

“ It used to be full of rubbish and everything and now we’ve turned it into a walkway to get to school and home... It’s a safe way from the traffic. ”

Young person tea party host

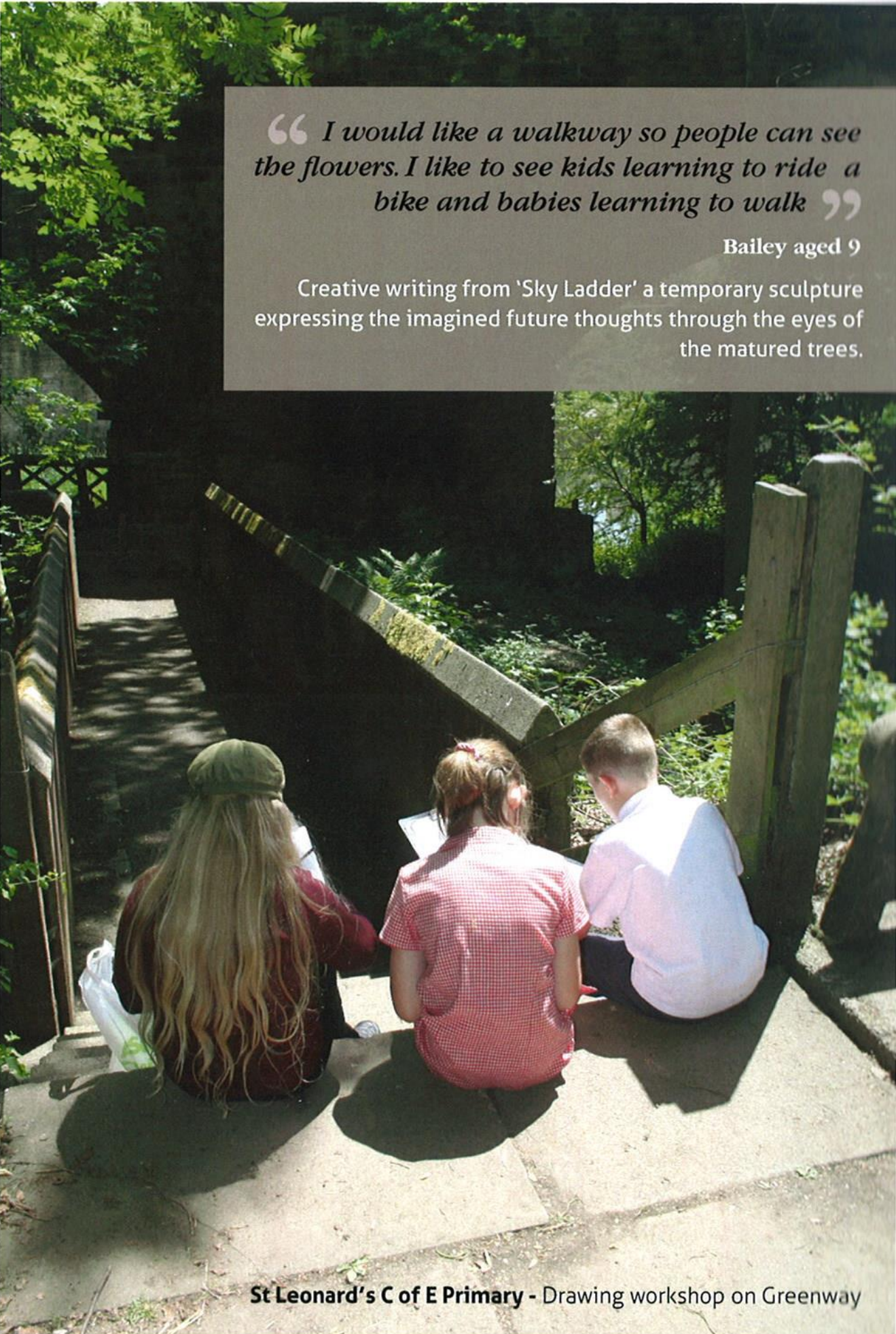
HISTORICAL TEA PARTIES

CREATIVE ENGAGEMENT ON PADIHAM GREENWAY

Artist: Sue Flowers - Green Close Studios

Designed and Edited: Helen Yates - Mid Pennine Arts





“ I would like a walkway so people can see the flowers. I like to see kids learning to ride a bike and babies learning to walk ”

Bailey aged 9

Creative writing from 'Sky Ladder' a temporary sculpture expressing the imagined future thoughts through the eyes of the matured trees.

