

THE SPECIAL DELIVERY NEWS

ROMAN HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL AND BRITTEN COURT CARE HOME EDITION

Langled, galing and frozen solid trousers

Published in partnership with:



Made possible with

**Heritage
Fund**

**SUFFOLK
ARCHIVES**



For more stories visit:
www.suffolkartlink.org.uk

Special Delivery in Lowestoft

Exploring the art of
communication with
poet Dean Parkin and
community artist,
Kate Munro

Inspired by collections of letters held by Suffolk Archives and in county museums, Special Delivery brings together primary school pupils and residents in care homes to consider different ways of communicating—and invent a few of their own.

Westgate on Fridays

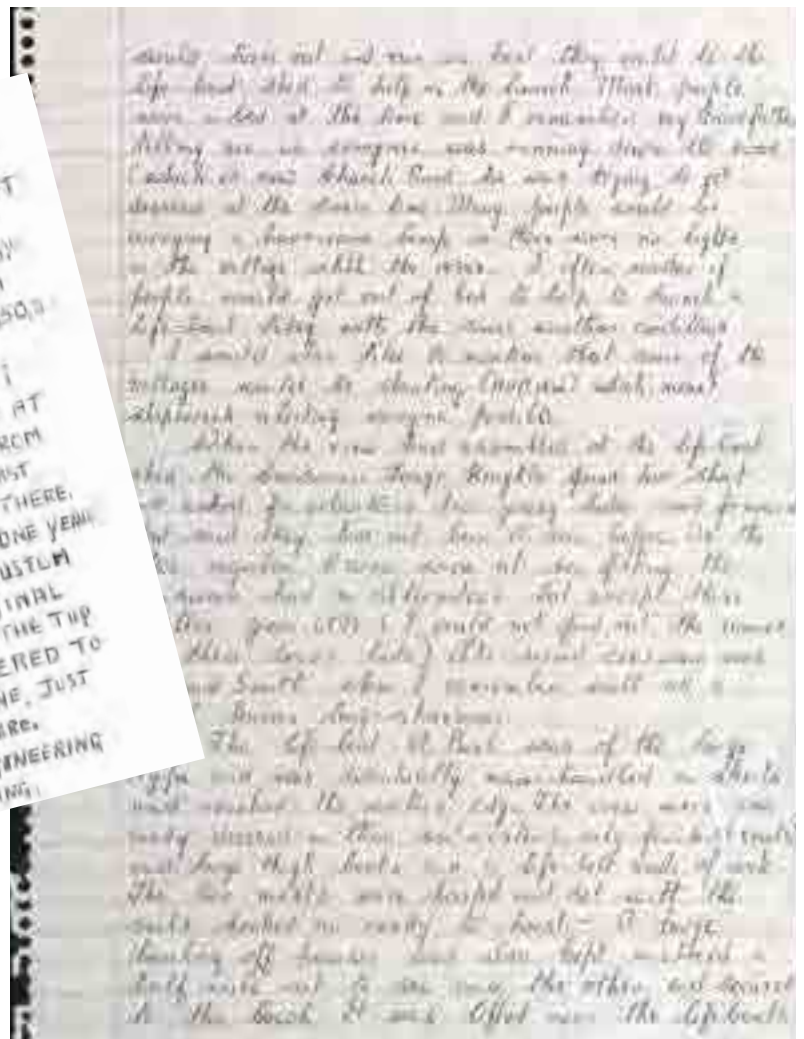
For the Britten Court Care Home and Roman Hill Primary School programme, Kate and Dean chose two letters sent to the journalist Trevor Westgate.

Cover headlines:

Lines taken from the Roman Hill visit to Suffolk Archives poem, see entry for 23 June.

Full of stories of local events and characters, these letters were used by Trevor to create a regular column in the Lowestoft Journal.

THE SPECIAL DELIVERY NEWS



The two letters chosen by Dean and Kate could not have been more different.

The first was written by Albert, who left Roman Hill Primary School in 1920, aged 14, to become an apprentice coachbuilder.

