

Urban Art in Irlam & Cadishead

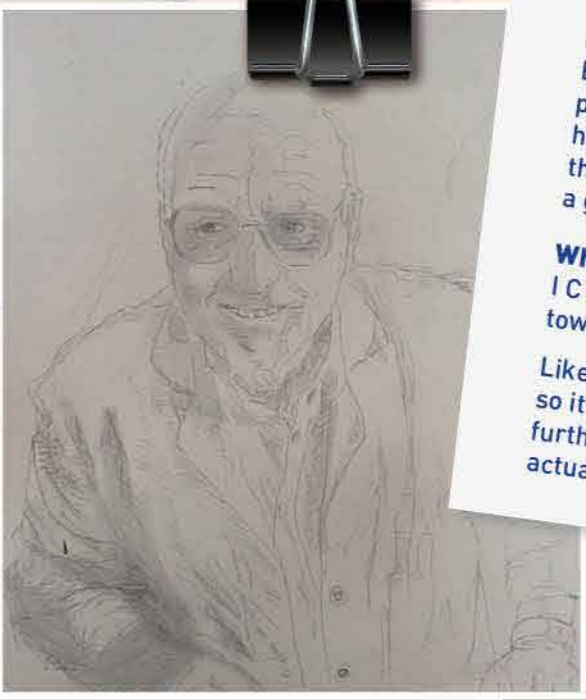
What is I C Art?



I C Art is a programme which aims to enable people to see, and hopefully enjoy attractive, inspiring images across Irlam and Cadishead, that celebrate a distinguished past and create a brighter future.

Launched in 2015, the programme was created and funded by local charity Hamilton Davies Trust (HDT). The passion and enthusiasm of chairman Neil McArthur led to the recruitment of local artist Rachelle Cleary, and her talented works have since helped to complement regeneration and capture the vibe of an area that increasingly believes in itself.

Rachelle and her team of dedicated volunteers continue to transform neglected and down-at-heel areas into vibrant spaces, enhancing local pride through volunteer participation in the programme. This is also a great way to showcase local skills, as well as raise aspirations and ignite imagination.



"We were delighted to launch our urban art programme and we hope it generates excitement and interest, utilising local talents by encouraging residents to be involved and hopefully attracting visitors."

Neil McArthur, Chairman of HDT

Urban art aims to provide local people with new and stimulating perspectives on the community they live and work in. We hope the works of art created across Irlam and Cadishead will help local people to connect with their current environment and rich heritage.

I C Art received some well-earned recognition when the BBC covered the initiative on their North West Tonight programme in September 2016. The TV appearance happened after a member of the BBC news team drove through the area and thought the urban art would make a great story.

Why I C Art?

I C Art takes its name from Irlam and Cadishead – the towns that inspire its work.

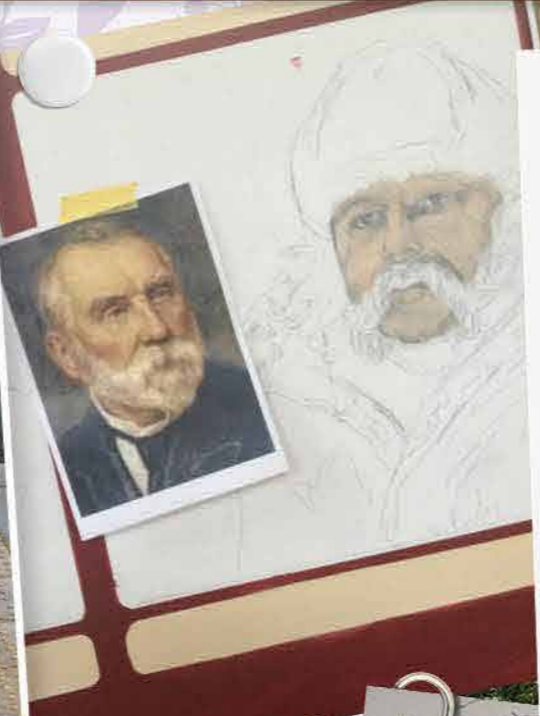
Like all urban art though, it is rooted in the imagination, so it can also be read as 'I see art' – an interpretation further developed by the programme's logo which is an actual eye.





"I feel privileged and proud that the local community have honoured Michelle and given her a seat on the Celebrity Express - Irlam. The artwork is remarkable. Great work by Rachele and her team."

Michael Keegan, father of Michelle



The 'Celebrity Express - Irlam' illustrates and celebrates some of the diversely 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. In addition are those early pioneers and industrialists who were instrumental in putting the area on the map with the construction of the first railways and the Manchester Ship Canal.

The artwork is featured on the Liverpool bound 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.

