

www.electricdecember.org
24 days of digital distractions

The online advent calendar is about to begin...

Electric December 2005, a digital advent calendar presented by Watershed in Bristol, goes live on Thu 1 Dec – offering a unique digital present each day during the run-up to the festive season. A selection box of short films, games, animations and music will be found at www.electricdecember.org and the site will also be on show in Watershed's top foyer.

Overleaf you will find details of this year's presents – which include a Christmas Spirit Level, measuring your levels of yuletide cheer, a gallery to record your dreams, a natural history trip round the world, an interactive mapping project and a curious Christmas tree waiting for you to tell it what technology would most improve your life.

These multi-media distractions are a gift from Bristol and reflect the digital creativity and talent resident in the city. This year sees contributors interpreting the theme – Connecting Bristol – in response to the Government's 'Connecting the UK: The Digital Strategy'. **Electric December 2005** will showcase creativity and innovation from local groups, businesses, artists and learning organisations to help kick-start Bristol's winning response.

Electric December seeks to introduce local community and education groups to professional media companies, and facilitate partnerships to produce new pieces of creative work for the web. These partnerships ensure that skills are pooled and shared and the world of creativity on the internet is revealed, explored and discussed.

Watershed's Managing Director Dick Penny says of the project:

"**Electric December** offers a selection box of delights delivered to your desktop - the fun is discovering something completely different each day - and with talent aged from 5 to 75 this annual online showcase confirms that creativity connects Bristol".

Notes:

• **Information about each individual present and accompanying images are now downloadable from www.electricdecember.org/05/press**

For interviews contact Clare Reddington on 0117 927 6444 or clare.reddington@watershed.co.uk

• This is the seventh year for Watershed's unique online advent calendar. In 2004, electricdecember.org received over 3 million requests from 88 countries, and served 40 GigaBytes of data.

• Find out more about Connecting the UK: The Digital Strategy at www.dti.gov.uk/industries/telecoms/pdf/digital_strategy.pdf

• 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).

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Present Titles, Contributors & Summaries

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- Thu 1 Dec** **The Bristol Christmas Spirit Level**
Beef
Is your December Electric, or has winter brought on the blues? This Christmas, the people of Bristol can grab their mobile and text in their mood with the word 'happy' or 'sad' together with their home postcode, these texts are then used to map the Christmas Spirit Level across Bristol.
- Fri 2 Dec** **Topical Trumps**
Tying Hengrove Junior School/ Ella Bissett Johnson & John Weeks
'Topical Trumps' is an interactive online card game, inviting you to beat the computer by selecting one of four categories on the Brunel animated cards. The side with the highest value then wins. The game was made as part of Brunel 200 celebrating the life, work and inventions of Isambard Kingdom Brunel.
- Sat 3 Dec** **Purple and Brown**
Aardman Animations
Even Purple and Brown recognise Bristol's importance to the World of Ballooning, but will Brown's 'personal' balloon technique catch on? Created by Aardman's Richard Webber, Electric December offers a sneak preview of this new animation which will be broadcast on International Nickelodeon.
- Sun 4 Dec** **Shake Up December**
Bart Spices/ Omni Productions
This flash guide offers a step-by-step recipe for an exotic organic drink – a perfect antidote to the excess of the Christmas period.
- Mon 5 Dec** **Moving On**
BBC Points West/ Dean Crescent Women's Hostel/ Sally Thorne
What is it like to be homeless in winter? Former Dean Crescent resident Sally tells her story, from homelessness to hostel and the new life she has made for herself in Bristol.
- Tue 6 Dec** **Bristol Buzz**
City of Bristol College/ Electric 9
Plug into an interactive online space, created by second year HND multimedia students at City of Bristol College, that connects Bristol via music, film and radio.
- Wed 7 Dec** **Mural Magic**
Withywood School/ FluffyLogic/ St. Pius X RC Primary School
Watch the drama and chaos unfold in this short film, as pupils from Withywood take the ambitious challenge to bring to life an animal themed mural. Let loose with cameras, pupils from Withywood document the collaboration between their school and St. Pius X RC Primary School to design and paint the mural.