The artists were both struck by the style in which the letter was written, using capital letters throughout, except when Albert referred to himself.

The second letter, written by Gordon, reads like an adventure story—and it's a true story, all about the Kessingland lifeboat, the St Paul, and the bravery of the crew on a stormy night in December 1919.

Image:

Extracts from the two letters chosen by the artists from the Trevor Westgate collection in Suffolk Archives.

5 MAY 2022

The Bubble Wrap

Our first creative session at Roman Hill Primary School and, with poet Dean Parkin in charge, it was a splendid opportunity to listen to him reciting the Bubble Wrap.

Dean loves words, he writes lists of words, he has books full of lists of words.

The Bubble Wrap is one such list; his ability to remember it all is breath taking, and the children were captivated.

The recital led into a different sort of list-writing; thinking of all the ways we can say hello to someone.

As we couldn't meet face-to-face, we decided to write postcards to the residents at Britten Court.

But, when you've never met someone before, it can be difficult to know how best to say 'hello'.

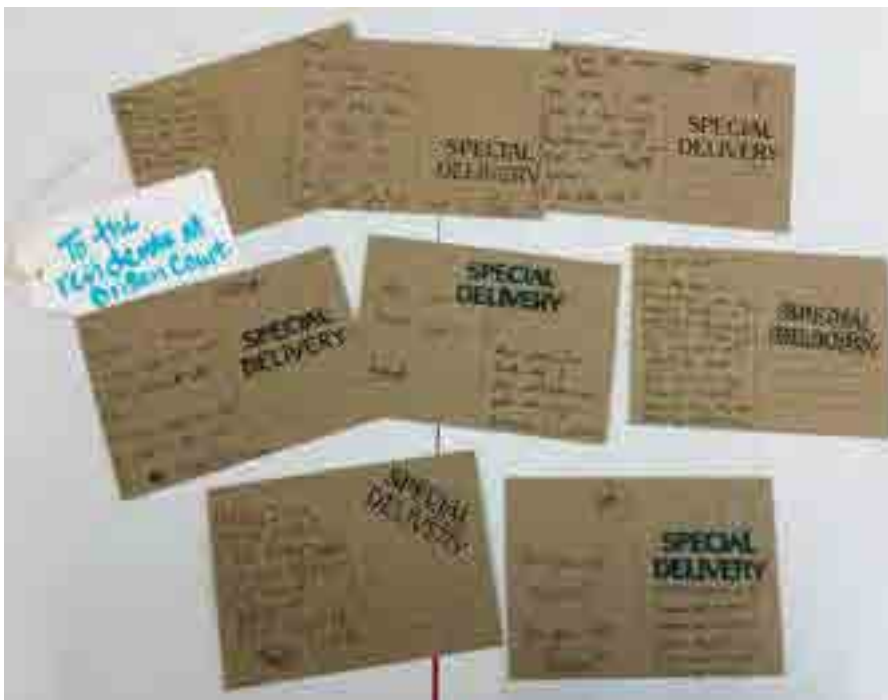


“Dear friend I’ve never met before ... I can land a front flip on my trampoline and I am good at playing football.”

5 MAY 2022

"Hello, My name is Taylor. I'm 9 and I dislike fire alarms. What do you dislike?"

Kittens & Pizza (but no pineapple)



"My name is Ashleigh. I'm quite tall and have a big Labrador called Alfie."



Asked to write one thing about themselves and ask a question of the adults, the children were soon sharing their love of turtles, kittens and pizza (although not with pineapple) and asking about pets, hobbies and favourite sports.

5 MAY 2022

Postcards from Britten Court

The children's postcards were delivered to Britten Court, together with an Activity Pack for the residents and a parcel of postcards for their replies.

And what lovely replies they were—from a picture of a tortoise by Maureen to a long list of jokes from Martin; the children were thrilled to get them all.

“Hello Ashleigh, my name is Pat. I also have a Labrador called Toby, he likes food a lot.”

“My name is Marlene Yes, I do like hearing the purring of kittens. Do you like the Ocean?”