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

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



Celebrity Express - Irlam

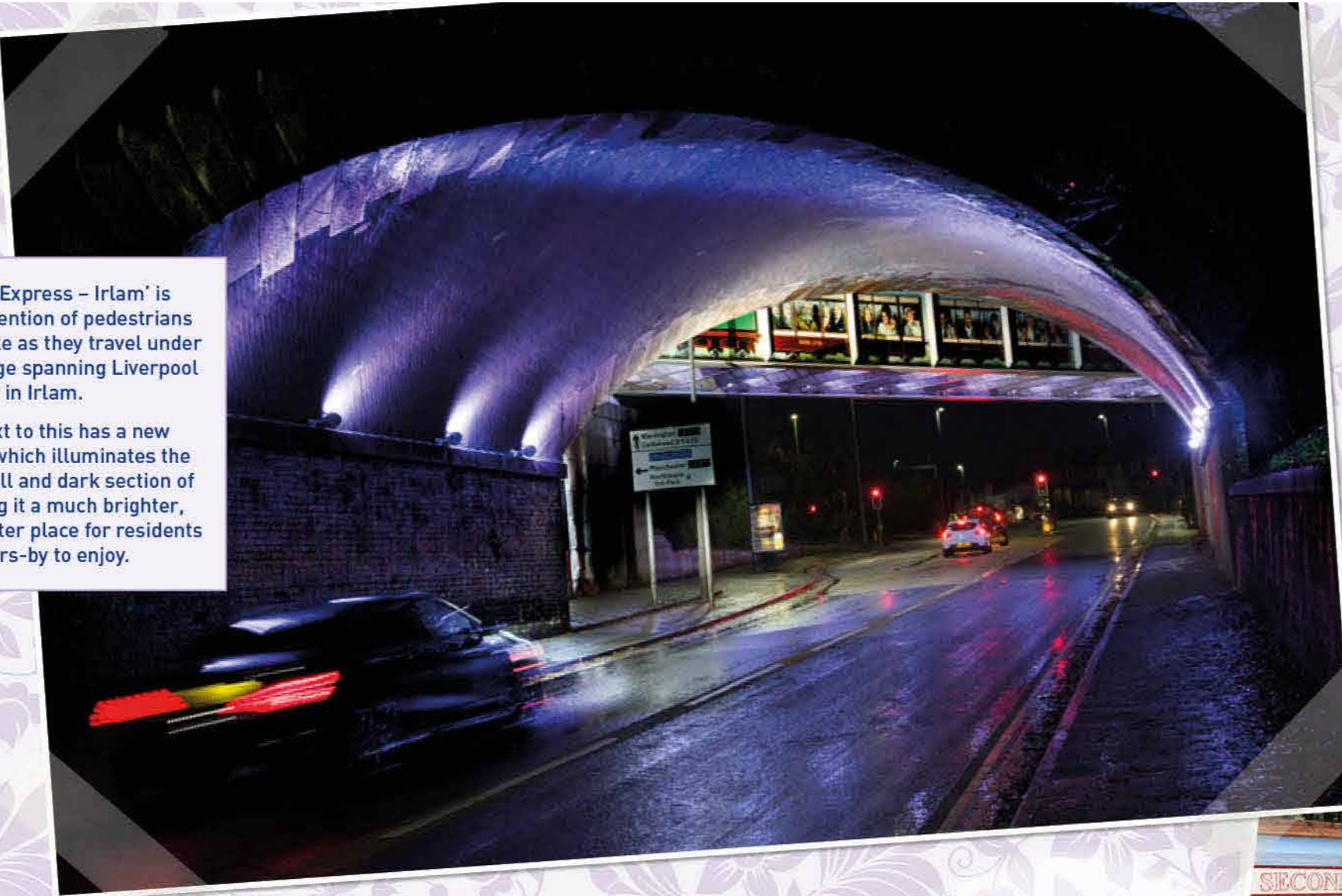




Russell Watson
Tenor

'The Celebrity Express - Irlam' is capturing the attention of pedestrians and motorists alike as they travel under the old steel bridge spanning Liverpool Road in Irlam.

The bridge next to this has a new lighting system which illuminates the art and a once dull and dark section of the road, making it a much brighter, safer and pleasanter place for residents and passers-by to enjoy.



"I was truly honoured to launch this brilliant piece of art - and to be featured on it. It's fascinating to see so many famous and historical figures have been connected with Irlam and Cadishead over the years."

Russell Watson

"I was surprised - I couldn't believe they thought of me. I am really honoured to be part of this and think it's really wonderful to be alongside all these amazing people that have come from this area. It's fantastic."

Emma Lowndes

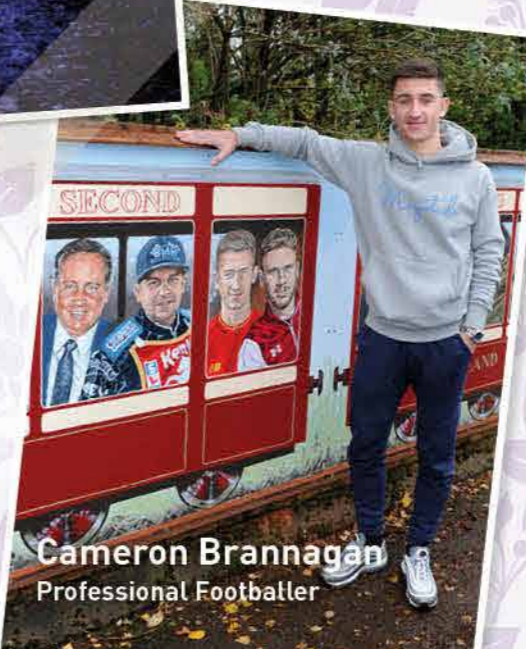


Emma Lowndes
Actress

Celebrity Express - Irlam

"It's a proud moment for me and my family having my picture up at Irlam Station. The artwork is great for the community and brings people together"

Cameron Brannigan



Cameron Brannigan
Professional Footballer

"We're really proud of grandad and the art. I think we all work hard in sport because of what he achieved."

