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WHAT MANCHESTER WOMEN WANT



MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL

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INTRODUCTION

“What Manchester Women Want” Exhibition

2008 marked two important anniversaries in the history of women’s suffrage; 1918 saw the introduction of limited suffrage (90th anniversary) and 1928 saw the introduction of full voting rights for women (80th anniversary).

Manchester City Council was keen to recognise these important anniversaries as part of its ongoing work to promote gender equality and women’s involvement in public life. They proposed that for 2008 only, funding would be available for a special exhibition that would form part of the city’s International Women’s Day celebrations.

The Pankhurst Centre was successful in their application to tender for this event and, working in partnership with Manchester City Council, they commissioned the artist, Charlotte Newson, to manage and deliver the exhibition.



Councillor Val Stevens and Councillor Sue Murphy seated at the Pankhurst Centre’s ‘Dinner Table’ with Artist Charlotte Newson. The ‘Dinner Table’ depicts famous Manchester women.

The exhibition

The exhibition was entitled “ What Manchester Women Want “ and aimed to recognize the struggles and achievements of Manchester’s women, past, present and future. The exhibition was planned and influenced by local women working with the artist and made comparisons between what mattered to Manchester’s suffragette women of the past and to the women that live and work in Manchester today. The result was a unique record of women’s achievements, thoughts and comments on working and living in this vibrant city. The work was described as:

“The Pankhurst Centre was proud to initiate this project. Charlotte’s way of working to produce the art exhibition “What Manchester Women Want” for International Women’s Day inspired the women who use the Centre to produce something exceptional and educational. She went on to repeat this process with every group she worked with. “What Women Want” are more opportunities to be involved in such exciting, visual, accessible and inclusive projects.”

Norma Turner, Chair of the Pankhurst Centre Management Committee.



A visitor to the exhibition writing Wish Cards at the ‘Dinner Table’



**Visitor to the Exhibition
Rt Hon Hazel Blears MP – Secretary
of State for Communities & Local
Government**

Evaluation Report: “What Manchester Women Want”

Aims

In the tender that the Pankhurst Centre sent to Manchester City Council we agreed to achieve the following:

- Work with six women’s groups – (we actually exceeded this by working with 14 groups), plus individuals and additional organisations.
- Maximize on the centre’s heritage memorabilia, knowledge and volunteers; which we achieved through exhibiting information on Manchester Suffragettes, including archive newspaper articles, posters from the suffragette movement, images of local women involved in the campaign and events that took place – such as the Heaton Park Rally.
- To carry out a consultation process: this took place throughout December 2007 – January 2008.
- To contact cultural regeneration officers – achieved via email, telephone meetings etc. In addition to this an exhibition of work produced in Wythenshawe by the Sugar and Spice group for “What Manchester Women Want” will go on display at the Forum in 2008 supported by Wythenshawe Cultural Regeneration Officer.
- Engage with a culturally diverse cross section of women – please see ‘Groups’ listed and ‘Large Scale Events’
- Engage the services of Charlotte Newson, a professional artist, to manage the commission. Achieved
- Create an interactive, dynamic exhibition, bringing women together. This was achieved through workshops, exhibiting and media employed for the exhibition such as music, audio recordings, fashion, textiles, photography, visual art and installation. All of which featured in the exhibition.
- Images of Manchester Women as role models – achieved through the ‘Dinner Table’. (See project ideas from each group).
- Presenting a group with the challenge to create a contemporary version of “March of the Women “– achieved with Massiveuk and young women from Harpurhey.
- Suffrage Women – film archive material was played throughout the day on DVD.
- The project has been brought in on time and to budget.



Sista’S GAL Literary Workshop.



Red Cross – W.I.S.P. Women Asylum Seekers & Refugees

Special conditions which were attached to this brief, by Manchester City Council as follows:

- Inclusion of Transgender community/trans women
- Women living and working in Manchester not linked to community groups
- Provision of regular reports to appropriate City Council staff and Councillors.
- Provision of final report by May 31st.

All of the above have been achieved please see below.



Members of the Trans-Women's group and their installation exploring the history of trans - gender, at the preview evening, with Steph Kendrick – Jones (Gender Equality Officer)

Process

Initially I created a publicity flyer, this was emailed out to all the women's groups on the Pankhurst Centre's contact list and others sourced from networks and contacts. I also contacted Manchester's Cultural Regeneration Officers who supplied further contacts from geographical areas they work within. In addition to this, I included information about the project in correspondence with arts organisations that I have a relationship with, and worked with volunteers at the Pankhurst Centre to create a profile on facebook and the Pankhurst Centre's website. Flyers were sent out with volunteers and visitors to the Pankhurst Centre and targeted service users who engage with other groups such as the Lesbian Community Project. Media publicity, supported by Manchester City Council, targeted the Manchester Evening News and Urban Life Magazine, with website interest detailed under the heading 'publicity'. Meetings played an important role in facilitating new groups and keeping communication flowing between groups, city council officers, partnership organisations and elected members



Pankhurst Centre Drop In Group workshop



St Luke's Women's Group & artist

Groups on board (14)

Pankhurst Centre Drop in Group. A culturally diverse intergenerational women's group; some of whom have mental health issues.

