

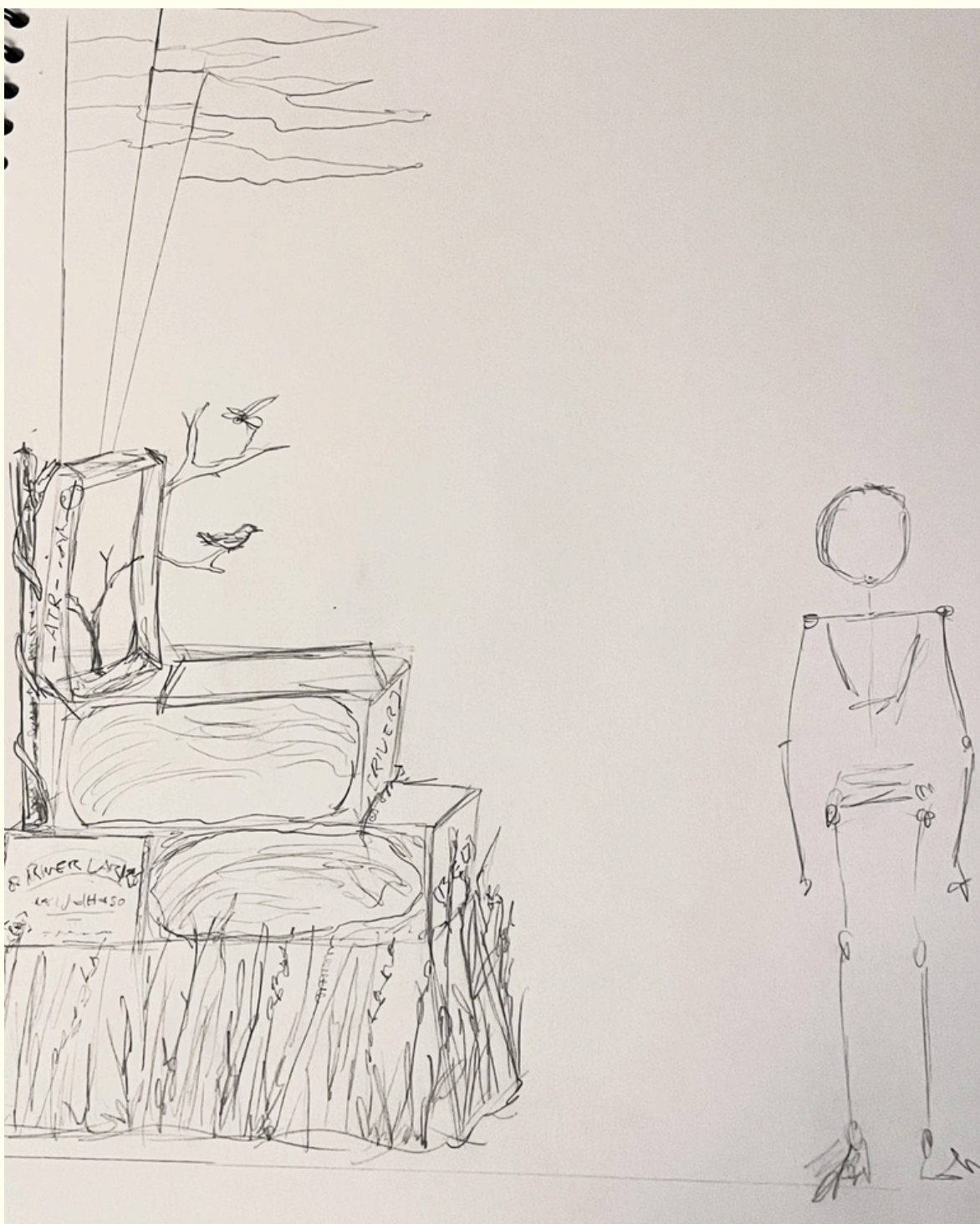
RIVER LARKS SUPPORTING DOC

River Larks features an interactive installation highlighting the wildlife and history across the layers of our local river's eco-system. A mudlark emerges to bring it's stories to life through objects, music, puppetry, and water!



THE INSTALLATION

Initial sketch



The sculptural installation will feature peep-hole style illuminations of each layer of the river's ecosystem and the treasure it holds. the exterior will be textured, modular, and weather resistant. It will be made of thoughtfully sourced and recycled materials. It will hold all puppets and props required for the mudlark storytelling performance within it's centre, making it easily transportable and adaptable for non-traditional installation and performance venues.

We have made cumulative public art and sculptural installations previously, as detailed later on in this document. This offers a new opportunity to allign this experience with our theatrical performance experience to offer a new style of engaging, educational creative experience for young people.

