



Rachelle
designed by



I C ART

Irlam & Cadishead urban art programme

*Celebrity Express-
Irlam*

Celebrity Express – Irlam

The 'Celebrity Express – Irlam' illustrates and celebrates some of the diverse talented people who have come from Irlam and Cadishead or influenced how the area has been shaped over the past four centuries.

Passengers include people, from the past and present, who are famous for a variety of talents including acting, singing, composing music, film-making, playing football, boxing, weightlifting, painting and speedway racing, as well as those early pioneers and industrialists who were instrumental in putting the



in 1894. Both were equally important in transforming the district from two small villages into what it is today. Irlam Station House tells the story of this great

Midland Carriages

The CLC Railway did own some carriages, but often the committee partners would provide them, with the Midland Railway providing most. Our celebrity carriages are typical Midland Railway rolling stock of that era.



area on the map with the construction of the railways and Manchester Ship Canal.

This artwork is featured on the Liverpool platform at Irlam Station, with a replica on the steel bridge spanning Liverpool Road - alongside the lovely brick arch bridge carrying the Cheshire Lines Committee (CLC) railway line.

undertaking in more detail - why not pop in and take a look?

The locomotive

The train and carriages of 'Celebrity Express – Irlam' are typical of the passenger trains that serviced the Manchester to Liverpool line through Irlam.

The locomotive is a Great Central No.881 - a Pollitt class 11A 4-4-0 and was built in 1899 at Gorton Works, Manchester. It was traditional in the era to name the loco type after the company's chief engineer, in this case Harry Pollitt (1864-1945). Many thousands of passenger and freight trains passed through Irlam pulled by Pollitt locomotives.



The CLC Railway opened in 1873 and was a catalyst for the industrialisation of Irlam and Cadishead. This was followed by the construction of the Manchester Ship Canal



1

**SIR EDWARD
LEADER WILLIAMS**
1828 – 1910

As the chief designer of the Manchester Ship Canal (MSC), civil engineer Sir Edward Leader Williams had a particularly pivotal role in shaping the development of Irlam and Cadishead.

The canal opened in 1894 and had a significant impact on the area with the rivers Irwell and Mersey flowing into it, forming part of the navigation.

The building of Irlam Locks necessitated major earth works and two of the canal's five rail crossings are located in the district. The introduction of the canal, alongside rail links was the catalyst for substantial industrial growth in the area with large organisations such as Co-operative Wholesale Society Soap Works and Irlam Steelworks taking advantage of the large space available and the extensive connectivity.

Following the official opening of the canal, Sir Edward was knighted by Queen Victoria on 2nd July 1894.

4

**ROBERT
STANNARD SENIOR**
1780 – 1863

Engineer Robert Stannard Senior pioneered the construction of narrow gauge railways which would prove to be essential to the reclamation of Chat Moss.

Robert laid an 18-inch gauge moveable railway across the moss after being brought to the area by William Roscoe in 1805. Reclamation required clay marl to be mixed into the bog, and this was transported by the railway. Suitably impressed by Robert's experience, George Stephenson employed him in 1826 to lay the contractor's rail tracks around the moss when Stephenson built his own railway. Robert is said to have persuaded George to float his railway on a raft system across the 4.75 mile bog using brush wood from Botany Bay Wood.

2

**SIR EDWARD
BAINES JUNIOR**
1800 - 1890

Sir Edward Baines Junior was a Leeds newspaper editor and Liberal MP for the city from 1859 to 1874. Knighted in 1880, he had a major impact on Irlam and Cadishead through his work on Chat Moss.

He took over the lease on the eastern end of the moss to reclaim 1,200 acres for agricultural use, after William Roscoe, who started the work, was declared bankrupt.

Sir Edward went on to set up a farming company with Edward Evans, who funded much of the reclamation work. In 1830 the pair financed the construction of a tramway between Lambs Cottage Halt on the Liverpool to Manchester railway and the River Irwell at Boysnope. The tramway carried nightsoil from Manchester, fertilising the moss and resulted in its eventual ownership by Manchester Corporation in 1876.



3

GEORGE THOMAS
1848 – 1927

George Thomas was a local businessman with international connections. His ability to speak a number of languages enabled him to hold an important position dealing with the Turkish Chamber of Commerce and he was also a representative in Russia of a large firm of textile machinery makers.