“I’m Rodney and I used to play for Lowestoft Town, I played full back.”

“My name is Stan, I’m too old to run around, but running around helps keep you fit. We have a fire alarm every Monday, the noise doesn’t worry me so much now.”

Q: How do mountains stay warm in winter?

A: Snow caps.

Q: What do cows order from?

A: Cattle-logs.



Image:

A picture of Freddy the tortoise, who lives in Maureen's garden and will back soon after his winter sleep.

12 MAY 2022

Hand Printed Letters

Among the dozens of letters in the Trevor Westgate collection is this one from Albert, who attended Roman Hill School over 100 years ago.

The children studied parts of his letter and, just like artist Kate Munro, were very impressed by the style of writing, not least because, if you wrote a text message like that, people would think you were shouting.

Albert wrote about his job with the Eastern Coach Works in Lowestoft, and this led to a chat about coach trips; we thought it would be interesting to ask the residents about any trips they'd taken.

And whilst of course Kate didn't want to encourage people to shout at one another, she did like the idea of printing in capitals.



"It looks like he's printed it, except for the letter 'i'; he should have used a capital letter for that."



Images:

Top: The first page of Albert's letter.

Above: Tiny printing blocks and ink pads.

Left: One of the children using the blocks to print a message to a resident.

12 MAY 2022

Pigeon post



12 MAY 2022

The children printed messages and sent them, pigeon post, to the residents. And the very next week, a flock of pigeons returned, each with a brief note about a memorable coach trip.



"Hi all, my name is Martin. I spent my life driving coaches every day. I went all over the British Isles for work. I sat at the back on the left hand side when I was taking my break.

I could always smell people's food, especially egg sandwiches."

As well as lines about coach trips and tastes in music, we received this pigeon (above) from Martin, in which he explained about his job as a coach driver.

19 MAY 2022

Britten Court—in person

Each week, we send an Activity Pack, together with the children's work, to the adults at Britten Court.

In this way, the two groups can respond to one another's work and get to know a little bit about each other.

Saying hello in person

This week, however, was different and Dean and I were able to visit in person.

It was lovely to be back at Britten Court with Julie and her team and to see residents we've met before, and new participants, all ready and eager to take part in the activity.

What we know already

Through the power of postcards and pigeon post, we already know a lot of jokes from Martin, a fair amount about football and some wonderful snippets of news about pets, hobbies and favourite ice-cream flavours.

What we need to know

Soon, the children will be visiting Suffolk Archives, to explore some of the documents for themselves.

They'll be finding out a bit about how things have changed, and why it's important to conserve old papers, maps and photographs.

We wanted to know from the adults what they thought was important to keep.

An imaginary scrapbook

When we asked them for some ideas of what the children might look for, the conversation rapidly blossomed into an entire scrapbook, with individuals painting vivid pictures of what they would like included.

From photographs of relatives in their service uniform to timetables, shopping lists and sporting programmes, you could sense the pride, joy and love they felt for each item.

On the facing page is that imaginary scrapbook, compiled by residents and staff at Britten Court and full of tender, loving memories.

19 MAY 2022

An Imaginary Scrapbook

Pat puts in a picture of Toby, her well-behaved and much-loved Labrador.

Stan adds the blue of his uniform, the roar of the aircraft, and the weight of the rifle on his shoulder, as he patrols the perimeter fence.

Maureen puts in her grandad's riding crop and spurs from WWI; they put them up on the wall, when he came to live with them.

Audrey chooses a photo of her grandson, his face covered with chocolate.

Martin makes bus routes sound like poetry; he pastes in a timetable and the advice he was given; 'You have to slow down to get there on time'.

Marlene remembers the errands she ran (and the walk from Pakefield to Kessingland) and pops in a shopping list for two bags of sugar and some butter.

'My dad was in the RAF, he did good things,' says Chris and in goes a photo of him, complete with his pilot's cap.

