The Tide Jar

*The Tide Jar* is a prototype story lantern that is only illuminated in the early evening when there is a full or new moon. This is when spring tides bring higher water levels and a greater chance of flooding to properties beside tidal rivers. Paper cut-out silhouettes tell a simple story of a child who lives beside a river growing to adulthood. The passage of time is shown in this way because lunar tides follow an eighteen-year cycle. In the child’s home, signs of flooding and recovery are visible over time.

The lantern is intended to provide a gentle reminder to someone living beside a river to pay attention to the lunar cycle and what it means for where the water level is, without being a constantly visible reminder of past distress. In this way it becomes an artefact that can be used for ‘active remembering’, inspired by the research of Lindsey McEwen et al. (2017) into sustainable flood memories.

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