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24 days of digital distractions

Press Release

**Electric December: Dean Crescent Womens Hostel and BBC
5 December 2005**

Sally Thorne, an ex-resident of Dean Crescent Women's Hostel, a refuge for women who are homeless, facing abuse or living in unsafe situations takes **Electric December** visitors on a journey from her past through to the present. With the help of cameraman Rick, and BBC Points West reporter David Garmston, Sally created a short live action film, developed from an original piece created as part of Watershed's 90 Second Challenge project.

90 Second Challenge seeks to inspire people across Bristol, UK to make digital media. Sally made her first film in September 2005, whilst at Dean Crescent. Films were made using stills images taken with a disposable camera. Volunteer mentors then assisted the participants to scan and edit these stills into a film; with a voice over they recorded, Sally's film 'Animals', documented her work training guide dogs, and featured on the 90 Second Challenge website.

From sleeping rough on the streets of Bristol, to recovering from her alcohol addiction and finally getting housed. This short film documents Sally's story, visiting places special to her around Bristol, and shows her strength and courage in overcoming these challenges. The film, as well as being a part of **Electric December** will also be broadcast on BBC Points West news.

Electric December is Watershed's widely acclaimed online digital advent calendar, which offers a new and totally unique digital present every day from 1 Dec – counting you down to Christmas.

Notes:

- For more information on Points West, visit <http://www.bbc.co.uk/england/pointswest/>
- Dean Crescent Women's Hostel is part of Novas group <http://www.novas.org>
- Find out more about **Electric December**, and download images and press releases at <http://www.electricdecember.org/05/press>
- Find out more about Connecting the UK: The Digital Strategy at www.dti.gov.uk/industries/telecoms/pdf/digital_strategy.pdf
- The Digital Challenge offers a £10m prize to develop a showcase zone for eGovernment and ICT innovation - find out more at www.egovmonitor.com/node/1716
- **Electric December** is a Watershed project supported by Learning & Skills Council West of England, The Campus Bristol, BBC West, Bristol Evening Post and Creative Bristol (an initiative of Bristol Cultural Development Partnership, Arts Council England South West, Bristol City Council and Business West).
- You can see the last six years of **Electric December** now at www.electricdecember.org
- For further press information contact Clare Reddington on 0117 927 6444 or

clare.reddington@watershed.co.uk