SistasGAL	Black Women of African Descent readers' group
Red Cross	Women Asylum Seekers and Refugees group
Women's Design Service	Women and the built environment group
Roby	Asian Women's group
George House Trust	Women living with HIV group
Trans-women group	Transgender women.
LIKT	Young Lesbian and bisexual group
LGF	Lesbian and Gay Foundation
St Luke's	Women's Mental Health
Massiveuk	Arts group (Music) working with Young Women's Group
Openshaw Resources Centre	Older women's group
Sugar and Spice	Young women's group
Women's Action Forum	(Blossom Group) Young mums

Geographical Spread of groups on Board

Pankhurst Centre	Central and East
SistasGAL	across Manchester
Red Cross	across Manchester
Women's Design Service	across Manchester
Roby Group	East / Longsight
George House Trust	across Manchester
Trans Women	across Manchester
LIKT	across Manchester
LGF	across Manchester
Women's Action Forum	Moss Side
St Luke's	East /Longsight + across Manchester
Massiveuk	North Manchester - Harpurhey
Older People's project	Openshaw
Sugar and Spice	Wythenshawe



Hope Group – Jewellery Workshop

Other Groups contacted

Oxfam shop – Didsbury: staff telephoned for advice and I suggested they dress as suffragettes for the day and have their own wish tree in the shop. They took this advice on board and it generated publicity in the Manchester Evening News.

'Think First' women offenders group – engaged in consultation process.

Spearfish – Peace garden event – This didn't go forward due to budgetary limitations

Manchester Rape Crisis – via Wish Cards.

Central Manchester Women's Aid – they decided they would attend IWD event at the Town Hall.

Labour Party -Kirin Mahil – National Women's Officer

Individuals Contacted

Geeta – via telephone as a result of Urban life Magazine. Her embroidery and text formed part of the final exhibition and is now on show at the Pankhurst Centre.

Rachel Szita – Women and Mental Health - a charity supporting women with mental health needs - via Urban life Magazine – requested wish cards which I sent out.

Jane – initial phone call via article in Urban life Magazine – no further information.

Older women – Wythenshawe "Crafts for All". initial phone call via article in Urban life Magazine - I met with these women (approx 20) who get together on a weekly basis– however they decided that their current schedule was too busy & that they wouldn't have time to prepare work for the exhibition. They intend to create something for I.W.D. 2009 instead!

Ruth Clayden – student @ MMU -via email.

Rachel Gore – volunteered to set up exhibition.

Shelley Iqbal – volunteered to set up exhibition and contribute towards creating exhibits.

Fazarna Chowdry made a zilbab in white, decorated with designs of purple white and green which she wore to the exhibition and IWD.



Volunteer from the Pankhurst Centre modelling an outfit she created to represent the suffragette campaign through colour

Numbers of women involved – approx 450

Basing this figure on an average of 20 individuals per group (20 x 14)	280
Oxfam shop – Didsbury: - staff approx	5
Think First women offenders	10
Spearfish arts organisation– approx = five staff	5
Manchester Rape Crisis – 1 member of staff and three counsellors	4
Manchester Rape Crisis – clients	10
Central Manchester Women’s Aid - drop in group – approx	15
Kirin Mahil – National Women’s Officer for Labour Party	1
Sugar and Spice event at L.G.F: approx	50
Event at L.I.K.T. prior to Sugar and Spice event: approx	30
Plus 35 individual women, inc older women from “Craft for All”	35

LARGE SCALE EVENTS – WOMEN INVOLVED

Labour Party Conference – Birmingham	Approx 300
Women who attended IWD and came to see the exhibition	Approx 1500

Cultural Diversity re groups/ workshops/exhibition

Bangladeshi	Indian	Pakistani	Black British
Chinese	Caribbean	Somali	Other African
Middle Eastern	Irish	White British	

Cultural Diversity re Exhibition March 8th Manchester Town Hall

Monitored through observation, photography and conversation throughout the I.W.D. event and setting up the exhibition (over a two day period). The exhibition was visited by women from very culturally diverse backgrounds.