In addition he was a philanthropist who donated the George Thomas Playground in Irlam, a recreational area for children, to

mark the visit to Irlam of Edward VII in 1909. In 1921, George turned several acres of his estate into Prince's Park and opened it for public use to celebrate another royal visit, this time by the Prince of Wales.

When he died in 1927, George left his entire estate to Irlam District Council, including Irlam Hall. Sadly the hall, which represented 700 years of Irlam's history, was neglected and had to be demolished in 1948.

5

WILLIAM ROSCOE
1753 – 1831

Liverpool-born William Roscoe trained as a solicitor, but his love of botany is what made him a key figure in the development of Irlam and Cadishead. William leased 3,000 acres of Chat Moss from the de Trafford family and reclamation work started in 1805. This was a massive undertaking as it covered 30 per cent of Salford. William constructed drains running from the centre of the moss down to the River Irwell and in 1816 employed Robert Stannard Senior to build a moveable light railway that enabled wagons to cross an area of the bog.

William's business later collapsed and he was declared bankrupt in 1821. However, the reclamation work continued under the direction of others, including Sir Edward Baines Junior.

Roscoe Road in Irlam, an access route to the Moss, was named after William and there is a statue of him in St Georges Hall, Liverpool, where he was the driving force behind Liverpool's Botanic Gardens. The same plan was used for Philadelphia's Botanic Gardens and William was a friend of US President Thomas Jefferson. In 1831 Roscoe in Ohio was named after him.

GEORGE STEPHENSON
1781 – 1848

6

Hailed as 'the Father of Railways', George Stephenson built the Liverpool to Manchester Railway which had a transformative effect on the growth of Irlam and Cadishead. This expedited the reclamation of Chat Moss, allowing the district access to some of the first railway stations in the country. George worked with Robert Stannard Senior to cross Chat Moss by making floats out of brush wood. This enabled him to spread the loads over a broader area, creating a raft that sat above the peat on which the railway track bed was laid. Timber for the work was sourced from Botany Bay Wood. Ballast, sleepers and rails were positioned over the timber foundation and old tar barrels were fixed together to form wooden culverts that drained two side ditches. The economies of Liverpool, Manchester and all towns in between were massively boosted as a result of the railway, which opened in 1830.

9

MICHELLE KEEGAN
1987 - PRESENT

Michelle Keegan, who played Tina McIntyre in ITV's Coronation Street, was born in Stockport and grew up in Irlam. She attended St Teresa's Primary School and St Patricks High School, before moving onto doing drama at Pendleton College and then the Manchester School of Acting.

Her working life began at Selfridges in the Trafford Centre and was later a check-in agent at Manchester Airport. She hit the nation's TV screens when she appeared in Coronation Street in 2008. Michelle landed the role as Tina McIntyre in just her second acting audition and stayed with the soap until 2014. She then moved onto other major roles including: the BBC drama series Ordinary Lies and Our Girl.

Michelle won the best newcomer award at the British Soap Awards as well as the TV Choice Awards in 2008. Then went on to win the 'Sexiest Female' award at both the British Soap Awards and Inside Soap Awards for the next six years. She was awarded FHM 'Sexiest Woman in The World' in 2015.

7

EMMA LOWNDES
1975 - PRESENT

TV and stage actress Emma Lowndes was brought up in Irlam. She attended Irlam Primary School and Urmston Grammar School before studying English at York University. Emma won a place at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts (RADA) where she trained to be an actress.

Her TV appearances have included Cranford, Downton Abbey, Jayne Eyre, Burn It, Silent Witness, The Trial and Afterlife. In addition Emma has had many leading roles in theatres including the West End, the Royal Shakespeare Company, The National Theatre, The Globe, Manchester Royal Exchange and Salford's Lowry. Her role in 'The Seagull' earned her the 'Best Actress in a Leading Role' award at the 2003 Manchester Evening News Theatre Awards, as well as a nomination in the 2003 Ian Charleson Awards.

Emma lives in Cambridge and often spends time in Irlam, Cadishead and Hollins Green visiting family and friends.



