



DASH PROCESSIONS REPORT June 2018

Paula Dower

The PROCESSIONS project is commemorating 100 years of the Representation of the People Act and celebrating the first votes for women, is now completed.

It has generously been funded by Artichoke, Western Power Distribution and Shropshire Council.

The first workshop took place at The Hive on 12 February, the lead artist, Anne-Marie Lagram explained the objectives very well, and the women present took ownership of the banner straight away.

The second session took place at the Hive on 5 March with increased numbers of participants. They worked on the central section of the banner celebrating local Shropshire women. Genevieve Tudor from BBC radio Shropshire recorded a piece to broadcast.

The first session at Quatt village hall took place on 14 March, where a group of 15 women took part and agreed on a design for the border of the banner. The second session at Quatt took place on 9 April, there were 22 participants between 5 and 98 years of age. The border section is made up of roundels, which each have a hashtag about a subject that concerns the female participants, eg #tampon tax, #rightsnotcharity



Figure 1 Participants at the PROCESSIONS workshop at Quatt Village Hall

We have also made available an option for any women to get involved even if they can't make the sessions – they can download a template from the DASH website and submit a link for a chain that will be attached to the banner.

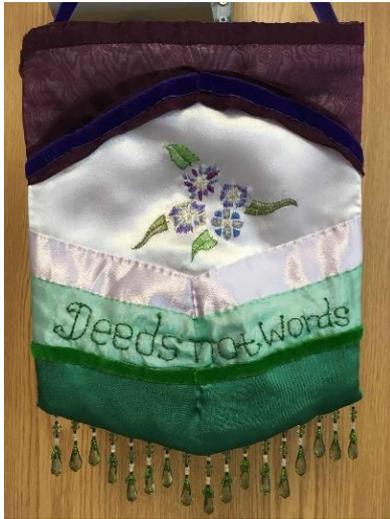


Figure 2 An embroidered sample sent in by Rosemary Foran

Rosemary Foran was unable to attend a workshop, but sent in this wonderful piece of embroidery and a haunting poem.

There was also the option for participants to drop in to the Participate Artspace in Shrewsbury on 28 April from 11am – 4pm to make a link and meet the artist and some of the other project participants, 8 participants from previous workshops came to work on the banner. Mary Lewis from Forge Urban Revival brought in 30 embroidered felt hand shapes made by her group to add to the banner.



Figure 3 Participants at FORGE URBAN REVIVAL creating embroidered hands for the PROCESSIONS banner



Figure 4 shows embroidered hand shapes created for the PROCESSIONS banner, in purple, white and green.

Figure 5 shows embroidered hand shapes created for the PROCESSIONS banner, in purple white and green.

Participants from the group also made a connection with Sunnycroft, a National Trust Property in Wellington, Shropshire. There was a drop in session there as part of the property's Handycraft weekend on Sunday 13 May. Joan Lander was the last owner of the house, she taught at the Royal School of Needlework, before returning home to look after her ageing father. There was lots of interest on the day and one participant returned to Sunnycroft on Saturday 2 June to engage with the public and invite them to create chain links again.

The last 2 workshops were at The Hive in Shrewsbury on 21 May and 5 June and were a veritable 'hive' of activity! Bringing together the separate elements to complete the banner.



Figure 6 The results of the penultimate workshop - nearly there!



Figure 7 Anne-Marie with Jean, Sandra and dog Pasha, showing the finished banner

On Sunday 10 June the group of headed off for the PROCESSION at Cardiff. 27 women joined us on the coach to march for 2 miles, including Sal Hampson from SAND (Safe Ageing No Discrimination) who was one of the remarkable women embroidered onto the Shropshire Hills. We joined approximately 10,000 women in Cardiff. It was a truly memorable day.



Figure 8 The Women of Shropshire arrived in Cardiff



Figure 9 At the beginning of the march



Figure 10 The fabric links echoing the suffragettes deeds from 100 years ago



Figure 11 At the end of the march, the jubilant Shropshire Subversive Stitchers

An active facebook group 'Shropshire Subversive Stitchers' has been set up and is being well used by the group to share ideas.

The group is vibrant and wants to continue beyond the PROCESSIONS project.

At an evaluation meeting on 13/06/2018 it was agreed to invite the participants to create a steering group to develop further projects.

The banner will be exhibited at:

24 - 30 June - Forge Urban Revival's Equality Event
1 – 13 July - Quatt Village Hall
23 July – 2 August - The Hive, Shrewsbury

There is also interest to exhibit the work at Ditherington Flaxmill and Participate Artspace. Other potential venues are Shropshire Council – Guildhall, Shrewsbury Library.

From September 2018 to September 2019 the banner will be part of a touring exhibition organised by Artichoke.

Part of PROCESSIONS, a UK-wide mass participation artwork to mark 100 years of women's suffrage, produced by Artichoke and commissioned by 14-18 NOW, based on an idea by Darrell Vydelingum.

DASH PROCESSIONS workshops are supported by Artichoke, Western Power Distribution and Shropshire Council. DASH is funded by Arts Council England.

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PROJECT

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