

A community's  
response to a year  
of celebrations marking  
the 50th birthday  
of Peterlee's most  
iconic landmark,  
the Apollo  
Pavilion.

50

APOLLO

ZINE



# ONE SMALL STEP KATE FOX

## One Small Step

The kids come sit up here  
and look at the stars  
where Apollo's astronauts shot to the moon  
in a rocket with less computer power  
than a modern washing machine

they come up here they say  
to talk about the latest drama  
what's going on, who it's going on with,  
(what I heard was they come up here  
to dream)

Declan went off to London,  
to do stage lighting,  
it was expensive  
and lonely  
he missed Peterlee's green

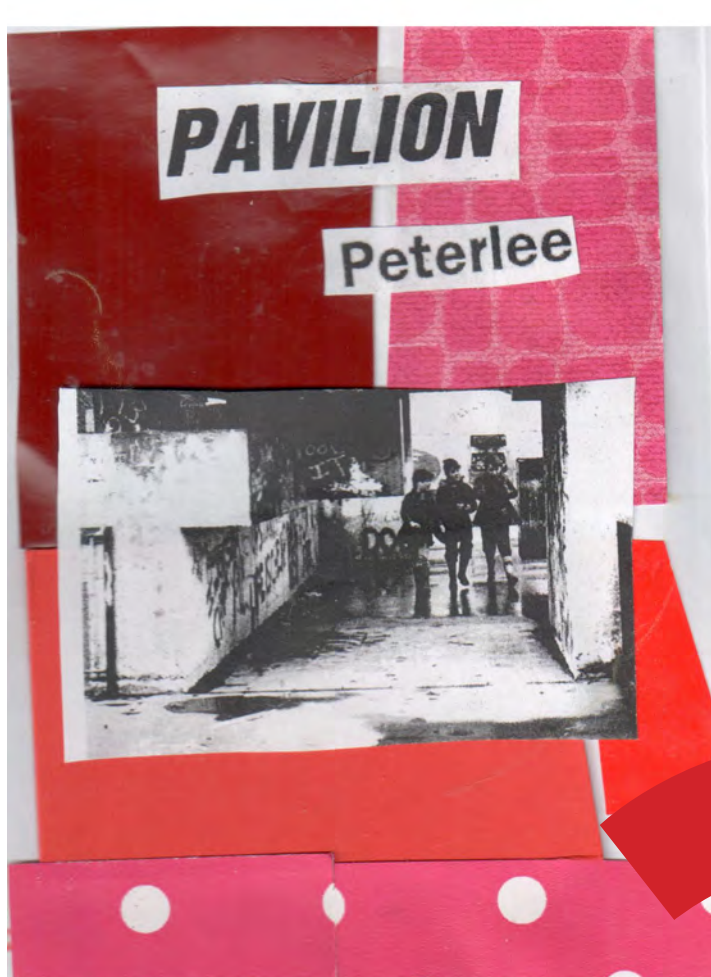
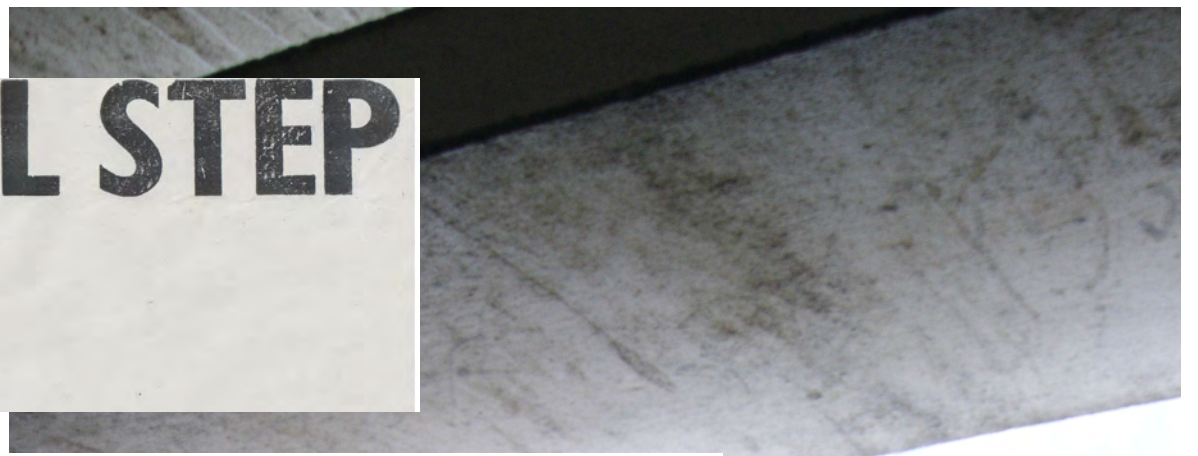
and he missed his crew,  
the missions they flew,  
says those who say the pavilion's an eyesore  
don't appreciate art  
though sometimes it feels like you need to go  
all the way into Newcastle to find culture,  
something to do