8

PETER WHITFIELD
1964 - 2013

Born and bred in Irlam, Peter Whitfield overcame his natural shyness to pursue a successful career as an actor. After attending Irlam Endowed Primary School he appeared in numerous lead roles when he was at the local high school, which built up his confidence to audition.

Peter then studied at the Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Arts where he attained his acting diploma in 1989 and went on to become an accomplished actor in film, TV and the West End.

He had roles in productions such as The Messenger: Story of Joan of Arc in 1999, Institute Benjamenta, or This Dream that One Calls Human

Life in 1995 and Mr Toad's Wild Ride in 1996. He featured alongside Julie Walters and Thora Hird in the TV programme Wide Eyed and Legless and co-starred with Brian Blessed in the stage production of Hook.

He was also a distinguished singer musician, playing a variety of instruments including the piano, banjo and clarinet.

Peter died of a heart attack in 2013. He loved pantomimes so much that his family arranged numerous cardboard cut-outs of him dressed in panto costumes for his funeral, as this typified who he was.

10

LESLEY NICOL
1953 - PRESENT

Born in Irlam, Lesley Nicol was the daughter of a well known local doctor and her mother worked in TV. She graduated in the early 1970s from London's Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Best known for her role as cook Beryl Patmore in ITV's hit drama series Downton Abbey, Lesley also played Mrs Beaver in the 1988 BBC adaptation of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe and as the Queen Giant in the Silver Chair.

She is also a distinguished stage actress, appearing in musicals such as Mama Mia, Our House, and HMS Pinafore. Her movie debut came in 1999 with East is East and she appeared in the sequel West is West. Lesley has also appeared in guest roles in numerous TV shows including: Blackadder II, Brookside, The Bill, Casualty, Heartbeat, Peak Practice, Holby City and Supernatural.

11

RAY LOWRY
1944 – 2008

Ray was a celebrated cartoonist, illustrator and satirist whose distinctive style and wit saw his work appear in diverse print media titles including the Guardian, Private Eye, Punch, and the NME. Born in Cadishead, Ray attended Urmston Grammar and became known as a cartoonist in the 1970s – despite having no formal education in art.

He struck up a friendship with the punk rock band the Clash and created the artwork for their iconic London Calling album sleeve. The original artwork was sold for £78,000, underlining his impressive reputation. In the 1980s Ray continued to create memorable art and remained obsessed by rock and roll. He joined up with the See Gallery in Rossendale, holding a successful exhibition and started to plan new paintings. One of Ray's best known paintings is of the Coach and Horses pub in Cadishead.

On the day he died Oasis dedicated a song to his memory during a live show – a powerful indication of the esteem in which Ray's work has been held.

In 2009 the Ray Lowry Foundation was set up by Ray's son Samuel to raise funds for scholarships and art projects.

12

RUSSELL WATSON
1966 – PRESENT

Superstar tenor Russell Watson attended Irlam Endowed Primary School and Irlam and Cadishead High School, then worked in a local factory before winning Manchester Piccadilly Radio's 'Search for a Star' talent competition. This was the catalyst for a career that has seen him perform for some of the world's greatest figures, including the Queen, Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Charles, the late Pope John Paul II, the Emperor of Japan, as well as former US presidents Bill

Clinton and George W Bush.

Russell's debut album, 'The Voice', held the number one spot in the UK charts for a world record 52 weeks. At the same time, Russell held the number one spot in the USA, making him the first British male to hold simultaneous transatlantic number one slots. He subsequently released ten studio albums, and has collaborated with Meatloaf, Lionel Richie, Paul McCartney, Lulu, Alexandra Burke, Sean Ryder and the late Luciano Pavarotti.



13

CLIFF TWEMLOW
1937 – 1993

Born in Hulme, multi-talented Cliff Twemlow was the local ferryman at the Irlam Boathouse crossing to Flixton and became a nightclub bouncer, or 'Tuxedo Warrior' in the 50s.

Wanting to diversify, Cliff tried his hand as an extra on Coronation Street in the 60s and became a musician under the pseudonym Peter Reno, building a small recording studio at his home in Stuart Avenue, Irlam. Even though he had no formal musical training, he wrote thousands of songs that were recorded for TV shows such as The Benny Hill Show, Public Eye, The Sweeney, A Touch of the Sun and film Dawn of the Dead.

