



PRESS RELEASE

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Underpasses: connecting people, connecting places, project

On the Verge Launch Two New Children's Publications for the MK50 Celebration

On the Verge has worked with an expert team including writer Rachel Barnett, illustrator Sian Sharp and graphic designer Daniel Chehade to produce two new children's publications detailing the fascinating story of how Milton Keynes has developed over the last 50 years and before, to celebrate the New Town's 50th Anniversary

The urban history of Milton Keynes may be relatively young, but all of the features which are part of the original design give Milton Keynes its character and the publications hope to demonstrate this to the next generation by telling them the history of their town and highlighting how unique a place it is!

The publications are aimed at two age groups '*Travelling in Time* - Age 5-11 (KS1/2) and '*MY MK*'- Age 12-18 (KS3/4). Both tell the story of MK in a unique way, using research undertaken as part of the Underpasses project and the iRemember events with the communities surrounding CMK.

'MY MK' is in zine format documenting the story of an archaeologist digging as MK is being built and will link into OTV's heritage App which is currently under construction, and will be a chance to walk around MK and hear this story and see it in the flesh.

The two publications printed will be handed out to six local infant and primary schools in the estates participating in the underpasses project: Conniburrow, Downs Barn and Fishermead, Oldbrook. The publications are now available from public and school libraries. OTV is now looking for funding for a reprint of the publications as there has been such a positive response to them.

As Milton Keynes continues to grow, the history of the original town is vitally important to be documented as it is the heritage of the future. OTV hope to bring communities together in their MK identity and celebrate the unique place they live in.

The project has been made possible by a Heritage Lottery Fund grant, funding from MK Community Foundation, as well as support from Project Partners, MK Council, The Parks Trust and MK City Discovery Centre.

For further information images and interviews please contact either
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Notes to Editors

On the Verge and its partners MK Council, The Parks Trust MK and the MK City Discovery Centre, are delivering the yearlong 'Underpasses' project with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), the MK Community Foundation and MK Council. On the Verge is a Community Interest Company.

On the Verge was awarded an 'Our Heritage' grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund towards the '*Underpasses connecting people, connecting places*' project, which will see a series of heritage and community events taking place in 4 communities around Central Milton Keynes designed to explore their heritage and history of the New Town and unique system of underpasses. On the Verge is working with partners and RARA, an artists cooperative, to deliver a series of community engagement events to uncover local history, collecting artistic responses and oral histories. Artwork and interpretation panels for two underpasses, a heritage trail and series of exhibitions and publications are created through the project, culminating in a celebration event this year marking Milton Keynes' 50th Anniversary.

The Underpasses project is supported by: The Heritage Lottery Fund, Milton Keynes Community Foundation, Milton Keynes Council and Gt. Linford Parish Council. It is delivered in partnership with The Parks Trust, MK City Discovery Centre and MK Council as well as with the in kind support from several organisations and individuals.

