

Urban art project celebrates Leigh's mining heritage

They're solid, short and sturdy - ideally suited for controlling road traffic and preventing ram raiding. But here in Leigh, the humble bollard has been given a modern urban makeover!

Across the Leigh Neighbours project area, a number of these basic, functional but wholly unremarkable items of street furniture have been transformed into artistic installations as part of a community arts project inspired by old black and white photographs from the town's archives.

Year 6 pupils from Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School created the designs taking their inspiration from history, including landscapes of old buildings such as Parsonage Colliery and scenes featuring the Pit Brow lasses.

Martyn Lucas is a local artist commissioned by Leigh Neighbours to deliver the workshop. He says: "The idea behind the bollard art project came from one of our craft club sessions where the children were asked to consider ways of improving neglected areas. They created a range of fantastic designs which we then reproduced on vinyl wraps and attached to the bollards.

"We're used to seeing commercial advertising in all kinds of places, including around bollards, but it's unusual for these rather unattractive features to become a concrete canvas for the purposes of displaying community art.

"It's a good example of community intervention that involves local people and makes a visual statement on the local landscape. We hope our neighbourhood bollards convey a positive message about the area, inspire pride in our heritage and evoke delight in seeing art work by local children."

Some of the artists from Sacred Heart RC Primary School: Alexia, Evie, Jakub and Josh

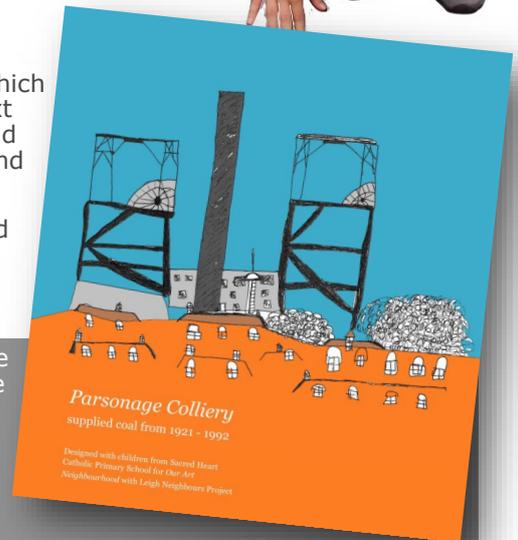


Look out for several more designs which are due to be rolled out over the next few months, exploring themes around the natural environment, pollution and climate change.

Helen Ahmed, Headteacher of Sacred Heart and Martyn Lucas are pictured with the pupils holding another of their vinyl wraps.

The Holiday Craft Club is an initiative piloted by Leigh Neighbours over the past few months. Martyn's popular art workshops are only part of the story. The Holiday Club also offers children an opportunity to engage in crafts, healthy eating, sports, team building and other activities.

We're looking for volunteers to get involved so we can deliver more sessions and engage with even more children and young people. Do you have an interest in volunteering with young people? We'd love to hear from you! Simply email volunteer@lnpb.org.uk for more information.



Back to school

Helen Loynd is certainly no stranger to the classroom!

The mum of 3 from Leigh West has been actively involved in her sons' school, Sacred Heart RC Primary, over the past 11 years, and has often put her creative skills as a textile design graduate to great use by delivering art workshops to children across the area.

So, when the opportunity arose to gain a nationally recognised professional qualification as a Teaching Assistant, Helen didn't hesitate to apply.

"I learnt from the school newsletter that Leigh Neighbours was inviting people to apply for the professional NVQ Level 2 Teaching Assistant course, and I thought that it would be useful to add a school-based qualification to my CV.

"I was delighted to be accepted, and embarked on the 12-week course back in September. The course involved completing a number of training modules which covered communication, positive behaviour, building relationships, child development, safeguarding, teamwork and health & safety. We were also required to take part in classroom-setting exercises.

"It's been a fabulous experience and I'm really grateful to Leigh Neighbours for supporting me and investing in my future."

