



Radio broadcasts from boats have a long history, with the iconic Radio Caroline making waves in the North Sea and inspiring music radio for years to come. Over the summer of 2024, on a smaller scale, producer Lucia Scazzocchio of Social Broadcasts worked with young people from Blackburn to transform the much loved Bill Hunt barge into a floating micro-radio studio on the Leeds & Liverpool Canal, broadcasting the life and sounds of the canal, with and by the people of the area which culminated in a day of live broadcast.

DRIFT moved to its first pop-up home at Me To A Tee at the beginning of 2025 with a range of audio residencies taking place from both the shop and within the community. DRIFT will continue its journey with a series of pop-up events across East Lancashire in a newly designed pop-up audio studio, before returning to the Bill Hunt later in the year.

AUDIO RESIDENCIES

Listen Up!

Caelen Salmon & Tom Washington

Listen Up! is an audio exhibition that captures the cultural heartbeat of life along the Leeds & Liverpool Canal between Blackburn and Burnley. The project tells a powerful, honest story of the area through sound—highlighting the lived experiences, shared memories, and creative expressions of its people.

The canal acts as both a literal and symbolic link between Blackburn and Burnley - towns shaped by their industrial past and redefined by their cultural present. This project pays tribute to the stories embedded in every beat, every bite, and every stitch. It is a celebration of heritage, resilience, and identity in motion.

Deserted Island Discs

Ian H

Ian met guests who've 'deserted' the mainstream of society and 'furrowed' their own plough, explorations in artefacts, clothing, music and services to humanity, featuring Joe Fossard and Max Newson.

Love to Listen

Liz Catlow & Scott Robertson

Presenter Liz Catlow and musician Scott Robertson absolutely love to listen. They've been everywhere, from an alternative bonfire inspired by Joy Division to the famous Lord Nelson pub (so good they named the town after it), on the streets of Blackburn and Burnley, and on board the Bill Hunt barge to hear about the songs that make you feel and the tracks that bring memories flooding back.

21st Century Protest Songs

Matt Hill

Ghost Town. Fight the Power. We Shall Overcome. Throughout the mid to late 20th century, popular culture was bursting with songs of protest and hope for change. During the summer of 2024 Matt Hill spent time with different communities in Blackburn to help them write their own protest songs. Our 21st Century Protest Songs, all written and performed by the participants, speak of the realities of growing up in this area - poverty, drug use, addiction and bullying - but they also speak of community, of solidarity and helping each other through difficult times.

Life Story In Sound

Paul Nataraj

Paul Nataraj captures the unique sound world and stories of the people and communities living in proximity to the Leeds & Liverpool Canal in Blackburn. The project helped people explore their relationship to environmental and social justice in their neighbourhoods. Through the medium of sound, this series of podcasts capture the stories and sounds of these communities and the unique voices and experiences within them.

East Lancs Antenna

Rob St John & The Marsden Makers

Spending time walking and being along this Super Slow Way stretch of canal, Rob invited people to join him for a variety of workshops including a Listening Book Club, Dawn Chorus Walks and Canal Transmissions which ran from our pop-up space in Lomeshaye Park, Marsden Heights Community College and Stephen Turner's Exbury Egg at Finsley Gate Wharf in Burnley.

PERFORMANCE (Opening evening only)

DRIFT Dance

Matthew Rawcliffe

Contemporary dancer and choreographer, Matthew Rawcliffe animates the diverse audio products of our residencies through dance, and will present a bespoke performance outside the gallery on Lord Street West on the opening evening of the exhibition.

INSTALLATION

The Drift installation is designed and fabricated by Sam Eadington, Ecaterina Stefanescu and Lee Ivett of OPD studio, with the support of the technical team at the University of Central Lancashire.

Other People's Dreams (OPD) is a live-action research studio within the Grenfell-Baines Institute of Architecture at the University of Lancashire. OPD work with marginal communities in the North-West to create architectural and spatial interventions that allow them to test new possibilities in the spaces and places they live, leading to greater agency and autonomy.

With thanks to Audio Hooligan, Blackburn with Darwen Young Peoples Service, Lucia Scazzocchio, Me To A Tee, Prism Contemporary, Radio Active, Ribble FM and all those who've collaborated on the project.

Please scan the QR code at the top of the front page or visit the DRIFT project page on our website to find all of the audio content related to the projects above.