



The Unfurlings



The **Unfurlings**

Banners for hope and change

The Unfurlings

Artists **Ian Beesley, Martyn Hall, Tony Husband** and **Ian McMillan** have been working with groups of people with dementia around the country creating banners that campaign for better support, understanding and representation of those living with dementia.

These banners based on traditional trade union and campaign banners are important symbols of self-reliance and tangible proof of existence. They give voice to some of the problems and concerns faced by people living with dementia.

<http://theunfurlings.org.uk>

This work was created as part of the “**A life more ordinary**” project led by Professor **Linda Clare** at the **University of Exeter** and funded by the **ESRC** (ES/M50046X/1).

It is linked with the “**Improving the Experience of Dementia and Enhancing Active Life**” (IDEAL) study which examines what aspects of the social situation or the psychological resources of people with dementia and their families help or hinder their ability to live well.

The IDEAL study is funded by the **Economic and Social Research Council** (UK) and the **National Institute for Health Research** (UK) through grant ES/L001853/2. ESRC is part of the UK research and innovation (UKRI)

Investigators : L.Clare, I.R.Jones, C.Victor, J.V.Hindle, R.W.Jones, M.Knapp, M.Kopelman, R.Litherland, A.Martyr, F.Matthews, R.G.Morris, S.M.Nelis, J.Pickett, C.Quinn, J.Rusted, J.Thom

The support of the ESRC and NIHR is gratefully acknowledged.

The IDEAL-2 study, which continues the work of IDEAL, is funded by Alzheimer's Society through grant AS-PR2-16-001.

www.idealproject.org.uk/projects/almo/
Follow IDEAL on Twitter: @IDEALstudytweet

Yorkshire Dementia Engagement & Empowerment Project

Yorkshire DEEP comprises three groups who have come together to campaign for better public transport services for people living with dementia.

- **Minds and Voices from York**
- **DEEP Vibes from Scarborough**
- **Face It Together from Bradford**