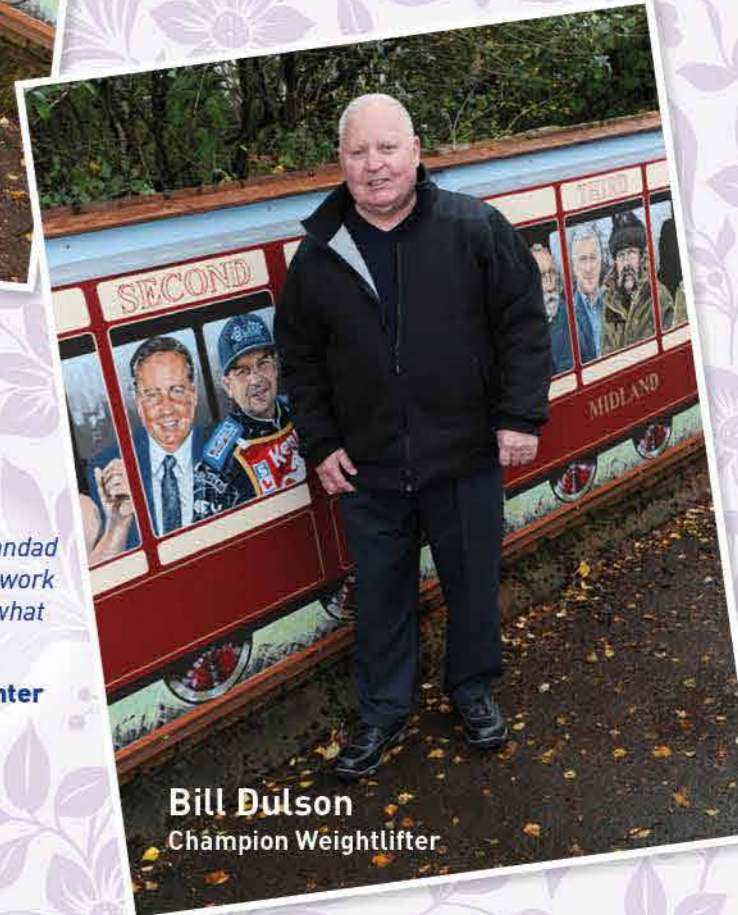
Bill Dulson's Granddaughter



Ben Hopwood
Speedway Racer

"It's lovely to be recognised on something like this alongside such high-profile people - I'm honoured. Now that it's also on the bridge means mum can see me every time she goes to Tesco!"

Ben Hopwood



Bill Dulson
Champion Weightlifter

Free Art Friday

"Jacob is one very happy little boy and this will sit with pride in a frame on his bedroom wall. Thanks so much to HDT and Jane Edwards, this made our day and is such a wonderful idea!"

Sue Hammond

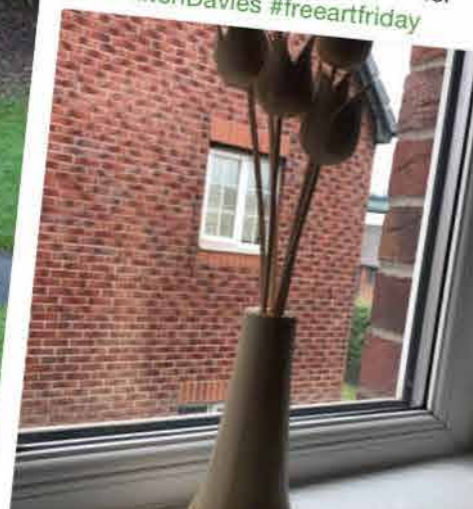
The worldwide art movement 'Free Art Friday' (FAF) arrived in Irlam and Cadishead in 2017. Delivered by I C Art, it has already seen local people take home stunning pieces of free art.

The initiative is based around the concept of hiding a piece of art in a public place and giving out clues to its location on social media. The first person to work out the clues and find the art gets to keep it. The only condition is that the finder takes a selfie and posts it on Hamilton Davies Trust's Facebook or Twitter page, so the artist can receive their appreciation.

The piece of art can be anything creative, ranging from a painting to a sculpture or even a knitted object, but must be made by the donator. Items up for grabs are donated by local people who might want to get their work noticed or simply make someone smile.

The story behind the first piece of FAF in the area signifies what the initiative is all about. Sue Hammond and her son Jacob were walking in a local park; one minute they were watching a robin; and the next were the owners of a fab piece of artwork featuring a robin. Jacob was so delighted with his find and Jane Edwards (the artist) was happy she had made someone smile!

Lisa
@P1nkMonkey
How cute are these gorgeous little flowers and vase thank you Jim Challoner @HamiltonDavies #freeartfriday



Bridging The Gap

"I loved working on Bridging the Gap and woke up excited to go in every day. It wasn't just about the painting, it's the people I met along the way, sharing their enthusiasm, knowledge and stories about the district that helped to create this piece of art which will hopefully enhance the great area we live in!"

