

A
BAA BAA

quiet

BARIG:

revolution

HAVE

is

YOU ANY

taking

PULL?

place.

Baa Baa Baric: Have You Any Pull?

How do you create a new fairy tale? One that captures and faces the deep fears and hopes of a town? One that uncovers what is wrong with our society whilst capturing ways in which it could be made right? If fairy tales portray the darkest challenges of the world they are also stories of resourcefulness, courage and hope. Stories where the ordinary can become the extra-ordinary, where resistance is possible and justice something worth struggling for.

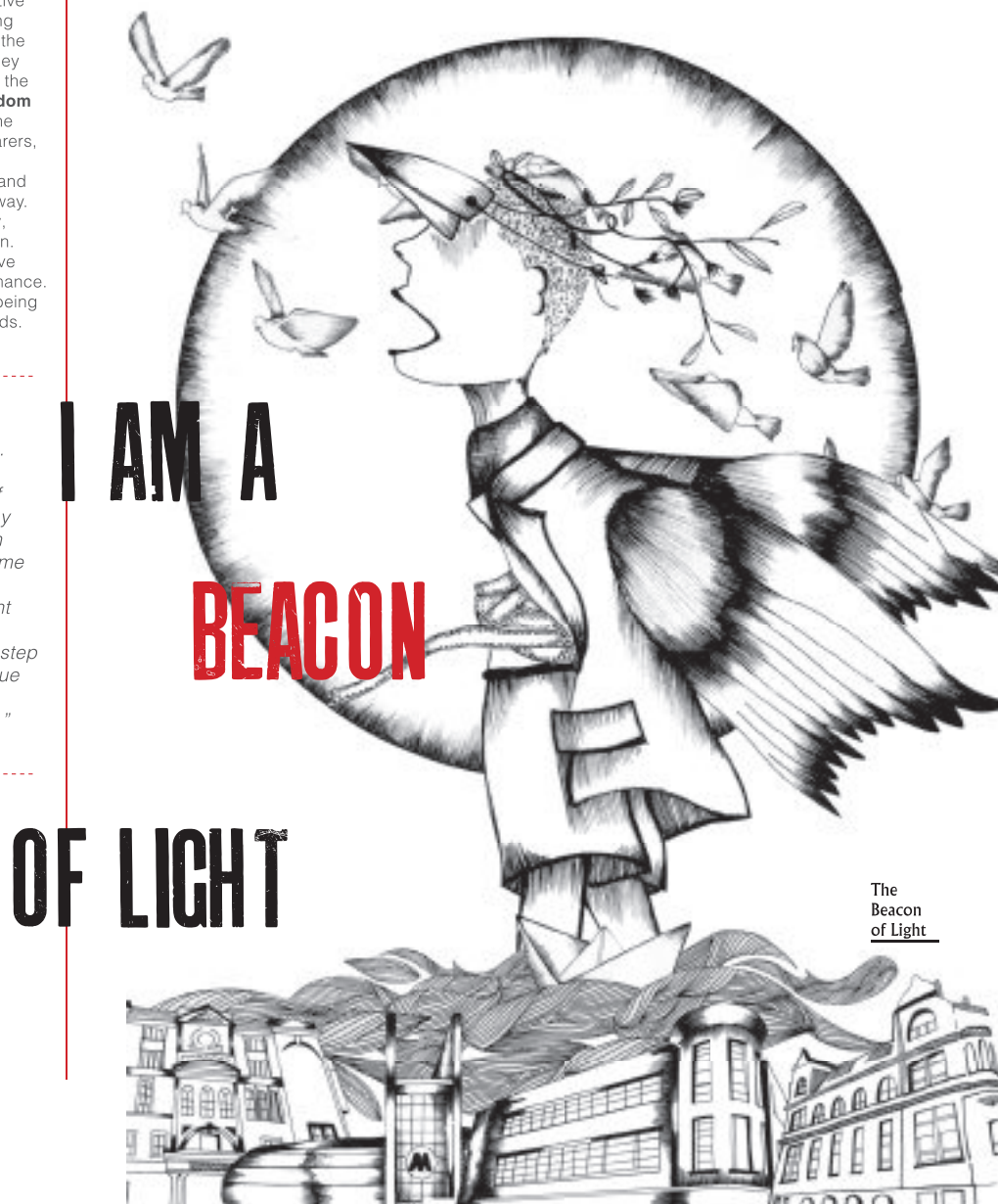
Baa Baa Baric: Have You Any Pull? is a twelve-year undertaking by artist Mark Storer, in collaboration with the people of St Helens. A quiet revolution is taking place, its aim is to create a new fairy tale for our own seemingly barbaric times. In particular for a town such as St Helens which is confronted with its own set of negative statistics. This project harnesses the creativity and imaginative powers of the people of the town to tear up the labels, challenge the status quo and dance to a different tune.