but everything you need is also right here  
where everybody made their footprint  
on the cratered surface,  
which is grey or black or white  
or warm yellow as Italian stone depending on  
the light

where you can come and be who you really are,  
own the night

and yes, maybe it does smell like arse  
and smoke drifts out under the concrete  
and people mutter about wasting money  
and couldn't there have been a paddling pool  
or a wrecking ball years ago  
and there's a handbag in the lake  
and a traffic cone  
and a gold balloon bobs on the surface  
like a trapped star

but those evenings sitting together  
under a dark sky  
while the moon rises above the houses  
and Passmore's lines and angles plane out  
like boxes being opened  
when you don't have to say what that time's for  
it's just about being there,  
starting to explore.  
These nights in this place which is yours  
are what will help you rise,  
will see you fly.







# APOLLO PAVILION HISTORY



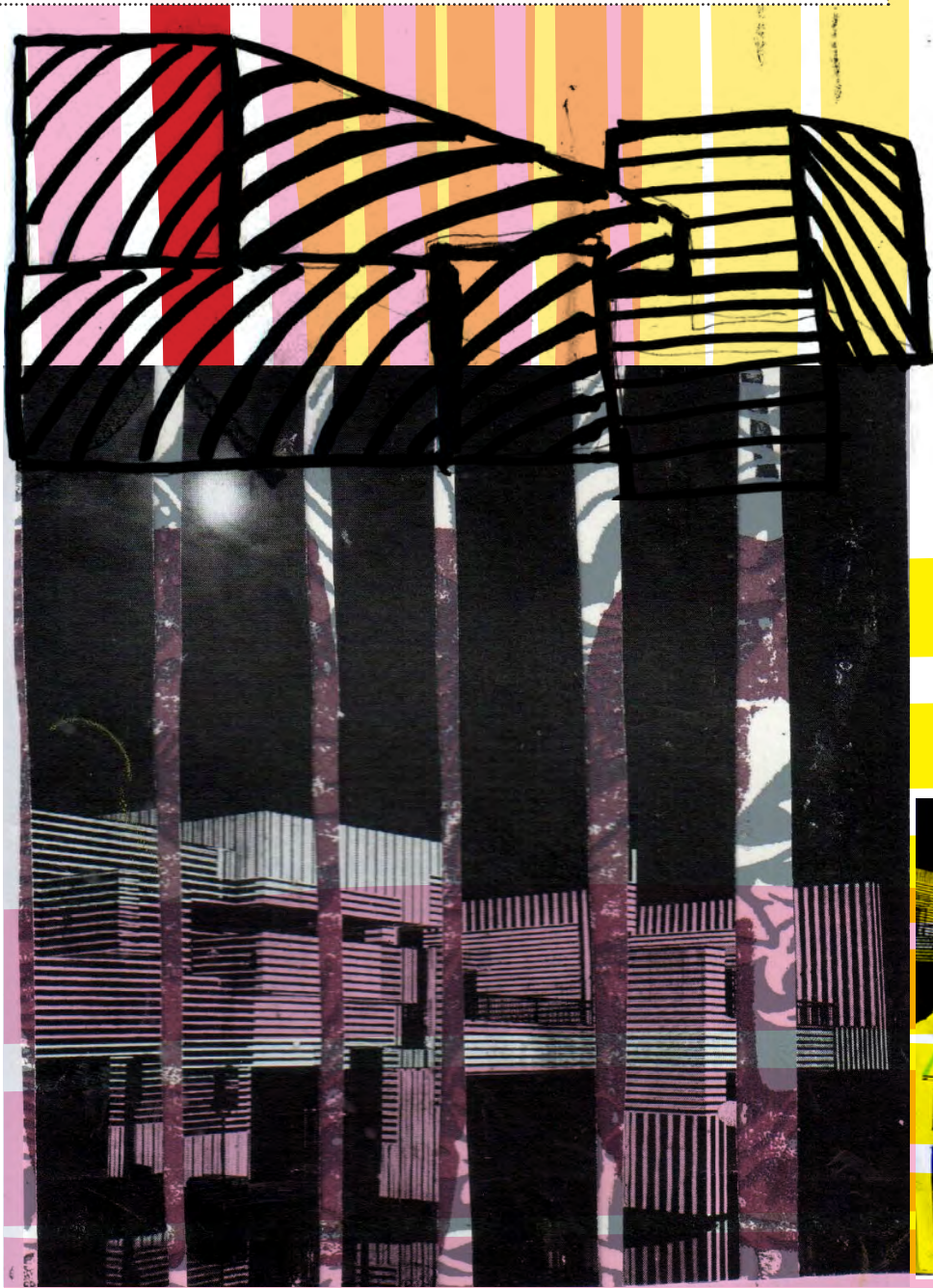
VICTOR  
PASMORE

**Victor Pasmore** was a world renowned artist and pioneering figure of Abstract Art in Britain. In 1955 he was appointed Consulting Director of Urban Design by Peterlee Development Corporation; set with the task of exploring a more visionary and dynamic approach to town planning and design, focused around the South West area of the New Town. It was a role he would have until 1977, when the main house building phase was completed.

The Apollo Pavilion was envisaged as providing an emotional centre to the Sunny Blunts housing estate, placing art at the centre of community life. Well received to begin with, within a few short years the pavilion grew into a controversial issue amongst local residents, leading to a campaign for its removal in the early 1980's. It would take until 2009 for it to be recognised as a cultural icon, when Heritage Lottery Funding enabled a major refurbishment of the structure and setting to happen. This was finally recognised in 2011, when the Apollo Pavilion was granted Grade II\* listed status.



