

SECTION 1

Your attention please. We will shortly be arriving in Salisbury. Alight here for the medieval Cathedral, museums, markets, restaurants and retail outlets. Customers are reminded to mind the gap when leaving the carriage. Once again, your next stop is Salisbury.

A sleepy city on the edge of a plain
Amidst fields and chalk downland, ancient circles and sarsens
Home of makers and markers, of traders and crafters
Of myths and of legends, of arrows and archers.
Along rivers and valleys, drove ways and pathways
We wind our way and find our way to Sarum.

A city that lives with its scars,
Some old and some newer.
No stranger to plagues and pandemics
A witness to conflicts and global events
A welcoming host to tourists and travellers
To workers and shoppers, students and soldiers
A victim of the violence two visitors brought
A chemical weapon
Novichok

Our streets echoed with silence
Confusion and fear
Questions without answers
An innocent life, taken.

The poison infected and affected us all
Causing pressure, exhaustion, destruction, disruption
Media attention that put Salisbury back on every map
And we embarked on a long road towards recovery.

Two years later, almost to the day,
The spread of a virus
More chaos, more violence
Our streets once again paved in silence.

Locked down we moved our lives online
New ways of working, new ways of connecting
A chance to build community across our city
To celebrate the beating heart of Salisbury
You
Me
Us

You
Me
Us

Every person who experienced Covid-19
Hero, survivor, do these labels serve us?
We all feel how we feel
The scars we still carry run deep and they're real.
Our mental health matters
There is no new normal
We're still learning to live with the fall out and trauma.

END SECTION 1

SECTION 2

It's time to regenerate.

How can we build a better Salisbury?
The Salisbury each of us deserves?
Not just for the majority but for all who are underserved?

We've seen million pound investments in schemes for improvement
So our station, streets and car parks are more welcoming spaces
But where is this same level of investment in our people?
How can people matter less than places?

Have we forgotten the promises we made?
The lessons from lockdown and our commitment to change?
To value each other, practise gratitude and kindness
Instead, gaps have widened, we've let difference divide us.

In our city some people are made to feel invisible.
In our city some people feel their lives are not their own.
In our city some people are forced to choose heating or eating.

This is a city to grow old in, not a place to grow up in
Where retirement homes make rich land owners richer
Where developers act with impunity and get greedier
Where there's no place for young people to call home and settle
No jobs or careers, opportunities to flourish.

Right now our democracy is the privilege of the majority
And emotional burnout causes apathy and low turnout

Our voices matter less than political process
Consultation is meaningless if we're asked the wrong questions
Let's reframe the agenda, rewrite the narrative

Who's not at the table?
Who has society disabled?
Whose voice is not heard?
Whose choice is not valued?

It's time to regenerate.

END SECTION 2

SECTION 3

It's time to regenerate.
To grow from the inside.

Let's make a Magna Carta for the future
A great charter celebrating an historical call for social justice
Where bias and discrimination are consigned to our past
Where equality holds space for dignity
And every voice matters

A Smallsbury filled with a giant capacity for love
Where broad and open minds
Make way for acceptance and understanding

Let's open places of culture and community
Where we celebrate each other's humanity
With vibrant murals
And a life lived in technicolour

Safe spaces, creative places
Where our young people are nurtured
To take pride in their identities

Self care is not seen as selfish
Busy-ness is not applauded
Businesses are rewarded

Where five rivers flow

Secret gardens grow
Peregrines dive
Water meadows create habitats for wildlife to blossom
Skylarks thrive

We have all that we need
Human made and natural
Let's build the city we deserve
From the inside out

The beating heart of our city
You
Me
Us