St Leonard's C of E Primary - Drawing workshop on Greenway



St Leonard's C of E Primary
Ceramic Designs

Padiham Greenway Creative Community Engagement Programme

Environmental artist Sue Flowers was commissioned for two projects by Mid Pennine Arts as part of a series of artists' projects that took place throughout 2010, on and around the newly transformed Padiham Greenway, a former railway line known as the North Lancashire Loop Line. These two projects and the other commissioned artists' works formed the Padiham Greenway Community Engagement Project. This engagement project forms a part of the wider Remade Creative Regeneration Programme.

You can see details at www.midpenninearts.org.uk


Using her background as an environmental artist, Sue first encouraged the local school children through the Ecology Project, creatively and physically exploring the Greenway, giving a sense of ownership and pride.

The Historical Tea Party Project then went on to evolve with the schools into a series of workshops, exhibitions and tea parties, sharing local history across the generations through talks, interviews, filming (Shuttleworth College pupils) and eating cake!

This booklet is a culmination of these two projects and a celebration of Padiham's Railway Heritage.

Helen C Yates

Remade Creative Regeneration Programme - Project Coordinator
Mid Pennine Arts



“ I would love to see respectful people that care about me. It would be brilliant if there were no problems, just a normal, calm, enjoyable attractive Padiham Greenway. ”

Courtney aged 9

Creative writing from 'Sky Ladder'.



Artist Engagement

This booklet is a record of the coming together of the community to explore an important part of its local history, entwining the memories and stories of Padiham's older residents with the creativity of its young people.

I was commissioned by Mid Pennine Arts to fulfil a residency brief over a period of 12 months, starting in the spring of 2010 and finishing in the Spring of 2011.

My experience as an environmental artist enabled young people from four of Padiham's local primary schools to creatively research and engage with their community's local history in new and exciting ways. Padiham's railway history was explored with the young people by a series of creative walks and workshops, which included visits to the Greenway, specialist talks, trips and tree planting. The work inspired the creation of many new artworks all of which helped to develop lots of ideas about the future of the site.

In order to bring people together, and so that ideas could be shared: residents from the community were invited to the Historical Tea Parties, where memories and stories of the railway and the Greenway's past were shared. The performances, readings, cake decorating, creative interviewing and exhibitions of artworks and heritage materials, ensured a positive and fun series of afternoons for all. Bringing together young people and older residents has been both a delight and an inspiration.

