

SALISBURY COMMUNITY AREA BOARD

Report to the Area Board on the Grant for the Hidden Figures Street Art Pilot Project March 2022

The grant of £5000 for a pilot project to create a series of up to 9 life size figures of living Salisbury people was agreed by the Area Board in mid 2020. The project is for a total of nine life size figures of real living people nominated by local people and organisations. When complete these sculptures will form a trail, placed in hidden, out of the way, unexpected and secure corners of the city. The grant was for a pilot for the the first figure only.

The original inspiration was a figure of Antony Durman's daughter Alethea that can still be seen in a garden off Fisherton Street. Local resident Mrs Hawtrey watched from her window as visitors to the City took selfies in front of the figures from the bridge and asked whether such figures could not pop up all over the City.

Originally the proposal was to create the figures by scanning and then printing at Studio 43 a state of the art digital studio outside Stockbridge, Once work was underway the suggestion emerged that a more effective community project would be achieved by purchasing a 3D printer and producing the figures through volunteer effort from people in the community. This was put to Councillors and gained their approval.

Figure Number 1 was completed in late 2021 with the collaboration of a large number of people, almost all volunteers, including Archaeologist Phil Harding, Wessex Archaeology (scanning) Luke, a Bishop Wordsworth student (converting the scan to a programme that the 3D printer could read) and technician Adrian Lucas trialling the printing process with a 1:10 scale figure. Anthony had researched the best printer for our purpose and we ordered it from Sweden. A combination of post Brexit delays and Covid delayed delivery but eventually it arrived at the Wessex Community Action offices on Churchfields in April 2021.

A steep learning curve followed with sections of Phil slowly being printed out under the skilled hands of volunteer Adrian, with the support of John Hanson School in Andover. Then a whole team of volunteers led by Anthony assembled the figure, mounting it on a base produced by Salisbury Men's Shed. The figure of Phil is now in Salisbury Museum: we hope to get it into a shop window display in the City Centre soon.

The result of the change to community printing has been that the funding meant to produce 1 figure is now able to fund the first three. Arts Co-ordinator Sue Martin has worked with community groups to identify Salisbury people for future figures and we are just about to scan the next 2 figures – please watch this space for more news.

HIDDEN FIGURES FINANCE as of February 2022	
Income	Amount
Salisbury City Council	£1500
Salisbury Community Area Board Grant	£5000
Private donations	£1000
Total	£7500
Expenditure (approx.)	
PLA Filament/materials	£410
community engagement work/display	£480
Scanning Figure 1 Wessex Archaeology	£420
Printer including transport and VAT	3650
Honorarium	£150
Total	£5110