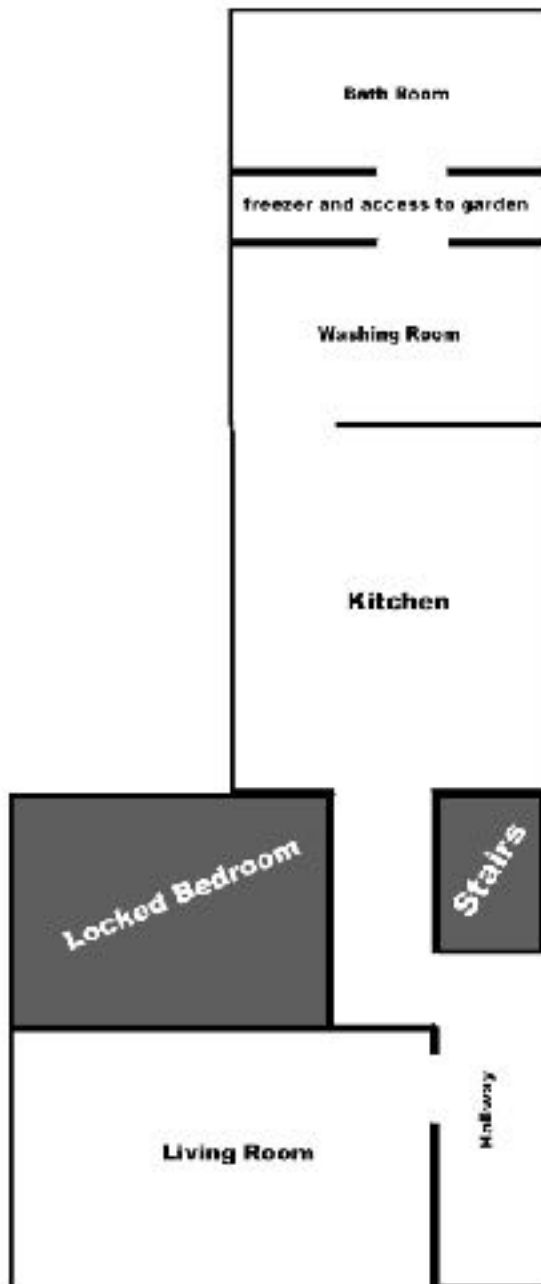


## Research

The site we want to use for the exhibition is the same house I live in and the reasoning for this is because we live on the same street where the collapse happened. In fact we are only yards away from it and even have our house on the same near vertical slope. The idea is to remove almost anything in the house that makes it feel 'lived in' leading to a near abandoned feel then scattering images across the bottom floor of the house. The reasoning for this is to create an echo of what happened there and giving hints about it while the atmosphere drives the idea hard. I am also considering opening the doors and windows to cool down the house to add to the general concept.



The layout of the house consists of four main rooms that we can work with and present work in once we clear everything out. My thought is to place the work in unusual places so it looks almost like its part of the walls or maybe even the ceiling. The help of using our house instead of an exhibition space that we can give this abandoned feel to it opposed to just one room with photos on the walls. We also have full control of the space including temperature and how its presented. The downside is we wont be able to take this as far as having completely empty fridges or freezers but we can still empty out the cupboards and then place things in that help add to the overall feel.

All though the bedroom is greyed out there is a possibility that we will have access to it and it should be empty in there anyways so there wouldn't be much need to change it.

The work doesn't necessarily need to correspond to each room but I feel it could and that would work well especial with with the faded decaying images.

## Research

### Auto destructive art

Going off the elements of something faded from time it is only fair to look at the auto destructive movement that hit in the early sixties. The artist in particular Gustav Metzger pioneered this idea with his acid paintings work which were meant to convey an antiwar protest. The acid paintings would slowly keep braking down more and more over time so the whole piece was ever changing and I think its this idea that would reflect really well with our work due to the loss of historical information and how events can be lost over time.



Realistically acid wouldn't be a good choice for us but there are other approaches we can use like under fixing our film prints so the image over the course of a few days the image will be completely lost. Challenges with doing this would be getting the fix the right amount as we don't want it to turn black instantly nor do we want it be fine. If we can find the Balance it might be worth keeping them in a blacked out box to have them ready for the day.