Commissioned by Artichoke, the celebrations to mark 50 years of the Apollo Pavilion in Peterlee began with an animated light projection on the structure, created by the artist / architecture collective, **Mader Wiermann** from Berlin. This ran over two evenings on the 22nd and 23rd March, attracting 1,500 visitors from both the local area and much further afield.



“I hope this is the start of positive and creative ways of using the Pavilion Absolutely stunning and jaw dropping. I’m seeing it in a completely new light! Keep doing stuff like this”





# LIFT OFF!

‘Lumiere  
Durham 2019’.

One of Durham’s last remaining Brutalist buildings was temporarily transformed into a flowing canvas of dazzling graphics as part of **Lumiere Durham 2019**. Drawing inspiration from Mader Wiermann’s *Apollo 50* installation, *Lift Off* was created by local students at East Durham College using cutting-edge video-mapping techniques. These artistic skills were taught in a series of masterclasses by expert creatives at Guildhall School of Music & Drama’s ‘Video Design for Performance’ BA course. The project gave the students the opportunity to explore their creativity on a high profile platform and gain tangible skills in the growing field of digital art and video production.



# MOON LANDING

On the 16th July 1969, the crew of **Apollo 11** climbed up on top of the Saturn 5 rocket, with the world's media watching, to set course for the Moon. 4 days later, the lunar module touched down on the Moon's surface and astronaut Neil Armstrong would become the first human to leave a foot print on its dusty surface, pronouncing the words "One small step for man. One giant leap for Mankind."