Rachelle Cleary

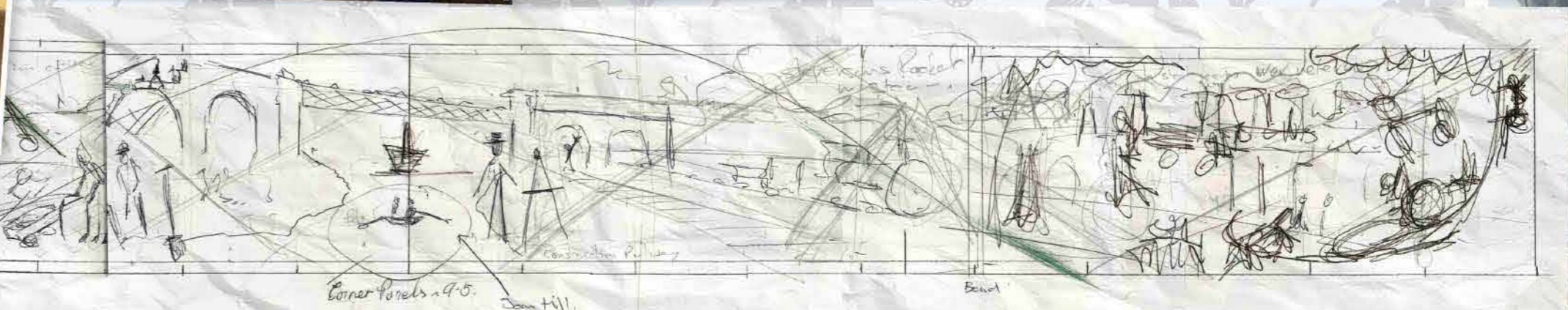
Bridging the Gap was the first major piece of artwork brought to Irlam and Cadishead by IC Art.

The piece aims to commemorate the areas industrial heritage 'Bridging the Gap' from the past to the present and depicting how it became the area it is today.

It is a visual timeline and shows the development of the area based on the people who lived and worked locally and how there is a common link throughout the ages; from the ancient robe with hood worn by the monks, to the kids wearing hoodies in the park, enjoying the open spaces which were developed and provided by the people who came before them.

The creative execution features the people in the foreground, as it was their hard work, skills and ingenuity that shaped the area to be the wonderful district it is today. Central to the design is the viaduct, Manchester Ship Canal and railway lines which were an intrinsic part of industry in the area, with the industries themselves ghosted in the background to emphasise they are in the past.

Please note: the artwork isn't an actual depiction of the railways, it is an artists' interpretation of the effects of the major constructions in the area and the community which came about because of them.



At the end of the day

"Frank Cleary is really talented and brought the statue back to life with his repairs. When I found out that my sculpture was to be given a new home at the station I was really chuffed. He looks grand."

Simon Law

At the End of the Day is an evocative industrial-age sculpture of a cloth-capped man sitting on a bench with his overcoat draped over his outstretched leg.

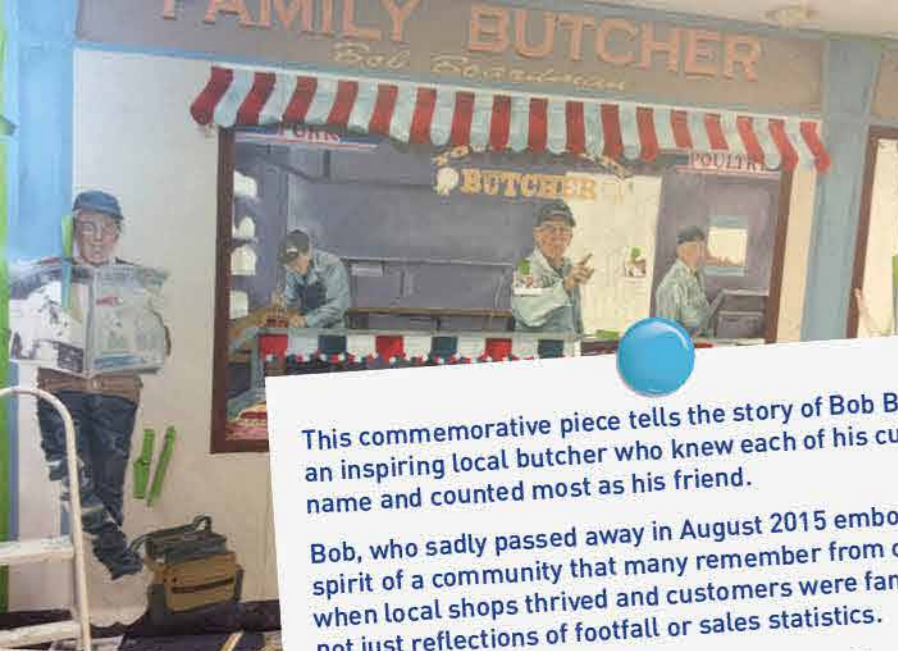
He looks a little weary – as well you might at the end of a long shift at a local factory in years gone by, yet there is a thoughtful and reflective aspect to his body language and facial expression: he is certainly welcoming as many people have said a friendly hello whilst getting a selfie.

The piece itself isn't new – it was created in 1978 by Simon Law, a local boy studying O level art at Irlam and Cadishead College (formerly Irlam High School). Simon thought of the title At the End of the Day based on a story he had imagined: a man had taken his dog to the park after finishing work and was watching the sun go down. This perhaps explains why he looks tired, but thoughtful.

After living within Irlam and Cadishead College for the majority of his life, the man on the bench eventually needed a new resting place. HDT jumped at the chance to preserve this special piece and include the man as an inspiring showcase as part of the IC Art programme.

At that stage, the sculpture, a little tired and worn, needed a facelift, including weatherproofing. Under Rachelle's watchful eye, her son Frank spent 148 hours carrying out the restoration, while brother Andrew looked after the metalwork. The result, a wonderful inviting creation placed proudly in front of the Irlam Station House watching over the passengers and visitors.