He eventually worked as a bouncer again at Peter Stringfellow's Millionaire nightclub in Manchester. Cliff

then wrote his autobiography, 'Tuxedo Warrior', about his career in the music industry and as a bouncer, which was turned into a Hollywood film in 1982. He used the proceedings to make and direct his own films based in Manchester, focusing on Mancunian gang culture, as well as playing starring roles and performing his own stunts. Among these was GBH, one of the earliest British films to be shot on videotape.

Cliff then signed up Joan Collins for a movie called The Pike. Even though he couldn't raise the funds to make the movie, Joan's involvement underlined his stature in the industry – she even appeared alongside Cliff on BBC TV's Tomorrow's World programme with an early animatronic giant pike fish made for the film. The huge pike is now featured in a Japanese exhibition.

14

MAX SHACKLADY
1918 – 1986

Dubbed 'The Eccles Steam Roller', Max was a former Amateur Boxing Association champion. After losing a bout in the 1947 London Olympics due to controversial decisions by the officials, Max became disillusioned with boxing and turned to wrestling.

In 1953 he established Barton Athletic Club, on his dad's farm on Barton Moss, which became known locally as Shacklady's Gym. Later he managed the UK Olympic wrestling team that competed in the Melbourne Olympics in 1956.

He trained many champions at the gym including his son Tony, who took part in three Olympics and won a silver medal at the 1974 Commonwealth Games. Gary Moores, who wrestled for Britain in the Atlanta 1996 Olympic Games, also trained at the gym.

Max broadened the gym's activities and by the 1980s it was well established in boxing, wrestling, weightlifting, marathon and road running. Champion weightlifter Bill Dulson trained and started his career there and heavyweight boxing champion Joe Louis visited the gym during a trip to Britain.

15

BILL DULSON
1938 - PRESENT

Irlam's champion weightlifter Bill Dulson took up the sport purely by chance when he was jogging past Shacklady's Gym and dropped in on a weightlifting class. He decided to have a go and managed to lift more than anyone else and knew immediately that he had natural talent. His career really took off in 1957 when he created a new North West Counties record with a bench press of 303 lbs.

In 1959 he became the North West Counties champion in three disciplines and was a four-time British record holder at different weights and lifts. The following year he lifted a record breaking 1,020 lbs in the 12 and 13 stone classes. In 1962 he joined the Steelworks Weightlifting Club where he achieved immense success, becoming an eighteen-time British record holder, and three-time middleweight champion of Lancashire in 11, 12 and 13 stone classes.

Later in life Bill moved into designing and building model aeroplanes for the British Model Flying Association. He became a British Champion across two different classes in the year 2000.

16

BEN HOPWOOD
1991 - PRESENT

Born and raised in Cadishead, Ben started his professional speedway racing career in 2006 aged 15 and in his first season rode motorbikes at both Mildenhall and Stoke. He has been active in the National League ever since and spent time at numerous clubs during his career.

Ben has collected a string of club honours, including Conference Trophy winner in 2008 and National Trophy winner in 2012. His most successful season was 2015 when he was riding for Eastbourne and picked up the National Trophy, as well as the Gold Cup and Knockout Cup winner's medals.



17

CAMERON BRANNAGAN
1996 - PRESENT

Born in Irlam, Liverpool FC footballer Cameron Brannagan joined the club's academy in 2001 at the age of five and developed into an attacking midfielder.

Cameron made his senior squad debut as a substitute in Liverpool's opening UEFA Europa League clash against Bordeaux in the 2015/16 season. He was later handed his first start in the victory over AFC

Bournemouth in the Capital One Cup, which resulted in him signing a new contract keeping him at Liverpool until 2018.

Liverpool rejected a previous bid of £1 million from Wigan Athletic, but after an injury plagued season sent Cameron out on loan to Fleetwood Town.

Cameron rejoined his team mates back at Liverpool's under 23s for the 2017/18 season.

18

SCOTT HOGAN
1992 - PRESENT

Scott Hogan is a professional footballer who plays as a forward for Championship club Aston Villa. Born and raised in Irlam, Scott studied at Salford College before joining the youth academy at League 2 club Rochdale in 2009.