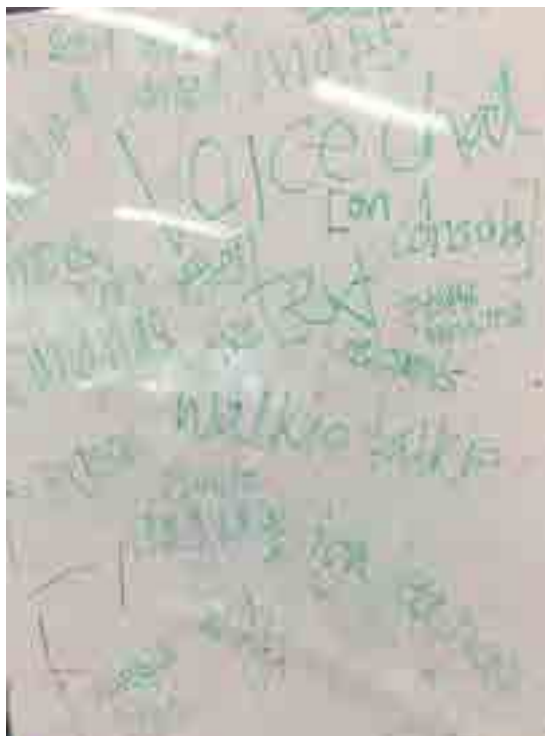
Rodney wants a football programme, preferably from the Bobby Robson testimonial match, and that takes Julie back to her days at Carrow Road, sitting in the stands in her special black top.

Abbie wants her teddy in there, the one called cat that Dad gave her on the day she was born. And Rachael slips in Lloyd, the teddy from the pharmacy; he's only got one arm now and he's been with her all her life.

[illegible]

The list, as you can see from the

Dean led the group in a writing



"I sent you this wish to tell you I love my cat."

"I sent you this postcard to remind you of a taste of strawberry."

"I sent you this text to say I am in the UK."

"I sent you this map to go to Sri Lanka."

"I sent you this dark dragon to find the pulse of love."

I want you this postcard to remind you a little of a childhood.

"I sent you this postcard to remind you of a taste of strawberry."

1. *Chlorophyll a* and *Chlorophyll b* contents were determined by the method of Arar and Collins (1987).

"I sent you this text to say I am in the UK."

I will give the map to you to see clearly.

"I sent you this map to go to Sri Lanka."

I sent you this dark message to find this place of love.

"I sent you this dark dragon to find the pulse of love."

19 MAY 2022

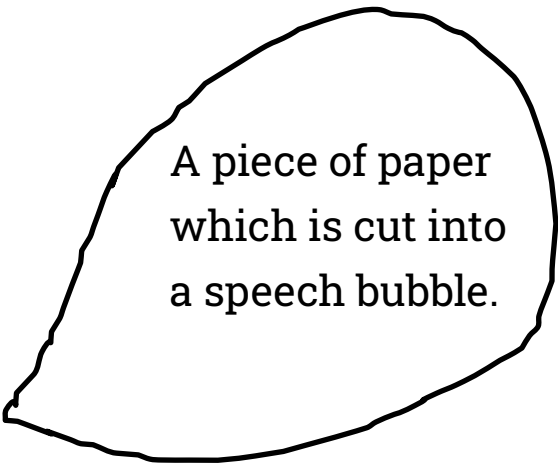
Magical Scrapbooks

Inspired by the residents' imaginary scrapbook, we were keen to see what the children would produce.