Intergenerational

The age range that I worked with was from 8 years old to retired women over 65+.



Openshaw Older People’s Group

Additional large scale event

The Pankhurst Centre and exhibition “What Manchester Women Want” were invited to attend the Labour Party Spring conference in Birmingham, on Friday 29th February 2008 for the ‘Women’s Conference’ reception. We presented a DVD of suffragette archive film footage which was projected onto a screen during the reception and created an extra ‘Dinner Table’ cloth for the event. This cloth was smaller than the original due to space constraints at the event. It was a very successful profile event for the Pankhurst Centre, I.W.D. and Manchester City Council’s commission “What Manchester Women Want”.



‘Women’s Conference’ reception Labour Party Spring conference

Project ideas from each group

Pankhurst Centre – ‘The Dinner Table’ + an exhibition of Suffragette materials

The Dinner Table developed from the first consultation meeting with the group and the artist. It became clear that sitting at the table discussing this project sharing conversation, ideas, food and drink was the beginning of the process.



Detail of the ‘Dinner Table’



The ‘Dinner Table’

The notion of the table as a meeting place for diverse women became also a symbol of welcome, discussion, communication and social cohesion: the next development was to correlate this notion to a wider historical, social and political context: the concept of 'seats of power': politics and policy, wealth and influence; discussions at tables around the world, including teachers, leaders, decision makers at all levels, families etc; levels of influence, responsibility and power became a part of the afternoon's discussion.



Exhibition: Workshop with the Pankhurst Centre, 'Dinner Table' and Exhibition

The Dinner table involved multi skills and developed a narrative from within the group. The group and artist have identified this piece of work as an installation: it was sited in the Sculpture Hall in Manchester Town Hall for IWD 2008.

Pankhurst Centre Heritage Volunteers and Drop in Group

The artist also developed the idea of a 'Wish Tree' to tie comments/wish cards onto that reflect what Manchester women want. The Wish Cards featured images of culturally diverse women, disabled women and women in differing roles: professional, domestic, leisure etc. The artist has encouraged discussion about 'What Manchester Women Want' throughout the workshop sessions and found that the concept of a wish was the most accessible approach to gaining insight to the needs of Manchester Women.



Wish Tree with Visitor

Wish Tree "Woman" with Councillor Murphy and artist.

On the exhibition day there were greeters from the Drop in group to welcome women to the table, to sit and have fruit juice or sparkling water whilst writing wish cards supplied at the table, to encourage communication and information from as many women across Manchester who attended the event. These wish cards will form part of the evaluation material for the final report.

Suffragette material - Heritage volunteers led on producing exhibition materials working with the artist and the Drop-In group. The Police Museum contacted The Pankhurst Centre recently to offer them Suffragette material for exhibition which was included in 'What Manchester Women Want' We pursued local links to the suffragette movement and an overview of the movement.



Suffragettes campaign Exhibit focusing on Manchester suffragettes.

The group was involved in researching images of current iconographic women/role models/women who reflect their aspirations etc and in selecting images of the suffragettes and the suffragette movement which involved all of us in a learning process. The group were involved in the following skills, crochet, glass painting, research, IT, discussion, writing, photo-montage and knitting. Women developed new skills, demonstrated existing skills and shared knowledge, teaching other members of the group how to, for example, use photo-montage.

St Luke's 'It's Raining Wishes'

The group decided at the first consultation session that they wanted to link their work to women generally in order to encourage people to join their group and to highlight the struggle women have had to gain empowerment. They focused on the suffragette movement as the most significant campaign for Manchester women.

A visual link developed by looking at women's fashion in the times of the suffragettes and today. The group were surprised to learn that the suffragettes dressed themselves well when they demonstrated – making a point of looking neat and tidy and celebrating their campaign through colour (purple, white and green). The group decided to employ this colour scheme and to work with umbrellas; the link being that suffragettes would have had parasols to shade their heads and Manchester women have umbrellas to keep the rain off theirs! When the group viewed images of suffragette rallies, they pointed out the parasols and it sparked a direction for creating their artwork. It was also acknowledged as a common link between women – everybody has one!



St. Luke's Women's Group

Every member of the group was involved with the project, including the project co-ordinator.



Project Coordinator and members of St Luke's Women's Group

'It's Raining Wishes' involved multi skills and developed a discussion from within the group, comparing the suffragettes with their own lives, the lives of their friends etc. The group and artist identified this piece of work as an installation: it was sited in the Sculpture Hall in Manchester Town Hall for IWD 2008.

The artist encouraged discussion about 'What Manchester Women Want' throughout the workshop sessions and found that the concept of a wish was the most accessible approach to gaining insight to the needs of Manchester Women.