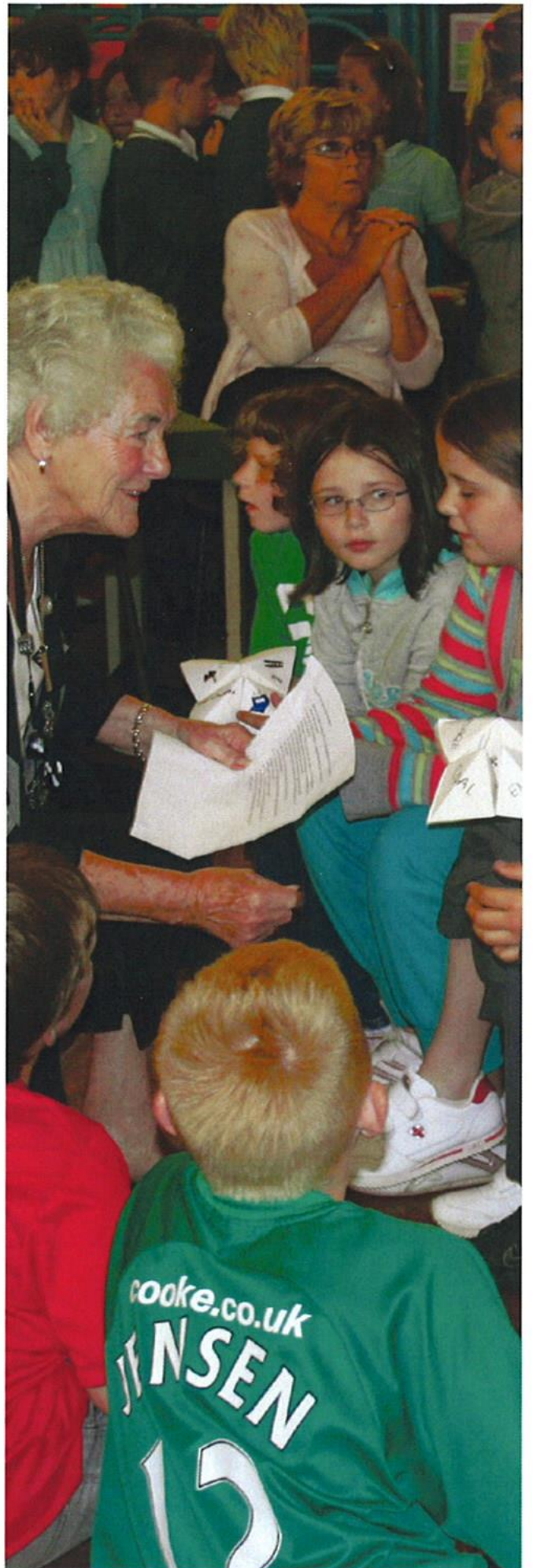
Sue Flowers

Green Close Studios, Lancashire.

sue@greenclose.org



St Johns School
Tea Parties



Excerpts from **THE NORTH LANCASHIRE LOOP LINE**

by Brian Haworth
LCC Community Rail Officer

The nine mile North Lancashire loop line was built in two sections centered on Padiham. Stations were built at Padiham, Simonstone and Great Harwood.

Part of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway line serviced the heavy cotton trade in Padiham and the coal traffic from numerous pits such as Cock Pit, Park Colliery, Bridge Hey Colliery, Constant Mary Colliery and Billy Fly Pit.

Permission to build from Blackburn to Padiham was obtained on 18th May 1866 and Sturgess Meek, Lancashire and Yorkshire Railways engineer, appointed Mr Bowers as resident engineer.