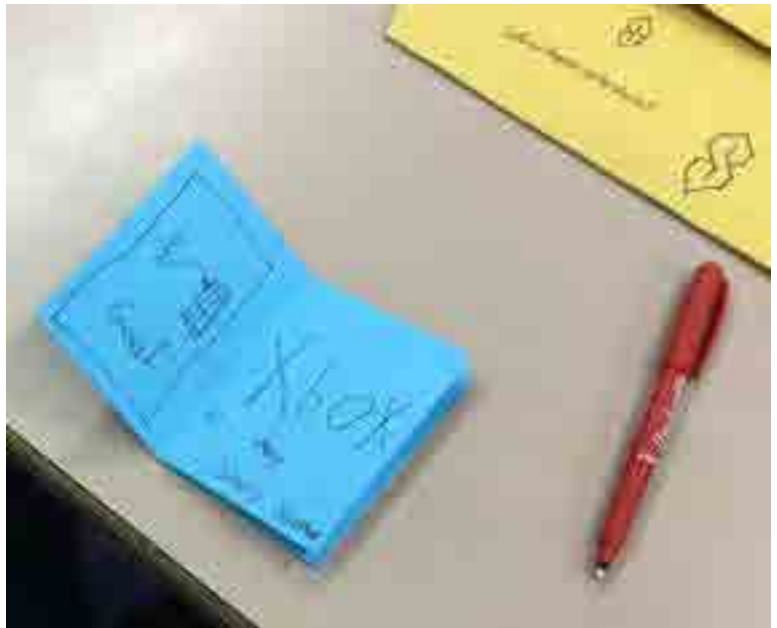
Into their scrapbook they had to paste:

- ♦ a photograph
- ♦ an object
- ♦ a sound
- ♦ something they'd had for a long time
- ♦ something that made them smile.

And so they created scrapbooks with the sounds of dogs panting in happiness, cats meowing, family photographs, precious jewellery, a trip to Disneyland and ...



A piece of paper
which is cut into
a speech bubble.



26 MAY 2022



Special Delivery Stomp

This week, Kate compiled an inspired play list, with classics like Artie Shaw's Special Delivery Stomp, Pat Boone's Love Letters in the Sand, and the Marvelettes singing Please Mr Postman—and the residents danced their pens across the sheets of paper in time to the beat.



26 MAY 2022

Special Delivery Rock and Scroll

Having shared back their Imaginary Scrapbook poem, the residents then came up with several additional suggestions for the children's visit to the Archives.

They wrote them down on strips of paper, wrapped them up in their dance-decorated sheets of paper and made these fabulous scrolls for the children to take to Suffolk Archives.

"It was wonderful, seeing how much they were enjoying themselves."

Britten Court Staff



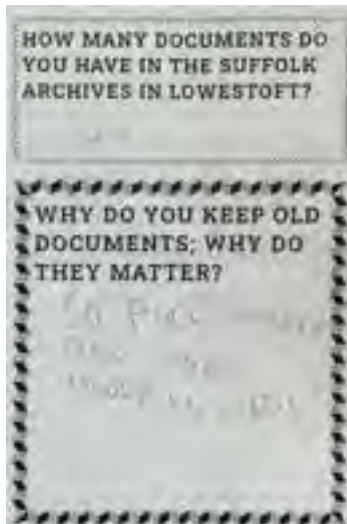
8 JUNE 2022

What they discovered



Several of the residents at Britten Court went to Roman Hill School, and we know that Albert left there when he was 14 years old, in 1920. Can you find out how the school and the surrounding area has changed in the last 100 years?

'The buildings have changed a lot. Some have been demolished. It had more grass and fields. We now have to go to Barnard's Meadow. The area changed from fields and allotments. Houses and roads were built like Yeovil Road where I live!'



20 million documents—
'So each generation can learn about the past.'



Illustrations: Top row; Old council coach. 2nd row; Old Oxo cube tin, George Best's football shirt. Bottom row; Football membership card, Council bus; A wheelie bin gale; Pink blancmange.

8 JUNE 2022



From researching vintage advertising for everyday shopping items to examining press cuttings, maps and old documents, the students (and staff) from Roman Hill made the most of their trip to Suffolk Archives.

16 JUNE 2022



Sharing the discoveries—with souvenir plates

Following their trip to Suffolk Archives, the children had lots to tell the residents. They used their drawings and images to collage these delightful 'souvenir plates', to share some of those discoveries with the adults.



16 JUNE 2022

Sharing the memories—with souvenir plates



Whilst the children were visiting Suffolk Archives, the residents were being treated to a virtual tour of Victorian Seaside Holidays—courtesy of online content from The Hold in Ipswich and our intrepid tour guide, Dean Parkin.