The group were involved in the following skills: discussion, writing, IT and decorative arts. Women developed new skills, demonstrated existing skills and shared knowledge: they supported each other to explore unfamiliar ground and reported that they felt stimulated by the workshops. Judging by the concentrated silence when they were working on the umbrellas I would support this view.

SistasGAL – Exhibited their current reading list and group’s critiques. Reading list focused on black history and experiences.



Red Cross – W.I.S.P. Group. Presented writing, poetry/stories overlaid with images they created in the workshops using disposable cameras, IT and creative writer facilitator. The work was mounted for display.



Women’s Design Service –participated through the Wish/Comments Cards

Roby Group – I met with the group and they agreed to create one outfit in suffragette colours to contribute to the exhibition, to visit the Pankhurst Centre and to come to I.W.D. wearing white, green and purple outfits. A group of approximately 30 women came to IWD dressed in these colours.



George House Trust - I sent wish cards to begin the process and completed 2 workshops in jewellery making.

Trans Women –The group were interested in exploring the history of trans-women and the issues they have faced and do face now. This was displayed as an installation, lit via a light box.

LIKT –The group worked on a women’s football project and developed this via photography, research and giant footballs which take the place of a Wish Tree, the hexagons of the football holding the wishes of the group.



Lesbian and Gay Foundation (LGF) – Their involvement was via the Conversational Café event that took place as part of International Women’s Week events at the LGF. I delivered information about the commission, exhibition and IWD event. Approximately 40 – 50 women took part. They completed Wish Cards.

Women's Action Forum – Blossom Project -Workshops took place on Friday 22nd– We discussed ideas on the telephone and decided to look at the reason the group meet – i.e. that they are all young mums/mums to be. The group wanted to present a positive image and to dress a pram for the exhibition! They intended to dress it in a non practical way – using materials that are not appropriate for a baby in order to move away from the pram as a baby carriage and to become a carriage/vehicle for their wishes. The pram was filled with parcels/gift boxes wrapped up to look like presents. The 'presents' had a wish card attached as a gift label.



Massiveuk – we developed the project via email. Massiveuk is a professional arts' organisation who work with music. I presented them with the idea of rewriting the 'Women's March' developing new music and words that are contemporary. They agreed to this and worked with a young women's group in North Manchester, Harpurhey, who they already had a relationship with. I stated that the music must be accessible to all i.e. not so contemporary that only under 20's like it!! A recording of their version is available at the Pankhurst Centre. The group also gave a live performance at I.W.D.



Massiveuk – Harpurhey Young Women's Group

Older People's Project – Openshaw - The organisation and staff have been very helpful in supporting this project and have accomplished our agreed brief: to work with reminiscence, via objects that prompt memories or have a special meaning. Photographic images of these objects were mounted for the exhibition, alongside sentences that were spoken by individual participants. Most members of the group have dementia, and as a result of this we explored accessible stories from the past to highlight what has mattered to these women. Staff attended the event.



Older People's Project, Openshaw

Sugar and Spice Project – Wythenshawe – These young women designed their own outfits based on the corsets worn by women at the time of the suffragettes. They decided to design a contemporary version in bright vibrant colours including purple, white and green (the suffragette campaign colours) to make a visual statement. When asked why the group decided on this project and this particular design, their answers focused on women's rights – though the group are aware of the suffragettes' campaign for women's rights to vote and even though this was achieved in 1928, they felt that there are issues and concerns for young women today and that they need to fight to gain equality with men. The group also felt that many of the older generation still live in a male dominated world – particularly in terms of domestic life and childcare – the group stated that they don't want this to be repeated in their lives, so they have created these corsets to represent what they want:” Individuality, Equal opportunities, Freedom of choice “and to make a statement: “That women can wear what they want, when and how they wish to!”



Press and Publicity

Articles/photographs have appeared in 'Urban Life Magazine' and Manchester Evening News. There have been radio interviews with Steph Kendrick-Jones, Gender Equality Officer for Manchester City Council, and Councillor Sue Murphy (Greater Manchester Radio)

Fazarna a volunteer from the Pankhurst Centre put 'What Manchester Women Want' publicity on the Pankhurst Centre's web site which she is working on as her own project. The Pankhurst Centre now has a facebook profile. .

Website interest as follows:

ebookers.com – Manchester News -	bulletin	Jan 21 st 2008
HLMinfo (covers Harpurhey, Lightbourne, Moston)	bulletin	Jan 17 th 2008
deafgateway (Greater Manchester Deaf Community)	bulletin	Jan 17 th 2008
A2media		Jan 14 th 2008
Lesbian and Gay Foundation (LGF)	news	Jan 30 th 2008
Salfordonline	news	Jan 2008
Manchester City Council		Jan 14 th 2008
Eastserve (east Manchester)	bulletin	Jan 17 th 2008
Altogether.info (Ardwick Levenshulme, Longsight)	bulletin	Jan 17 th 2008

I.W.D.booklet produced by Manchester City Council.

