

# Cumnock Memories Garden

## Public Art Commission

November 2020

# ARTIST BRIEF

## Aim:

To celebrate the history and heritage of Cumnock, at the proposed dementia friendly “Memories Garden,” through the use of public art.

## Objectives:

- To have a bespoke piece of public art designed for the new Memories Garden and installed as part of the first phase of work to create the garden.
- To engage and work collaboratively with residents of Cumnock, particularly the elderly and those living with dementia, using a range of methodologies, to gather stories, memories and recollections of old Cumnock.
- To use the results of the engagement work to inform the design of the final artwork.
- To have sympathetic natural materials used for the project where possible, however the majority of the final piece should be made of robust, permanent outdoor, weather resistant and vandal proof materials.

## Background Context:

Cumnock is the second largest town in East Ayrshire with a population of just over 8,500. It has a history spanning over 450 years and hints of its Victorian market town history can be seen everywhere.

Textile manufacturing, handloom weaving and the production of lace have all been industries that flourished in the town’s early years, but industries including snuffbox manufacture, shoemaking and the production of Scottish Motto Ware by the Cumnock Pottery Company also form part of the town’s history. When coal mining began in the area around in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, other mines swiftly opened and mining became the main route to employment. It is perhaps this legacy for which the town is best known and the site of the garden at Armitage Drive, forms part of this deep mining legacy, being the site of the now flattened Shankston bing.

It is anticipated that the ideas and location for public art be focused at the northern end of the greenspace, on the slightly elevated ground. However the selected artist may be able to envision a better use of an alternative area subject to the agreement from the steering group.

## Artist’s Role:

We are looking for an artist with experience in community engagement and public art projects, to work in inclusive and creative ways to create and produce a piece of art for the people of Cumnock, that tells their story and can be permanently installed at the Memories Garden, a dementia friendly garden being designed and built within the town.

The commissioned artist will work collaboratively with Cumnock Action Plan and engage with local groups and individuals affected by dementia, over a period of around 12 weeks to research and understand the story of Cumnock through people’s experiences of living and working there. The artist will use these findings along with their own research and archival material provided by

Cumnock Heritage Group, to inform both the artist's own practice and ultimately the final artwork proposals.

The artist will carry out all preparation for designing and all work for the final fabrication of one permanent outdoor vandal resistant artwork for the garden (installation is outwith the scope of this brief and will be carried out as part of the first phase of wider work at the garden, delivered in early Summer 2021).

**Steering group / project partners:**

- Trustee and representative from Cumnock Action Plan.
- Development Officer from Green Action Trust.
- Dementia Adviser from Alzheimer Scotland
- Cultural Development Officer, East Ayrshire Leisure (for commissioning stage only)

**Proposed site/ Location for the art work:**

The anticipated location is the northern boundary of the site at Armitage Drive, Cumnock. Please see attached plan that shows extent of site boundary and indicative location.





### **Community Participation:**

In current times, it is unlikely that any face to face engagement can be safely carried out with the target audience. However, we would expect it will still be possible for the artist to carry out online engagement and consultation to inform the design process.

Proposals for the engagement process will be developed collaboratively between the commissioned artist and the Steering Group, but we expect it will involve elements of personal research, liaison with Cumnock Heritage Group, online engagement with local dementia support services and care providers to reach our target audience. The Steering Group will also work with the artist, to help gather creative content and information (e.g. drawn, written or recorded) from local participants, that could also be used.

There will be the need to meet with the project partners on a number of occasions throughout the process.

### **Expected Project Timescales:**

Nov/ Dec 2020 – recruitment and appointment of artist  
Jan – March 2021 consultation/workshops/engagement/ events  
April 2021 - design stage  
May 2021 - fabrication stage  
Summer 2021 (tbc) installation and completion.

## **Total Project Budget: £14,450.**

This includes all time, resources and materials required to meaningfully engage with the community, as well as artist design fees, fabrication and any associated costs. While installation will be carried out as part of the first phase of work at the garden, we would anticipate some time input and guidance required into this installation process. The budget is non-negotiable.

## **Artist's copyright and ownership of the work:**

The artist will retain the copyright to the work. Right to photograph and sell the image of the photographs will be shared equally between the commissioner and the artist.

## **Application Process:**

**Please enclose all of the requested documents and email to the contact below by the deadline.**

- a. Letter indicating your interest in this project, including an outline of your proposed approach and a timetable for delivery.
- b. A copy of your resume / CV.
- c. A sample digital portfolio of your artwork (max 10 images) please label the artworks with titles, media and dimensions.
- d. 2 references from those you have worked with previously on public realm projects.
- e. Proof of public liability insurance.

**Application Deadline: 11 December 2020, by 5 pm.**

**For more information about the project or to submit your application please contact:**

Gillian Barrie, Green Action Trust  
Tel:0771 505 1963  
Email: [gillian.barrie@greenactiontrust.org](mailto:gillian.barrie@greenactiontrust.org)



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**CUMNOCK**  
**ACTION PLAN**  
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Our Priorities  
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t: 01501 822015

a: Hillhouseridge, Shottskirk Road, Shotts, Lanarkshire ML7 4JS



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