We're  
standing  
on the  
**moon**  
Playing  
in the  
sunlight  
Catching  
the stars as  
they **fly**  
by

We built a monument  
in **Peterlee**

A bold and futuristic  
fantasy

Timeless blocks of  
concrete



Drying in summer sun

A new beginning had  
begun

Commissioned especially for the Apollo 50 Birthday Party, Barry Hyde wrote and performed the song *Standing on the Moon*, working with 500 children and young people from across Peterlee. Barry visited 6 primary schools and two secondary schools, to write and rehearse the song, which was then performed as a finale to the party in front of an audience made up of teachers, parents, grandparents and friends. Early in 2020, Barry is scheduled to go into the studio to make a recording of *Standing on the Moon* with pupils from Howletch Lane Primary and The Academy at Shotton Hall. The recording will be available as a free download and accompanied by a music video on Youtube and Vimeo. Look out for it this spring

[www.durham.gov.uk/article/1936/Arts-and-culture](http://www.durham.gov.uk/article/1936/Arts-and-culture)





# APOLLO

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# 50 BIRTHDAY PARTY



School children and the community gathered on Helford Road playing fields to throw a 50th birthday party on Tuesday 16th July, marking 50 years to the day that the Saturn 5 rocket launched the crew of Apollo 11 towards the moon.







## The party

opened with a performance of *Pleasantville*, devised especially for the occasion by Shotton Hall Theatre School. Fellow pupils, Katie Fenwick and Alyssa Lawton then took to the stage singing solo renditions of *When We Were Young* and *Half the World Away*, before Eden Lister astonished everyone with her solo dance piece *Apollo* composed by classmate Daniel Jackson.

Compare for the day, Barry Hyde then performed a set of Futureheads songs, before Mr Wilson's Second Liners brought Durham Brass Festival to the party, getting everyone on their feet dancing. East Durham Dementia Friendly Choir were up next, performing a medley of moon and space inspired songs, followed by Oompah Brass. This brought us to the party's finale, with Barry and 500 school children singing the birthday song, *Standing on the Moon*.







# BLOWING UP THE PAVILION







September saw the Apollo Pavilion transformed once more, this time by County Durham based artist **Steve Messam**. Visited by 2,000 people over four days and five nights, *Apollo* captured the spirit of celebrations with disarming simplicity: Four brightly coloured inflatable forms hugging and contrasting against the angular concrete surfaces of the pavilion; standing out against the blue sky in day and lit up internally at night to glow in the darkness.

Visitor comments:

“It looks funky!”

“Thank you for bringing art to Peterlee. We need more of this kind of project!”

“My son and daughter, who are 5 and 8 have had a great time coming to see it. My son said “wow” mammy, look at the orange lights, that’s awesome!!”

“I would like to see more like this. Fantastic artwork!”

“Totally amazing at night, when you lit up the neighbourhood”

“It makes you feel warm and calm”

“Mixing concrete and orange inflatables. Genius!”





Playful Places saw pupils from The Academy at Shotton Hall and Dene Academy making their own artistic response to Steve Messam's Apollo. Working with Steve and fellow artists, Sara Cooper and Vicky Holbrough, the pupils explored the processes of developing creative interventions within the built environment, designed to transform their character and alter the ways in which we engage with place.

At Dene Academy the students chose to transform the main school entrance with long tentacled limbs stretching out from first-floor windows, suggesting that a giant sea creature is bursting out from the English Department classroom.