For further information please contact:
dementivoices.org.uk/contact-deep

The right to a grand day out

by **Yorkshire DEEP**

Unfurled

York Railway station

23rd May 2018

Artists

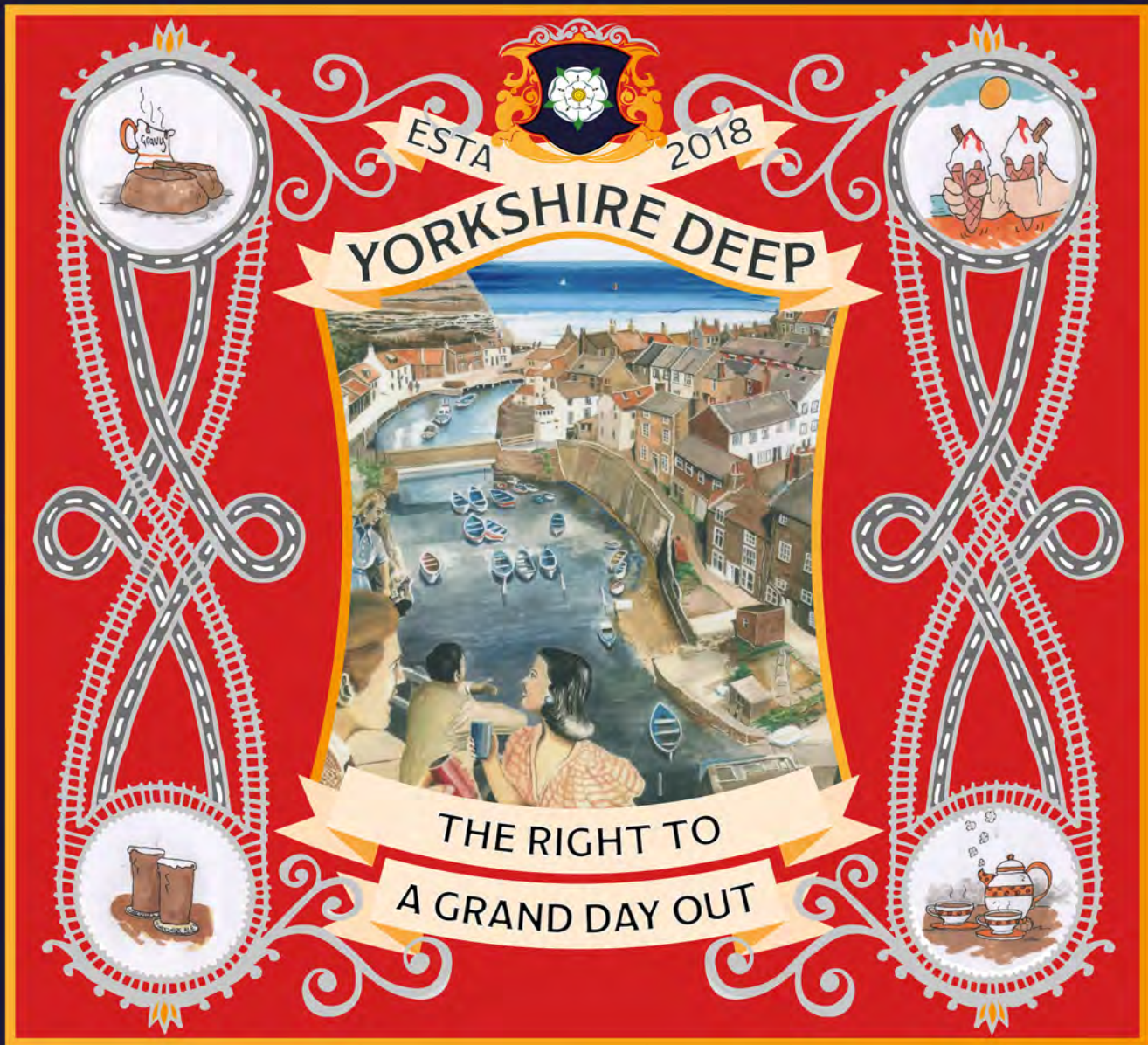
Concept **Ian Beesley**

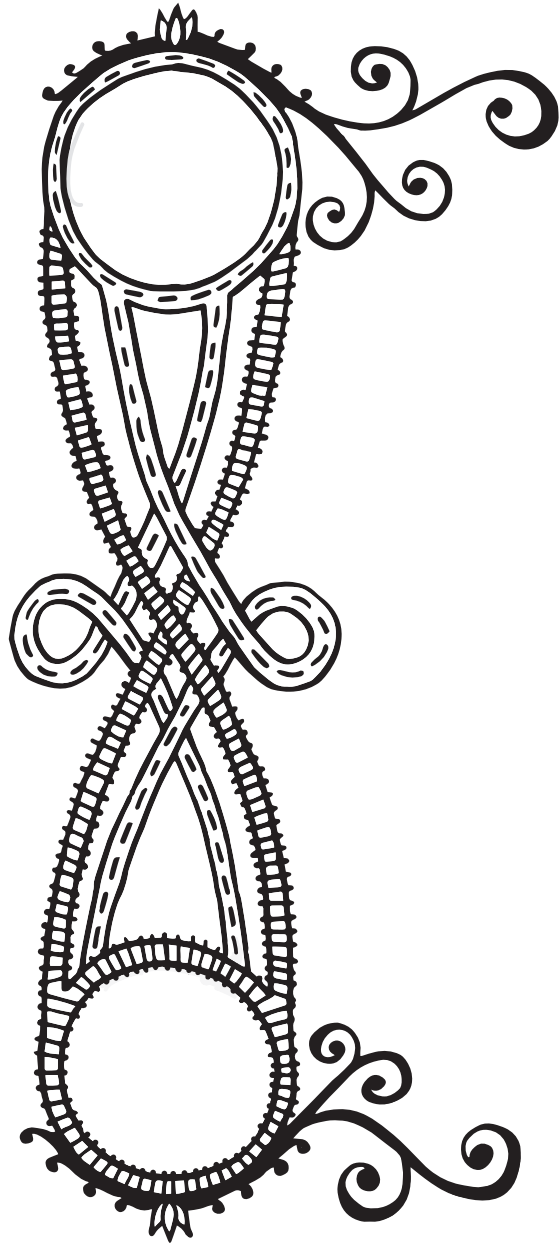
Design **Martyn Hall**

Inset Illustration **Tony Husband**

Poem **Ian McMillan**

Embellishments **Lydia Keen**





Meaning

“The right to a grand day out”: the Yorkshire Dementia Engagement and Empowerment Project (DEEP) group comprising groups from Bradford, Scarborough and York campaigns for those living with dementia to receive better support and understanding from public transport companies.

Symbolism

The banner has two versions, a negative side and a positive side. This is a simplified form of oppositional narrative representation, i.e. good versus bad, safe versus dangerous. This style was often employed on traditional banners to illustrate the benefits of joining a union or other organisation.

The colour red symbolises positivity and revolution.

The embellishments are stylised representations of roads and railways that are easy to navigate. The corner illustrations represent some of the joys of a grand day out: Yorkshire puddings, Yorkshire ice creams, Yorkshire tea and Yorkshire beer. The central image is of the village of Staithes in North Yorkshire, a popular tourist destination. This image is from a British Rail poster advertising the joys of travelling by train; ironically the track to Staithes was axed under the Beeching plan in 1961.

THE UNFURLING

Let us celebrate the gradual opening
Of a banner taking its place in the world;
A long unravelling and a fine unwinding,
Like a flower unwrapping itself from itself,
A parcel of thinking softly untying
Or an origami of ideas hugely unfolding
As, caught by the breeze, image and language
Spread their twin messages into the air.

Ian McMillan





Yorkshire Dementia Engagement & Empowerment Project

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- **Minds and Voices from York**
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Unfurled

York Railway station

23rd May 2018

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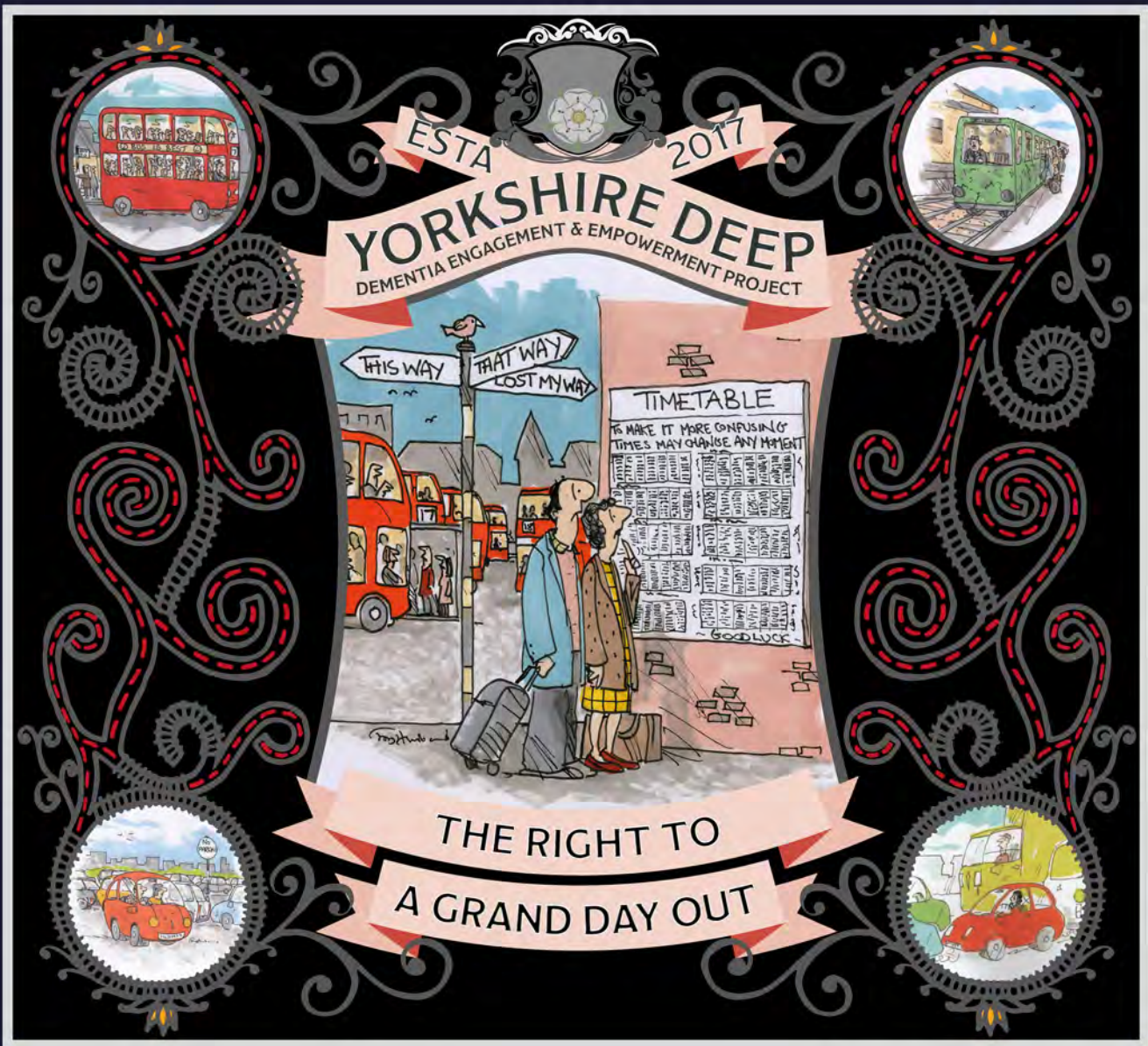
Concept **Ian Beesley**

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Meaning

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Symbolism

The banner has two versions, a negative side and a positive side. This is a simplified form of oppositional narrative representation, i.e. good versus bad, safe versus dangerous. This style was often employed on traditional banners to illustrate the benefits of joining a union or other organisation.

