives, and cultural groups across the district with a series of grants during the Coronavirus pandemic.

This programme was quick to recognise the enormous contribution that the arts and culture sector makes to the great District of Bradford, but also the huge challenges faced by a widespread hiatus on our usual—and spectacularly diverse—creative calendar.

The result has been an astonishing display of trademark Bradford grit and resilience, with great creative flair to match. Individuals and groups supported through Response have served Bradford’s communities in many different ways—they’ve also inspired and entertained the district, and wider world, during these darkest of days.

What does a City of Culture look like?

This ‘zine celebrates a snapshot of some of those activities, and illustrates the remarkable creative strength of a hungry and ambitious district. You’ll also find a separate fold-out map that shows you exactly where all our fabulous Response projects were happening throughout the Bradford district during lockdown.

As I write this intro, the doors to the district’s museums and galleries are tentatively reopening, and we hope the curtain will gradually begin to rise again on a whole host of renowned cultural and creative activities. Bradford is bidding to be the UK City of Culture for 2025, so we find ourselves at a critical moment to ensure that our arts community is not just surviving, but is actively thriving. We have also committed to co-create a new 10-year cultural strategy for the Bradford district, which we’ll hear more about in the coming months.

There are many challenges ahead for us all but—as you’ll see from the work highlighted in this ‘zine—we have a great deal to be proud of, and even more to look forward to.

NICOLA GREENAN
Principal Officer for
Cultural Partnerships
*City of Bradford
Metropolitan
District Council*

Take a look

Physically Distant Always United

CREATORS
Rosie Freeman
May McQuade



We researched and recorded a 1-hour radio show which was a way to participate in a Bradford Pride march during lockdown. It was broadcast on Bradford's BCB Radio, and listeners were encouraged to walk –if possible–in their own neighbourhoods at the same time. The piece included five interviews with members of the LGBTQ+ community about their various experiences of marching for gay visibility, as well as some historical context and Bradford-specific information.

The show gave people a platform to express their LGBTQ+ identity with confidence. For some people who were interviewed or publicising the show, they were coming out to friends and family for the first time; the piece provided a legitimate vehicle to reference and also allowed people to march who maybe wouldn't have done otherwise.

Bradford's Pride March went online for 2020 thanks to The Brick Box's Rosie Freeman and May McQuade.

By airing on BCB Radio, we will have reached new and 'accidental' audiences.

The audio format – using free-to-air radio as a platform – meant that we were geographically liberated, and worked well with social restrictions and presented an interesting prospect for mass participation.

This was a true Bradford celebration. Collaborative organisations included The Peace Museum, BCB Radio, The National Science and Media Museum – who also followed up with a blog, Bradford 2025, West Yorkshire Queer Stories, Yorkshire Mesmac, Equity Partnership, Bradford YMCA, Mind the Gap, Hidden Bradford, and Bradford Pride.

The show was the first time we worked together creatively. The Response project allowed us to experiment with a new creative format during lockdown. We're now researching ideas for future audio pieces and radio shows in Bradford.

FIND MORE BRADFORDNESS AT
THEBRICKBOX.CO.UK

+ BD PRIDE GOES ONLINE

For the first time in its 15-year history, Bradford Pride went online, with support from Bradford Council's Response initiative.

This year's virtual extravaganza of musicians, drag queens, poets and campaigners burst onto Bradford Pride's social media platforms on Saturday 9 May, featuring performers including Izak Wilkinson, Nathan Anthony, Issimo, Waiting for Wednesday Conleth Kane, plus local poets Sharena Lee Satti and Steve Williams.