Carol Ann Duffy contacted re writing poem created from the Wish Cards and to request permission to use her image in 'The Dinner Table' artwork. – I have not received a response.

Meetings

1 Steph Kendrick-Jones - Manchester City Council

Linda Clair - Pankhurst Centre Management Committee member

Charlotte Newson - Artist

Held at the Pankhurst Tuesday 4th December

2 Steph Kendrick-Jones

Charlotte Newson

Yvonne Edge – Centre Manager for the Pankhurst Centre

Community representatives

Meeting held at Friends' Meeting House for International Women's Day (IWD)

3 Meeting with Norma Turner & Jan Ogilvie Pankhurst Centre Management Committee members

Held at The Pankhurst Centre– to discuss financial procedures and support for the artist.

4 Steph Kendrick-Jones

Charlotte Newson

Held at the Town Hall press meeting 12.30

5 Steph Kendrick-Jones

Charlotte Newson

Cultural Regeneration Officers' Manager (CROS)

6 Steph Kendrick-Jones

Charlotte Newson – Pankhurst Centre Thursday 10th.

7 Roby Group Thursday 10th Jan, at the Roby Church with

Charlotte Newson - Artist + Pankhurst all day.

- 8 Sharron Edwards (volunteer) at the Pankhurst for sewing morning with Charlotte Newson - Artist Tuesday 15th Jan
- 9 Ros, volunteer at the Pankhurst Centre re heritage/suffragette material Greater Manchester Police Museum at the Pankhurst Centre Charlotte Newson - Artist Wednesday 16th Jan
- 10 Labour Party Representative at the Pankhurst Centre Charlotte Newson - Artist Thursday 17th Jan
- 11 St Luke's – Monday 21st Charlotte Newson - Artist Tuesday 15th Jan
- 12 Sharron Edwards (volunteer) at the Pankhurst for sewing morning with Charlotte Newson - Artist Tuesday 22nd Jan
- 13 Openshaw Older People's project Charlotte Newson - Artist Tuesday 22nd Jan
- 14 Management Committee at the Pankhurst Centre Charlotte Newson - Artist Wednesday 23rd Jan Evening
- 15 SistasGAL Charlotte Newson - Artist Thursday 24th Jan Evening
- 16 Sharron Edwards (volunteer) at the Pankhurst for sewing morning with Charlotte Newson - Artist Friday 29th Jan
- 17 Steph Kendrick-Jones and Trans women's group Charlotte Newson - Artist Saturday 26th Jan
- 18 Steph Kendrick-Jones and Councillor Sue Murphy Charlotte Newson - Artist Tuesday 5th Feb
- 19 Whitworth Gallery –re lending cases Feb 6th
- 20 Crafts for All – Wythenshawe Feb 19th
- 21 Shelly Iqbal– volunteer at Pankhurst Centre worked with me on Wish Tree
- 22 Margaret Pierucci & Steph Kendrick-Jones– Town Hall
- 23 Sat 1st meet LIKT for initial event at their centre and then the Sugar & Spice event at LGF
- 24 Collect Exhibition Boards GMCVO Wed 5th
- 25 Thursday 6th setting up at Town hall
- 26 Friday 7th setting up at Town hall & Preview
- 27 Saturday 8th I.W.D.
- 28 Monday 10th taking down exhibition & delivery and return of loaned items.

Workshops: Pankhurst Thursday

St Luke's Monday
Older Peoples group Tues
Red Cross Thurs
Sugar and Spice Monday (eve)
George House Trust Tuesday
LIKT Weekends
Trans-women group
Blossom Project
Roby
Massiveuk