39 bridges needed to be constructed and many problems occurred, including a shortage of labour and subsidence from old mine workings.

The line between Padiham and Rose Grove opened for goods traffic, 1st July 1875 and for passenger traffic, 1st September 1876.

The first passenger train left Padiham Station, 1st Sept 1876 at 06-45 with 70 passengers and one child. 10 travelled first class, 2 travelled second class and 35 third class.

The entire line opened Monday 15th October 1877 and the first passenger train left Rose Grove at 07-35 arriving at Blackburn at 07-57.

The first station master at Padiham was Mr. Thomas Garner.

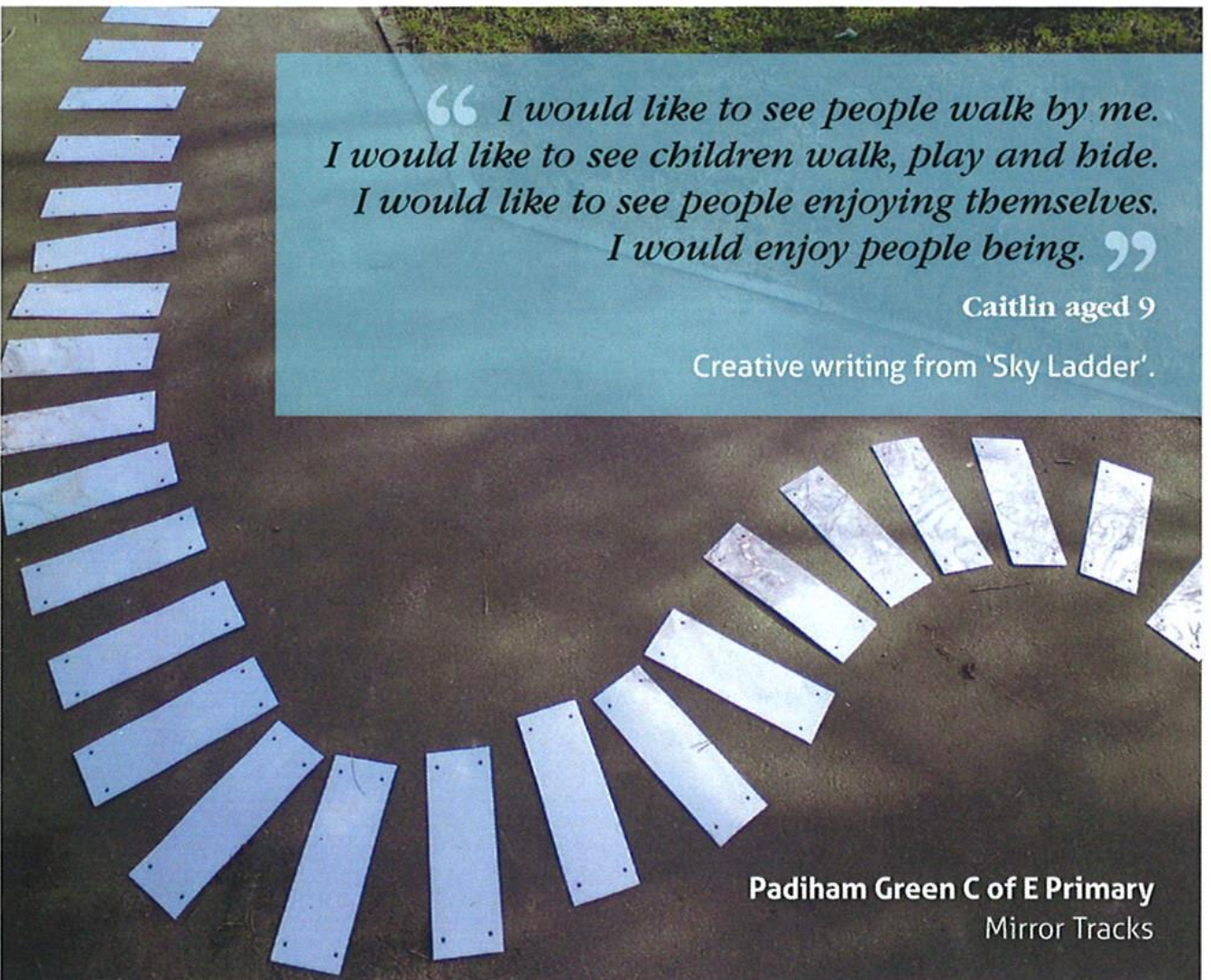
The last passenger service ran 30th November 1957, leaving Blackburn at 10-47 pm with just six passengers on board.