Black is associated with the negative.

The embellishments are stylised representations of roads and railways that are confusing, go round in circles and lead nowhere.

The corner images illustrate the problems that many people living with dementia have experienced: overcrowded buses, dirty overcrowded trains, congested roads and difficulty in parking.

The central image illustrates the difficulty that many people living with dementia experience in trying to read timetables.



GIVE US THE RIGHT TO A GRAND DAY OUT

Give us the right to a grand day out,
Give us a seat on a nice clean train;
Give us a view of the shining sea
As the sun breaks through the Yorkshire rain.

Give us a trip we can all go on
Give us a day that'll make us grin;
Give us a toilet close to hand
Not a mile down the train by a smelly bin.

Give us some signs that are crystal clear
Give us a guard who knows their stuff
Give us a trip we can file away
When the world seems harsh and life gets rough.

Yes, give us the right to a grand day out,
Give us a seat on a nice clean train;
Give us a view of the shining sea
As the sun breaks through the Yorkshire rain!

Ian McMillan



Budding Friends Allotment Project

Age UK Exeter's Budding Friends Allotment Project is made up of people living with dementia and their carers, who alongside our volunteers maintain and nurture an allotment full of home grown vegetables, herbs, flowers and lots of laughter.

For further information please contact
www.ageukexeter.org.uk



Digging for memory, growing our stories

by **Budding Friends Exeter**

Unfurled

Exeter

12th April 2019

Artists

Concept **Ian Beesley**

Design **Martyn Hall**

Centre Illustration **Paula Charman**

Inset Illustration **Tony Husband**

Poem **Ian McMillan**

Embellishments **Ian Beesley**

Exeter
ageUK

EST'D 2015

BUDDING FRIENDS

Summer laughter. Warm and bright.

The year's story harvest gathered.

Sowing the seeds of friendship.

DIGGING FOR MEMORY. GROWING OUR STORIES.

The year turns, it will turn again.





Meaning

“Digging for memory, growing our stories” considers the importance of friends, families and support groups in encouraging active living and social interaction to combat loneliness and isolation.

Symbolism

The banner has two versions, a negative side and a positive side. This is a simplified form of oppositional narrative representation, i.e. good versus bad, safe versus dangerous. This style was often employed on traditional banners to illustrate the benefits of joining a union or other organisation.

The colour yellow represents ambition, blue loyalty and purple dignity.

The corner illustrations (starting bottom left) represent the four seasons, spring, summer, autumn and winter.

The central image is of “Dom”, the Budding Friends’ allotment scarecrow, who welcomes people to the allotment.



ALLOTMENT WEATHER 1

We don't care if it rains soft rain
Because the rain soaks in
And it's good for the brain;
We don't care if the wind blows strong
Because our days are lovely
And our days are long;

We don't care if the snow falls deep
Because our lives are warm
And they're ours to keep;
We don't care if the sun's too hot
Because the weather we have
Is the weather we've got.

Ian McMillan



Budding Friends Allotment Project

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Needing friends

by **Budding Friends Exeter**

Unfurled

Exeter

12th April 2019

Artists

Concept **Ian Beesley**

Design **Martyn Hall**

Centre Illustration **Paula Charman**

Inset Illustration **Tony Husband**

Poem **Ian McMillan**

Embellishments **Ian Beesley**

NEEDING FRIENDS



SIDE BY SIDE THROUGH STORMY TIMES



Meaning

“Needing friends” represents what might be the consequences of loneliness, lack of support and lack of friendship.

Symbolism

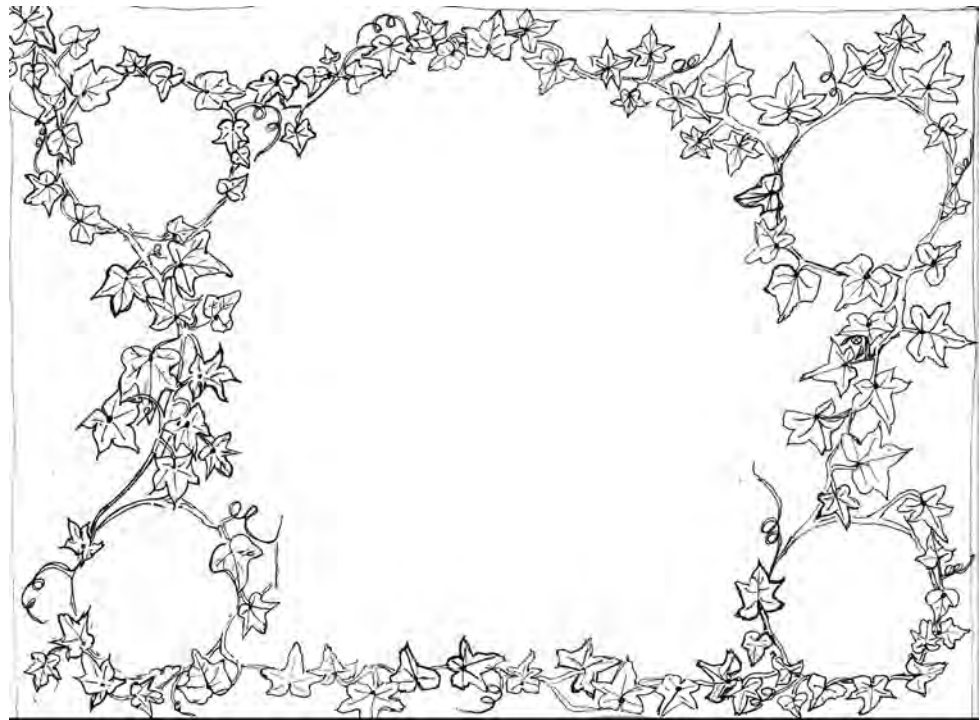
The banner has two versions, a negative side and a positive side. This is a simplified form of oppositional narrative representation, i.e. good versus bad, safe versus dangerous. This style was often employed on traditional banners to illustrate the benefits of joining a union or other organisation.

The colour grey represents detachment and black has a number of negative connotations including sadness.

The corner illustrations (starting bottom left) represent the four seasons, spring, summer, autumn and winter.

The embellishment of ivy represents growing friendship.

The central image is of “Dom”, the Budding Friends’ allotment scarecrow, who has no help or support in tending to the allotment.