Behind every good teacher is a great teaching assistant!

Helen Ahmed, Headteacher at Sacred Heart RC Primary School and Leigh Neighbours board member, says:

"Teaching Assistants provide invaluable support to teachers and children, often investing their time in a voluntary capacity and invariably going that extra mile.

"I'm delighted to see so many students graduate with flying colours. They are real assets to local schools and to the wider community, and I applaud Leigh Neighbours for having the vision to work with schools and to invest in the future of local people."

As part of Leigh Neighbours' Community Plan 2018-2021, the charity is committed to developing the skills of local people. If you'd like to find out if we can help you, please email info@lnpb.org.uk



Students who recently graduated from the NVQ Level 2 Teaching Assistant course delivered by local training provider Discover Consultancy & Training, include Gareth Judge, Helen Loynd and Michelle Downs. They are pictured with the Chair of Leigh Neighbours, Susan Gredecki.

So, what does a Teaching Assistant do?

Teaching Assistants support teachers in preparing and delivering lessons, whilst helping children with educational and social development both in and out of the classroom. They also offer support to children with particular needs, either individually or in small groups. Teaching Assistants can be involved in many ad hoc roles which differ from school to school, such as supervising group activities, caring for children who may be upset or have had an accident, or helping to organise trips. Teaching Assistants can either qualify through formal training or alternatively learn 'on the job'. Many begin their journey by volunteering in their local school. For more information contact Discover Consultancy & Training on 01942 356580 or letstalk@discoverct.co.uk



GMP Leigh West is working to address a number of policing priorities in the area.

Earlier in April, GMP and council partners ran a very successful Week of Action in the Glebe and Gordon Street areas. During the week, 3 Misuse of Drugs Act warrants were executed with a negative result for drugs but highlighting other matters for us to assist with, including truancy and safeguarding issues. We will continue to patrol these areas with our primary concern being the safety and wellbeing of ALL residents and business owners, ensuring Leigh West is a safe and pleasant place to live and work.

We have noted the following numbers of reports in the last month, 1 April - 1 May 2019 (compared to the same period in 2018 shown in brackets)

Drugs related incidents: 0 (1)
Vehicle crime: 5 (8)
Burglary (residential & commercial): 11 (16)
Anti-social behaviour (inc. fires): 32 (49)

So as you can see, reductions in most areas which is pleasing and reassuring that we are moving in the right direction.

As the warmer weather arrives, we will be tackling the misuse of off-road bikes which we know cause annoyance and anxiety to residents and we encourage everyone to report off-road bike issues to PCSOs or 101.

We also hope everyone continues to enjoy the Bank Holiday weekends, but please drink alcohol responsibly and if the weather is nice, please don't be tempted to cool down in open water.

We will be supporting activities taking place in the town centre in the coming months, including the Canal Festival and Leigh 10k.

For the latest news on your Neighbourhood Policing Team visit www.gmp.police.uk or follow us on social media. Emergencies should always be on 999 and any reports that are non-urgent can be online, on GMP live chat or on 101.

You can also call CRIMESTOPPERS free and anonymously on 0800 555 111.

If you're affected by ASB, you can also report it via the council's MyReportIt app, at www.wigan.gov.uk/reportit or by calling 01942 404040

citizens advice

Are you an EU, EEA or Swiss national? Do you know you have to apply for UK settlement to continue living and working in the UK? We can help.

Come and talk to Justyna from Citizens Advice at Leigh Library every Wednesday from 9am to 4pm. We also offer advice about debt, housing, employment, benefits, and more. Advice is free and confidential. For more information please call us on 01942 489933 Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays, 3pm to 5pm.



Members of Leigh Neighbours' Holiday Club have a definite spring' in their step... and in their hop, skip and jump, too!



Zoe, Charlotte, Grace and Emily certainly take their civic responsibilities seriously! They were part of a group of pupils from Sacred Heart RC Primary who recently took part in a litter pick in support of the Great British Spring Clean. Well done and many thanks to you all!