The service was officially withdrawn, 2nd December 1957.

Excursion traffic still used the loop and Padiham and Great Harwood stations opened for wakes week traffic until 1963.

Goods traffic used the line until 2nd November 1964 when the line was closed to all traffic except goods for Padiham B power station.

Padiham station was demolished in 1967.



*“ I would like to see people walk by me.
I would like to see children walk, play and hide.
I would like to see people enjoying themselves.
I would enjoy people being. ”*

Caitlin aged 9

Creative writing from 'Sky Ladder'.

**Padiham Green C of E Primary
Mirror Tracks**



“ Standing on the step bridge and the trains going underneath the bridge, filling you full of steam. I used to like doing that. We all used to stand in a line and wait for the engine to go through, and then we used to get chased off by the station master, because we weren't supposed to be there. The station master always used to make his own flower beds, people kept them very clean and used to win prizes for the best station. ”

Tea party guest

“ I remember hearing the Saturday morning shunting even from Westfield terrace - bang, bang, and another bang. I never got a lie in - Sunday St John's bells, Saturday shunting. Tom Barker was signaller. He bred Bedlington Terriers and won first prize at Crufts one year. He lived with two elderly sisters so the station box was somewhere to get away from their nagging! ”

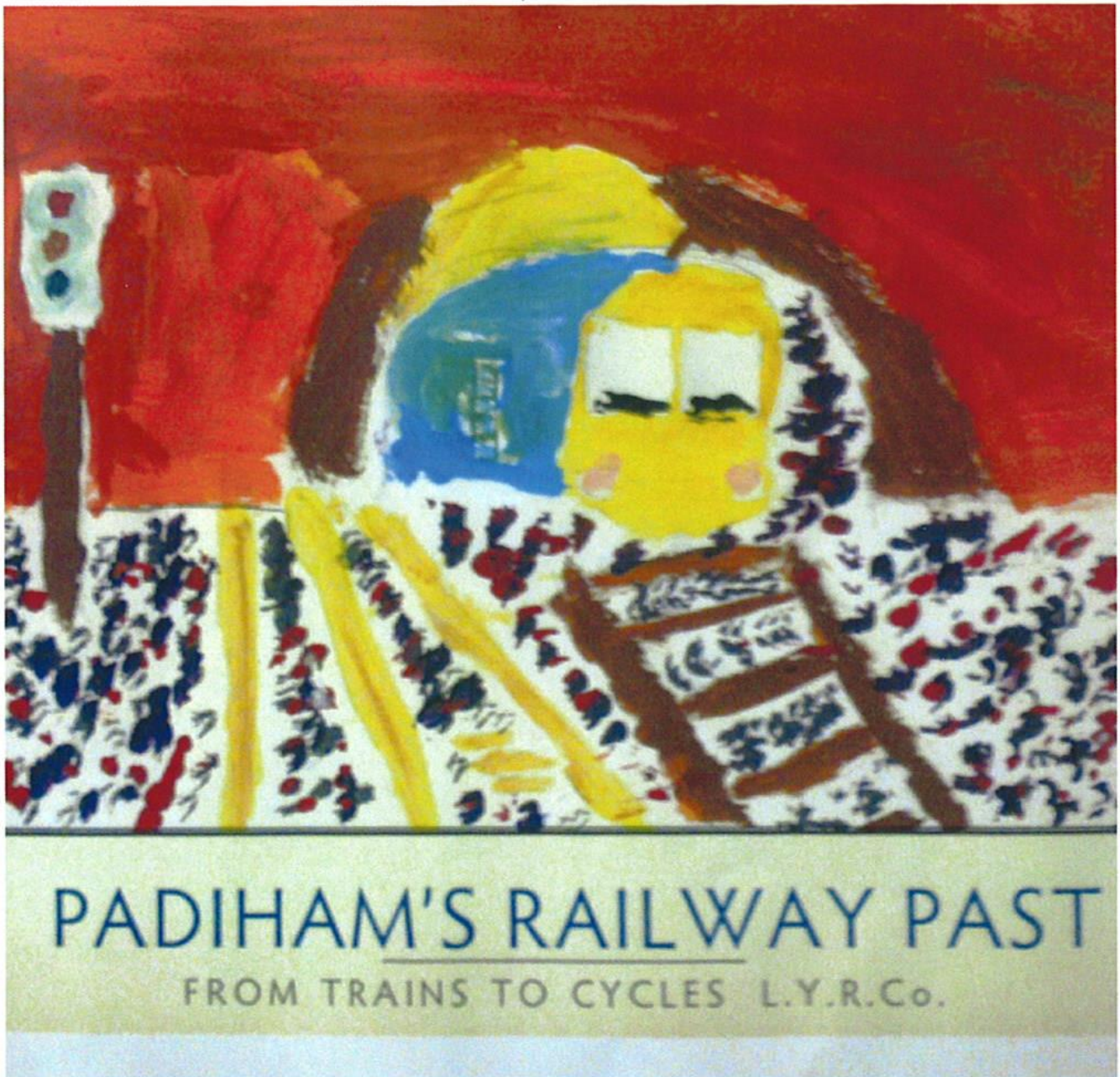
Tea party guest

“ I remember the Signaller's hut, it just had a kettle and curtains. We occasionally went to visit the signaller, he lived for the Railway. I remember the Saturday morning shunting. Apart from reducing the pollution the closing of the railway was quite an upsetting thing to happen to the community. Nobody had cars in those days. People used trains more than they used buses then. Working on the railway was better than working in the mills. ”

Tea party guest

“ My brother worked in the signal box. But seemingly, the last signal box to be pulled down was the one in Padiham. So they tell me. ”

Tea party guest



St Johns School - Posters

“ I can't remember what day it was, but there was a big steam train came off the tracks, where the park is now, where the Greenway ends. Well, the train came off, it was going to the power station and it crashed, it came off the lines and down the bank. Nobody was hurt, nobody was killed, but it took a long time to get it all back. ”

Tea party guest

“ It was hard work for it to get up the very steep gradient. The smoke used to come out of the top of the chimney and cause all the coal bags to be on fire. It was really, really good to watch. And then the fire engine came and had to put it all out. ”

Tea party guest



Padiham Railway

“ My great, great granddad used to work on the Greenway. He was a porter. He wore a hat that was waterproof and a black jacket. He used to signal to the train that it could go. ”

Tea party guest

“ Some of the locomotives had names. Some were named after counties and queens. We would collect the train numbers and write them in books. ”

Tea party guest

“ One train got derailed because it was going too fast, when it was delivering coal to the power station. They used to run into the, what they called then, buffers so that the train would stop. But I don't think he put the brakes on soon enough, and they went right through it. And all the coal went all over the floor. ”

