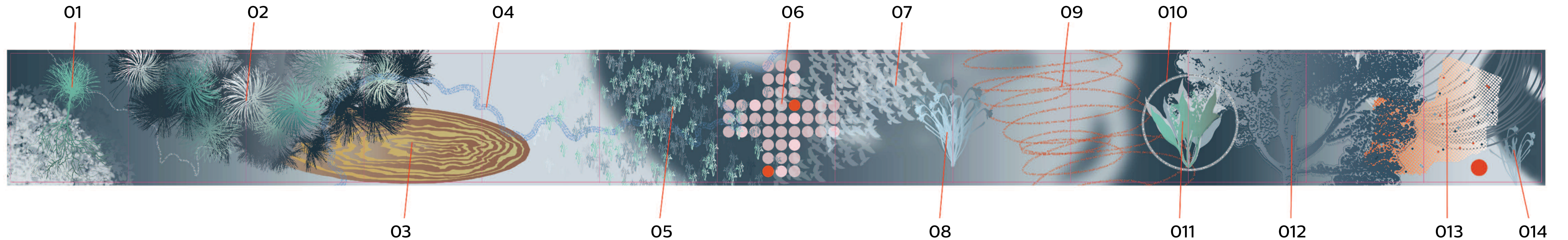




Central Concourse Screen “70 years on...”

Some thoughts on meaning and interpretation... by artist Christopher Tipping



01 Sapling/seedling of Eisenhower Tree Eastern White Pine (Maine US) – sources are vague about which type of Pine Tree this is but it is what it represents and stands for which became important. The Eastern White Pine represents Maine, aka *The Pine Tree State*, the original home base of the US 67th General Hospital.

02a Abstract design Based on the pine needles / seeds of the Eisenhower Tree arranged into circular groups.

02b Galmington Stream text The Galmington Stream forms part of the southern boundary of the Hospital site. This line traces its route in plan. The text “*The menu consisted of...*” is a description of the menu for the Thanksgiving dinner in November 1943 (“*A History of Musgrove Park...*” by Sidney Smith, p252).

03 Abstracted design Influenced by a reference to ploughing (plowing) – “*In April 1943, a tractor ploughed eight acres of ground for their vegetable garden...*” see Sidney Smith’s book.

04 Galmington Stream text Two texts interwoven. “*A Royal visit by HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother on Thursday 19th November 1959...*” and “*It was the Galmington Stream that flooded...*” 1968.

05 Field of snowdrops *Galanthus* meaning milk-drop flower. Winter flowering, often pushing up through snow in February. Herald the new year’s growth and symbolic of optimism and hope. Source – archive images of the WWII Field Hospital in the snow.

06 Cross of coloured dots Inspired by archive photographs of the Occupational Therapy department and the objects used there (date unknown). Also, a large white cross occupied the ground outside the main entrance to the hospital during its early years. It had a flagpole at its centre.

07 Detail of a flock of starlings or ‘murmuration’ A reference to the external artwork designed in tandem with the screen and also to the hospital community working together as a flock.

08 A bunch of narcissus Archive photographs show the images of the Nightingale wards with central supporting columns. On each column was a fixed vase. The vases were kept full of flowers – perhaps provided by visitors. The design appears to come from between the seams of the tensile structure. One staff member reminiscing about the 1950’s said “*The flower vases were washed every day...on our ward we were not allowed to put red and white flowers together...matron was superstitious*”.

09 A gestural vortex with two intertwined texts “*There were balls in those days...*” and “*When the Red Cross first arrived at Musgrove...*” 1970’s. Louise Donovan, engagement projects with staff as part of the Sensing Our Past project.

010 Circle of text “*El Paso is a really beautiful spot...*” describing arriving in El Paso, Texas from where the 67th General Hospital departed for Europe – Sidney Smith.

011 Lily of the Valley Amongst other flowers given to HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother upon her visit to Musgrove Park on 19th November 1959.

012 Eisenhower Tree The iconic Pine Tree was planted as a small sapling and is clearly visible in many images from the archives of Musgrove Park.

013 Aerial plan Showing the shape or footprint of the Hospital site. The image is made up of hundreds of dots, possibly representing the individuals who come to the hospital every day either to work or as patients or visitors.

014 Daffodils Springtime, new life, and positivity. All the flowers brought by visitors for friends and family.

015 Galmington Stream, part one Text “*In February great snow fell...*” 1978.

016 Stylized cut section through the felled Eisenhower Tree To show 70 rings, representing the 70th Anniversary of the Hospital.

017 Galmington Stream, part two Text “*In February great snow fell...*” 1978.

018 What appears to be perhaps a flight of birds or crosses Taken from an archive image of Musgrove nurses marching through Taunton. The cross shape formed where the nurse’s cape ties around the body has inspired this detail.

019 Two texts, intertwined within a gestural dynamic shape “*A Royal visit...*” 1959 and “*We used to have Sunflower competitions...*” 1970’s.

020 Galmington Stream Orange / Red.

021 Lily of the Valley Amongst other flowers given to HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother upon her visit to Musgrove Park on 19th November 1959.

022 Gestural line of text Made up of four different quotes. “*In April 1943, a tractor ploughed eight acres of ground...*”, “*Some American soldiers hid their dog tags...*”, “*The soldiers also made brooches in the shape of planes...*” and “*They would put a piano on a truck on a Sunday afternoon...*”.

023 An oblique cross of coloured dots Inspired by archive photographs of the Occupational Therapy department – date unknown. Also, a large white cross occupied the ground outside the main entrance to the hospital during its early years. It had a flagpole at its centre.

024 Almost same as 04 – Galmington Stream Two texts “*A Royal visit by HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother on Thursday 19th November 1959...*” and “*It was the Galmington Stream that flooded...*” 1968.

025 Eisenhower Tree Close up detail.

026 Circle of text “*The 67th General Hospital adopted a banner...*” a reference to the cactus and the pine (see Sidney Smith book). The Maine contingent of the 67th, were mostly Doctors and Nurses, whilst the enlisted men came from Texas and Oklahoma.

027 Another abstracted design influenced by ploughing, ‘plowing’ reference “*In April 1943, a tractor ploughed eight acres of ground for their vegetable garden...*” Sidney Smith or, a section through a branch of the Eisenhower Tree.

028 Plants / foliage / growth “*Putting the Park back into Musgrove Park*”, is one interpretation. Celebratory flower arrangements were very common images in the photographic archive. Another is about growth over time and maturity.