# Research

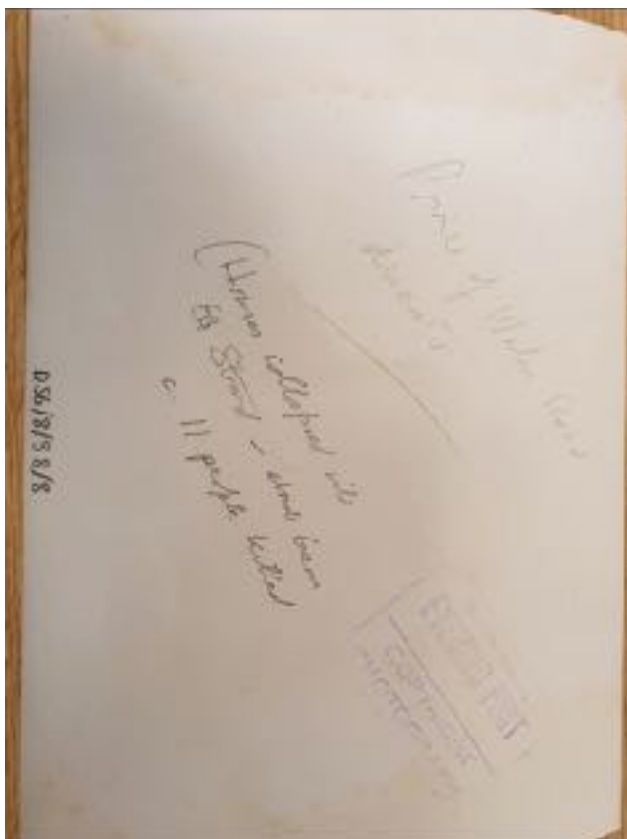
Archival film copies turned



## Research



These are few of the images which I managed to get copies of and none of them have a copyright which I why we used them in the projector room. I haven't got much experience making photos of images look just like normal photos but I think I did a decent enough job. As titled all of these images have come from the archives or other external sources so after doing this I wanted to make something a little more practical. It is also worth noting that the image below is one that the whole group really wanted to use but the copyright limited us to using it just for research purposes.



## Research

### Practice proposal

The area that we have decided to focus on is Prince of Wales road, but more specific the collapse of 5 homes in 1950. As of this time we have a significant amount of information gathered from the archive which put the cause of the collapse to multiple factors being the heavy rain and unstable land, but more significantly the houses were all built with a shared weakness. Finding one of the only documents from this event it placed the collapse at 6am which was later confirmed after speaking to one of the people who use to live there as a kid. The houses were built on a wooden scaffolding which in its own right is incredibly unsafe. The people living there at the time thought that the ground the scaffolding was on might of been disturbed by bombs during blitz but this is not confirmed. Some noticeable other facts are parts like the street was referred to jews row because a considerable number of jewish people move here after the war and its not clear what happened to this community in later years. There are a lot of elements that make this street and interesting subject.

Something I have really noticed whilst studying all of this is the unreliability of information as many parts of the story didn't make a lot of sense. For example the cause of the event is still not confirmed but it is worth noting that after it happened a few days later a couple more houses fell and then they took down a fair chunk of the street. Another inconsistency is the number of people who died as some documents say around six while other sources put it as high as twenty.

The work I want to produce for this exhibition should reflect how things can be lost in time while also showing a deeper tragedy. The location we want to use for this exhibition is the same house I live in on prince of Wales road close to the site of which this event happened. The work should tell a story much like all the research we found but in a visual way and I want to try and incorporate elements of decay to the work to better explain the missing parts that the 70 years took away.

As a group our plan is produce separate bits of work while all sharing the same elements the styles so no single piece stands out more than the rest. In doing this we should be able to maximise the quality of our work without compromising time, that being said we will still be helping each other out to keep a consistency to the overall set. We all agree that an abstract approach to this exhibition will be key to its success, this is due to inaccuracies that we have come across but I think best we don't make impossible to understand what happened. We're still aiming to tell a story just not in the conventional sense and I think this will be a good way of respecting those that have lost someone from the collapse.

## Research

The next load of images that I produced were from Ian Smith, someone who lived on the street while the houses were left up. Like I said before I was a bit bored of taking photos of images so I wanted to do something different. I had this idea of having images that lose quality over time by under fixing them but it wouldn't of worked with the rest of the images. Then as we got closer to the exhibition we tried to get hold of the digital files but couldn't. So mixing everything together I took the images we had and scanned them in to make acetates. This way I can print them on photographic paper which would hide the low quality while also making a slightly separate from the other pieces. Something I didn't intend but love is when the projector is white you can see how the photographic paper is true black while the others have a little colour.



