

Call for Participants

Stories of Places and Things

Artist Jo Gane is looking for people from Nuneaton and Bedworth to take part in a photographic project to record stories of objects and environments from the local area.

We are seeking a broad range of everyday stories about the interaction between people and their environments and objects that might be particularly relevant to Nuneaton and Bedworth.



Image: local artist Jo Gane photographing her children on the large scale Victorian camera which will be used for this project. The camera has a local story – it was found in the basement of the Hinckley Times building before the building was demolished.

Stories about places and things:

Do you have a story about working at Clear Hooters in Bedworth? Or memories of swimming in the Slatey? Perhaps you met people who shape your world in Toppers or lived next door to Larry Grayson on the Hinckley Road? Did you make cast metal aircraft parts in Attleborough at Stirling Metals?

This is of course not an exhaustive list, and we are hoping to uncover what makes people connect to a place through *your* individual and unique everyday stories.

Why are you attached to your town? What are your memories of this place?

Public Exhibition

This project would like to share portraits of people alongside their stories in two exhibitions – one held in Nuneaton Library in July 2023 and another at Compton Verney Art Gallery & Park, Warwickshire in October 2023.

The portraits will be made with a process from 1850 using a glass plate with a large-scale Victorian studio camera – a slower pace of photography which sparks conversation and collaboration.

For the exhibitions we'd also like to work with you to make prints that visualise your stories.

You'll get a print of your portrait and a digital file to use as you please, as well as the chance to make and show a print-based artwork about your story.

Project process

To take part you'll need to commit to being involved in three sessions to help produce your part of the artwork that will be shared publicly.

1. Initially your portrait will be made at Nuneaton Library on a large scale nineteenth century studio camera using a historic photographic process from 1851 involving glass plates. This process takes around an hour.
2. Following this, a further conversation will be held in the location that holds your memories.
3. Print-based artwork to document these stories will then be produced in workshop sessions at Nuneaton Library, or in Jo Gane's studio on Bulkington Lane, Nuneaton.

To get involved

Please email art@comptonverney.org.uk with details of the story you'd like to contribute about your experiences of place and objects in Nuneaton and Bedworth, including your name and preferred contact details.

Or physically hand in the application form containing details of the story you'd like to share to Nuneaton Library, or post it to Jo Gane art project, c/o Nuneaton Library, Church St, Nuneaton CV11 4DR before 17th April.

We'll then get in touch to arrange times and dates for the portrait and making sessions directly with people who have the most unique stories to tell.

Privacy Notice:

Under 18's must have permission from their parent/legal guardian in order to participate.

All information shared by the entrant shall be held in accordance with the GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018. To see how we use your personal data and what your information rights are, please read our overall customer privacy notice at <https://www.comptonverney.org.uk/footer/compton-verney-privacy-policy/> which includes the contact details if you have a complaint about your information rights.

Dates / Times

Call for participants open	20 th March – 17 th April
Artist talk at Nuneaton Library	to be confirmed
Portrait sessions at Nuneaton Library	Saturday 22 nd April, Saturday 29 th April, Wednesday 3 rd May, Sunday 7 th May, Thursday 11 th May, Saturday 13 th May
Individual sessions at places which hold memories.	tbc based on individual availability. 15 th May – 15 th June
Printmaking sessions at Nuneaton Library	Wednesday 21 st June 11- 1pm Saturday 24 th June 11- 1pm Wednesday 28 th June 11- 1pm

Further Information

About the Project

This project is commissioned by Compton Verney Art Gallery & Park and Coventry Biennial using public funds from Arts Council England and Coventry City Council.

The resulting stories, artwork and portraits from this project will be shared publicly in two exhibitions in Nuneaton Library, in July, and at Compton Verney Art Gallery & Park, to take place in Autumn/Winter 2023.

About the Artist

Jo Gane is an artist, researcher and lecturer working with the materials of early photography.

She is currently undertaking an Arts and Humanities Research Council funded PhD in art practice about the early photography of George Shaw in Birmingham at the School of Art, Birmingham City University and the Photographic History Research Centre at De Montfort University, Leicester, supported by Midlands 4 Cities doctoral training partnership. She lectures in Photography at Coventry University.

Based in Nuneaton, she is also a mum to two small children and two rescue dogs.

COMMISSIONED BY:

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