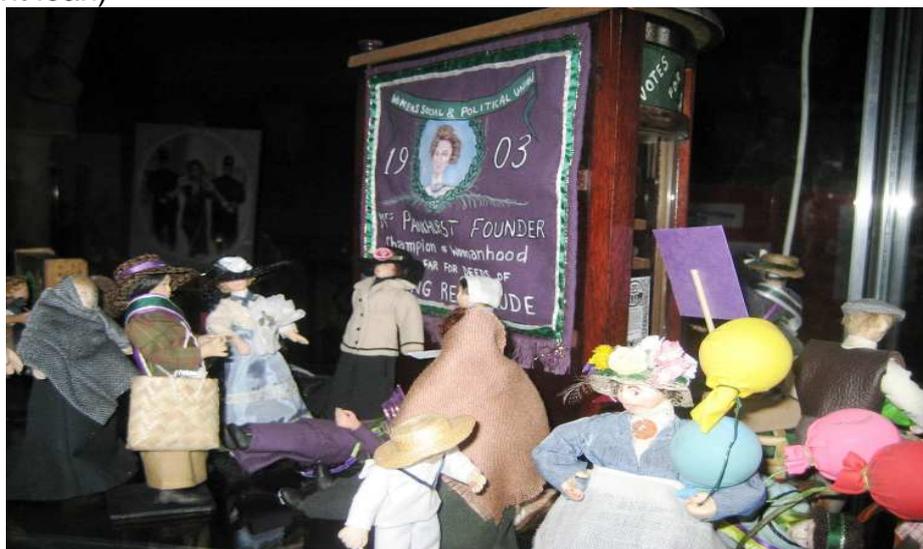
6th 13th 20th 2007 DEC
10th 17th 24th 31st Jan/Feb 08 7th 14th 21st 28th
21st 28th Jan Feb 4th 18th
29th Jan 4th Feb
24th 31st Jan.
4th Feb 18th 25th
5th Feb, Feb 20th
10th Sunday Feb Sat 1st March
Tues 12th Feb 23rd
Fri 22nd Fri 29th
Thursday 10th January.
managed via email support

The artist supported some groups via regular consultation whilst staff supported workshops. This was due to time scale.

The Pankhurst Centre had a weekly workshop with the artist which were open to other groups and individuals. Originally it was intended that all groups would come to the centre but due to the timescale the opportunity to develop strong relationships with clients/organisations was limited and we agreed that it would be more supportive for the women involved to be at a venue they were already familiar with, especially where confidentially issues were raised.

Resources

'Greater Manchester Police Museum' agreed to loan the Pankhurst Centre the entire Suffragette collection of miniatures and dolls that had previously been housed with them. (To be developed into a permanent loan)



Miniature Scenes Depicting Suffragette Campaign

The Museum of London agreed to permissions for use of copyrighted images of suffragettes/campaign - at a much reduced cost

Central Reference Library agreed to permissions for use of copyrighted images of suffragettes/campaign - at a reduced cost

The Cultural Regeneration Officer for Wythenshawe – Dawn Warriner – agreed to support Sugar and Spice from her budget

'Massiveuk' –produced a contemporary version of the Women's March which the Pankhurst centre retains.

Evaluation report at the end of the project

Exhibition material will be housed at the Pankhurst Centre permanently.

The Pankhurst Centre now has a profile on facebook

IN KIND SUPPORT

The Whitworth Gallery loaned the Pankhurst Centre two display cases to exhibit the miniatures for the exhibition at the Town Hall, including transport and driver, delivery and collection.

The Town Hall customer service department supplied tables, chairs and electrician services.

Volunteers, staff and management committee members contributed their time (Pankhurst Centre)

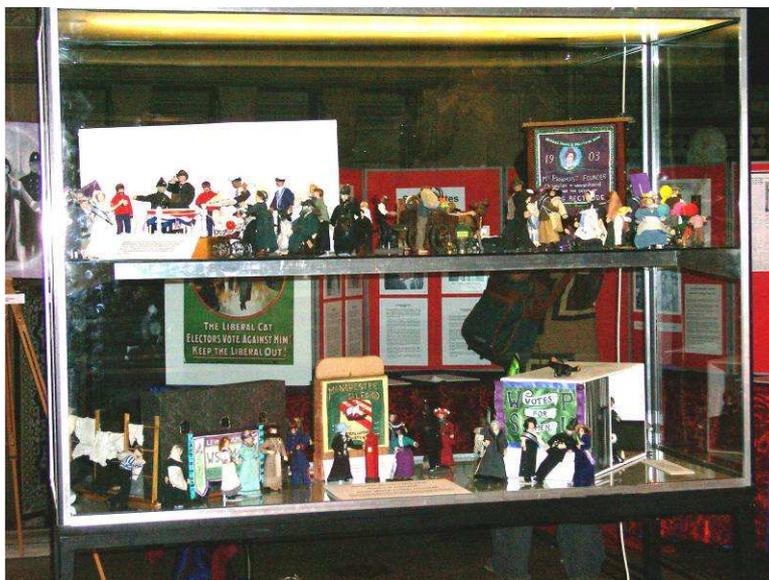
The Pump-house People's Museum loaned the Pankhurst Centre sound bytes of original recordings of suffragettes played via a listening station.

The loan of a P.A. system by Pankhurst Centre volunteer for the exhibition.