23 JUNE 2022

Sharing the plates—with a picnic

From souvenirs to sandwiches and sausage rolls. Kate and Dean led the residents in a jolly session of Picnic Plate Poetry—until Dean put his foot in it.



Images above:

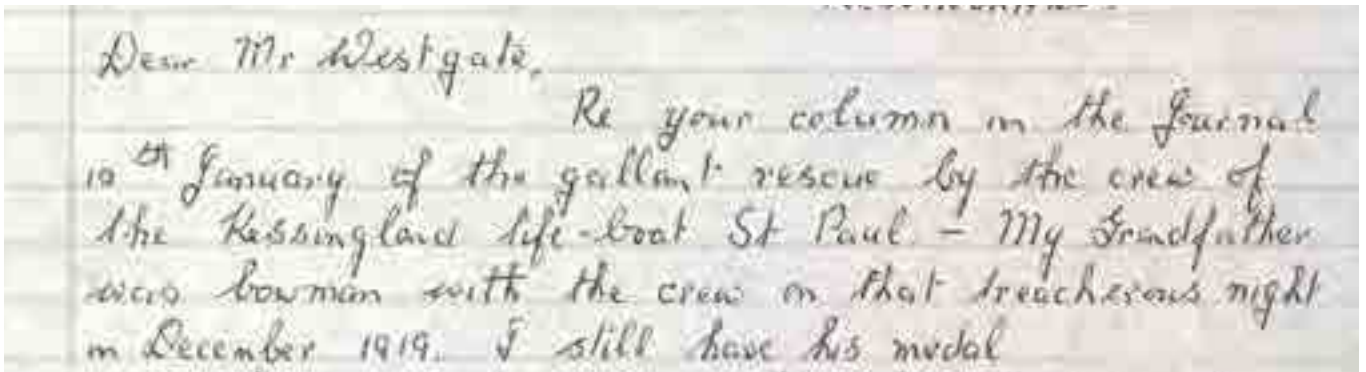
Collaged souvenir plates by residents using vintage postcards and lines from their imaginary scrapbook.

Image right:

Whelks and potted shrimp; Woolworth's Pick 'n Mix; Windbreak and mallet; Wes would bring the Guinness.

23 JUNE 2022

The second letter chosen by the artists was written by Gordon Hart, and detailed an heroic lifeboat rescue in December 1919.



Dear Mr Westgate,
Re your column in the Journal
19th January of the gallant rescue by the crew of
the Kessingland life-boat St Paul - My Grandfather
was bowman with the crew on that treacherous night
in December 1919. I still have his medal



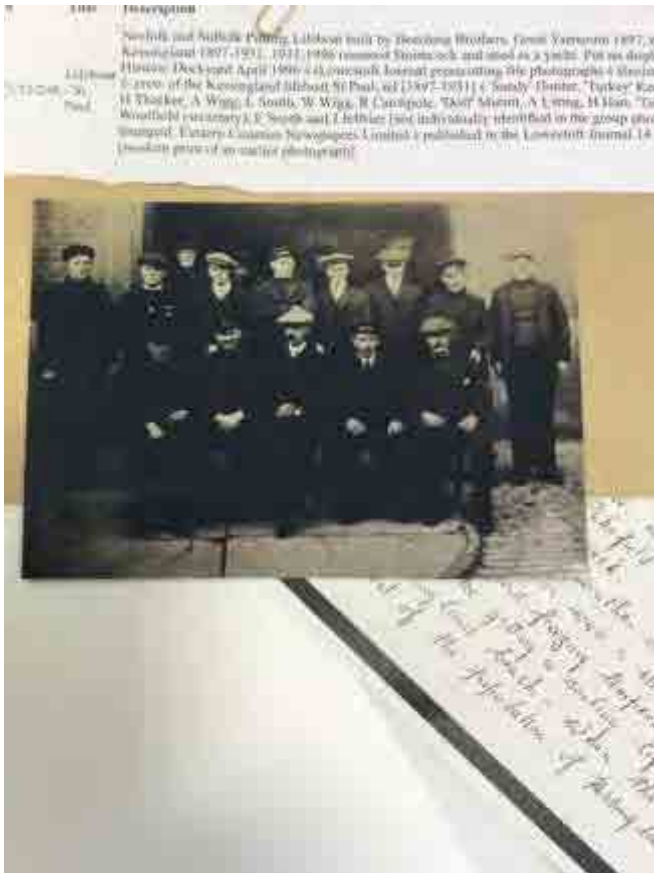
Whilst at Suffolk Archives, some of the children had the chance to research the story, and found photographs and press cuttings about the crew and the rescue.