After coming through the youth system at Rochdale, Scott played for a number of non-league clubs. He got his big break in 2014 when he signed a three-year contract with Championship club Brentford, before completing a move to Aston Villa in January 2017. He scored his first goal for Villa in a 2-0 win at Wigan Athletic in March 2017.

Scott was called up to the Republic of Ireland squad in September 2017 for 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifiers against Moldova and Wales and was an unused substitute.

19

**FRANK
HULME MBE**
1863 – 1939

Entrepreneur Frank Hulme started his working life as a photographer and journalist before moving into advertising, after spotting a new opportunity to print adverts on match boxes and wood. He purchased land on Liverpool Road, Irlam where he built his first factory the 'Hulme Patent Advertising Match Co. Ltd' and started production in 1901.

The company's success which included the invention of non-poisonous match heads, resulted in it being acquired by Bryant and May, who closed down Irlam operations and moved all the machinery to another site in 1909.

Frank then established the 'British Basket and Besto Company' on the same site, making wooden punnets for the food industry. The business boomed and expanded to over a dozen factories throughout the UK. Although the basket factory closed in 1965, the building remains behind the old Rialto cinema as part of a small industrial estate.

20

**SIR EDWARD
WATKIN**
1819 – 1901

Sir Edward Watkin was born in Salford in 1819 and began his association with railways in 1845. By 1864 he was the chairman of Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway (MSLR). It was his determination to get rail access to Lancashire that led to the formation of the Cheshire Lines Committee (CLC) between 1862 and 1865. This was a joint railway operated between MSLR and Midland & Great Northern Railways.

In 1873 the CLC opened the line from Manchester to Liverpool via Irlam and Glazebrook, as well as the line from Glazebrook to Stockport via Cadishead. The railway (1873) combined with the Manchester Ship Canal (1894) made Irlam and Cadishead a major centre for heavy industry.

After the railway opened in 1873 the population of Irlam and Cadishead more than doubled to 4,300. By 1939 the number was over 14,000 and by 1974 20,000 people lived in the area.



21

JAMES J ROYLE
1850 – 1919

Born in Manchester in 1850, James J Royle became a successful industrialist, establishing a large industrial site, called 'New Works' in Irlam. This became a local landmark until it was demolished in 1984 to make way for a new housing estate. Like many industrialists of the period, 'JJ' located his business in Irlam because the transport infrastructure was already in place. His company made heat exchangers as well as steam products for industrial and commercial markets.

JJ was also a prolific inventor of labour-saving devices, including an egg beater, a timed egg boiler, pendulous gas table and ceiling lights. However, JJ was most widely acclaimed for inventing the self-pouring teapot, patented in 1886.

22

THOMAS STEERS
1672 – 1750

Thomas was among the country's earliest great civil engineers and was responsible for the construction of many canals. He surveyed the Irwell and Mersey in 1712 after which an Act of Parliament in 1721 authorised the Mersey and Irwell Navigation. The work was carried out between 1724 and 1734 and included eight locks in a 15 mile stretch to climb a rise of 52 feet. It is widely accepted that Thomas was the engineer in charge.

The Mersey and Irwell Navigation was the forerunner of the Manchester Ship Canal and had a major impact on the development of Irlam and Cadishead because trade along the navigation flourished – until then the Mersey and Irwell were only navigable by small boats. It is true to say that the navigation was a key driver of the industrial revolution that took place in the Mersey and Irwell valley from Liverpool to Manchester.

Thomas was also behind other significant works in the region. He built the Old Dock at Liverpool – the world's first commercial wet dock, as well as designing the city's Salthouse Dock, which was completed after his death.

**THOMAS
PATTEN SENIOR**
1690-1772

23

Thomas Patten Senior was a businessman who improved the navigation of the River Mersey specifically to enable him to import raw materials to his family's copper works in the 1690s. The plant continued in operation until circa 1795.

He later called for the navigation to be extended east of Warrington towards Manchester. This led to the rivers Mersey and Irwell being turned into a navigation by Thomas Steers in 1712 and without this, the history of Irlam and Cadishead could have looked very different.

Thomas was part of the Patten family, which dominated the industrial and social history of Warrington from the 17th to the late 19th Century.