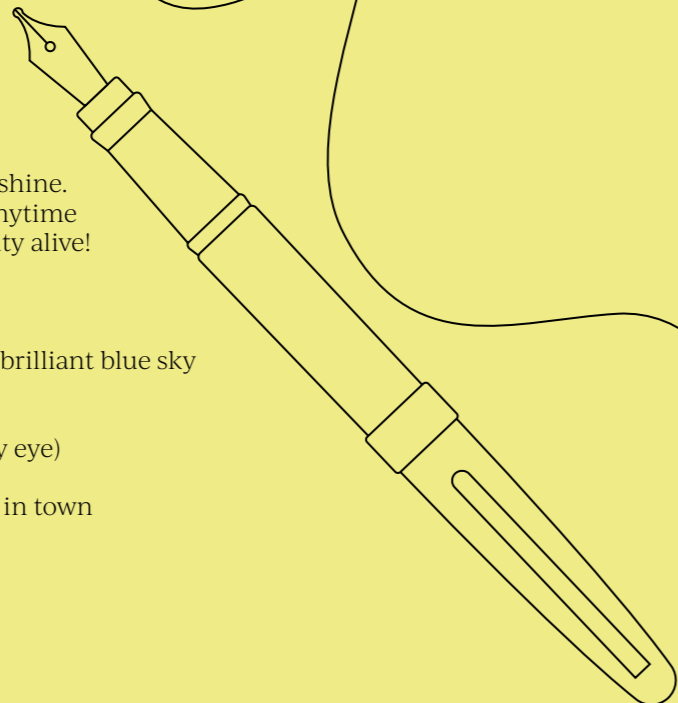
Bradford Pride's Leon Fleming said, "Bradford was one of the first places in the UK to be hosting a virtual Pride event. As well as showcasing the talent amongst the LGBTQ+ community and its allies across Bradford, it was also an opportunity for people who were isolated to have fun, dance and be inspired to see change.

The 7 Wonders of Bradford

BD3-based writer Kamal Kaan was kept busy during lockdown by penning poems about his favourite Bradford places. From the majesty of Moor to the culinary delights of Leazes and these insider tips are so good that we can't possibly share them. OK maybe just one.

AS SEEN ON
BBC YORKSHIRE
MY BRADFORD
VISIT BRADFORD

CITY PARK
splashes with sunshine.
Come rain, come anytime
you'll find: the city alive!
Come, take a dive
dip you toes
friend or foes
all under one brilliant blue sky
such beauty.
(Got to admit
brings a tear to My eye)
don't be shy,
next time you're in town
Come by, say Hi!



AS SEEN ON
VIMEO.COM/417162390

Childhood tales from Bradford's estates

Bradford playwright Natalie Davies used lockdown to seek childhood memories from the city's Canterbury estate—and elsewhere in the district—as she works on her latest play, Full English.

My nan Pauline moved onto Canterbury estate in the 1970s with her mixed-race children. I'm currently developing a new play called Full English which is a very personal story based on her experiences. Canterbury Kids was inspired by the play. The idea was to get people from all over Bradford to share childhood memories of the estate they grew up on.

It was important for me to reconnect with my roots. Reconnecting with people whom I grew up with on Canterbury Estate—reading people's memories and seeing their photos—these were all things I enjoyed about the project. I enjoyed making a video trailer to share my own story.

It was a challenge to get people to engage at first. Even family members were sceptical to participate. Covid 19 has really affected people's enthusiasm and engagement, it's become easier for people to instantly disengage. For me, this project was not about engaging loads of people, but that the people who did participate got to enjoy a bit of real escapism and nostalgia.

My story—Full English—represents so many mixed-race families who were brought up on an estate in Bradford. The play addresses the prejudice, the struggles, but the unity that comes with being dual nationality. Also the aftermath of living with dementia and where my nan is now is another topic that I feel will resonate with many people all over Bradford. It would be interesting to connect with families who also have a loved one living with the disease.

I've left this challenge open for people. If at any point, people want to share their childhood memories, they have the capacity to do so. I also think this challenge has the potential to be opened to the whole of the UK. Sharing your childhood memories during difficult times can be a great way to release negative energy and focus on the positives, where they can be found.

These types of stories resonate with the vast majority in the city but never seem to be told. I would love to be that voice.

Snapshots from self-isolation

• In a project curated by renowned photographer Carolyn Mendelsohn, young Bradfordians have captured the imaginations of the nation with their self-isolation snapping skills. The images can now be enjoyed by all as part of the new BD Street Gallery.

Bradford's biggest art gallery is not in a big old building or hidden from view—it exists on our streets, created entirely by under-18s during lockdown. Their creativity, a gift to our city.

“What I think is amazing is their creativity, their imagination – the fact that they're not trying to impress anyone, they're just showing their lives, as they are now, in a really creative way.”

CAROLYN MENDELSON



PHOTOS BY
Tim Smith

AS SEEN ON
BBC BREAKFAST
HUFFPOST



Flying the flag for Bradford

CREATOR Morwenna Catt

Over 130 households in Thornton displayed silk flags made by artist **Morwenna Catt**. Here's how a Response grant helped Morwenna turn West Bradford into a rainbow of colour.