There was also earlier archive material, showing the cork lifejackets the crew used to wear.

23 JUNE 2022

The crew of the St Paul, Kessingland's lifeboat.



Roman Hill at Suffolk Archives

The children all agreed that they had discovered a lot, not least two new words; 'langed' and 'galing'.

Being a man who likes a new word, Dean instantly used them to create this poem, to recount the adventures of Roman Hill at Suffolk Archives.

Langed & Galing

Time travelling

snow snowing

gale galing – we'll do it!

Langed, lashed to the mast

and a house built on a sandpit

or sandfish or sandwich.

Basking shark and blancmange

on a shopping list, handwritten recipe

for pickling white herring.

The red jersey with No.11

for Georgie Best, a saluki dog show

and Southwold to Lowestoft buses

hourly on Saturdays.

Being on a smack in the sea

in the wind, in the snow

in the night, is like being

in a wheelie bin in the rain

on a road, down a hill

in Storm Eunice.

Nine miles of books

Twenty million documents

and one pair of baggy

frozen solid trousers.

30 JUNE 2022

Graphite clouds and headlines

We had hoped to do cyanotype clouds, but for that you need sunshine, and the weather forecast was grim. We still did clouds—but using thick graphite pencils, instead. The results were spectacular, if a little stormy.



A two-handed controlled detonation and rolling thunder clouds—the eraser was for 'fluffing them up'.



30 JUNE 2022



After Kate introduced the group to the joys of graphite, Dean got them writing headlines, initially based on the visit to Suffolk Archives, as in Baggy Frozen Trousers, and soon taking a more domestic turn.

Every cloud has a silver lining



Meanwhile, over at Britten Court, the residents were busy creating a beautiful bunch of colourful tissue paper flowers.



Kate prepared an Activity Pack complete with instructions and all the necessary materials for making the flowers.

The residents will be able to share the flowers with the children when they visit.

7 JULY 2022

A musical interlude with Maurice and Dean

Inspired by images from Suffolk Archives of holiday makers dancing, and subsequent chats with residents about their musical interests, we thought it would be fun to do a bit of singing ourselves.

For this, we were joined by Maurice, who seems able to play just about any tune requested of him.

Starting with a Special Delivery song list with classics like *'I'm Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter'* and *'Return to Sender'*, we spent the morning singing a medley of old songs.

We also sang a brand new one, created by Dean and Maurice and based on items taken from the residents' Imaginary Scrapbook.



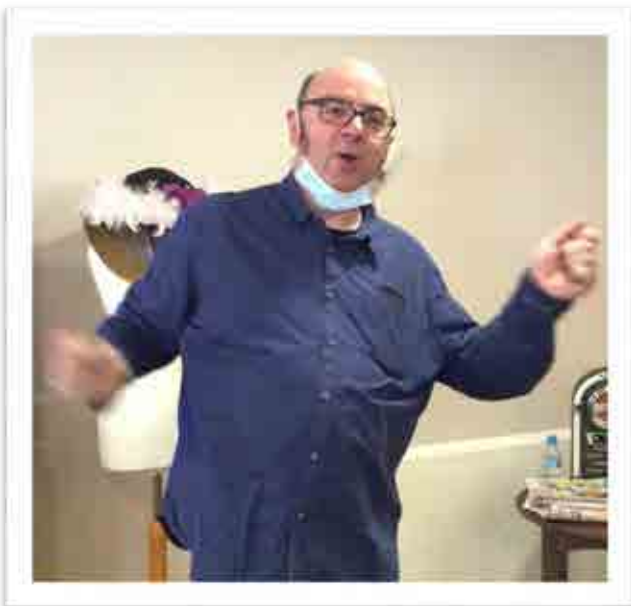
7 JULY 2022

Later that same day, over at Roman Hill, Maurice and Dean worked their magic again and had the children singing about different ways to communicate with one another.

