



Rachelle
designed by



I C ART

Irlam & Cadishead urban art programme

Bob The Butcher



Bob the Butcher Artwork

Bob the Butcher is the third major artwork from I C Art.

This commemorative piece tells the story of Bob Boardman, an inspiring local butcher who knew each of his customers by name and counted most as his friend.

Bob, who sadly passed away in August 2015 - embodied the spirit of a community that many of us remember from childhood, when local shops thrived and customers were familiar faces, not just reflections of footfall or sales statistics.

The artwork is located round the corner from the shop Bob once ran and depicts him at work as well as pursuing his favourite hobbies: fishing and having a flutter on the horses.

In the centre of the scene Bob (pointing) is at work with colleagues Terry Prior (left), Jim Watson (back), and Barry Taylor (right). To the left, standing outside the



shop, you can see Bob in his younger years with his fishing gear, while studying form on the racing pages and donning a cap featuring his favourite football team. The young woman at the shop door illustrates Bob's well-known liking for the ladies.

Known as Robert to his family, but fondly referred to locally as Bob the Butcher, he was born in July 1950 and left an extensive family, along with a multitude of close friends.

School didn't suit Bob and he left at the first opportunity to work at Hesfords Butchers aged 15, delivering meat on his bike. Eventually he learned the trade from the late Arthur Perkins and the master Jim Watson.

Bob became a partner and later owner of the shop, which enabled him to live a fulfilled and rewarding life. With a gruff sense of humour, he was kind and generous, helping customers as well as supporting local charities and good causes.



He was also a big United fan, hardly missing a game at Old Trafford for many years. Bob was a rich seam of inside information, gleaned from people who knew people 'in the know' at Old Trafford. No one really cared whether the stories were true - this was part of Bob's charm.

Eve Bell, Bobs Niece commented: "Uncle Rob was the kindest and most generous man. He was so loved in Cadishead because he had time for everyone. He didn't run his butcher's shop for money, he ran it for the community he loved."

John Boardman, Bob's Brother was delighted with the artwork and said "Absolutely fantastic, dead proud of it. It's fetched Rob back to life. A lasting memory."



Mandy Coleman, HDT General Manager said: "Bob was remembered by many as being such a kind man, who used to give away meats cheaply to people less well-off who couldn't afford them. We saw this as the perfect way to honour him and his contribution to the community."

Facebook comments:

Paul Rittaler "This is absolutely brilliant, a wonderful tribute to a truly lovely man who is very sorely missed."

Angela Buckley "It's fantastic am sure Bob would of loved it!"

Peter Ness "Brilliant tribute to a lovey man, hope it remains there forever."

Doreen Cartwright "It is lovely he was well thought of by everyone."





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