The silk flags and windsocks were all hand-painted in my studio. I made them for the people of Thornton to display in their gardens, bringing a bit of cheer to the area as it wasn't easy to get garden supplies during lockdown. I worked on a new collection each week over four weeks, and advertised them for collection on local social media pages

For me it was great to have a mission when everything else I was working on had been cancelled. The process of hand-painting and dying with resist and then sewing is relatively slow going... so I spent a long time making—much longer than I originally thought! But I did really enjoy the process—it was meditative and calming.

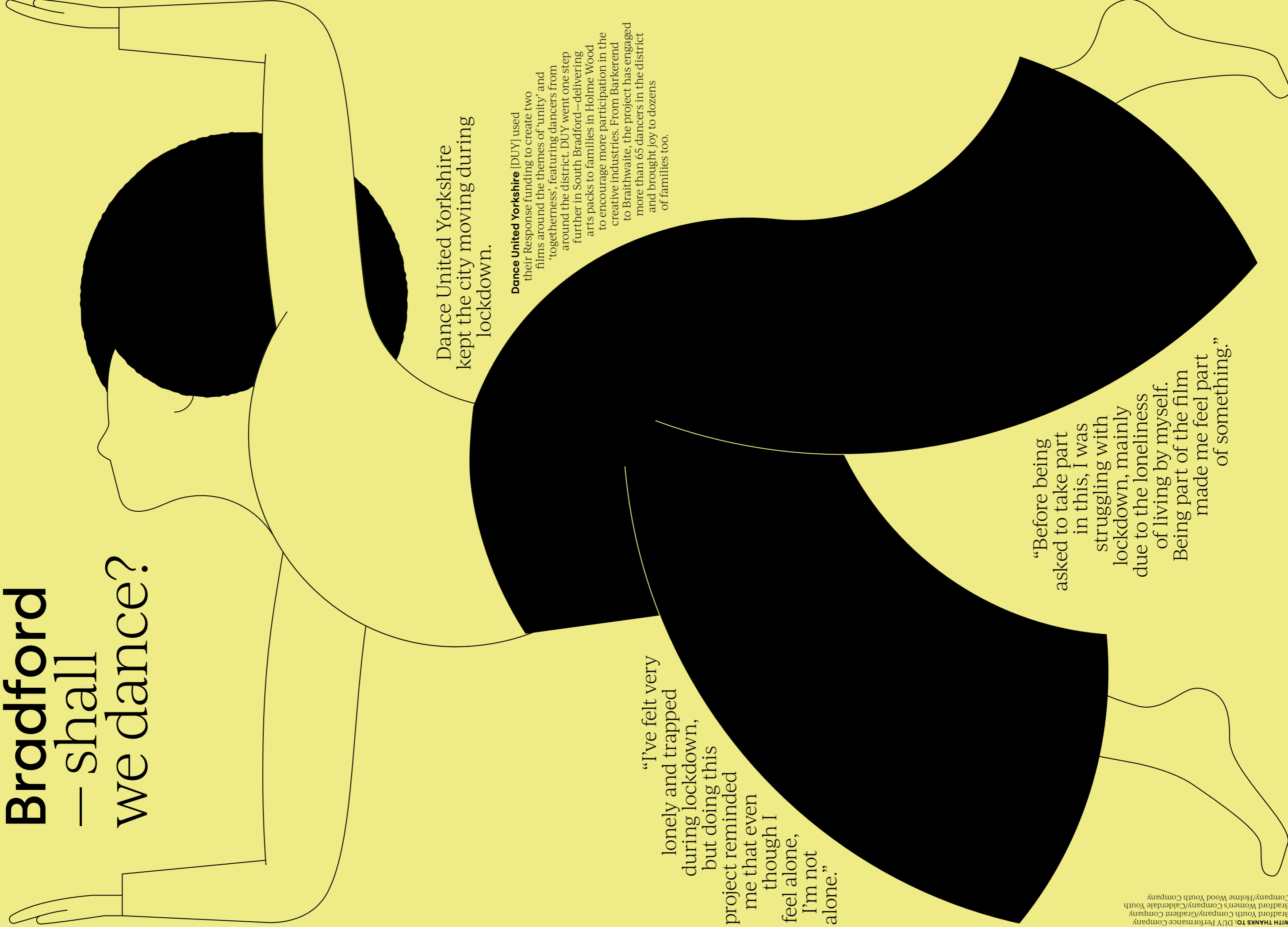
People in Thornton and beyond loved the idea.