Central Manchester Cultural Regeneration Officer, Sam McCormick, supported the project with information and contacts for groups; as did Dawn Warriner, the Cultural Regeneration Officer for Wythenshawe.

The artist supplied extension leads for the exhibition and blow up pink lips sofa!

The artist loaned one example of work to the exhibition.



Whitworth Art Gallery loaned two cases to exhibit miniatures.



Visitors enjoying the Exhibition

Evaluation

A letter of thanks and questionnaire has been sent out to all groups and individuals; example replies have been included in this report. Responses to the exhibition have been received from individuals and participants (see index) and examples of comments from the 'comments book' at the exhibition are presented in this report. In addition to this there are examples of the Wish Cards designs and the written wishes have been collected by the Gender equality Officer for Manchester City. There is also a monitoring form from the additional income generated by myself via Wythenshawe Regeneration Cultural Officer's budget available. Images of workshops and the exhibition and preview support the text based information. For copies of the 'March of the Women 2008' song created by young women from Harpurhey – please contact the Pankhurst Centre

Developments

The Pankhurst Centre has been invited to have a stall at the National Party Conference in September 2008. This offers a great opportunity for profile, networking, sales and promotion.

The Dinner Table will also be on display and the artist has offered to attend to explain the commission to interested parties, increasing Manchester City Council's profile and highlighting the success of creative consultation.

Manchester City Council intends that the exhibition to go on tour in order to maximise access for Manchester residents and visitors (plus North West residents and visitors). The aim is to display the work in public buildings and to develop educational links to girls' schools in the area. The artist, Charlotte Newson, will tour with the exhibition to curate, give presentations and workshops

The Pankhurst Centre women's drop in group are exploring the possibilities of becoming a creative enterprise and have already organised a residential weekend for team building in Mellor.

Several organisations are expressing an interest in working with the Pankhurst Centre and have begun to introduce their clients to the services available. The Red Cross women's group have attended the drop in group at the centre and a visit to St Luke's women's group is being planned.

The Pankhurst Centre has been invited to George House Trust to present information and heritage material to their women's group, to the Beacon Women's Network and Soroptomist's International (professional business women's organisation who raise money for charity).

Manchester Rape Crisis (MRC) is holding an open day for their clients to look at methods of creative consultation working with the artist Charlotte Newson.

Several organisations have expressed an interest in working with the artist, for creative issue based work, (George House Trust, Red Cross, Women's Action Forum, LIKT, MRC and LGF). Charlotte Newson has developed a strong reputation as a socially engaged practitioner and has a very high level of experience, in both creative delivery and project management.



The Artist with 'Cherry Lips' which she showed as part of the exhibition

FAMOUS MANCHESTER FACES

©

Look at the dinner table and see how many faces you know.

Walk around the 'Dinner Table' and see how many faces you can recognise.

If you don't know some of them, you could research them via the web with your friends, teacher or tutor.



Q Why are they famous?

Q What do - or did - they do?

Q Where did the Pankhurst family live?



Betty Tebbs

Dame Kathleen Ollerenshaw



Kath Locke

Marie Stopes



Sonny Lowry

Julie Goodyear (Bet Lynch)



Elizabeth Gaskell

Frances Hodgson Burnett



Charlotte Bronte

Carol Anne Duffy



Anna Ford

Charlotte Newson



Caroline Aherne

Lillian Forester



Victoria Wood

Estelle Morris



Jenni Murray

Diane Modahl



Jackie Kay

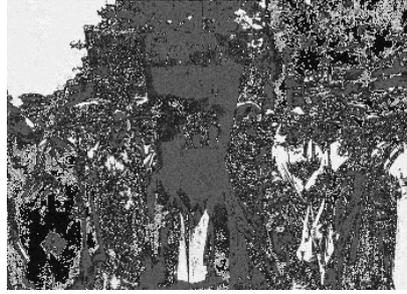
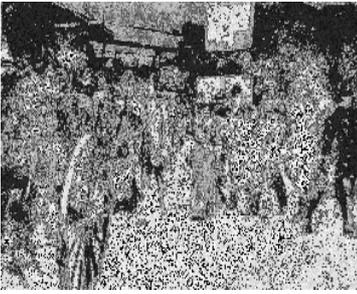
Lily Kwok



Ellen Wilkinson

**Christabel Pankhurst
campaigning**





Joan Bakewell

Emmeline Pankhurst

Sylvia Pankhurst

Annie Kenny

Adela Pankhurst

Evelyn Manesta

Annie Briggs

Pankhurst Centre Women's Drop in Group

Indian Suffragettes

Coronation Procession

Emmeline Pankhurst

The first women to vote

Women dressed in Prison Uniforms



Evaluation and Monitoring

Comment on What Manchester Women Want 8th March 2008, I.W.D.

by Theres Fickl

I am writing to you to express my appreciation and my excited enjoyment over the Art Exhibition that you have created for the Women's International Day. Over the last 10 years I have regularly visited the Women's International Day Celebrations at the Manchester Town Hall. Enjoying the vibrant and colourful meeting with women from all over town; hearing about the different women's groups and their activities. Some years I felt more engaged with what was presented and some years less. What made the difference this year was the Art Exhibition by Charlotte Newson.

