A programme of creativity exploring Luton, our heritage and the 1919 Peace Day riots
In 2019, Luton Council will collaborate with the people of Luton to deliver a series of arts events made by, with and for local residents.

As part of our ambition to be named UK City of Culture in 2025, we are embarking on a pilot programme with a theme of people, power and passion. Exploring the themes of the 1919 Peace Day riots, a series of spectacular performances, events and artworks will reflect our diverse and vibrant communities.

The strategy for the arts, cultural and creative industries in Luton 2017 – 2027 highlights the positive impact the arts can have on our places and spaces, skills and jobs, community cohesion and on our children and young people.

We are ambitious about putting Luton on the national and international stage and making it an established cultural destination, and we are really pleased to bring people along on this exciting journey.

**Cllr Hazel Simmons MBE**
Leader of Luton Council
THE 1919 PEACE DAY RIOTS

On 19 July 1919, Lutonians famously burned the Town Hall to the ground.

When only the rich were invited to the national Peace Day celebrations honouring the end of the war, veterans and their families came together to demand recognition and inclusion.

Dissatisfied with the response, they rioted in the street, setting the town hall alight.

PEOPLE, POWER, PASSION
SETTING LUTON ALIGHT

Throughout 2019, People, Power, Passion will pop up around the town with a series of arts events.

Gaming, live art, theatre, dance, music, circus and virtual reality will be used to explore the relevancy of the riots today and how democracy, inclusion and community voice have evolved in the past century.
From May, join in online to experience how messages of unrest were spread in 1919 compared to today. From 1919’s hand-written letters and newspapers, to today’s tweets and the 24-hour news cycle, just how modern is the concept of fake news?

Exactly 100 years after the Peace Riots, join us for two spectacular events in and around the Luton Town Hall.

Created by, with and for the people affected by decisions made in town halls, this play will give a voice to those rarely heard. A group of local residents will take over the council chamber and immerse the audience in a conversation about modern democracy and decision making.

In 1919 as the Town Hall burned, pianos were stolen from a nearby store. Illuminated by flames, the rioters danced in the street. In 2019, return to the very same spot for a celebration of the music, dance, cultures and communities of Luton. Put on your dancing shoes and warm up your singing voice. This time there will be more than just pianos.

In June, developed in partnership with a group of Lutonians not in education, employment or training, an immersive experience will invite audiences to explore the impact of the labour market on civic unrest.
GET INVOLVED

People, Power, Passion is a programme made by, with and for Lutonians. Be a part of it:

1. SHAPE THE STORY

If you’ve got a story to tell about community action, democracy or people power from the past 100 years, we’d like to hear from you.

2. CREATE THE STORY

There will be roles for lead artists, associate artists, trainees, performers and participants across gaming, theatre, dance, music, design, live art and installation.

3. SUPPORT THE STORY

There will be a variety of rewarding volunteering opportunities for everyone. If you’re enthusiastic and have a desire to meet new people, get involved in the most exciting programme of 2019.

In August, join local young people on a journey through their neighbourhood. See the world through their eyes, examining the justice system, the decisions they face and the stories that matter to them.

For one day in September, children will take over Wardown Park. The Children’s Peace Party will put young people at the helm of a spectacular children’s festival of circus, theatre and games. Expect traditional wartime games, but not as you know them.

For the finale, everyone in Luton is encouraged to contribute their ideas for the future of Luton. In October, step inside and explore what your fellow Lutonians think makes the perfect town.
GET IN TOUCH

Tell your gran, uncle, friends, siblings and neighbours about the programme and visit the website to find out more:

luton.gov.uk/peoplepowerpassion

You can join the mailing list, sign up to volunteer, express interest in participating or contribute your ideas for People, Power, Passion.

Sponsorship opportunities for businesses are available.

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