



A share of a pensioner's Christmas 'bonus'

Exhibition

Deborah Ballin

The output is an exhibition, created as part of collaborative research, consisting of 26' audio work by Esther Johnson and Debbie Ballin, a photographic series by Esther Johnson, and a selection of artefacts, from the People's History Museum archive, curated by Johnson and Ballin

Research process

A share of a pensioner's Christmas 'Bonus' is part of a larger research project titled Echoes of Protest, investigating the legacy of being involved in significant protest movements from a child's perspective. The project aims to understand the role protest can play in the politicization of children and the long-term impact of its aftermath on their lives. The research explores the story of how acts of generosity by total strangers made Christmas possible for the children of striking miners in 1984, and what it was like to grow up in the shadow of the Miners' Strike.

Research insights

During the Miners' Strike in December 1984, the Thatcher government paid pensioners the same £10 Christmas heating bonus they had received since 1972. A nationwide appeal, in several national newspapers, invited pensioners to give up their bonus in support of the striking miners. Hundreds of pounds worth of bonuses were donated to support this cause. Thanks to remarkable acts of generosity many children of Miners' and their families were able to celebrate Christmas that year. The exhibition bears witness to the untold stories of the children.

Dissemination

The output was exhibited at:

People's History Museum, Manchester. 5 December 2015 – 18 January 2016.

National Coal Mining Museum, Wakefield. 12 November 2016 – 18 January 2017.



A share of a pensioner's Christmas 'bonus'

Audio:

<https://soundcloud.com/blanche-pictures/a-share-of-a-pensioners-christmas-bonus/s-h3tb1>

The People's Echo Newspaper:

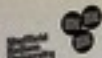
https://issuu.com/blanchepictures/docs/the_peoples_echo_newspaper_2016

A share of a pensioner's Christmas 'Bonus'

A collaborative project by **Esther Johnson and Debbie Ballin**

Saturday 5 December 2015 - Monday 11 January 2016

It's Christmas 1964. Sam, Gayle, Jayne and Craig are the children of striking miners. This is the story of how acts of generosity by total strangers made Christmas possible for them that year, and what it was like for them to grow up in the shadow of the Miners' Strike.



This project is supported by
the **Art & Design Research Centre at Staffordshire University**
and **People's History Museum**.

Website: www.staff.ac.uk/artanddesign
Email: artanddesign@staff.ac.uk

We got presents that were shared,
I got a 10p shop which was
20p a week that my mother had made
and I got a 10p coin that was
being shared too.

Sam, mine's daughter,
aged 9 during the strike.



We got presents that were donated...
I got a little cheap plastic watch
and a card that my auntie had made,
but I just didn't even care, 'cos I was
having so much fun.

18/10/16

children
positively
and

...er's daughter,
...uring the strike



**A share of a policeman's
Christmas 'stash'**

By [Name]

...



We got presents that were donated...
I got a little cheap plastic watch
and a coat that my auntie had made,
but I just didn't even care, 'cos I was
having so much fun.


Sam, miner's daughter,
aged 15 during the strike

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total
at
like.



SUNDAY 6th DECEMBER
A SHARE OF A PENSIONER'S
CHRISTMAS 'BONUS'
EXHIBITION LAUNCH 12-3.30
MUSIC FROM SALFORD BRASS
1-2 pm
BOOK VIA EVENTBRITE OR ASK AT
RECEPTION FOR DETAILS
FREE EVENT
DONATIONS GRATEFULLY
RECEIVED

**A share of a
pensioner's
Christmas 'Bonus'**
exhibition launch
Sun 6 December
1.00pm - 4.00pm



PLEASE
DONATE
TODAY

SHOW ME THE MONEY
THE DANCE OF FORTUNE, 1998 TO
1999

WELCOME

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A share of a pensioner's Christmas 'Bonus'

A collaborative project by Esther Johnson and Debbie Bellis

Saturday 5 December 2015 - Monday 8 January 2016

Opening Times Monday-Saturday 9am-5pm, Sunday 9am-4pm

It's Christmas 1984. Sam, Gayle, Jayne and Craig are the children of striking miners. This is the story of how acts of generosity by total strangers made Christmas possible for them that year, and what it was like for them to grow up in the shadow of the Miners' Strike.

This exhibition bears witness to their untold stories, and includes extracts from the People's History Museum archive, and a newly commissioned audio-visual project by artist and filmmaker Esther Johnson, and filmmaker and writer Debbie Bellis.

Project background

During the Miners' Strike in December 1984, the Thatcher government paid pensioners the same £10 Christmas heating bonus they had received since 1972. A nationwide appeal, in several national newspapers, invited pensioners to give up their bonus in support of the striking miners. Hundreds of pounds' worth of bonuses were donated to support this cause. Thanks to remarkable acts of generosity many children of a pensioner's Christmas 'Bonus' is part of a larger research project called *Coal of Protest*, investigating the legacy of being involved in significant protest movements. One a child's perspective. The project aims to understand the role protest can play in the politicisation of children and the long-term impact of its aftermath on their lives.

Esther Johnson is a UK based artist and filmmaker working with moving image, audio and photography. She was awarded an MA from the Royal College of Art, London and in 2010 she won the Philip Leverhulme Prize for Visual Performing Arts for young scholars. Johnson's documentary portraits have exhibited internationally in over 40 countries and on ABC Australia, Resonance for art ETC radio. She has written for several art publications, is an independent filmmaker, curator, and a Research Fellow at the Centre for Art & Design Research Centre, Staffordshire University.

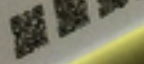
Debbie Bellis is a filmmaker and writer. She has made work commissioned by the UK Film Council, the Channel 4 and BBC. She was the first female filmmaker and writer to be awarded the BAFTA award for Best Short Film. She is a member of the British Film Institute and a member of the Royal Society for the Arts. She is currently working on a film about the history of the British film industry.

Thanks

- All the contributors, who gave their time and insights
- Art and Design Research Centre, Staffordshire University
- People's History Museum
- Christmas Bonus
- William Eay
- Barbara Johnson
- Clare of Tate
- David Thompson
- John Thompson
- John Thompson
- Christine Johnson
- David White

Links

- Art and Design Research Centre
- People's History Museum
- Coal of Protest
- Coal of Protest
- Coal of Protest
- Coal of Protest



Art and Design Research Centre
Staffordshire University
Leeds Road, Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire ST4 2DE
Tel: 01827 553111
www.adrc.ac.uk

People's History Museum
25 Piccadilly, Manchester
M1 1LU
Tel: 0161 275 3700
www.phm.org.uk

Coal of Protest
www.coalofprotest.com