I had some lovely feedback from people collecting flags and windsocks. There was a steady stream of people collecting them across the weekends, and I tried to make a colourful display that drew people in. I put out bunting and a big Earth Mother puppet I'd made!

In week three, I made a batch of VE Day flags, specifically aimed at older people in the community. I took some up to the Sapgate Community Gardens and planted them in one of the beds. It was a great way to meet people in Thornton that I didn't know. I delivered windsocks and plants to a number of people who were shielding and unable to collect in person. A nurse from a local care home took some for the residents too.

Response enabled me to get my teeth into a project and have a purpose when it would have been easy to feel defeated. My partner is in a different country, and it's difficult being alone for a long time, not knowing when we'll be able to see each other. The days when people came to collect their windsocks were a really welcome bit of human contact. It kickstarted a creative flow, and I'm planning to make some large silk “covid” puppets as a personal project.

Bradford — shall we dance?



“I’ve felt very lonely and trapped during lockdown, but doing this project reminded me that even though I feel alone, I’m not alone.”

“Before being asked to take part in this, I was struggling with lockdown, mainly due to the loneliness of living by myself. Being part of the film made me feel part of something.”

Dance United Yorkshire kept the city moving during lockdown.

Dance United Yorkshire [DUY] used their Response funding to create two films around the themes of ‘unity’ and ‘togetherness’, featuring dancers from around the district. DUY went one step further in South Bradford—delivering arts packs to families in Holme Wood to encourage more participation in the creative industries. From Bankerend to Braithwaite, the project has engaged more than 65 dancers in the district and brought joy to dozens of families too.

Bradford's world-renowned Impressions Gallery young people's collective has been curating the district's biggest family photo album.

With families kept apart during lockdown, Bradford's Impressions Gallery looked to bring people together using the power of photographs and heirlooms.

This new Bradford Family Archive was curated by members of New Focus—the gallery's collective of young people from all corners of the district. Bradfordians were encouraged to share stories, snapshots or objects via social media, and weekly meet-ups were hosted as part of the project via Zoom. The end result is a 14 minute film, which can be viewed on YouTube.

Here's just a few of the many stories submitted—each one reminding us that absence makes the heart grow fonder, and shining a light on what makes Bradford, Bradford...

Pat Rhodes shared a photo of her grandmother, Lilian Armitage 'Lilian believed in votes for women, and this got her into trouble. When Bradford women marched on Parliament, Lilian was arrested and sent to prison for 14 days. Lilian continued campaigning until her death.'

Imogen Sullivan shared photos of her great-grandad, Robert Clegg 'Here's my Great Grandad, painting the spire on Bradford Town Hall in 1958. I never met my great-grandad but my nana has kept his memory alive, sharing old photographs and memorabilia with me.'

Zafar Kayani shared a photo of him, his dad, and his brother 'This is my first photograph, taken around 1964. I'm very eager to find out how he is photographing me—that's why my father is holding my arm, trying to keep me still for the photograph.'

Welcome to the family



SHARED BY
Pat Rhodes

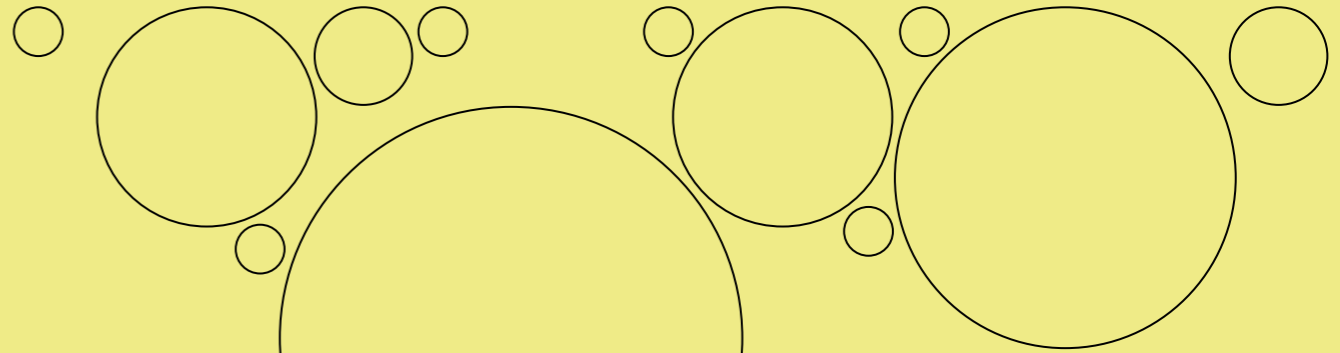


SHARED BY
Imogen Sullivan



SHARED BY
Zafar Kayani

SEE THE FILM
[IMPRESSIONS-GALLERY.COM/
NEW-FOCUS](https://www.impressions-gallery.com/new-focus)