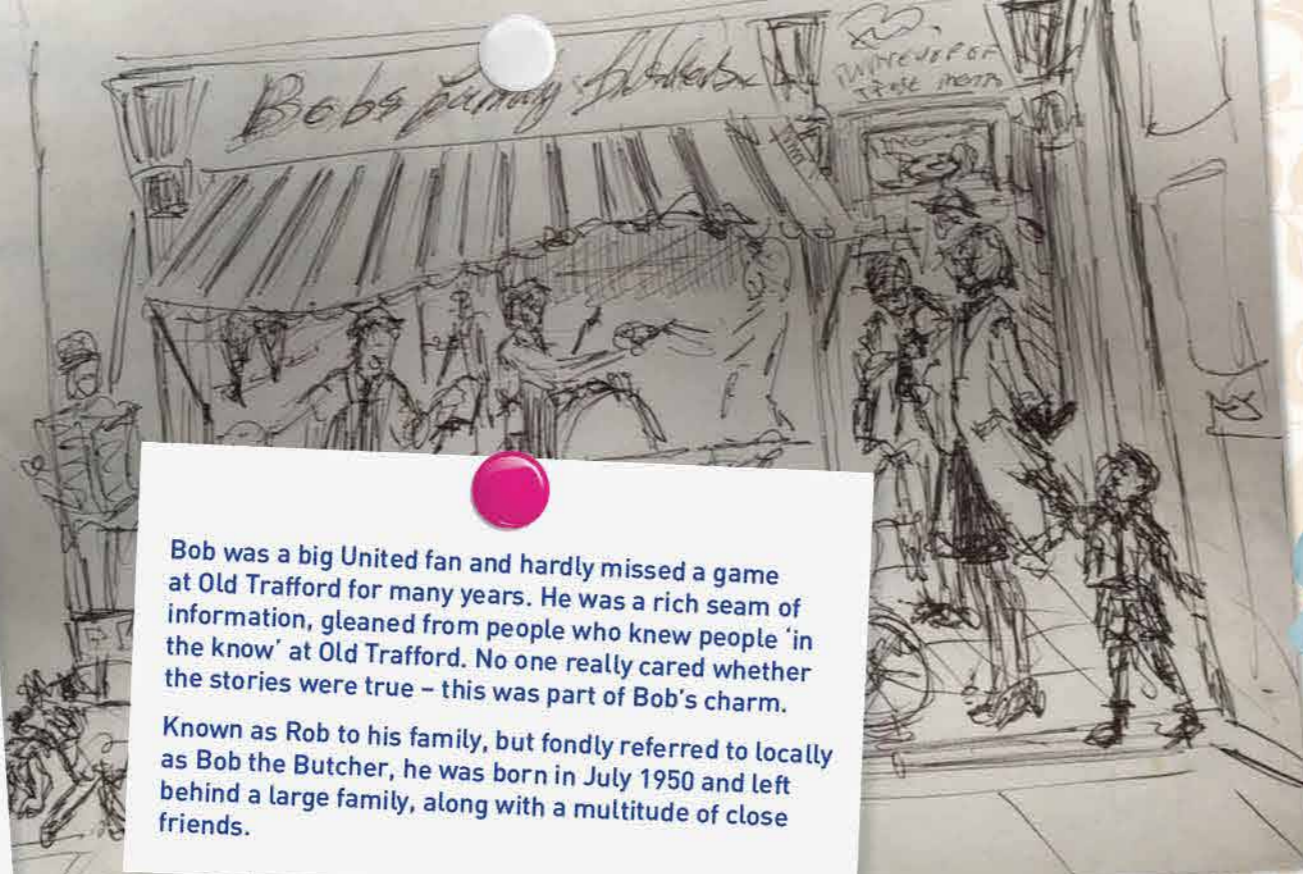


This commemorative piece tells the story of Bob Boardman, an inspiring local butcher who knew each of his customers by name and counted most as his friend.

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

The artwork, located around the corner from the shop Bob once ran, shows him (pointing) at work with colleagues Terry Prior (left), Jim Watson (back), and Barry Taylor (right).

To the left of the window, you can see Bob in his younger years, with his fishing gear and donning a cap featuring his favourite football team. He is studying form on the racing pages as he did love a flutter on the horses. The young woman at the shop door illustrates Bob's well-known liking for the ladies.



Bob was a big United fan and hardly missed a game at Old Trafford for many years. He was a rich seam of 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.

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

"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."

