

Mont le Grand – Opulent Heavitree Heavitree *Squilometre* Project October 2018 – March 2019 Evaluation Report

The Mont le Grand – Opulent Heavitree project, at the tail end of 2018, was the sixth nomination to reach the top of the Heavitree *Squilometre* voting list. Heavitree has an area of grand villas and houses built in the late Georgian/early Victorian period stretching from Salutory Mount, along Homefield Road and into Mont le Grand, Bicton Place and Regents Park. Reference in an early City Directory from 1831 to Heavitree’s “salubrious air” has led many local historians to believe that Heavitree was favoured as an outside-the-City area in order to escape the cholera epidemic that decimated the poorer parts of the City in the 1830s.

It was hoped that by exploring and celebrating the occupation history of one house, No. 1 Mont le Grand, we could uncover more nuance within that phenomenon. Indeed the “Mont le Pod” (the name given to the steering group of local enthusiasts who ran the project) grew when we were approached by Lydia Edwards, a student with the University of Exeter’s Global Lives Module, who chose to research the Rowe family of No. 8 Mont le Grand who were in receipt of slavery compensation after giving up their plantations in Jamaica. This added another dimension.

The Mont le Pod were proud to present **three separate performances of an original play** based on the occupation history of No. 1 Mont le Grand on the evening of Sunday 25th November 2018. Numbers for each performance were capped at 33/34 to ensure safe access. All performances were fully booked and attended.





100 local residents took the unique opportunity to take part in an immersive, original, professional performance based on the history of one of their very own streets.



The performance took the audience from the outside of the property where it could be used to illustrate interesting architectural features, to the inside where participants were treated to the opportunity to look around and chat with homeowners Sharon Goble and Richard Lawrence.

50% completed the evaluation slips and comments were **100% positive**.

There were a further **61 votes** made for the next *Squillometre* project and **4 new nominations**.



To provide a further, less dramatized, opportunity to engage with research uncovered by the project, on March 5th 2019 the Mont le Pod, including JoJo Spinks, house owners Sharon and Richard, Lydia from University of Exeter and two other local residents made a joint presentation at a meeting held in partnership with the Heavitree Local History Society. A further 50 Heavitree residents attended to hear the joint presentation, filling the Rifford Room at the parish church to capacity and enjoying a lively after-presentation discussion.

