

We Woz Here

The brief of the reside residency was to work with communities across Midlothian, exploring their sense of identity and belonging. In researching the twentieth century history of the area, I found miners' badges of identity – enamel label pins, banners emblazoned with slogans like 'Unity is strength; posters of resistance to closure. But in an era when local people are no longer bound by a single industry or way of life how do we define what it is to belong?

Working alongside the Townscape Heritage Initiative, who were developing a Heritage Trail for Dalkeith, I proposed a scheme of permanent public artworks which would look like the traditional blue plaques and would speak in a visual heritage language with which we are all familiar. The difference being that these plaques would tell of the most lasting memories from everyday Dalkeith existence.

A huge range of people contributed memories - some mundane, some out of the ordinary. I worked with groups such as Dalkeith History Society; Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland; Woodburn Day Care Club; Newbattle Youth Forum and King's Park Primary School. Memories flooded in through public events, completed postcards and the project website, where they are now all compiled.

While the artist Gavin Turk once created a single blue plaque for his art college degree show, announcing that he had "worked here 1989 - 1991"; I was more interested in subverting the blue plaque norm where the achievements of one person are traditionally elevated.

While the unusual and the historic are celebrated in 'I Woz Here; the memories I relish most are those that highlight the life-affirming 'everyday-ness' of life, be it peacetime or wartime.

Allison McCathie caught the bus; David Wardrop-White was disciplined for shouting at his teacher; Hans Clausen choked on a whole Cadbury's cream egg; Ernie Ross loved the smell of baking bread; Marsa Tulloch queued for the best pies in the world.

'I Woz Here' is a statement that speaks to me directly from an early 80s childhood, when the graffiti aesthetic was translated into our school jotters doodles in moments of distraction. The colour red is a nod towards that mining badge and a Midlothian which until very recently was a Labour stronghold in the oldest tradition. These fifty memories (plus the extra, secret one for luck – I never could resist a memory about a turnip) have been collated to reflect the People's Lives. Tucked away up closes and around corners, quietly waiting to be changed upon and permanently celebrating a sense of Dalkeith belonging' in all its quirky diversity.

We Woz Here.

Enjoy the search...

Susan T Grant

Midlothian Artist in Residence

Dalkeith I WOZ HERE

I Woz Here was created by artist Susan T Grant as part of the reside residency project, in collaboration with Dalkeith Townscape Heritage Initiative and the Arts & Creativity Team, Midlothian Council.

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www.midlothianartist.wordpress.com



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A Public Art Trail

People's most lasting memories
of Dalkeith town centre.

Map

- 1 best pies White's Close, 102 High Street.
- 2 polish soldiers 110 High Street.
- 3 45s 116 High Street.



- 4 colacubes 138 High Street.
- 5 china horse 156 High Street.
- 6 scott's close 156 High Street.
- 7 queen's visit 196 High Street.
- 8 the empress Corn Exchange, 200 High Street.
- 9 sledge 216 High Street.
- 10 chernobyl St Mary's Court, on right before church.

11 (20 min walk)

- 11 mightie Laundry, Dalkeith Country Park, nr Orangerie.
- 12 real livin' 163 High Street.
- 13 sleepover Entrance to Hunt's Close.
- 14 old pennies St Nicholas Church, left & rear of church.
- 15 record hops Church Hall, left & rear of church.
- 16 wand girl 101 High Street.
- 17 elephants 95 High Street, top of hill.
- 18 petrol 4 Edinburgh Road, left hand gable.
- 19 cream egg 93 High Street, right hand side on hill.
- 20 post-war bananas 93 High Street, left hand side.
- 21 foxtrot 79 High Street, close to left hand side.
- 22 pram 67 - 71 High Street, right hand gable.
- 23 north pole 67 - 71 High Street, Wilson's Close.
- 24 sputnik 63 High Street.
- 25 jam jars 47 High Street, left hand gable.



Dalkeith

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- 26 flat tile + spatula 25 - 27 High Street.
- 27 escape Churchyard, right hand. Entrance on Old Edin Rd.
- 28 sailor 2 - 4 Eskbank Road.
- 29 discipline 25 Eskbank Road, left hand gable.
- 30 rabbit 21 Eskbank Road, left hand gable.
- 31 teeth 17 - 19 Eskbank Road, right hand gable.
- 32 gym ropes 20 Croft Street, beside gates at far right.
- 33 politk 2 Buccleuch Street, right hand gable at rear.
- 34 tattie howker 7 Buccleuch Street, left hand gable.
- 35 brush factory 24 High Street.
- 36 lost 24 High Street.
- 37 gingerbread men 30 High Street.
- 38 old minnie At rear of 30 High Street, Eskdaill Street.
- 39 red wellies 39 Jarnac Court.
- 40 march 27 Jarnac Court, on South Street elevation.
- 41 v.e. day 92 High Street.

- 42 box bed 11 St Andrew Street, left hand gable.
- 43 empty bottles 17 St Andrew Street.
- 44 brown bags 4 Newmills Road.
- 45 hot rolls Beside bus stop, Eskdaill Court, South Street.
- 46 narrow dark streets White Hart Street, left hand side.
- 47 drawer Off mid White Hart Street, up close on right.

- 48 fitba' Off mid White Hart Street, left hand side.
- 49 grease 26 Buccleuch Street.
- 50 first bike 32 Buccleuch Street.
- 51 turnip 1 London Road, right hand gable.