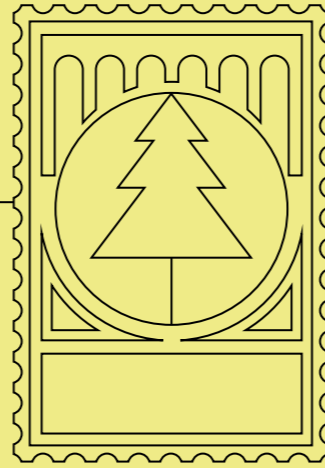
During lockdown, something's been bubbling away in Manningham...

Cat Scott—a world-renowned artist who specialises in using scientific ideas to create impossible landscapes—was inspired by the notion that everyone has spent the past few months in their own bubbles. For Cat, this was quite literal, as she's been working on the creation of new 'bubble worlds'—using homemade underwater bubble machines to produce spectacular sights and sounds.

A Response grant enabled Cat to virtually invite Bradfordians into the making of this latest kinetic artwork creation—called 'Inner Horizons'—using specially-adapted GoPro cameras. These virtual studio visits will transport audiences from their own lockdown bubbles to Cat's weird and wonderful worlds—providing an insight into the artist's thought-processes along the way.

Pop Culture

From Thornton



Dear Bradford

Thornton By Post was a series of remotely delivered co-produced magazines aimed at Thornton's elderly population, based on aspects of our village's heritage.

Each 'zine was delivered with basic art materials and images from Thornton Antiquarian Society Archive—housed here at South Square Centre.

Responses were collected in the form of stories and poetry to be published in the following magazine, as well as quizzes, games and artwork prompts designed by local artist Rosie McAndrew.

We printed the 'zines here on South Square Centre's Risograph machine (which is also where the magazine you're reading now was printed) and delivered them to over 600 homes in BD13. They're also available to pick up at South Square, and will be on show as part of an exhibition here in August.

We sparked some brilliant conversations with 68 residents in supported living here in Thornton, and we'll be continuing the series through Summer with new zines themed around the work and lives of Thornton's very own Brontë sisters.

Come see us soon!

Love, South Square Centre x

With Love

MAKING SUMMAT OF LOCK- DOWN

Barkerend-based **MUSSARAT RAHMAN** has dazzled the district with a series of specially—made garments produced during lockdown.

Dawning of a New World
as told by **Mussarat Rahman**

In response to Covid-19, I made a series of garments using messages from newspapers, but turning them into something inspirational. I made headwear, clothing, footwear, cloaks, glasses... pushing my skillset to the next level while responding to the pandemic and all the issues that began unfolding all around us. To me, these messages represented the dawning of a new world.

The way I worked gave people an insight into the use of alternative materials. I incorporated photography into my work, then used a series of apps to create illusions and fractures of the images I'd taken. It delighted some people—and some thought I was strange!—but it really set people off exploring.

Dawning of a New World gave me a lifeline, and something to focus on. It helped me keep my head straight [during lockdown] and taught me not to lose faith. I managed to explore projects artistically, experimenting with apps, marrying elements of technology to images... I have loved it immensely.

The Bradford creative community has been so supportive through this time. The Bradford 2025 team has been very encouraging of my work, so has the City of Bradford Council, Bradford Producing Hub, Kala Sangam, Common Wealth Theatre, BIASAN, and others including Madeleine at Leeds Playhouse, and Opera North's Arts Together. There's been loads of support from other Response artists like Cat Scott and Carolyn [Mendelsohn].

AS SEEN ON
BRADFORD TELEGRAPH & ARGUS
HUFFPOST
YORKSHIRE POST



55 1m

A total of **55** BD creatives, artists, thinkers, makers, shakers, doers, and groups have been supported by **Response**. Their work has been enjoyed by over **1million** viewers and participants around the world.