ALLOTMENT WEATHER 2

We can't think when the fog drifts in
And leaves no room for the brain to work
There's jobs to remember but we can't begin
To think how to do them; Time to talk

*About the brighter days, the morning sun
That warms your heart and makes you smile
The birdsong when day's just begun
The old bench where you rest awhile*

What of the dried up plants, the branches dead
As our memories feel on days like this
When there's nothing growing in our empty head.
Don't think of that; just think of this:

*The sun waits behind the soaking rain,
The seasons will soon turn again.*

Ian McMillan



Young Dementia Leeds

The Young Dementia Leeds service is a partnership between **Community Links** and **Carers Leeds** and offers a range of wellbeing, holistic, mutual and peer support, connecting people to groups and activities within their community and helping people to live well with dementia

For further information please contact
YoungDementia@commlinks.co.uk

Marching Forward

by **The Cottingley Crew Leeds**

Unfurled

Leeds

8th June 2019

Artists

Concept **Ian Beesley**

Design **Martyn Hall**

Illustrations **Tony Husband**

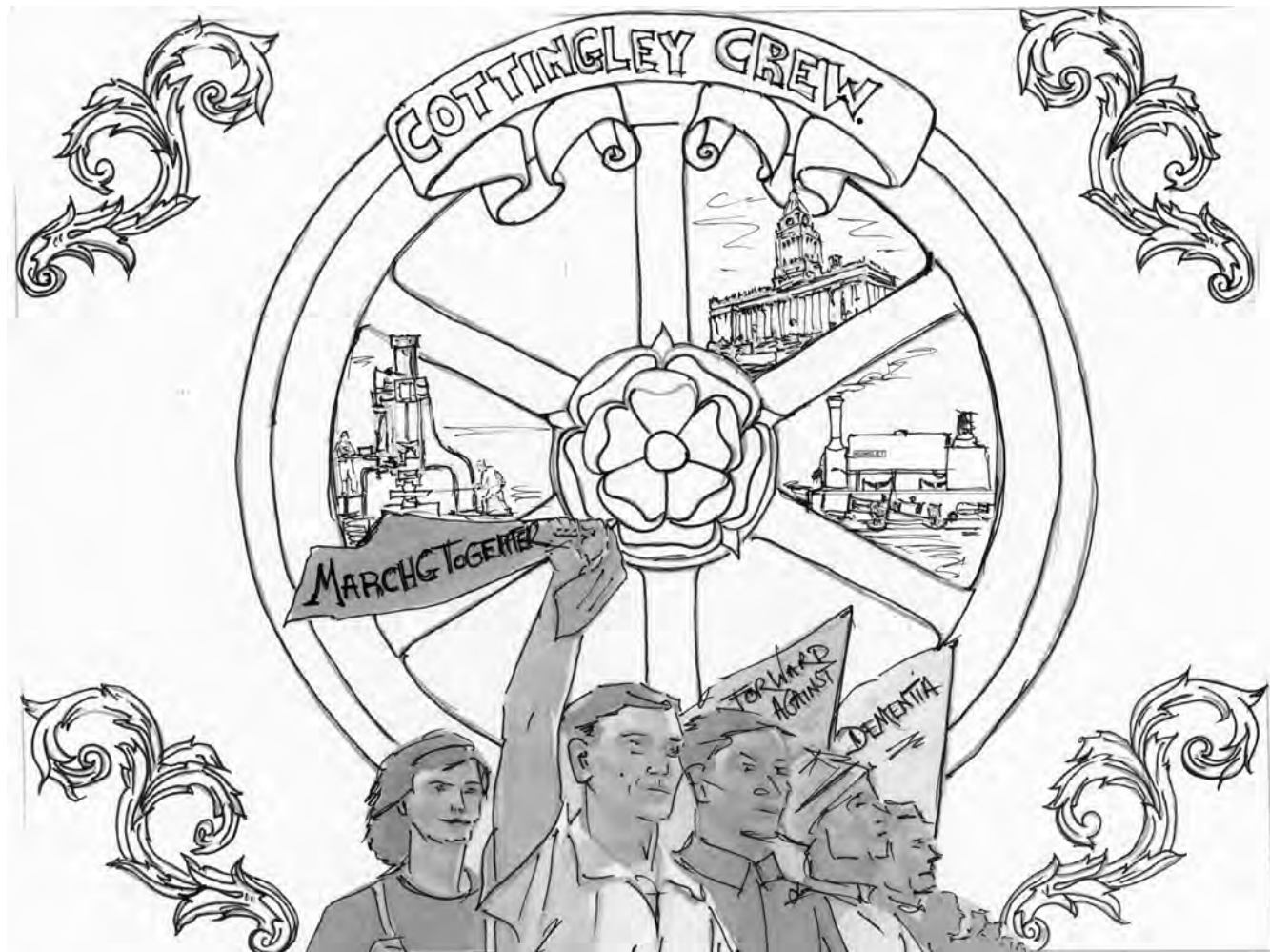
Poem **Ian McMillan**

Embellishments **Ian Beesley**



Meaning

“Marching together forward against dementia”:
all of society should be united in understanding
and supporting those living with dementia.





Symbolism

Many of the Cottingley crew worked in industry; the centrepiece of the wheel represents this. In its spokes are some of Leeds' iconic buildings and industries: starting bottom left, Leeds town hall, Tetley's brewery, the Kirkstall forge and Hunslet engines.

Engraved in the rim of the wheel is "Marching together forward against dementia we are united, we are here, we still have heart, we are still ourselves."

To the left and right are two iconic Yorkshire sportsmen, Billy Bremner, footballer, Leeds United and Scotland, and Freddie Trueman, cricketer, Yorkshire and England.

The group at the bottom of the banner is based on members of the Cottingley crew. The embellishments in the corners are stylised acanthus leaves which represent art and an enduring life.

The colours yellow and blue are the colours of Leeds United football club, but blue also represents loyalty and yellow hope.

MARCHING FORWARD

Every march begins with this:
A single step like a beating drum
And every step brings us closer
To the place where we belong:
A place of understanding where
Dementia has no power because
We've marched and squashed it underfoot
So come and join us in our cause.
Every march is going forward
Underneath this Yorkshire sky
Memory might fade or break up
But our hope will never die!

Ian McMillan



Springboard - Oldham Dementia Carers Group

Springboard - Oldham Dementia Carers Group aims to provide a safe, welcoming peer group to support people and their families, friends and carers who are living with all types of dementia and its effects within the Metropolitan Borough of Oldham and the surrounding areas.

For further information please contact
www.springboardoldham.org.uk

Art for one Art for all

by the **Ragartmuffins Oldham**

Unfurled

Gallery Oldham

16th August 2019

Artists

Concept **Ian Beesley**

Design **Martyn Hall**

Inset Illustrations **Tony Husband**

Poem **Ian McMillan**

Embellishments & Camera **Ian Beesley**



RAGARTMUFFINS

EST'D

2017



OLDHAM MILLS



GALLERY OLDHAM



ART FOR ONE ART FOR ALL

SUPPORTING DEMENTIA



Meaning

“Art for one, art for all” campaigns for access to the arts to be inclusive and not elitist.

The benefits of involvement with the arts are important factors in wellbeing.

Symbolism

The colour blue is associated with Oldham, and blue also represents loyalty.

The owl is the town’s symbol.

The artist’s palette, brush, pencil and camera represent popular art forms.