In March, members of Leigh Neighbours' board hosted a visit by Matt Leach, Chief Executive Officer of Local Trust - the National Lottery charity which funds our project. Matt heard about our Summer School project with Sacred Heart, and had a tour of the patch, taking in the Incredible Edible allotment on Railway Rd, the planter on Glebe St and the Community Garden. Matt said: "It was brilliant to meet such an energetic, committed group and to get a feel for what you have achieved and are planning for the future. You demonstrate the importance of community and the real value that comes from trusting communities to make decisions for themselves."

You can follow all our activities, events and news on our social media pages or on our website www.lnpb.org.uk

YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS



IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT HOW YOU CAN GET MORE INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY (AS WELL AS MAKE NEW FRIENDS AND LEARN NEW SKILLS INTO THE BARGAIN) PLEASE GET IN TOUCH.

We're especially keen to hear from anybody who might like to help out at our community hub which is based on Walmesley Road. There's plenty of ways that you could volunteer with us if you've got a few hours to spare and want to make a difference... from designing posters to promote our events, to helping look after our garden allotment. Or perhaps you're into organising social events and family activities? Well, we've got the perfect venue - and might even be able to help with funding. We also need more volunteers to help at our regular events... such as our hanging basket workshops. Or if you have a particular skill or interest, perhaps you can volunteer that way, by sharing your skills with others? There's no shortage of ways to get involved!

For more information, email us at volunteer@lnpb.org.uk



We're looking for some keen, green-fingered volunteers to help out at the community allotment. Find out more by emailing us at incredibleedible@lnpb.org.uk



Get your bike serviced and ready for summer!

Dr Bike is back offering free MOTs at his summer bike workshop.

**Leigh Central/Sacred Heart RC Primary School playground, Windermere Road, Leigh
Friday 24th May from 3.30pm**

3rd - 7th June
Bike To School Week 2019



Callum, Kenny, Sam, Rosie and Christine, with Abby (front)

Members of The Gardening Gang are pictured at Leigh Neighbours community garden on Gordon Street with their mentors, Kenny and Christine Farnworth. New member, Sam is taking over the responsibility of mowing the lawn from his dad, Mark who volunteered his time for several years. You can see more pictures of the kids hard at work on our website www.lnpb.org.uk and social media pages.

Summer Hanging Basket Workshops

Local residents are invited to bring their hanging baskets along to have them refilled with fresh compost and plants!

Thursday 13th June, 10am-12 noon
Community Garden, Gordon Street

Friday 14th June, 10am-12 noon
Sacred Heart Parish Centre, Walmesley Rd

Saturday 15th June, 10am-12 noon
Railway Road allotment (next to the car park)



Term & Conditions: Our hanging basket workshops are free to local residents from the Leigh Neighbours project area on presentation of a voucher which will be delivered to homes in early June. Residents from neighbouring areas are invited to attend but are asked to make a small donation towards the cost of materials. A limited number of new baskets will be available at a cost of £1.00. If possible please recycle your empty ones and bring them with you - thank you!

Room Hire

Leigh Neighbours has 2 meeting rooms available for hire at Walmesley Road at competitive rates.

	Large Meeting Room	Small Meeting Room
New community groups	Free for the first six months. £1.50 per person up to 12 months. £3.00 per person from 1 year on.	Free
Non-commercial hire by existing community groups	£10 per hour	Free
Commercial lettings for local residents eg children's parties	£10 per hour	£10 per hour
Commercial lettings	£20 per hour	£20 per hour

For more information email info@lnpb.org.uk

Leigh Neighbours Big Local is a community project based in Leigh West, administered by Local Trust and funded by an award of £1 million from The National Lottery Community Fund. Find out more about our activities and events by following our social media pages or by visiting our website at www.lnpb.org.uk where you can also register to receive our news via email.



Local Trust | Big Local