Immediately as I came into the building I felt engaged, not only with the present celebration of women's lives, activities and achievements, but also with our shared women's history. A history that is so important to me, as I am now able to bear the fruits of their struggle. I felt the art exhibition was a way of saying a heartfelt 'thank you' to, and a real celebration of those women who came before us. Furthermore it was a celebration of today's women, real women in different life-stages, from different backgrounds and different countries, women whose commitment is with men and women whose commitment is with other women. I felt that every single woman visitor could see herself reflected in the multitude of art exhibitions.

The way Charlotte Newson brought to life the women from the past and present was both skilful and fantastic:

- The display cases that held and told the story of the suffragette movement.
- The display cases which showed off the playful and artistic corsets.
- The re-writing of the Women's March Song – which was a joy to listen to. I felt it was really heartening to see, how a group of young women engaged with their history as they put a new tune and lyrics to this still important march song.
- The drawing by a young woman – imagining herself being one of the suffragettes.
- The photo exhibition by a group of older women – to show us that they want to be and can be visible.
- The display of the LGBT group telling the story of women in sports.
- The 'What Women Want' female 'Tree' – an opportunity for visitors to engage with what they want Manchester to be for them and offer to them.
- The touching stories of Manchester's refugee women.
- And the final crown: The Suffragette Movement asking us to sit down at their table, not just to remember, gossip about and celebrate their movement, but to take strength and nourishment from knowing about the continuity of women's achievements and their dreams.

I want to say thank you. Thank you for making this year's International Women's Day such a joy for me. And for others too, as all of the women I spoke to really enjoyed and felt engaged with the Art Exhibition. What Women of Manchester want? Definitely More Of That! Will this exhibition travel around locally and nationally? I sincerely hope it will!

With kind regards,
Theres Fickl

Example of Questionnaire sent out to all groups involved

QUESTIONNAIRE
“What Manchester Women Want”

- What did you enjoy most

I enjoyed introducing the idea to the girls that we haven't always had the liberty that we have today - I think it came at quite a shock to some of them!

I also enjoyed taking the girls to the studio

- What do you think could be improved

I think we could have had a little more resources i.e. time and funding so we could have done the project over a longer period of time to build better relationships and have looked into the issues at greater depth.

- Did you learn new skills? If so what

I have never written an up-date of an old existing song before - so yes!

- Would you like to take part in creative projects in the future?

YES

- If yes what suggestions do you have for this?

More of the same type of project - writing, singing, performing and recording with young girls - all related to a worth-while issue.

- Any other comments?

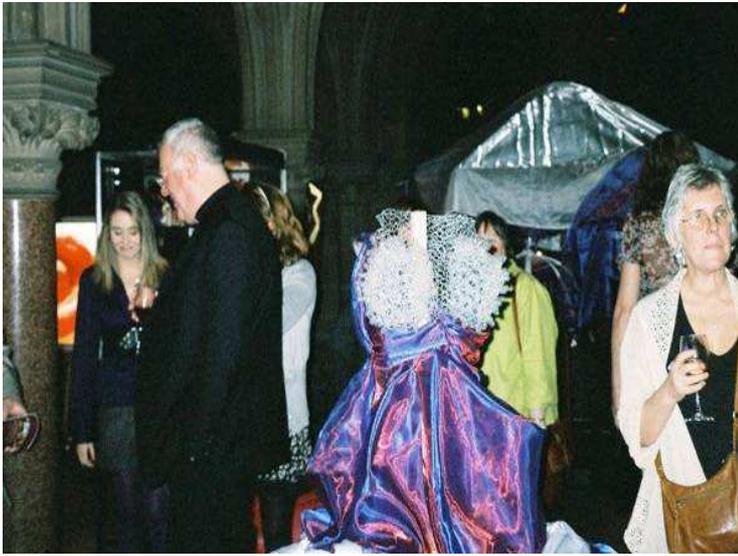
Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of the project!

“WISH CARDS”



IMAGES

Exhibition Preview



International Women's Day, Saturday March 8th 2008



**Performance by Harpurhey
Young Women's Group**