The small illustrations represent Oldham past and present.

The reflection in the camera lens is a tribute to two of the original members of the Ragartmuffins. It is taken from one of our workshops exploring photography and memory.

The embellishments (the swirling bits) are stylised acanthus leaves, which in Greek and Roman mythology represent art and an enduring life.



ART FOR ONE, ART FOR ALL

Art for one and art for all
Art for one and all for art
Art to catch us when we fall
Art to mend a broken heart

Art for one and art for all
All for art and art for one
Art to hang on memory's wall
Art's endeavours never done

Art for one and art for all
Art to start and art to end
Art to listen when we call
Art's a teacher, art's a friend

Art for all and art for one
Art to end and art to start
Art to live on when we've gone
Art: now lets play our part!

Ian McMillan



Springboard - Oldham Dementia Carers Group

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aims to provide a safe, welcoming peer group to support people and their families, friends and carers who are living with all types of dementia and its effects within the Metropolitan Borough of Oldham and the surrounding areas

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We are here and we care

by the **Ragartmuffins Oldham**

Unfurled

Gallery Oldham

16th August 2019

Artists

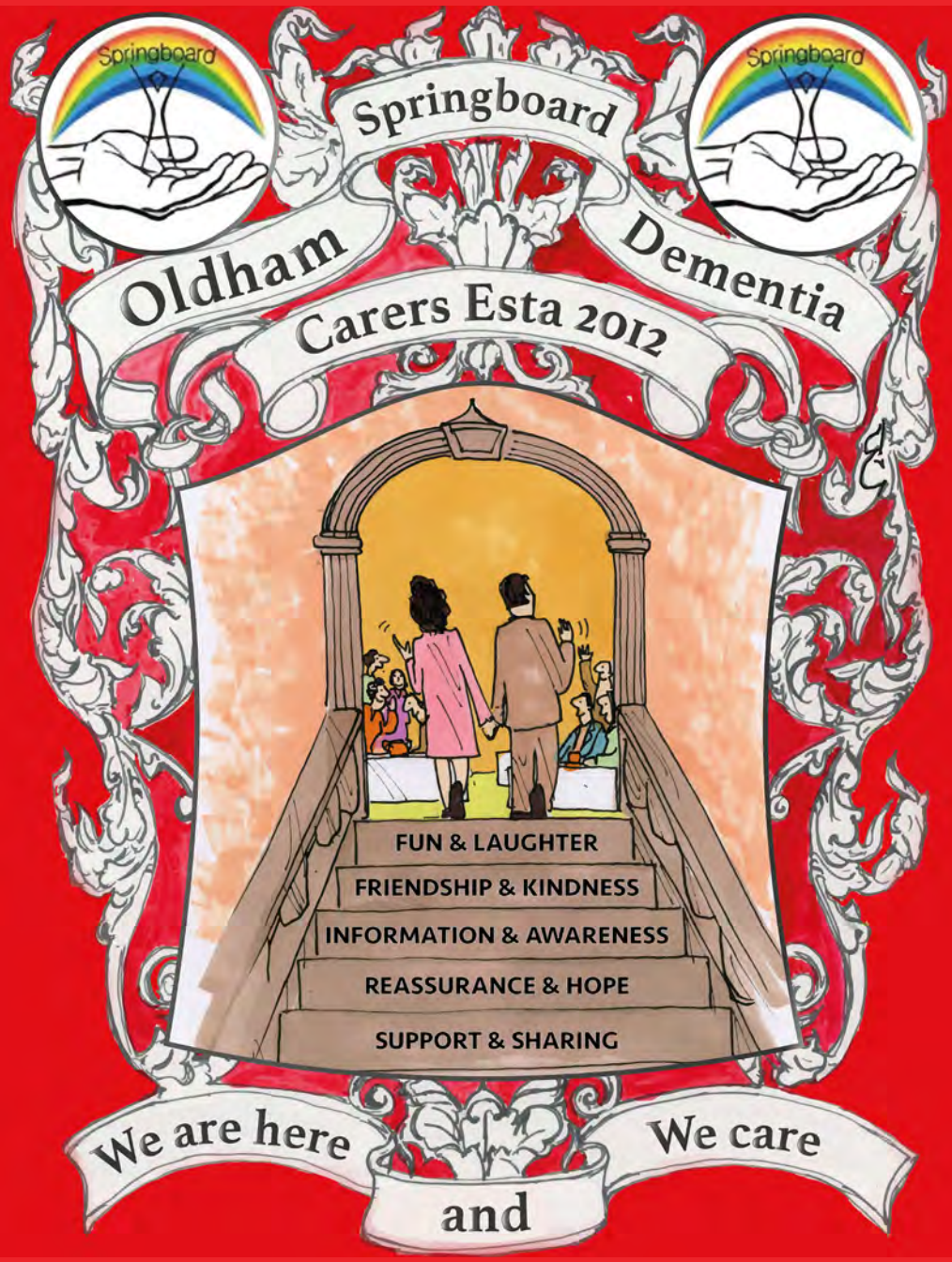
Concept **Ian Beesley**

Design **Martyn Hall**

Centre Illustrations **Tony Husband**

Poem **Ian McMillan**

Embellishments **Ian Beesley**



We are here

and

We care



Meaning

“We are here and we care” reflects the importance of support groups and what they can offer to those living with dementia.

Symbolism

The two figures ascending the steps are being welcomed into a support group.

The corner circles contain the logo for the Springboard dementia support group, which is based in Oldham

The embellishments are stylised acanthus leaves representing art and an enduring life.