Eve Bell, Bob's Niece



Bob The Butcher



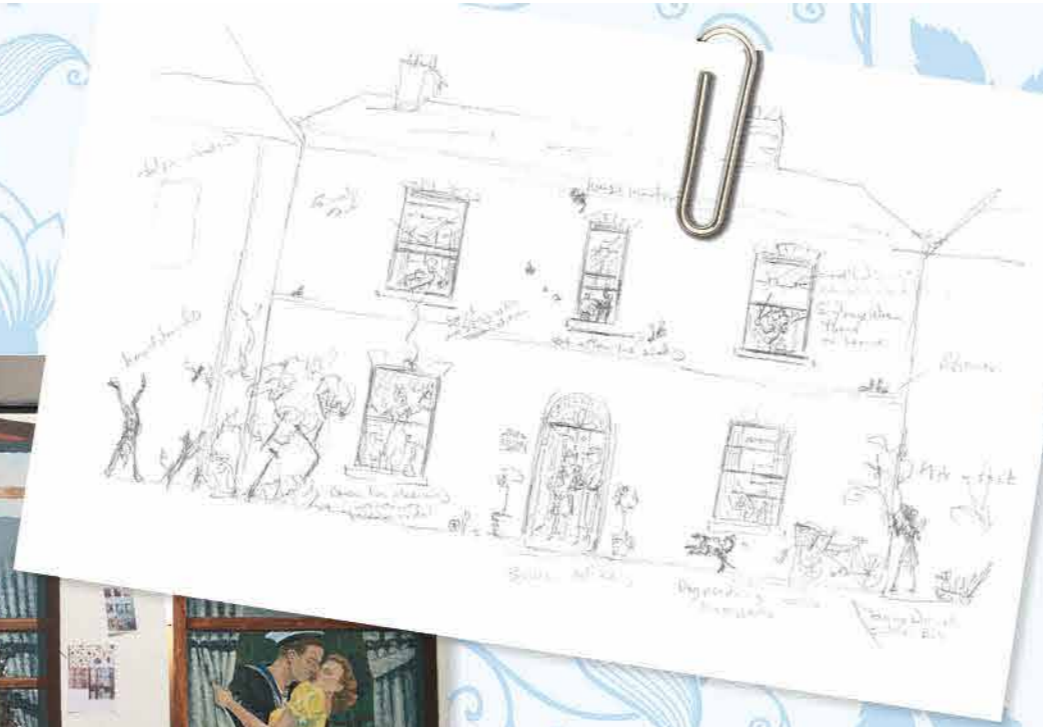
Introducing the Cadwallas

This is the story of Walter and Mary Cadwalla, who lived in Irlam and Cadishead their whole lives. The Second World War brought them together but also kept them apart, as Walter served in the Royal Navy and Mary with the WRENS.

Their romance blossomed into marriage as Europe celebrated the end of the war and they settled down into working and family life, with the birth of their two sons Hamilton and Noel.

The fifties ebbed and the Sixties rocked, family life was good in the Cadwalla household. Hamilton and Noel schooled locally and Walter and Mary enjoyed the rich social life the district had to offer. Shopping was local and community life made living in Irlam and Cadishead a pleasant affair.

The seventies and eighties rolled by, retirement beckoned and the children fled the nest, but the happy memories of a lifetime in Irlam and Cadishead remain in the Cadwalla home.



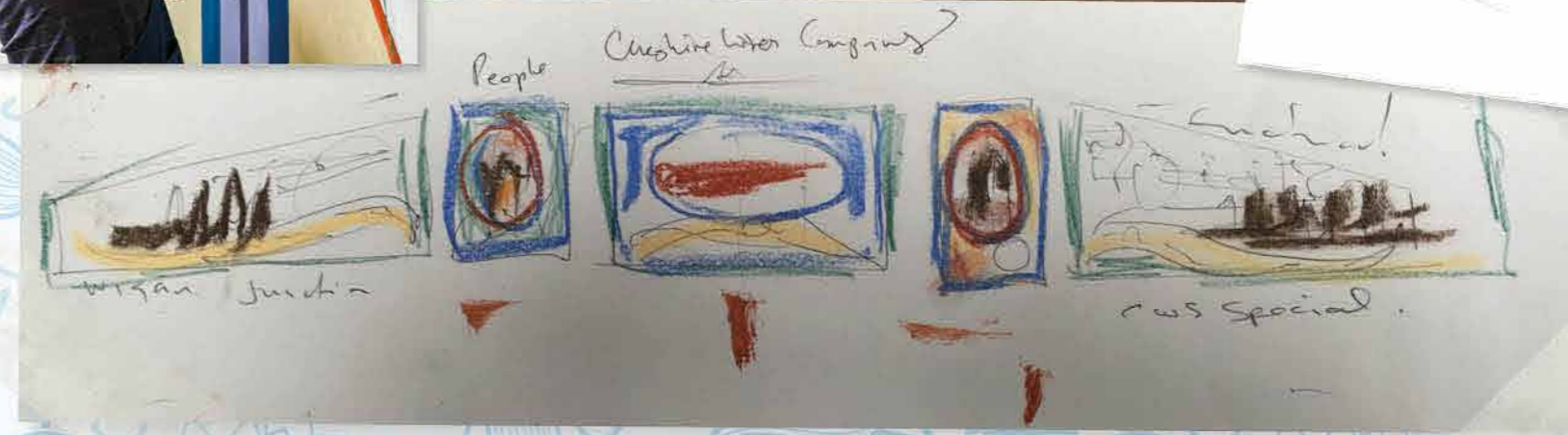
Cheshire Lines

The Cheshire Lines project depicts the community's rich railway heritage in three evocative scenes from the golden age of steam.

The central picture celebrates the opening of the Manchester to Liverpool railway line in 1873, with a steam locomotive speeding between the North West's two great industrial cities. Competition for passengers was fierce, hence the slogan 'Punctual services, hourly express trains'.

The painting to the left features Irlam Station during the Second World War, with the train full of servicemen waving goodbye to their loved ones and two evacuee children waiting to travel to the safety of the countryside during the 'Blitz'.

On the right is an image of the footplate of a locomotive as it climbs the gradient to the canal viaduct with Irlam Steelworks on the right.