# PLAYFUL PLACES DENE ACADEMY



# PLAYFUL PLACES

## THE ACADEMY AT SHOTTON HALL

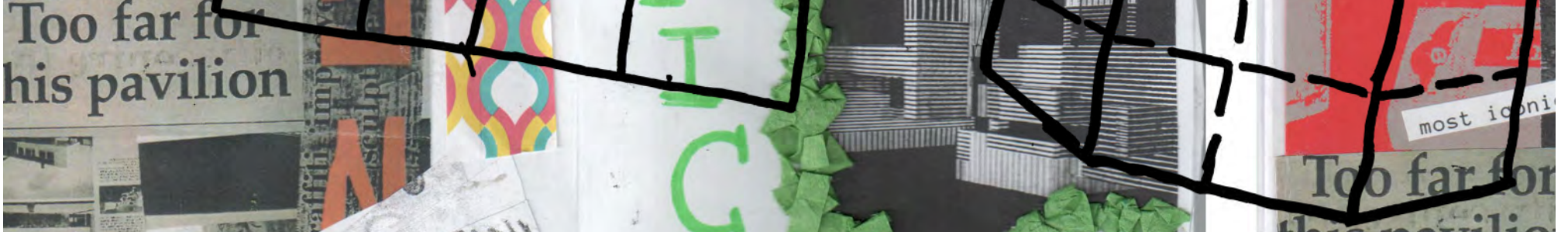
Meanwhile, pupils across the other side of Peterlee at Shotton Hall Academy drew part of their inspiration from hearing Greta Thunberg's speech delivered to the United Nations on the subject of climate change. Recycling plastic carrier bags, they created an eye-catching 'rising star' that can be sited in numerous locations to help raise awareness of environmental issues.







Between May and November this year, artist Theresa Easton delivered 26 workshops with 12 groups of mixed ages, across schools and community settings in Peterlee. Together, they made hundreds of Zines in response to the Apollo 50 celebration events as they unfolded across the year. This newspaper supplement is the fruits of their labour!







# INSTRUCTIONS



## Making

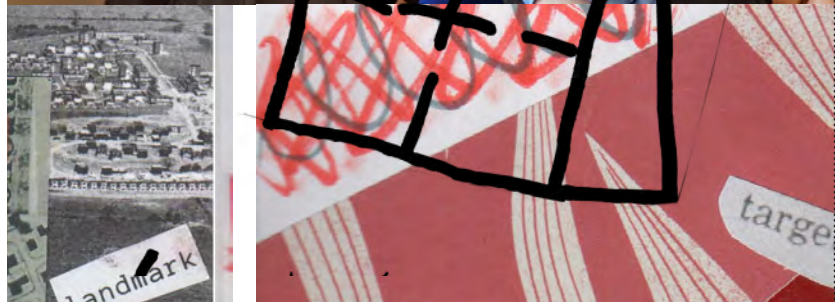


### Self-published magazines with an individual twist.

An empowering way of interpreting different subjects using simple but effective techniques - Cut, copy, stick, print, photograph, stitch...even write!

Materials & equipment; paper, prit stick, scissors, newspapers & magazines, stamps, patterned paper, long armed stapler, photocopier, pens & felt tips.

1. Decide what your zine is going to be about.
2. Make it personal – give it your personal style & response to a subject.
3. Use magazines & newspapers for ideas.
4. Zines are socialable – make zines together – choose a page and make a collective zine.
5. Make a master copy or mock up and photocopy it.
6. Now distribute it!





**Durham County Council Community Arts Team** works across the County delivering a range of arts development projects with people of all ages and backgrounds. We work in partnership with artists and community groups to ensure that everybody has the opportunity to access and enjoy the arts.

For more information please contact:  
**communityarts@durham.gov.uk**

**East Durham Creates (EDC)** is funded by Arts Council England as part of its Creative People and Places (CPP) programme – which is all about more people choosing, creating and taking part in brilliant art experiences in the places where they live. EDC is one of 30 independent CPP projects. Each project is completely unique to its area, testing how to grow arts provision in ways that are sustainable. EDC is managed by a group of partners – East Durham Trust, Beamish Museum, East Durham Area Action Partnership and Culture and Sport, Durham County Council.

To find out more visit  
**www.eastdurhamcreates.co.uk,**  
**contact stayintouch@eastdurhamcreates.co.uk**  
**or call us on 0191 569 3511.**

**Thank you to all the artists, children,  
schools, colleges, community groups and  
partners who have taken part in  
the Apollo 50 programme.**

**Participating groups and venues:**

**Acre Rigg Academy**  
**Dene Academy**  
**Dene House Primary**  
**East Durham College**  
**Howletch Lane Primary**  
**Our Lady of the Rosary**  
**Peterlee 3rd Scouts**  
**Peterlee Library & Leisure Centre**  
**Seascape Primary**  
**Shotton Hall Primary**  
**The Academy at Shotton Hall**  
**The Pavilion**  
**The Project**