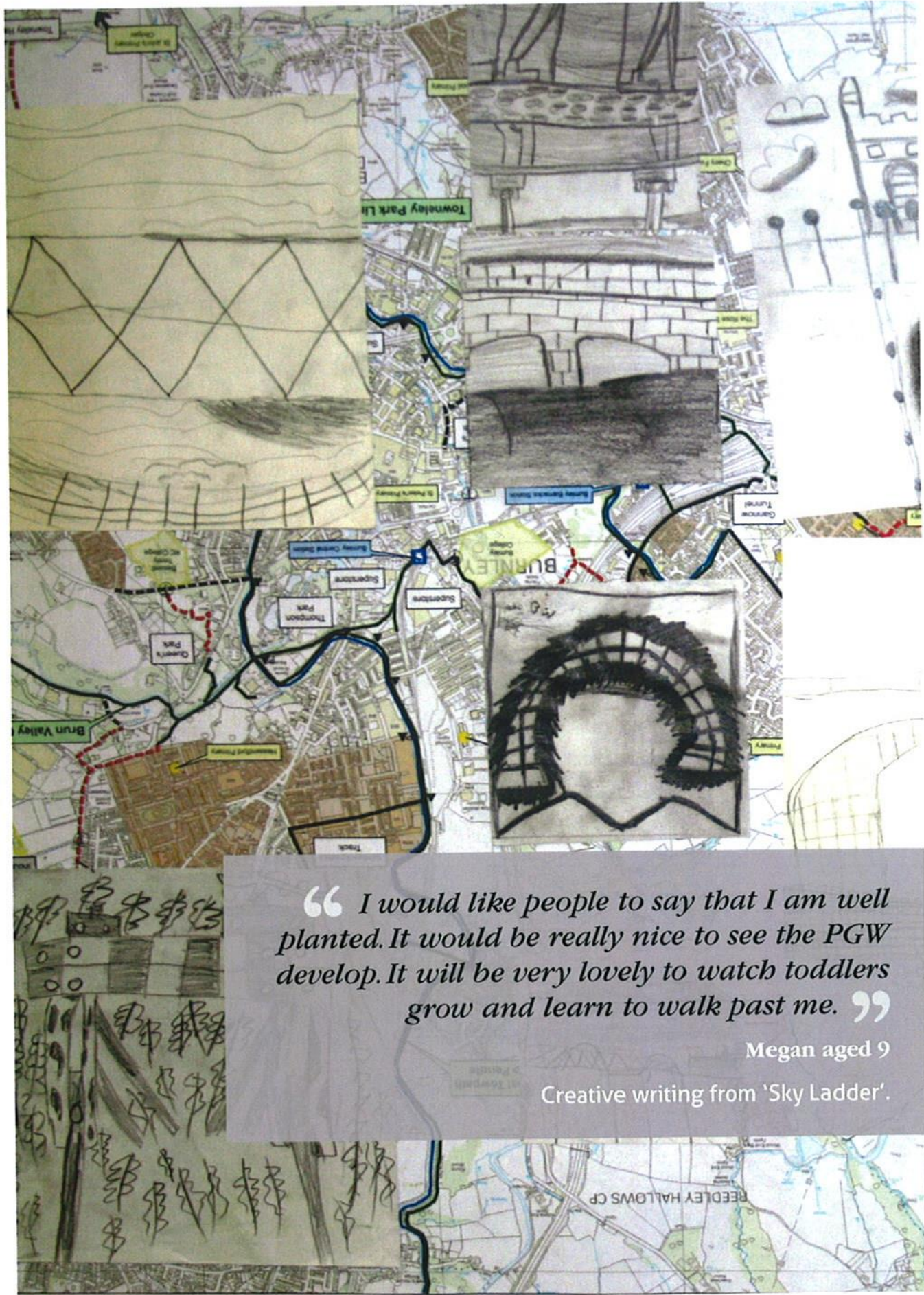
Tea party guest

“ This was one of the biggest hills around here. They used to have to put what they called “double headers” on, that means two trains to pull it up. ”

Tea party guest

“ I can tell you that they used to transport a lot of coal to the power station. I can tell you that, when everybody had their holidays, which was only two weeks a year, the station used to be full of the people from the town, going to Blackpool for their holidays. And when you used to come back on the train, it could never get back up the hill, so they used to have to get an engine to push it back up. So you used to have to wait for an engine to come. ”

Tea party guest



“ I would like people to say that I am well planted. It would be really nice to see the PGW develop. It will be very lovely to watch toddlers grow and learn to walk past me. ”

Megan aged 9

Creative writing from 'Sky Ladder'.