From hiring billboard space on their street to writing in the sand and whispering a message in their dreams, the ideas came thick and fast, and even included sending a tank to the Queen.

You can listen to the children singing their song by visiting the Suffolk Artlink web site, searching for Special Delivery and viewing our blog site at: -

www.suffolkartlink.org.uk/dear-friend-ive-never-met-before/



Images on facing page, from top right; Vintage postcard of holiday makers dancing. Maurice making music. Dean dancing. Residents singing.

Dear friend I've never before

Postcards! Postcards!
Smart phone! Smart phone!
See you later! See you later!

Dear friend I've never met before
Here's a postcard through your door
Tell me something about you
And we'll share the things we do.

Writing headlines on a cloud
Pineapple pizza is now banned
To a man who drove a coach
We'll send a note by pigeon post.

(Postcards! Postcards! ...)

Draw a picture in the sand
Cast a spell with my hand
Blow a bubble in the air
Wave your hands like you care.

I'll whisper and I'll scream
Share my wishes in a dream
Tapping on a trampoline
Send a tank to the Queen.

(Postcards! Postcards! ...)

A waggle dance by a bee
A walkie-talkie on a boat
Let's sign a bright hello
Send a pigeon with a note.

On a billboard in my street
Is a sign that we should meet.
Write on a paper aeroplane
I wanna hear you say my name.

(Postcards! Postcards! ...)

Write a headline in a cloud
And make sure you say it loud.
Stick Storm Eunice in a bin
And let the fun begin.

14 JULY 2022

We finally get to meet

Our final session—and the children get to visit the residents at Britten Court, share some of the work they've created over the last ten weeks, and enjoy possibly the biggest cupcake they've ever seen.



14 JULY 2022



A selection of images from our tea party at Britten Court. It started outside in the garden, with Martin telling jokes (Taylor getting the answers) and Stan doing a wonderful impersonation of his pet dove that used to follow him when he went to the shops. Then we moved inside for a chat, a cuppa and a tower of cupcakes.





The Art of Communication

From press cuttings to paper flowers; the art of communication made real by pupils at Roman Hill Primary School and residents at Britten Court Residential Care Home in Lowestoft

Special Delivery brings together primary school children and residents in care homes and independent living units to explore and share the art of communication, inspired by documents held by Suffolk Archives and county museums.

A programme of creative sessions led by professional artists encourages participants to consider different generational and cultural approaches to communication, from formal letter writing to the artful use of emojis.

Our thanks to the school and care staff, artists and designers, Suffolk Archives staff and volunteers for their support, enthusiasm—and splendid ideas.

And, of course, an enormous 'thank you' to the children and residents who took part; you all made Special Delivery very special indeed.

Suffolk Artlink

We are a participatory arts charity, producing inclusive arts projects led by experienced arts practitioners and encompassing a rich variety of art forms.

Suffolk Artlink
Units 13 & 14, Malt Store
Annex, The Cut, 8 New Cut,
Halesworth, Suffolk, IP19 8BY
01986 873955
07857 002974

🐦 @Suffolk_Artlink

📷 @Suffolk_Artlink

📌 Suffolk.Artlink

enquiries@suffolkartlink.org.uk

www.suffolkartlink.org.uk

A Special
Delivery for
Roman Hill Primary
& Britten Court
Care Home



Made possible with

**Heritage
Fund**

**SUFFOLK
ARCHIVES**



Charity No: 1110898
Company No: 05354844