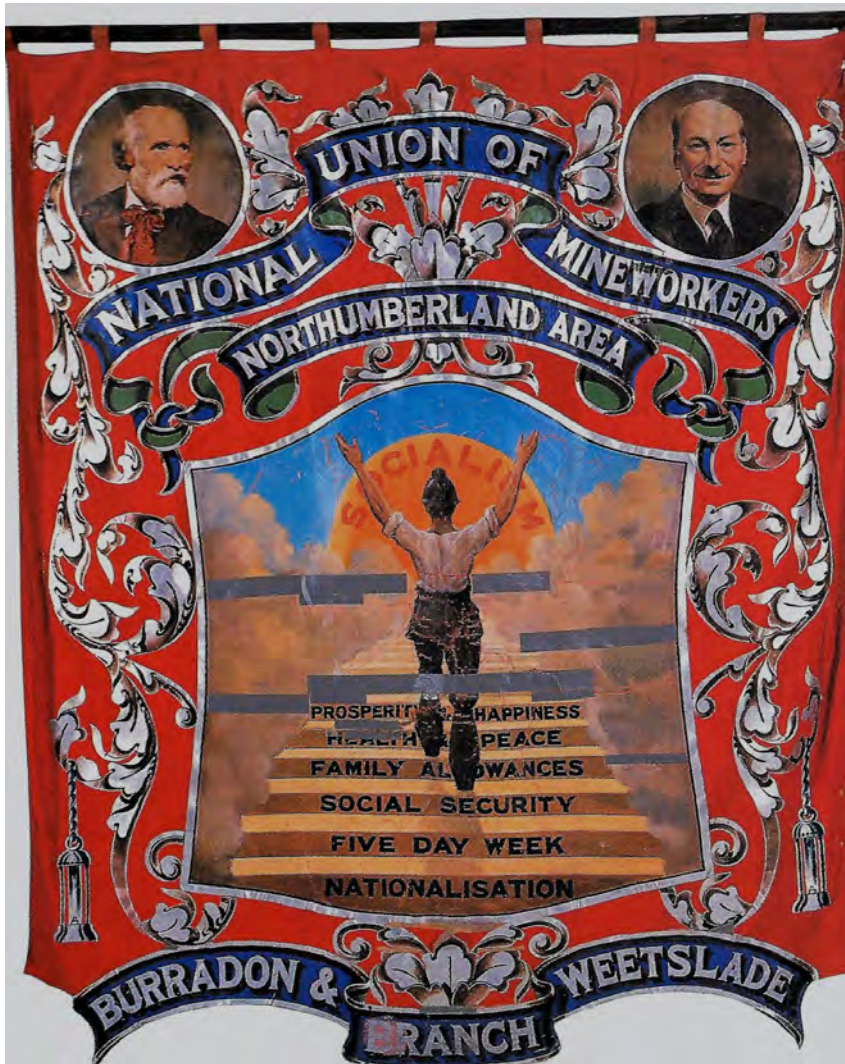
The colour red represents courage and revolution.



Inspired by

The National Union of Mineworkers
Northumberland Area

Burradon & Weetside Branch banner
Currently cared for at Burradon Primary
School, Tyne & Wear



TAKING STEPS

Each step is another step
From the place we were
To the place we are
Each step is another step
From the folks we were
To those we'll be
And each step is just a step
So step inside, it's not too far.
Each step is one more step
So take a step and walk with me.

Ian McMillan



BME Dementia Service

Touchstone's BME Dementia Service raises awareness of dementia in BME (black and minority ethnic) communities and aims to ensure that people living with dementia are properly supported. Our goal is to break down barriers that exist about dementia and bring it out into the open so that people can access the help they need.

South Asian Dementia Café Hamari Yaadain (Our Memories)

Held on the first and third Thursday of every month, 1pm to 3pm at Touchstone Support Centre, 53-55 Harehills Road, Leeds, LS8 4EX. We provide a cup of tea, cake and time to chat and provide support in mother tongue for memory, health and wellbeing.

For further information please visit
**[www.touchstonesupport.org.uk/services/
bme-dementia-service/](http://www.touchstonesupport.org.uk/services/bme-dementia-service/)**

When we talk will you listen

by Hamari Yaadain Leeds

Unfurled

Leeds

15th November 2019

Artists

Concept **Ian Beesley**

Design **Martyn Hall**

Centre illustration **Tony Husband**

Floral illustrations **Eleanor Tomlinson**

Poem **Ian McMillan**

Sound waves **Ian Beesley**

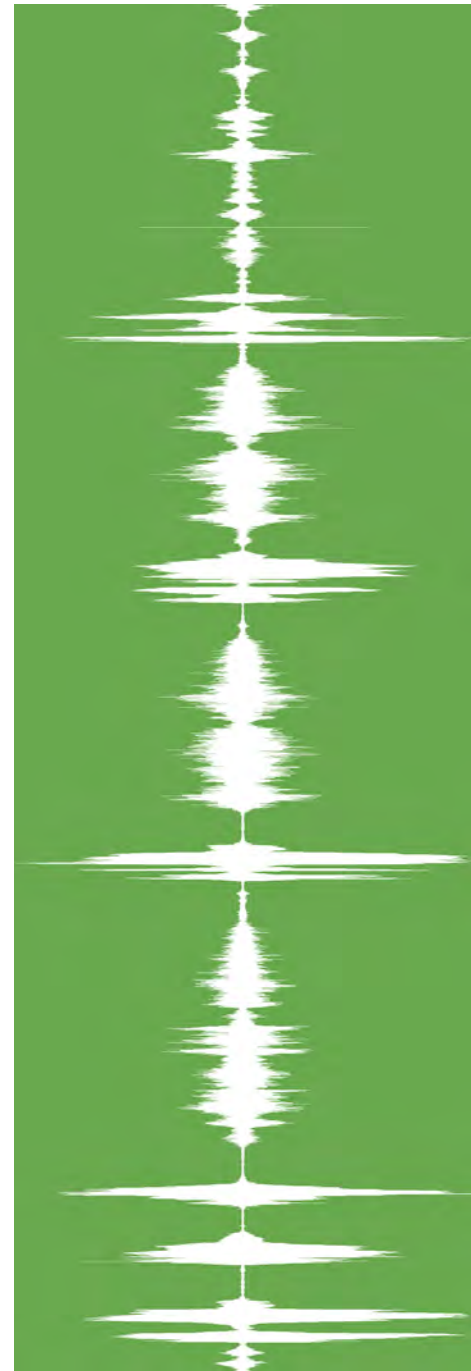
HAMARI YAADAIN

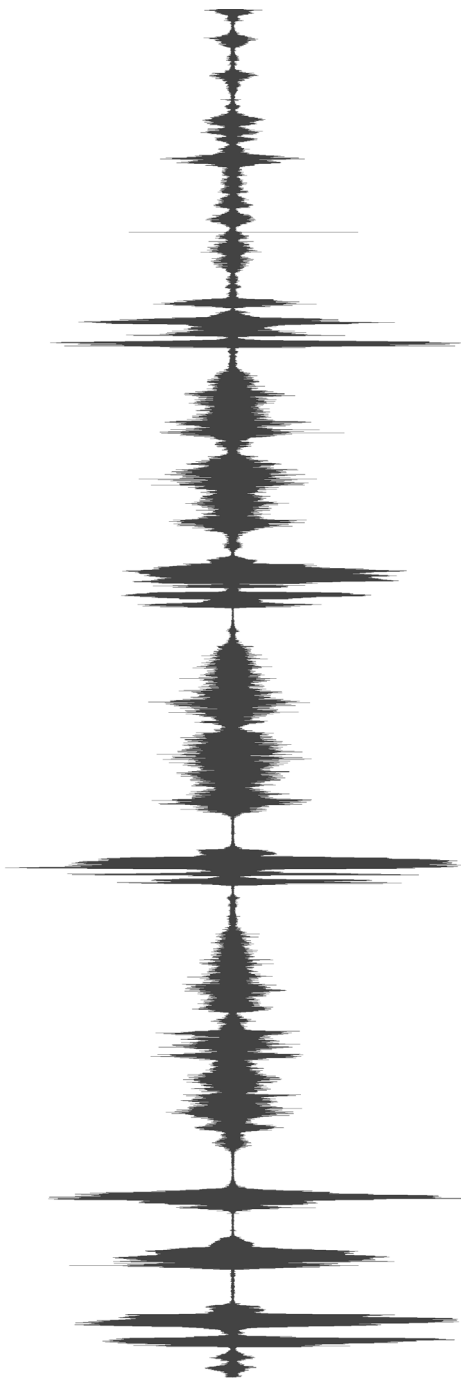


WHEN WE TALK WILL YOU LISTEN

Meaning

“When we talk will you listen” asks us to listen and try to understand the concerns of people living with dementia. One of the symptoms of certain kinds of dementia can be the disturbance of speech and the ability to speak a second language.