“ When I was a little girl, I used to go from Padiham railway station on the train, to Blackpool. And my uncle John was the train driver. Even in those days, the train station was used an awful lot, because it was the cheapest form of transport for people. ”

Tea party guest

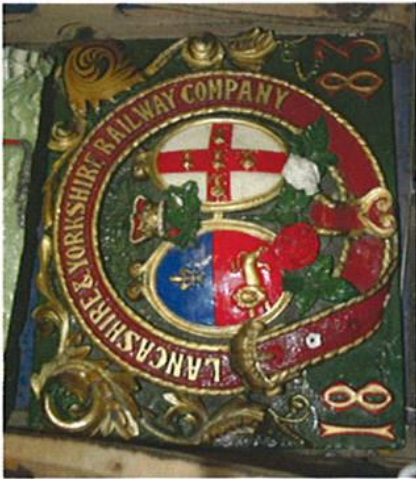
“ The queue waiting for trains...was certainly to where the goods gate was. That's where the queue would be and it would be the same at the other side. Because one side did east, and the other side did west. If you were going west, you were going to Blackpool. And we always said if you were going east and all these other places, they were the posh people. The people who hadn't the money they liked Blackpool, Southport, Morecambe, so it was all the west side.

When I was about 12 years old, I would go down after school to the station, the paper train would come through and throw the telegraph off in bundles, we had to pick them up and then deliver them all around Padiham... And in them days, I shouldn't be saying this, we used to put halfpennies on the line to turn them into pennies. ”

Tea party guest

“ When we were young everyone went away in the first week of July. It was called 'Wakes Week'. People usually went to Blackpool, Morecambe, Southport, Fleetwood, or sometimes even Wales. Further up from the Police Station, next to the Railway Station was the Railway Hotel. On the first Saturday in July everyone stood outside the hotel, filling the road waiting to get the train. It was so busy Padiham railway station in the 1950's was like Manchester Airport today. ”

Tea party guest



Padiham Green C of E Primary

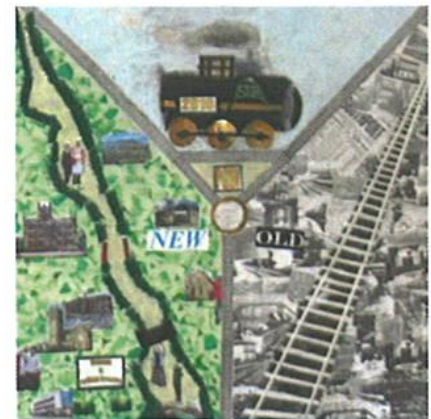
From left to right; Victorian panelling showing the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway logo, Railway paytoken found on the Greenway and children enjoying a talk by Brian Haworth.

“ We’ve learnt that it used to be dangerous and it used to fill the houses full of soot and stuff. ”

Young person tea party host

“ And then when the railway station closed, the track just went and it started having all the rubbish tipped on it and everything... It was horrible. ”

Young person tea party host



Padiham Green C of E Primary – Banner Designs



St Matthew's Sunday School – Trip to Southport 1934

“ I went to primary school at Cross bank which was next to the railway line and we could tell the time of day by the trains when they went past. Playtime was spent watching trains! ”

Tea party guest

“ The Queen has actually been on a train right along the railway past my old school in the 1950's. I remember four of us leaning on a wall waiting for the Royal Train to come. It was all clean and bright and shiny. All of the windows had shutters on them. She came through Padiham to get to Preston rather than Accrington because it was quieter and quicker. ”

Tea party guest

“ We used to have a big fire in the winter, in the waiting room, so that you were kept nice and warm. And you used to hope that the train would be late and then you could stay by the fire, where it was warm, instead of going to school or work. ”

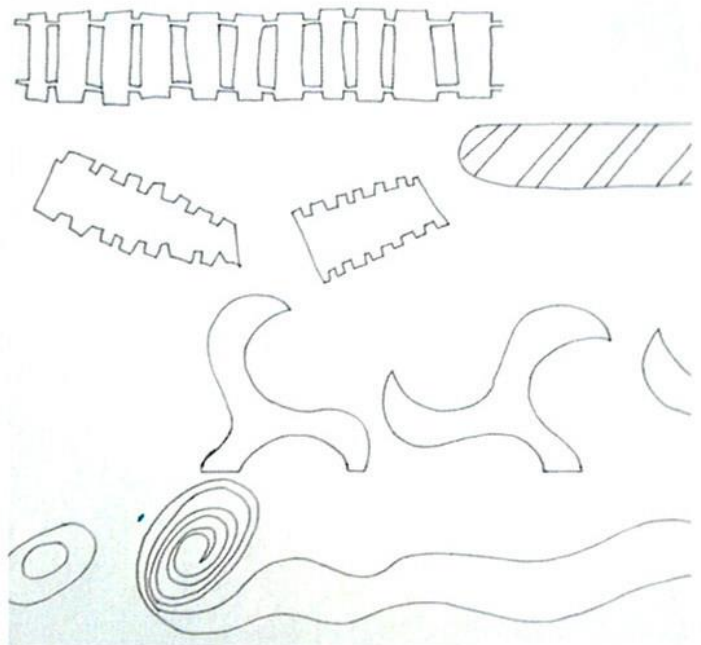
Tea party guest

“ It was only five bob to travel. Yes, they used to get on what they called "The Blackpool Belle", have you heard that song 'Blackpool Belle'? And it was what we called the Passion Wagon, the Blackpool Belle. And it used to set off from here at half past five, and I think it was one 6 sixpence or two 6 sixpence return and it would come back at eleven o'clock. And they had what they called the corridor trains. One of the lads would be on the door looking out for all the girls. ”

