



Theatre Locale - The Heavitree Squilometre Update

Welcome to the first issue of *Theatre Locale*, the newsletter for Interwoven Productions, featuring The Heavitree *Squilometre* Update.

IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:-

- **Update on the first tour** - How many came to see it? What did you think?
- **Answers to your questions** - Did you ask a question on the walk? Find your answers here.
- **Nominations** - The Origins of South Lawn Terrace and The Sacred Trees of HeaviTREE compete for the top spot!!
- **Who we are and why we do what we do** - A look at Interwoven and the inspirations for the *Squilometre* project.
- **Getting involved** - Would you like to be part of the Interwoven team?

Update on A Very Special Story - Sweetbrier Lane



We're thrilled to say that over 200 good people of Heavitree will have seen the Sweetbrier Lane show by the time we've finished the run. We would like to thank you all very much.

We learned a great deal from you. There's so much local knowledge in the area. We learned to stop, listen and enjoy what you had to share.

We learned that we need to make it clearer that we are a performance company. We're artists and there will always be a creative/performance side to what we do. If that's not for you, we hope you'll give us a wave as pass on by!

However, what we learned most of all is that the people of Heavitree are good, kind,

generous and ready to try something new. Audiences have grown with each successive walk and your feedback and generosity has been amazing. Here are just a few of your kind words:-

A fabulous production, very informative and enjoyable. Willow is a delight, challenging our way of living and bringing alive how our 'ridge' once was. The music and singing was beautiful and a lovely accompaniment to the tour. The Dr was great, very well presented.

What a delightful 'happening' - Absolutely brilliant...

An unexpected Gift! of place. A magical experience that brought my new home place to life in a deep [time] way!!!

Extremely interesting. Unexpected music much appreciated.

Very interesting to think back so far to a time I have not considered.

Excellent! A very good and interesting way to learn about local history.

Fantastic, really really really good" - R (aged 5).

Excellent idea - really well brought to life! What about an event (maybe static!) for the wider Heavitree Community?

As a person born and bred in Exeter and having lived in Sweetbrier Lane for the past 40 years I found today most stimulating. please continue to bring alive other streets who hopefully will be as pleased as I am.

QUICKPRINT
.co.uk



Theatre Locale is produced by Jojo Spinks and [Interwoven Productions](http://InterwovenProductions.com)

To unsubscribe at any time please just return the email with "unsubscribe" in the subject line.

Email: jojospinks@btinternet.com Tel: 07855 935137

Answers to your questions - Some of you asked questions during the tour that we didn't get the chance to answer. You should find your answers here.

Q - What is the correct spelling of Sweetbrier?

A - According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the spelling with an "a", i.e. Sweetbriar, is a later variant. Apparently other words such as "liar" also used to be spelled with an "e". But we're not lying about this! Sweetbrier with an "e" came first and is a further indicator of the antiquity of the Lane.

Q - What is the origin of the name "Heavitree"

A - This is debated by some but we agree with W.G. Hoskins, Exeter's own famous Landscape Historian. He thinks it is related to the Head Tree, or *Heafod Treow*, of the Wonford Hundred. Hoskins believes that one of the Saxon Kings caused a church to be built on his estate near a tree which had sacred associations. This could well be at the site of St Michael's and All Angels, Heavitree.

Q - Is Polsloe Road a ridgeway too?

A - Here's what Hoskins has to say about Polsloe Road - "At Exeter the ridgeway came down over Stoke Hill (from where we do not know). At the top of Old Tiverton Road, where the roundabout now is, it forked. One trackway ran along the top of the conspicuous ridge of Mount Pleasant and so along Polsloe Road (all this line lies on a high ridge to those who keep their eyes open), ending somewhere near Heavitree Church or perhaps going down to the river bank" (*Two Thousand Years in Exeter*) Hoskins thinks use of the route was pre-Roman. We think it's interesting that it leads, again, to St Michael's and All Angels.

Who we are and why we do what we do

We are [Interwoven Productions](#), a not-for-profit collaboration of professional performance artists; that is writers, directors, actors, dancers and musicians who have volunteered a portion of our time to the *Squillometre* project. We're prepared to do this because we believe that **helping people to love their place on this earth Just a little bit more**, is a fine way to use our talents for the benefit of local people but also, ultimately, for the environment.

By taking one square kilometre (*a Squillometre*) of landscape at a time and growing the stories from the very ground beneath your feet, we believe we can take this approach anywhere you ask us to. And that's where you come in. This is a way of **commissioning your own art**. We're listening and we're going to stay in your *Squillometre* for a while yet. Not only have we adapted the current show to your feedback but we'll take your comments on to the next street in Heavitree and we'll keep listening.

Ways to get involved - If you've got time to volunteer we'd love to hear from you. We can use *marshals* to keep people safe on the walks, *leaflet droppers*, *prop/costume makers*, *artists of all kinds*. Do get in touch.

We're looking forward to hearing from you!!

Where do we go next? Nominations and voting as of 24th March 2015

Origins of South Lawn Terrace **19.44%**
 The Sacred trees of HeaviTREE **19.44%**
 The Park in the Dark [in association with Parklife Heavitree] **13.89%**
 Heavitree Bridge **8.33%**
 Heavitree Quarry **8.33%**
 Gordons Place and Lamp Post [the link with Gordon of Khartoum] **5.56%**
 Mont le Grand **5.56%**
 Higher Cemetery **5.56%**
 Bovemoors Lane **2.78%**
 East Wonford Hill **2.78%**
 North Street/Shelton Place **2.78%**
 Big ole whole community celebration! **2.78%**

If you'd like to register your vote for any of these nominations you can visit our website [here](#). If you believe, as we do, that communities should be able to commission their own art, then please consider making a donation as you make your vote. This will allow us to carry on this work.

THANK YOU!!!!