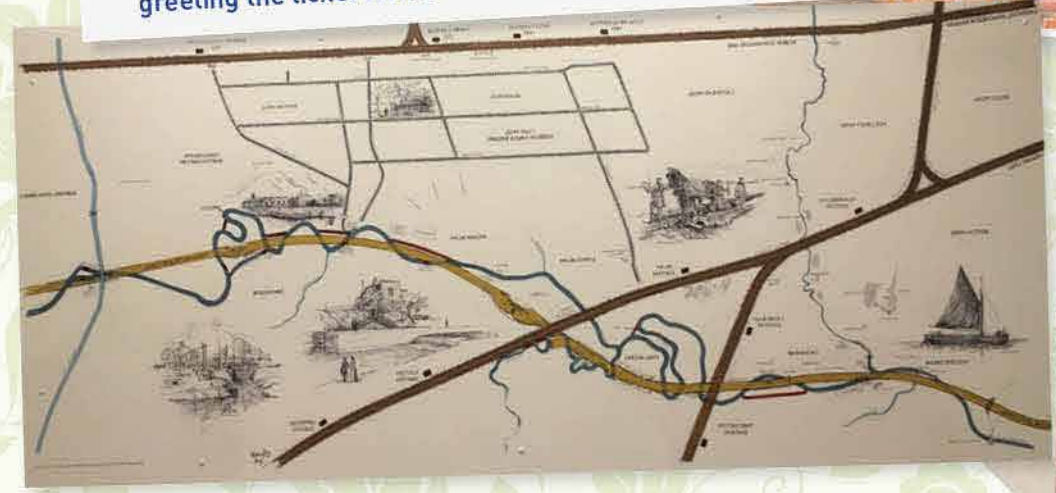
Other works of art...

As well as its large-scale murals, I C Art has also produced other equally engaging pieces across the area. A number of these are featured within Irlam Station House, which is a heritage hub - taking visitors on a trip down memory lane. Here are a few examples...

Featured in the Cheshire Lines Committee room is a painting of the Commercial Waterways of Irlam and Cadishead, which depicts how the area developed and prospered as a result of the Manchester Ship Canal and other navigations.

The Coal Yard room has a ghost wall which features 18th to 20th Century adverts and posters reflecting the area's heritage. Painted in faded retrospective colours on the red brick background they evoke a feeling of the industrial past.

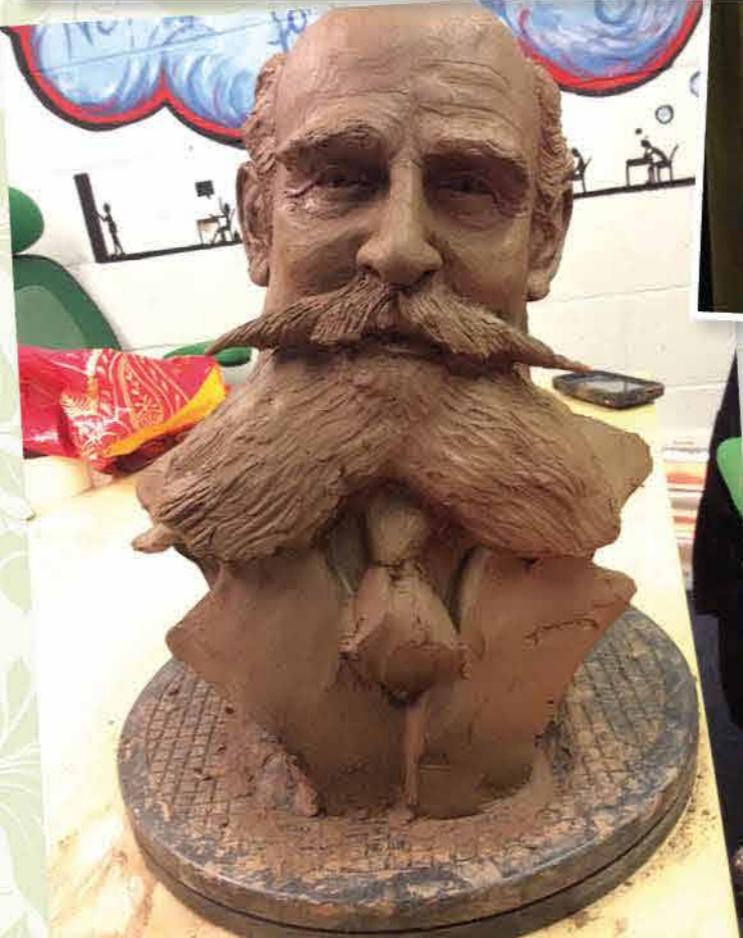
Other I C Art designs in the station house are the train carriages, which are a great place to enjoy a coffee, after greeting the ticket clerk.



Outside the station house, children and adults can bring a little magic to their day by stepping onto Platform 9³/₄ and taking an imaginary journey aboard James the Tank Engine. The train was developed to provide another dimension to the station gardens and provide an area for children to play.

A wonderful sculpture has also been produced of George Thomas, a local businessman and philanthropist who created Prince's Park and donated it to the area.

I C Art is keen to involve local people in the programme and showcase their skills, from volunteering on specific projects to entering specific competitions.





Hamilton Davies Trust (HDT) is a grant-giving charity (no 1106123) supporting the communities of Irlam, Cadishead and Rixton-with-Glazebrook. The charity was founded in 2004 by Chairman Neil McArthur MBE, a successful philanthropist who is passionate about giving back to the area where he grew up.

With a small team of ten staff and three trustees, HDT rely on strong established partnerships with many local stakeholders and a growing volunteer base to help them deliver as much as possible.

Their primary objectives are to provide funding and administrative support to community groups and proactively to drive regeneration, with the vision being to make Irlam and Cadishead an even better place to live, work and enjoy.

I C Art was introduced to complement traditional forms of regeneration and help brighten up the area, clearing up some unloved spaces and generate excitement and interest, hopefully attracting visitors.