(Its worth noting that not all the images were used)

## Research

The video idea that has been projected on the wall was envisioned by Eloise and voiced by both Katy and Catrin meanwhile I recorded and put everything together. The idea is to explain our research while also giving the audience the chance to view the evidence as well as make the same connections as we did. The video recording is of the strand that the houses would have fell down at 6am, the time of the initial collapse. The video then spends around 30 seconds turning white then stays white for the a minute (aprox) after to give the audience a chance to see it all. We also like the video being dark to begin with because it means its hard to see all of the images that are there.



My last contribution to this piece was getting a copy of the map from 1950 that precisely shows how some of the information doesn't make sense, the prime example being the ice cream factory that was never actually there. This map was the earliest bit of research that Katy found before we were in groups which I also saw as it linked to my work at the time.



## Research

The news papers in the hall way, although a relatively small piece, was my conceptual idea and it was meant to link to the whole abandoned broken house idea while also expressing how the war covered up what happened as the structural fail in some documents were put down as damage from the bombs. The reason why I chose news papers is because in my childhood house I use to see news papers as a temporary plaster in cracks in my walls.

To bring everything together I went to the civic centre and I managed to get hold of a film reel with many news papers on it from 1943. Unfortunately I had to print while I was there so I couldn't get hold of any digital copies so the only images I can show are of the exhibitions space.

There were two things left to do with the images. The first was I had to age them by doing the old tea bag trick and then second I had to figure out where to put them. My main reasoning for the placement of the images was just to get it to interact with the space and move with it rather than being flat against the wall. This was to make it feel apart of the house much like how everything was emptied in an attempted to make it feel more abandoned. We really wanted a certain atmosphere and I feel that was my goal although not as affective as I would of hoped.



## Research

### Evaluation

This project which was focused on the collapse that happened in 1950 has been, in my opinion, a very successful exhibition. In relation to projects I've done in the past the research side has easily been our strongest achievement and its what lead to the whole concept of this becoming more of an investigation than a response. It started with us using the civic centres archive and is where we got the majority of our imagery and documents from. Using this information we managed to focus on different aspects being the event itself, the significant of the jewish community that lived there and the lack of information that surrounded what happened.

During one of our archive visits we managed to get introduced by one of the guys getting document with Ian Smith, he was living on Prince of Wales road and although he was too young to remember it his mum would tell him about. He also managed to get hold of some of his own personal images from around the time after the event. Talking to someone about what happened was actually really helpful and managed to clarify a lot of the information.

So my contributions towards this project was emptying the house which I wanted to do as a way of helping the atmosphere and giving the house a more abandoned feel which was further enhanced by Katy's sounds and blocked out windows. I also made the video projection as well as setting up the projector (the video idea was from Eloise) which would be cast onto a multiple of images which was easily my favourite piece and I think it was for the majority of our audience as well. With this installation we had effort put in by everyone and it just had a little bit of every aspect, add in Catrin's leadership this became extremely successful. The last major part I played was the newspapers in the hallway all of which were dated between 1940 and 1950 but predominately based on World War Two. My reasoning for this is simply because the war overshadowed a lot of what happened limiting what we could find. So much like the war the newspapers would hide what happened as well as add to the general feeling of the space.

The weak points in our work kind of vary from big to little things. The first issue that appeared was actually the space as we initially thought that we would have an easier time but because people are living in the space we had to make many sacrifices. For example from the time that the exhibition is open, 0930am to 1600pm, we couldn't use the kitchen and before and after every exhibition we would have to move stuff. Another issue was some of the audio clips which were just a little under professional and I feel that getting a voice actor might have helped project our idea more clearly which isn't to say that it's bad but it couldn't hurt to try. I also would like to do more with the space but again because people are living there we had to stay away from anything permanent.

I think the vision we had for the space was executed very well with all things considered and as a group we managed to come together fairly well. The individual work I would prefer to have a bit more connection to everything else but the collected piece we made did work pretty well. At the end of all the work as you're leaving the exhibition I really like that you can walk up the street to see the brass plaque which Catrin put up. Everything we have produced has led to this small piece of metal remembering what happened which sounds as not a big deal but to everyone who has had family or remembers the event have said that they are so happy to see it there.

Overall I think the exhibition was a huge success and we had a lot more of the general public come than I thought would and we even learnt more about what happened from people that who lived around the area. Its due to this that we want to put up a website with all the information we have as well as a video tour so the work we have can still be appreciated for a longer amount of time and people can learn about what happened.