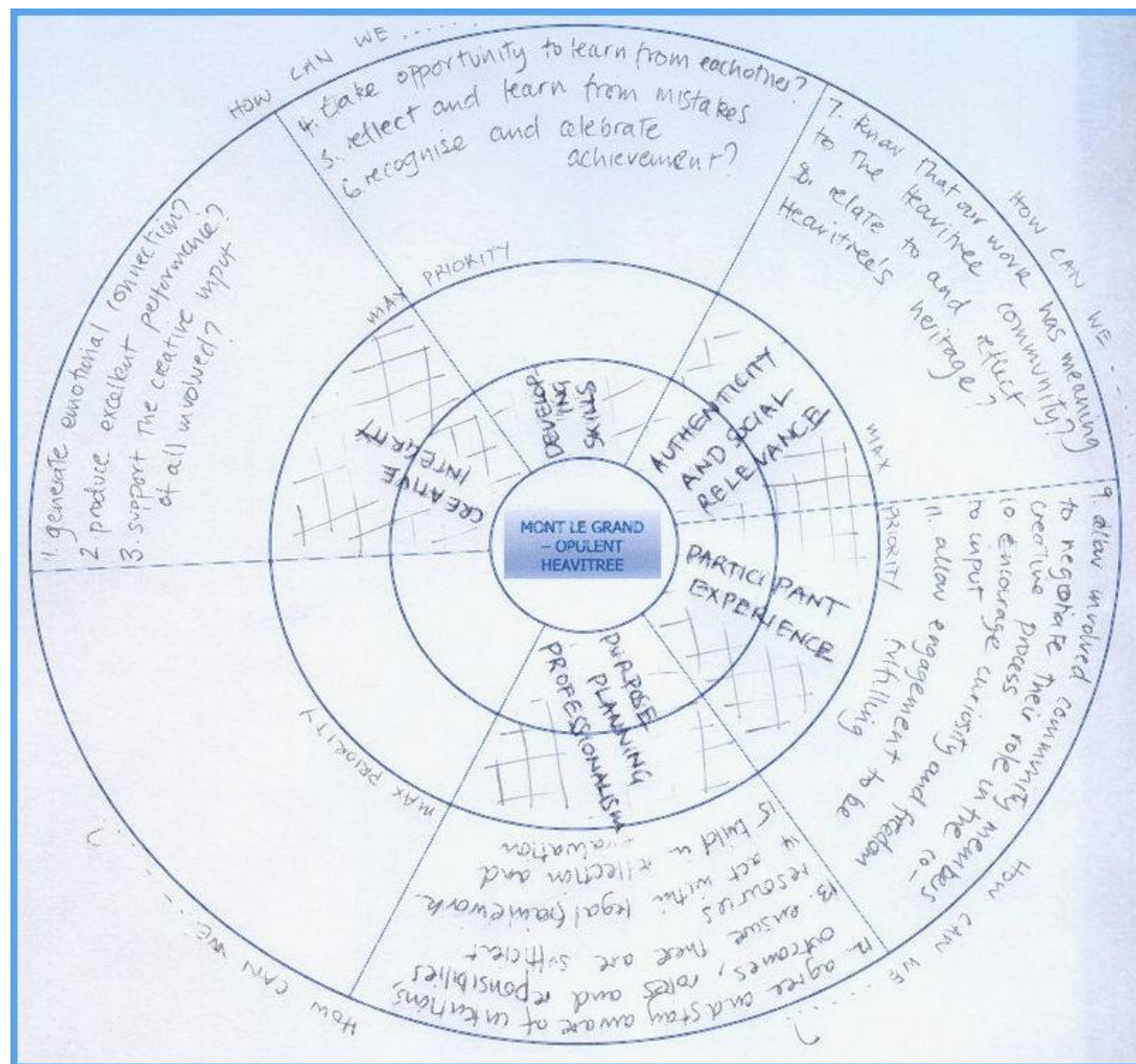


Quality Framework

The Mont le Pod agreed to adopt the Creative Scotland, "Is this the best it can be?" Quality Framework for participatory arts evaluation and the following document reflects the issues and actions agreed by the Pod at the beginning of the project.

The Quality compass allows some aspects, such as Creative Integrity, Authenticity and Social Relevance, Participant Experience and Professionalism to have greater import, in the context in this project than Developing Skills which was not considered to be a high priority in this instance.

This is the framework agreed by the Pod. It is repeated below, in table form, and where it includes feedback from associate artists, Pod participants and audiences.



EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

SEGMENT	QUESTION – how do we?	ACTION	EVIDENCED BY
Creative Integrity	1) generate emotional connection	Create a script with relatable characters and experiences ✓	Audience feedback "Amazing! Thoroughly enjoyed it and very very moved at the end! Thank you look forward to the next one".
	2) encourage excellent performance	Engage professional, experienced artists ✓	Audience feedback "Performance was very professional and convincing. Something completely different. Thank you for a lovely evening." Artists feedback "inspired and excited by quality script which suggested the concept that different times might co-exist within the physical space; .. able to imagine their characters' consciousness moving between these temporal layers" "Experienced director and writer allowed [us] to contribute creatively to the process."
	3) support the creative output of all involved	Agree and provide required rehearsal space and time ✓	
Developing skills	4) take opportunity to learn from each other?	Set up discussion space, either face-to-face or via WhatsApp or other social space to reflect and ask questions ✓	Record of meetings and main conclusions reached
	5) reflect and learn from mistakes	Set up discussion space, either face-to-face or via WhatsApp or other social space to reflect and ask questions ✓	
	6) recognise and celebrate achievements	Arrange a post-show celebration ✓	

Authenticity and social relevance	7) know that our work has relevance to the Heavitree community	Create a script based on the demonstrable research on the house ✓	Printed handout for audience and History Pack for presentation to home-owners
	8) relate to and reflect Heavitree's heritage	Include reference to recognisable aspects of place in the script ✓	Audience feedback "Great fun and great acting. I enjoyed it. Looking inside a house was a really good idea. Intrigued by the Heavitree stone aspect!" "A wonderful balance of information and entertainment. A very special experience to enter into the house itself. True living history. Thank you for having us!"
Participant experience	9) allow involved community members to negotiate their role in the co-creative process	Plan at least two more face-to-face meetings with Pod members ✓	Project Plan maintained and kept in a public space
	10) encourage curiosity and freedom to input	Use discussion space ✓	
	11) allow engagement to be fulfilling	Ensure that each idea presented has full consideration by the Pod ✓	Mont le Pod researcher feedback "It has been lovely to work with you"
Purpose, planning and professionalism	12) agree and stay aware of intentions, outcomes, roles and responsibilities	Use face-to-face meetings and discussion space ✓	Homeowners' feedback "Everything was done with great efficiency and professionalism"
	13) ensure there are sufficient resources	Run fundraising auction event ✓	Auction event not required.
	14) act within legal framework	Engage only inducted Associated Artists who are required to work within Interwoven Productions governance framework ✓	Artistic Director's feedback "what was particularly nice and helpful, was the way in which [JoJo] created a calm and warm atmosphere for all to thrive in."
	15) build in reflection and evaluation	Use face-to-face meetings and discussion space ✓	