"Working on I C Art projects is like a labour of love for me, engaging with other local people and the artworks being placed in spaces at the heart of the community"
Rachelle Cleary



Known locally as Irlam and Cadishead's answer to Banksy, Rachelle Cleary was born and raised in the area. She was engaged by HDT to provide the creative drive for their community urban art project I C Art.

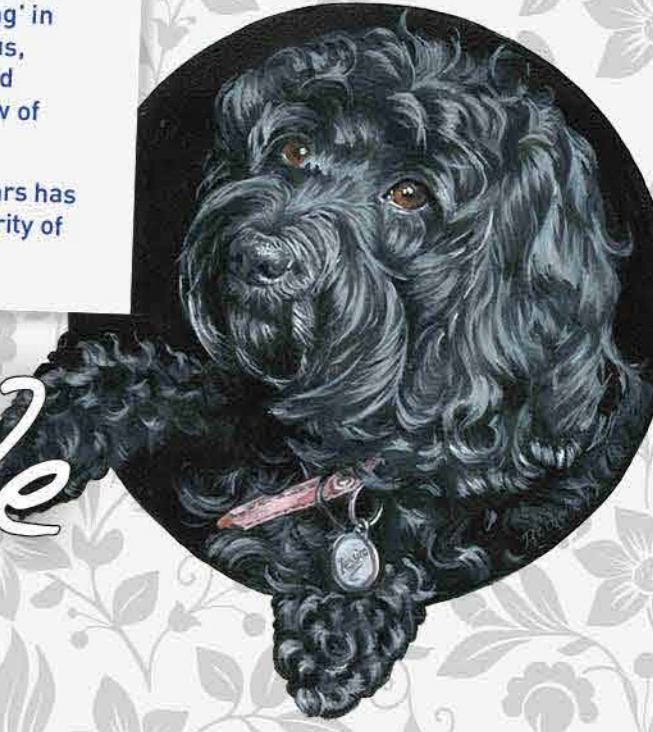
Her talent was spotted at the age of 8, when renowned Salford artist Harold Riley offered her a student place at his art school after seeing one of her paintings. At the age of 18 Rachelle received an award from the Prince's Trust, which enabled her to start her own business as a freelance portrait artist.

She has a colourful background having worked around the world painting caricatures for a variety of organisations and people including 'desert hopping' in Nigeria and soldiers for an officer's mess in Cyprus, as well as teaching pottery in Northern Ireland and designing / painting stage sets - to name just a few of her roles.

Rachelle also loves her dog Jess, who over the years has become her signature and is featured on the majority of her artworks.



Rachelle
designed by



GALLERY

The I C Art gallery showcases all of the large-scale artworks produced to date, along with their location.



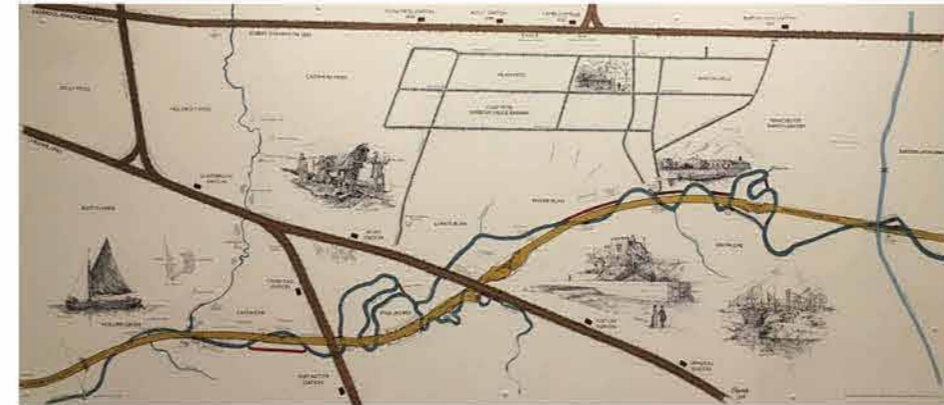
Bob the Butcher
 Located on the corner of
 Liverpool Road and Fir
 Street, Cadishead,
 M44 5AR



Bridging the Gap
 Original artwork
 featured on the Liverpool
 bound platform at Irlam
 Station, M44 5ZR.
 The replica is displayed
 on the corner of
 Liverpool Road and
 Dudley Road, M44 5UA



Cheshire Lines
 Liverpool Road,
 Irlam, near M44 5AD



**The Commercial
 Waterways of Irlam
 and Cadishead**
 Located in the Cheshire
 Lines Committee Room
 at Irlam Station, M44 5ZR



**Introducing
 the Cadwallas**
 Liverpool Road,
 Cadishead, M44 5DX



**Celebrity
 Express - Irlam**
 Original artwork located
 on the Liverpool bound
 platform at Irlam
 Station, M44 5ZR.
 The replica is featured on
 the bridge over Liverpool
 Road, near M44 5AD

Why not visit Irlam and Cadishead and take a look?



IC ART

Bringing Urban Art to Irlam and Cadishead

To find out more about the stories behind the artwork,
please pick up a free copy of the IC Art leaflets from
Hamilton Davies House or Irlam Station House.
Alternatively you can download a copy from
www.hamiltondavies.org.uk

For further information on IC Art or Hamilton Davies Trust:

Call: 0161 222 4003

Click: hello@hamiltondavies.org.uk

Visit: www.hamiltondavies.org.uk or 117c Liverpool Road, Cadishead, M44 5BG

Connect: Facebook: www.facebook.com/hamiltondaviestrust or Twitter: www.twitter.com/HamiltonDavies


Hamilton Davies Trust
Supporting local people