Since October 2015 Mark Storer has been living and working in St Helens mapping out a journey that leads to an alternative narrative. This commemorative supplement in the St Helens Star is a way of sharing elements of this project so far - the first chapter of the story; the developing characters, the landscape they inhabit and the emerging histories of residents. All the words and images belong to: **The Council of Wisdom** the older mens group; **The Pioneers of Change** the Primary and Secondary School children; Young Carers, residents of The YMCA, people in recovery from Change Grow Live, St Helens Council, The Police and others in countless random encounters along the way. Not least taxi drivers: **The Conduits of Mythology**, shop owners, people in cafes and many in between. Each persons adds to the development of a creative vocabulary leading to poetry, imagery and performance. Every element is a part of a much larger tapestry being woven over the next ten years as the artwork unfolds.

"I love working in St Helens. Making the work is a delight, constantly surprising, often very moving, sometimes going deep into our core. It can be overwhelming. I love working with the people I have met. Every day it feels as if something magical happens. I realise in many respects St Helens is my creative home. I am proud that through this work, we can face some of the toughest issues. By making something meaningful together we marshal the abundant creativity and resourcefulness of wonderful people of all ages. We dissolve our borders, step beyond our boundaries. We can be in dialogue with the world; communicating in a universal language that is unique and entirely our own."

— Mark Storer

There is a fairy tale a never ending story written on my body it is yet to be told.
I am a robin. A graceful little bird.
The beak inside my head transmits sound, a constant gentle trilling.
There are messages in my song.
Listen I will show you the way mother...



Together we must
fashion a folktale
for the future.

A narrative of
the heart.



The most precious:
Someone to hold your hand



The
Pioneers

The world is shattered,
upside down and inside out.
And all the precious things
are scattered.

Only when they come
back together again, will
everything be alright.

Precious: of great value; not to be wasted or treated carelessly, invaluable, priceless, of incalculable worth; exquisite, irreplaceable, cherished, treasured, dearest, beloved, adored, special, revered, venerated, hallowed.

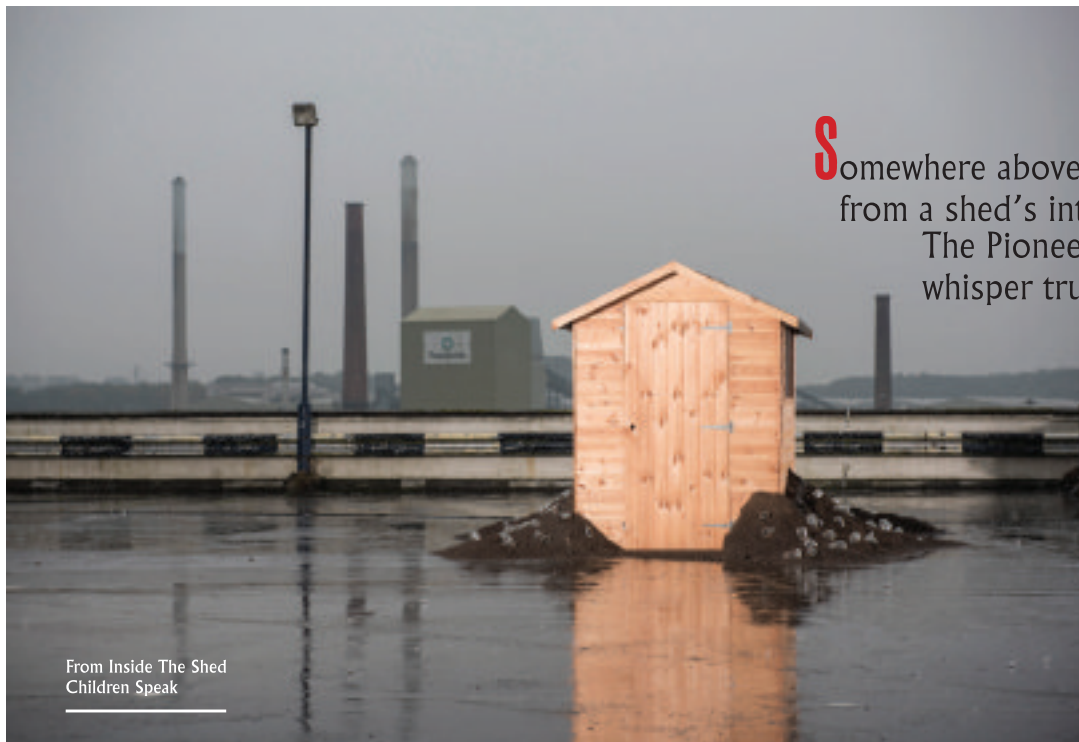
Her heart creates life.
Vines spiral endlessly with
outbursts of cries and screams,
imagination and emotion.
She is a galaxy.