Tea party guest



St Leonard's C of E Primary - Clay Workshops



*“ I would like to see people walk past me.
 I would like to see a child learn to ride his bike.
 I would like to see joggers to look at me when they sprint by.
 I would like cyclists to say when they come by “Hello” ”*

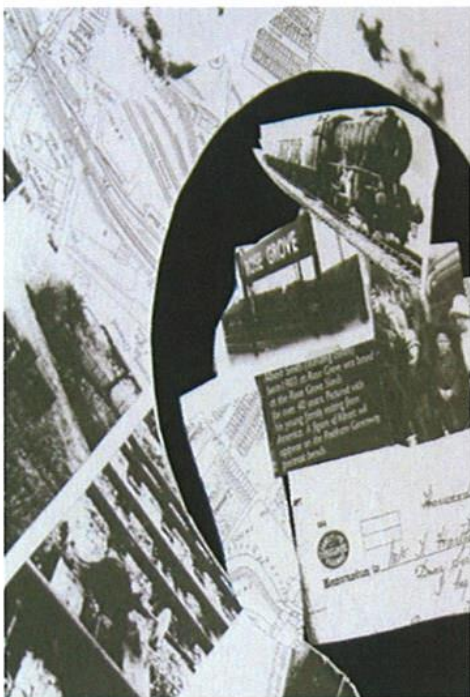
Jake aged 9

Creative writing from 'Sky Ladder'.





Padiham Green C of E Primary - Collected Artefacts and Artefact Drawings



Padiham Primary - Paddle Collage Designs

Former Station Master at Padiham



“ The tea party was an amazing experience for me. I was breathtaken! As I looked at all the artwork I felt so proud of myself. When my friends and I visited the thoughtful, inspirational grown ups, I could see that they were enjoying their time with us.

Mr McWilliam adores the Greenway! He told us a story about a train crashing. My eyes couldn't leave his mouth. The runaway train crashed and no one was hurt! AMAZING! That day for me was spectacular. I could talk to him all day.

”

Young person tea party host

“ The Greenway tea party was a marvellous experience for me... I was astonished that the railway was a very noisy and dirty place to be. Without warning Padiham Greenway arrived!

”

Young person tea party host

“ We asked questions like: what emotions did you feel as the railway closed? They all answered that they felt devastated and gloomy, as some of their relatives worked on the railway. We found out that a train was travelling so fast down the hill that it crashed!

The biscuits and buns were delicious! It seemed impossible to finish the gorgeous pictures, but we did it. The most superb thing about the tea party was seeing our pictures printed and framed, it was amazing!

It's been a delight, thank you.

”

Young person tea party host



Padiham Green C of E Primary Tea Party

“ It just came into my head. We thought tasty nibbles, theme - Greenway. Right, flapjack, we can make the Greenway, I did the research....

Making the tunnel we thought, this is the railway as it was before, and then coming through the tunnel it's the Greenway as it is now. We used... Flapjack, coconut and then brown Demerara sugar, we could have gone on, you know, but we thought it was big enough. Then I had to find the children's toys, finding the train sets, you know. Their train sets haven't got any trees and that now. ”

Catering - Tea party host

Acknowledgements

The many residents we worked with and interviewed.

Brian Haworth - LCC Community Rail Officer, Janet Ennis - Padiham Green C of E Primary and Padiham Greenway Steering Committee.

The pupils and teachers from Padiham Green C of E Primary, Padiham Primary, St John the Baptist RC Primary, Saint Leonard's C of E Primary and Shuttleworth College.

The other artists engaged on Padiham Greenway Creative Engagement Project.

Particular thanks to Padiham Archives; Ann & Bob Clark, for their knowledge support and permission to reproduce the historical images.

Documentary photographs of the project and artefacts have been supplied courtesy of Brian Haworth, Gaye Woolard and Janet Ennis.

Thanks to Burnley Borough Council and Sustrans for their support.



REMADE
in Lancashire

