

The Story Walk



ILLUMINATING THE STORIES OF NINE ELMS

In the changing landscape of Nine Elms, the Story Walk collects and celebrates the stories of the area and its inhabitants.

Inspired by the history of glassworks in the area, the gateways are formed from simple repeating lanterns. They will transform the arch into a bright and curious beacon, to help with wayfinding and to bring a sense of place to life.

Lanterns are made from recycled acrylic, and integrated lighting will make them glow like stained glass. They are interactive, decorated with illustrations and text drawn from multiple sources.

The lanterns will tell the story of the area through the voices of people who have lived and worked there, now and in the past. As people pass by, they can spin the lanterns to reveal more of each story.

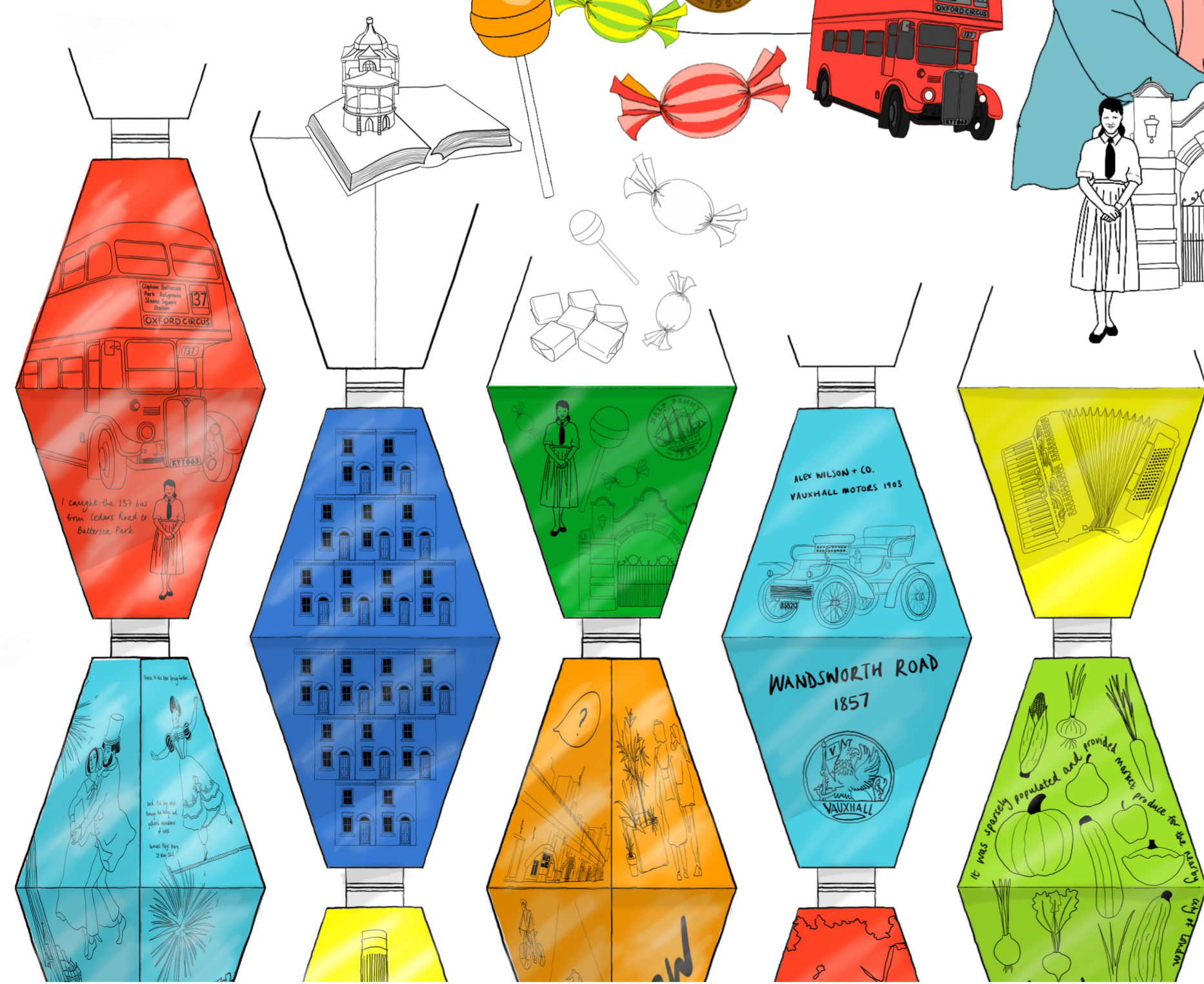
OUR APPROACH

As well as drawing on historical research, we will work with local community groups in workshops to collect and record local stories. We would also like to reach out to past residents, so that we can build a picture of the place that is layered with memories.

Right: sample story from conversation with June Harris, reproduced with permission.

I caught the 137 bus from Cedars Road to Battersea Park. I would save my bus fare (1 old penny) to buy sweets, and walk to school instead. The 137 was our family's mode of transport to everything in London.

June Harris (née Heath)



CONNECTING THE NORTH AND SOUTH

On the north side, people approach the arch through a garden of scattered lanterns that guides them down the ramp.

On the south side, the lanterns are recombined to form a crystalline, carnivalesque canopy. Responding to the form of the historic arch, it expands outwards, bringing the entrance forward to greet the public. The lanterns are suspended on a self-supporting steel frame that sits independent from the viaduct.

Above left: Birds eye view of the viaduct looking north.
 Above right: A garden of lanterns on the North side.
 Below left: A beacon for wayfinding on the South side.
 Below right: Conversations between past and present.