Moodboard





RESEARCH + DEVELOPMENT

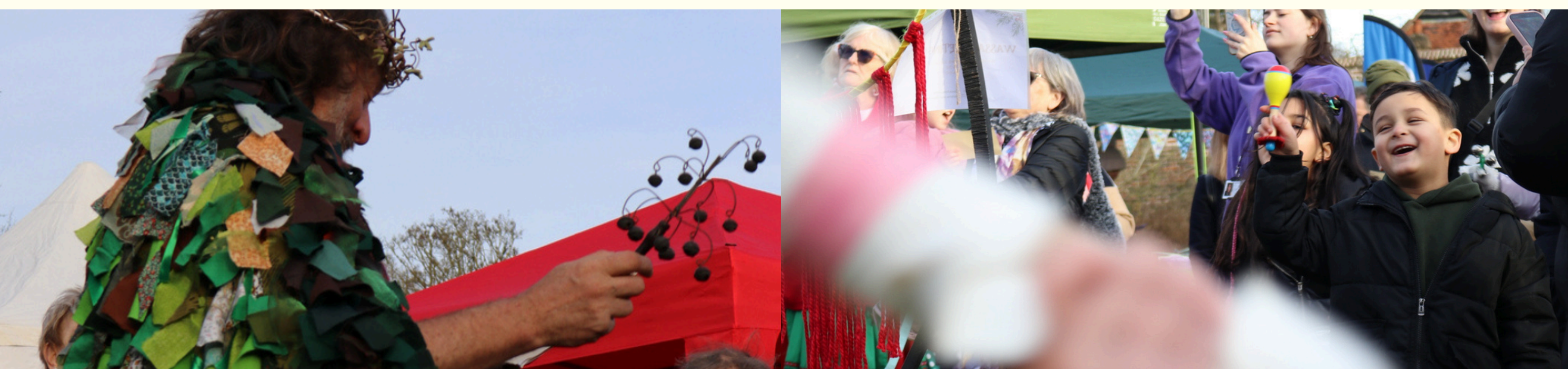
We completed a Research and Development project in 2025 exploring a connected, larger scale production, asking the question “*what if the river was your friend*”? As part of this process we worked with Harlow school children and a cast of professional actor musicians to discover what children’s knowledge gaps and areas of interest were. We also consulted a local mudlark, and the Canal & River Trust to learn the ecological, historic, and wellbeing considerations connected to England’s waterways.

This R&D ended with a staged rehearsed reading, shared with local theatre professionals where we gained feedback on style, approach and format. Based on this, and further reflection from our work with schools in this period of R&D, we have decided to pour our learnings into this, more flexible multi-arts version of the project. We feel it gives us a more dynamic approach to reaching audiences, and connecting the content with the rivers we are hoping to in turn connect our audiences to.



WASSAIL WINTER FESTIVAL

Since 2024, we have held annual winter festivals in collaboration with Harlow Museum, bringing local people together to celebrate old traditions and create new ones. The event includes storytelling and performances throughout the day, punctuated by an original Wassail ceremony, featuring The Green Man. We visually design the event in harmony within it’s environment.



ASHA AND THE TROLL

Asha and The Troll was a theatre performance for 5-8 year olds and their families in which storytellers unfold a world of forests, friendship, puppetry, percussion, and trolls! Developed with the young people of Harlow schools, before it's first tour of schools and community venues across Harlow, Braintree and Castle Point in 2023-24, including performance at the Essex Book Festival's Family Fun Day at Cressing Temple Barns.

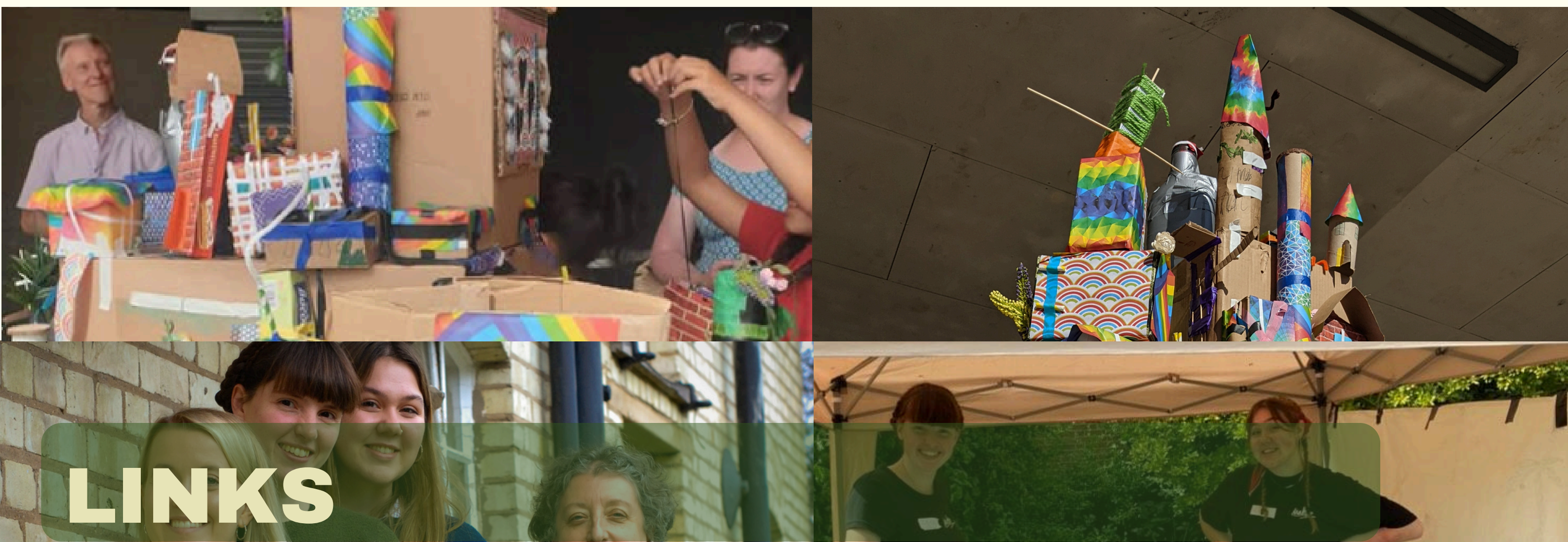
"The children were mesmerised by the magical tale that unfolded before their eyes."

[**Click here to see the resource pack**](#)



CITY OF CARE

Taking place on Harlow Town Park's bandstand, participants were invited to imagine what a city that prioritises care would look like, and create it out of cardboard! The installation grew over two days of drop in activity, with some participants adding a small detail, and others constructing whole subdivisions. The activity used repurposed materials, and prompted reflection between friends, families and across generations about how our community could support each other better.



LINKS

Please see more of our work on our website below.

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