In 1750 Thomas built Bank Hall, a home for him and his family. After he died a member of the Patten family eventually sold the building to Warrington Borough Council along with 13 acres of land. Almost all of the land formed Warrington's first public park and the buildings became the Town Hall. The Patten coat of arms can still be seen above the door of the Mayor's parlour.

24

JAMES BRINDLEY
1716 - 1772

One of the most innovative civil engineers of the 18th Century, James Brindley carried on the development of industrial waterways where Thomas Steers left off.

The Duke of Bridgewater commissioned the construction of a canal in 1759 to improve the transportation of coal from his mines at Worsley and Manchester. In 1761 the Bridgewater Canal opened with James as the consulting engineer.

It is regarded as the first British canal of the modern era and was a major technical triumph. Perhaps its most impressive feature is the Barton aqueduct which carried the canal at an elevation of 39 feet over the River Irwell at Barton.

Canal engineers such as James shaped the canal system and by 1844 the Mersey and Irwell Navigation merged with the Bridgewater Canal Company. Forty years later, they would form the foundation for the Manchester Ship Canal.



25

Josiah Lane, known locally as Joe - was in the third generation of a family heavily involved in the development of the heavy oil and tar products industry in the Midlands and Northwest since 1840. Tar was a byproduct from gas production, which enabled the development of a range of heavy oil derivatives such as road tar, creosote, benzole etc.

The Lane family operated a number of different companies in this field, one of which was Lancashire Tar Distillers Ltd which opened on the banks of the Manchester Ship Canal in 1928.

26

THOMAS KNOWLES
1824 - 1883

Self-made businessman Thomas brought steelmaking to Irlam, forging the town's industrial development for more than half a century.

He started working in the mines at the age of nine and rose through the ranks to become manager of Arley Mine, before becoming a shareholder in 1854.

Thomas acquired a number of companies, consolidating them into Pearson and Knowles Coal and Iron Company, which established the Partington Iron & Steel Company following the construction of the Manchester Ship Canal.

Thomas was deeply committed to his community and industrial development. He served as chairman of the Mining Association of Great Britain and was also a director of the London and North Western Railway, and of the Manchester and Liverpool District Banking Company. In 1864 and 1865 he was Mayor of Wigan. At the general election of 1874 he became the MP for Wigan and held the seat until he died aged 59.

27

RACHELLE CLEARY
1964 - PRESENT

Rachelle Cleary, Irlam and Cadishead's answer to Banksy, was born and raised in the area. In 2015 she was engaged by local charity HDT to provide the creative drive for their community urban art project I C Art and describes her work on this as a labour of love.

Her talent was spotted at the age of 8, when renowned Salford artist Harold Riley offered her a student place at his art school after seeing one of her paintings. She later won painting of the year at the local high school for a painting of Gary Numan.

At the age of 18 Rachelle received an award from the Prince's Trust, which enabled her to start her own business as a freelance portrait artist. She then became an apprentice set designer / painter, which set her in good stead for the large murals she now creates for I C Art.

She has a colourful background having worked around the world, including painting caricatures of the racers on Suzuki jeeps and dune buggies 'dessert hopping' in Nigeria, creating witty caricatures of soldiers for an officer's mess in Cyprus, and teaching pottery in Northern Ireland, to name just a few of her achievements.

JOSIAH (JOE) LANE
1924 - PRESENT

The introduction of North Sea Gas in the early 1970's, meant Lancashire Tar Distillers Ltd had to effectively re-invent itself. With Joe Lane at the helm, the company was rebranded as Lanstar and moved into chemical recycling, chemical blending, storage and distribution.

When Joe retired in 1990 he sold the company to Charterhouse. Today Lanstar continues to thrive as part of the Cleaning Services Group and is at the forefront of recycling toxic waste materials into reusable products.

THIRD



28

Jess, Rachelle's dog is also on the train, as she is her signature and features on the majority of her artworks.

This artwork is featured on the Liverpool platform at Irlam Station, with a replica on the steel bridge spanning Liverpool Road.

For further information: Call: 0161 222 4003 / Click: hello@hamiltondavies.org.uk / Visit: www.hamiltondavies.org.uk



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