Symbolism

Hamari Yaadain is a South Asian group based in Leeds.

The centre illustration is of members of the group within a lotus blossom.

The lotus blossom is the national flower of India. In the top corners are marigolds, which are important flowers in South Asian culture, and at the bottom are the white roses of Yorkshire.

The flowers are joined by sound waves. The group was recorded saying "When we talk will you listen" in English and then Punjabi. The recordings were converted to sound waves. On the left is English and to the right Punjabi.

The colours green and saffron are taken from the national flag of India.

Green represents healing and nature, while saffron represents renunciation and humility.





WHEN WE TALK, WILL YOU LISTEN?

When we talk
Will you listen?
Will our words
Fly to your ear?
Fly like birds
Across split language
Making sense
From there to here
Holding thoughts
For us to hear
As memory's mist
Is slow to clear

Ian McMillan



Kirklees Dementia Engagement & Empowerment Project

The **Kirklees Dementia Hub** provides information and advice including a guide called Live Life to the Full, Living with Dementia in Kirklees, which outlines the support available to service users in Kirklees.

For further information please contact
terryann.shaw@kirklees.gov.uk

***kirkleestogether.co.uk/2019/10/22/
living-with-dementia-it-doesnt-discriminate***



Navigating the system: Dementia support for all

by **Kirklees DEEP**

Unfurled

Huddersfield

22nd Nov 2019

Artists

Concept **Ian Beesley**

Design **Martyn Hall**

Maze illustration **Ian Beesley**

Floral embellishments **Eleanor Tomlinson**

Group caricature **Tony Husband**

Poem **Ian McMillan**

KIRKLEES DEEP 2019

Dementia Engagement & Empowerment Project

Contacts

Advice



Care

Support



Navigating the system: Dementia support for all



Typosare.
Plate 49

Navigating the System
Dementia Support for all.



Background
Cards

add
embellishment

Add Mike

CT

Kirkless Deep 2819
Dementia Support Engagement groups

Meaning

“Navigating the system: dementia support for all”. After receiving a diagnosis of dementia people and their carers often find the system to access appropriate support and care confusing. Kirklees DEEP is campaigning for a better and clearer system to access contacts, advice, care and support.

Symbolism

Kirklees Dementia Engagement and Empowerment Project group covers Huddersfield, Batley, Birstall, Cleckheaton, Denby Dale, Dewsbury, Heckmondwike, Holmfirth, Kirkburton, Marsden, Meltham, Mirfield and Slaithwaite. Kirklees had a population of 422,500 in 2011 and is the most populous borough in England that is not a city.

The maze represents the difficulty that people with a recent diagnosis of dementia have in trying to access appropriate services and is based on the personal experience of people in the group.

The colours green, blue and purple are taken from the Kirklees coat of arms.

Green represents reform, blue tranquillity and purple dignity.

NAVIGATING THE SYSTEM

When you're tangled in a maze
For a jumble of days
And then everybody says
'We're as lost as you'
That's when a helping hand
Can make you understand
Dig a path across the sand
And find a way through.

*Let's untie the knots of confusion,
Use the rope to make a bridge*

When your SatNav's on the blink
And you're driven to the brink
Life is trickling down the sink
Then it's help you need;
To try to find the proper road
Across the system's heavy load
Get the answer, crack the code
Then we can all succeed!

*Let's untie the knots of despair
Use the hope to get us there.*

Ian McMillan



Kirklees Dementia Engagement & Empowerment Project

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***[kirkleestogether.co.uk/2019/10/22/
living-with-dementia-it-doesnt-discriminate](https://kirkleestogether.co.uk/2019/10/22/living-with-dementia-it-doesnt-discriminate)***

Nurture Education Support Well-being

by **Kirklees DEEP**

Unfurled

Huddersfield

22nd Nov 2019

Artists

Concept **Ian Beesley**

Design **Martyn Hall**

Centre illustration **Ian Beesley**

Inset illustrations **Tony Husband**

Poem **Ian McMillan**

Embellishments **Eleanor Tomlinson**



KIRKLEES DEEP 2019

Dementia Engagement & Empowerment Project



Nurture



Well-being



Education



Support

Navigating the system: Dementia support for all

Meaning

“Nurture, education, support, well-being”: these should be clearly signposted and easily accessible for people living with dementia.

Symbolism

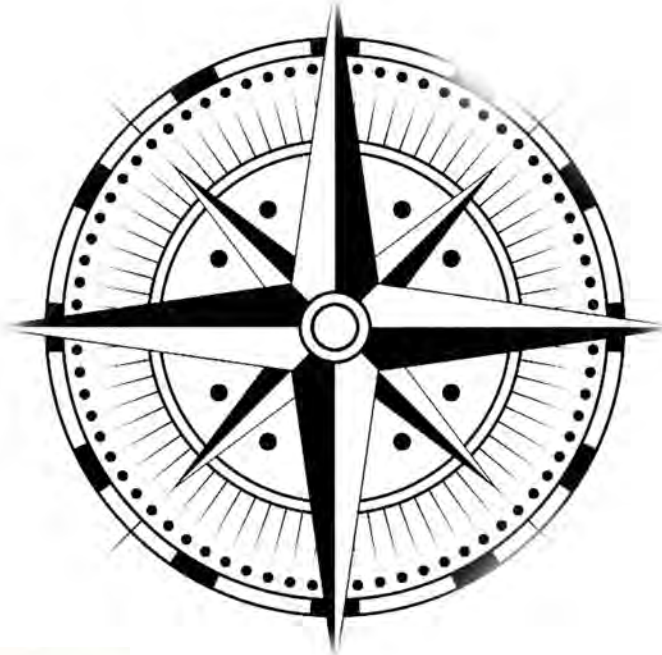
The banner has two versions, a negative side and a positive side.

This is a simplified form of oppositional narrative representation, i.e. good versus bad, safe versus dangerous. This style was often employed on traditional banners to illustrate the benefits of joining a union or other organisations.

The compass represents the opposite of a maze, clearly directing people to the appropriate services. The colours purple and green are taken from the Kirklees coat of arms.

Purple represents dignity and green reform.

The embellishments are white roses of Yorkshire.



LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL

We all need care and support
To help us find our way.
This is a simple thought
And this is what we say:

Live life to the full,
Take each moment as it comes!
Life will never be dull
If you share your tea and buns!

