Kindness is the theme for Kate Fox's Great North Passion play

Performance poet Kate Fox has been working with South Shields pupils ahead of The Great North Passion



Photo: Kate Fox with pupils of South Shields

Community School

This is the contemporary re-telling of the Bible story of Christ's last hours which is building towards a dramatic event to be broadcast live on BBC1 on Good Friday.

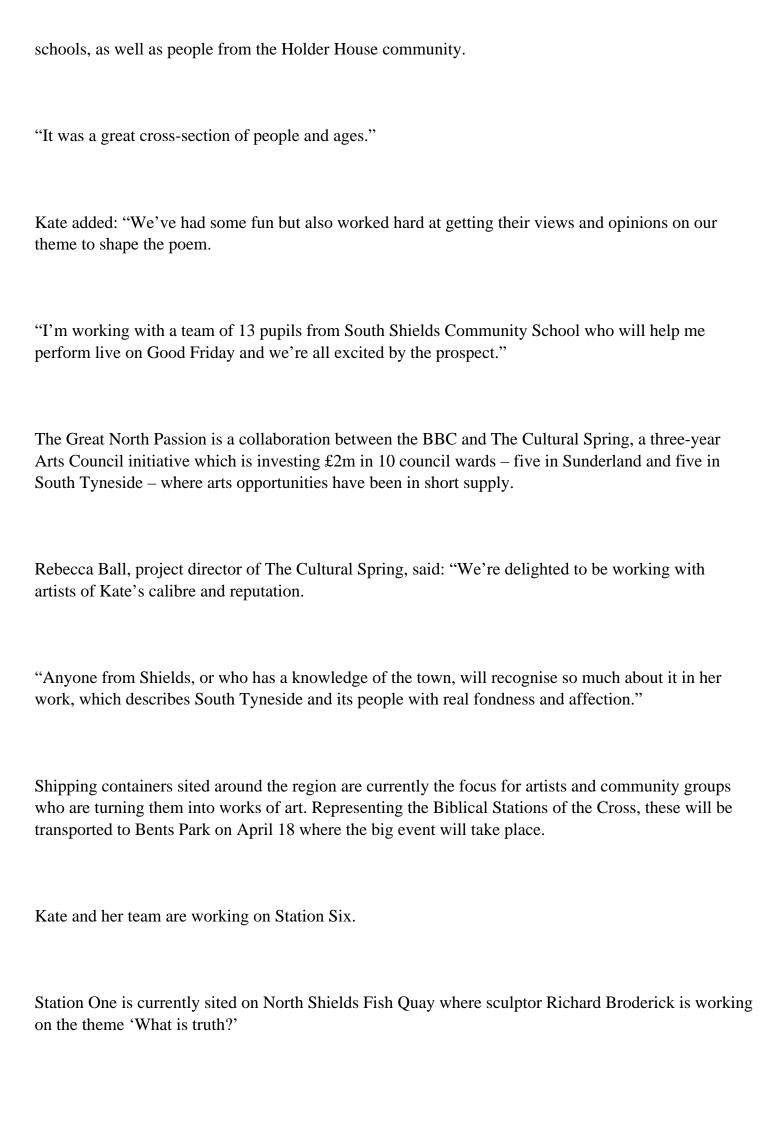
Kate and youngsters from South Shields Community School, along with local community groups, are working together on a poem that will feature as part of the event in Bents Park, South Shields.

Kate, who is also a Journal columnist, took as her theme the kindness of strangers, inspired by the story of Veronica who handed her veil to Jesus so that he could wipe his face as he carried the cross to the place of crucifixion.

"We used this example of kindness to help explore the theme more widely," she said.

"I wanted the poem to mean something to the people of Shields so there are references to the Great North Run, Minchella's ice cream and Ocean Road.

"In our workshops we worked with students from South Shields Community School and two primary



"Over the past few weeks I have been collecting truths from people to include in the work," said Richard.
"The location of the container influenced the external design. On top of the container is a representation of a fishing boat with a net made by local retired fishermen. The boat is called Truth.
"The net seems to be catching fish which, as they go up the net, are turning into people. This is a reference to St Peter, known as 'the fisher of men', and his role in the Passion."
Among others involved are dance group Bad Taste Cru, photographer Julian Germain, opera singer Graeme Danby and band The Futureheads.
David Whetstone - The Journal