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- Thu 8 Dec** **The 'All I Want For Christmas Tree'**
Bristol City Council/ Delib
Have you been given a rubbish technology-based present - a gizmo that didn't add any real value to your or anybody else's life? Now is your chance to put things right. 'All I want for Christmas' gathers ideas on how to put technology to better use in Bristol.
- Fri 9 Dec** **UFOs over Knowle West**
Knowle West Media Centre/ Tom Milner & Phil Webster
You are an alien from the planet Kurugill-9, with control of a flying saucer hovering over Bristol. Your mission is to explore the area known as Knowle West and then return to the mother ship to report on your findings.
- Sat 10 Dec** **The New Mr Hopkinson's Second Online Interactive Video Sample Orchestra**
Mr Hopkinson
From drumming on a roundabout to underwater piano, experience Mr Hopkinson's eclectic treat first hand with this interactive MX piece that enables users to play a variety of combinations of video clip samples.
- Sun 11 Dec** **Life in the Frame**
At-Bristol/ Children of the 90s
'Life in the Frame' is a digital photography exhibition to challenge feelings about scientific research. Exciting, scary, provocative and humorous – this powerful piece invites people to consider their opinions about contemporary science and email in their responses.
- Mon 12 Dec** **Evening POeT**
Bristol Evening Post/ nameless uk
Collecting phrases from the day's news, The EVENING POeT allows Electric December visitors to use these fragments to create a piece of online fridge poetry that can be saved, shared, and published back to the website.
- Tue 13 Dec** **Wyled Christmas**
Hengrove Community Arts College/ BBC/ City Learning Centre @ Brislington
From the rainforest to the desert, the arctic to the streets of Bristol, explore what's happening across the globe. Open a digital window on the natural world through these two short films, made using BBC archive footage from the Natural History Unit.
- Wed 14 Dec** **What's That Green Map?**
Green Bristol/ FluffyLogic
Green Bristol's Electric December contribution takes images and stills made by the local community at Green Mapping events and projects to give a flavour of what the project is all about.
- Thu 15 Dec** **Random Connections**
The-i City Learning Centre/ Monks Park School
Pick a present from under the Christmas tree to open a digital window of lively shorts that show how North Bristol connects to the centre of the city.
- Fri 16 Dec** **Caning, Caterpillars & Cleaning Motorbikes**
Air Balloon Hill Infants School/ Suited and Booted
From caning pupils to caterpillars in the dinner, tales from the past feature in a unique set of animations created by Air Balloon Hill Infants to celebrate the school's centenary.

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- Sat 17 Dec** **Wire-less Bristol**
Bristol Wireless
Enjoy a virtual journey around Bristol's free-to-access wireless network. From pub to house, this digital journey takes in various key points on the network.
- Sun 18 Dec** **7 Secret Wonders of Bristol**
Mel Shearsmith/ Catherine Whyte/ Rowena Dugdale
The Seven Secret Wonders map re-imagines the city of Bristol, introducing visitors and residents to the city's secret side. From public toilets to secret gardens, the map features seven short films which explore forgotten places.
- Mon 19 Dec** **The Elders**
Lisa May Thomas/ Ben Templeton
Explore how Jamaican culture has contributed to Bristol. This piece allows the user to investigate what it feels like to be a Jamaican in Bristol, and how two different yet equally rich cultures have become inextricably intertwined.
- Tue 20 Dec** **A Mosquito in Easton**
Bristol Stories/ Reethah Desai
From dumped cars and drug dealers, to street parties and murals, this short film tells a story of a two-year campaign to reclaim and brighten up the streets. Travel from Tanzania and India to the streets of Bristol today.
- Wed 21 Dec** **SolidSound**
Jo Hyde and Supernatural Studios/ SE3D/ Enable Interactive
SolidSound asks 'if sound could be crystallised or solidified, what would it look like?' An animation created using data from its soundtrack, this beautiful and unique animation was created as part of HP Labs, Alias and Watershed's SE3D scheme.
- Thu 22 Dec** **Studio Dreams**
Arnolfini/ Studio Upstairs/ Pedro Reyes/ therhomworkshop.com
What did you dream last night? In this piece visitors can create their own dream by choosing different sequences from a selection of short films, save the dream in the hall of dreams where all the wonderful creations can be viewed.
- Fri 23 Dec** **DestiNations**
Alex Mackay
Reflecting the nature of human development on landscape and the environment, this short film, created by Alex Mackay as part of his final year at The University of the West of England, follows the railway line between Bristol and Bath, presenting an alternative reality of industrialisation and pollution.
- Sat 24 Dec** **No Easy Way**
3C Research/ Granada Media/ Tia Perkins & Jaime Pardo
A computer-generated 3D animation made using the experimental 'motion ripper' tool, 'No Easy Way' features a long suffering mouse and his adopted elephant son.