The
Army of
Beauty

Her mind so wide, yet her figure
in the universe so small. Although
she appears insignificant she is
truly the opposite.

On the 28th September 2017
The Army of Beauty were deployed in The Town.



Somewhere above them,
from a shed's interior,
The Pioneers of Change
whisper truths.

From Inside The Shed
Children Speak



The Army of Beauty
tender a posy to
the citizens of
St Helens.





The Nelson Chippy

The community come together to work for change.
26.3% of children in St Helens are living in poverty
(St Helens Joint Strategy Needs Assessment, 2015)



Boris and Harriet

I am the vivid and vibrant image of those who look upon us. I am also the presence of craziness, swirling in a variety of different directions. In advance to that I am the picture of the past, remembering all of the things which made me what I am today. I am the body of my entire family, coming together to make one unique and independent person. I am the fire speaking my mind and sticking up for other people's rights. Also I am the swirls of democracy. I want to ensure that everybody has a say in the world and that you are free to stand up for your rights and lead a happy and stress free life. Finally I am the jagged angles of a blue triangle which make me imperfect and human, not like a robot.



The Army of Beauty present a declaration to St Helens Council as the foundation for a new children's charter for The Town.





As the barbed wire of convention
restrains me through the carnival of life

In the lengthening shadows I see the wolf roaming freely toward its prey
Both are expert hunters the owl from the sky and the wolf on the ground

Like them I hunt or search for a quality of life but not in a predatory way
I search to find strength, to find goodness, to find compassion
I search to find love and I search to find understanding
And I search to find the wisdom to recognise these qualities

The
Writer

When we arrived on the other side, where we built a house of friendship named Recovery. We did not shy away from our shame or embarrassment. It is our duty to transfer our life energy to one another.



To keep one another alive: with warmth, with care, with friendship with respect. To see new visions of each other; to allow new versions to come into being. To accept another's frailties, another's vulnerabilities and hold them carefully in our arms.



HEART
OF GLASS

I have always conformed,
but tonight has been one of the
best nights of my life.

The
Alchemist

Is civilisation the most brutal act of barbarism?

Heart of Glass is an arts organisation based in St Helens. We work with artists and communities to create ambitious contemporary artwork that reflects and responds to the politics of our times. We work across context and art form. Through our projects we create a space for dialogue, research and experimentation as well as exploration of the relationship between people and place. People both individually and within communities of place or interest, are central to both our thinking and our practice.

Baa Baa Baric: Have You Any Pull? created by Mark Storor in collaboration with many participants including:

The Council of Wisdom: Gary, David, Ant, John, Mal, Stephen, Mike

The Pioneers of Change: Children from St Peter's C.E Primary School, St Marys Catholic Infant & Junior School, Rainford Technology High School, St Helens Youth Council (especially Sam McQuiggan)

The Communities of St Helens: YMCA, Change Grow Live, St Helens Young Carers, Merseyside Police (St Helens team) and all of the local people who have spent time with Mark over the past 18 Months

Production:

All event staff at Heart of Glass
St Helens Market Team
St Helens Car Park Services
The Town Fryer
St Helens Town Centre Management
St Helens Events Team
St Helens Council
Church Square Shopping Centre Management
St Helens Council Car Park Services
All staff at Rainford Technology High School
All staff at St Peter's C.E Primary School
Christie Tiller (Writer)
Helen Vaughn (Floral Artist)
The Nelson Chippery
Luxor Estates Limited www.luxor-estates.com
Lindsey and all the stable staff, Andrea, Dave, Elliot and John from Merseyside Police
The horses Boris and Harriet

Photography: Stephen King
Illustration: Babis Alexiadis
Composer: Brian Duffy
Design: Dave Darcy

www.heartofglass.org.uk

#baabaabarc