Live life every day
It needn't be a mess!
Don't let Dementia get in the way,
Enjoy your happiness!

Ian McMillan

Education



Face it Together (FIT), Bradford

We are an involvement group for people with dementia, who work to help the local community, businesses and other organisations understand what it is like to have dementia and how they can best support people in our situation.

Members of the group sit on interview panels for Alzheimer's Society staff.

We meet once a month and welcome people with dementia who live in the Bradford district.

For further information please contact
Judith Baron or Paul Smithson - 01274 586008
bradford@alzheimers.org.uk
www.alzheimers.org.uk

Involve Inform Improve

by **Face it Together Bradford**

Unfurled

People's History Museum, Manchester

16th December 2019

Artists

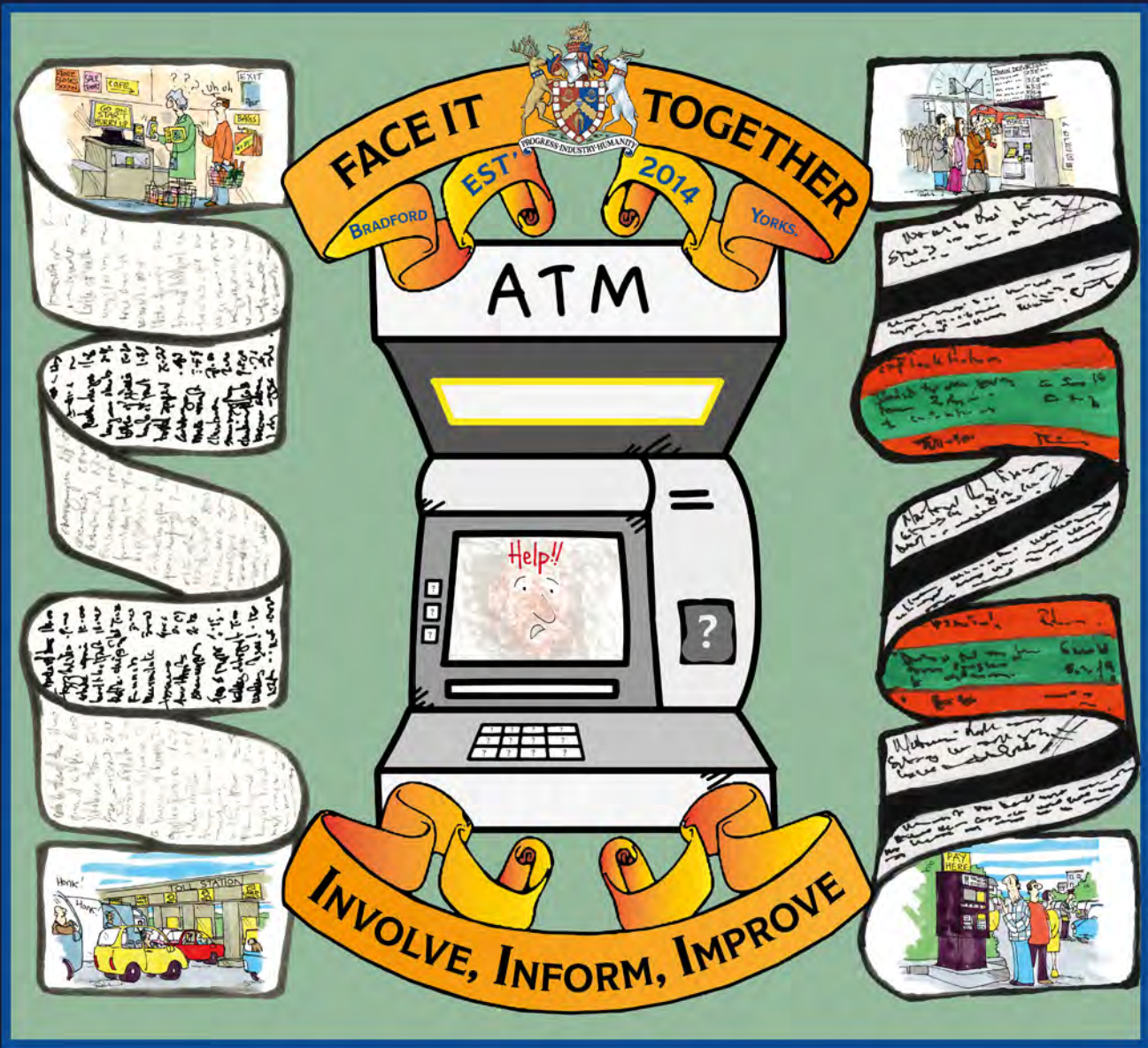
Concept **Ian Beesley**

Design **Martyn Hall**

Illustrations **Tony Husband**

Poem **Ian McMillan**

Embellishments **Ian Beesley**



FACE IT TOGETHER

EST. 2014
BRADFORD YORKS.

ATM

Help!!

?

INVOLVE, INFORM, IMPROVE



Handwritten notes on a ribbon, including phrases like "I want to...", "I need to...", "I don't want to..."

Handwritten notes on a ribbon, including phrases like "I want to...", "I need to...", "I don't want to..."

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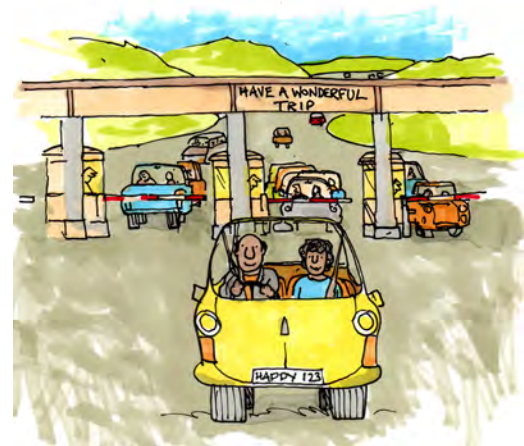
Handwritten notes on a ribbon, including phrases like "I want to...", "I need to...", "I don't want to..."

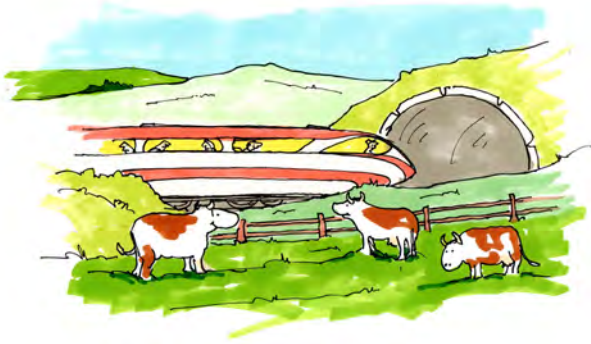


Meaning

“Involve, inform, improve”: many people living with dementia experience difficulty in using automated teller machines, such as cashpoints, automatic check outs at supermarkets, ticket machines at train and bus stations, car parking machines and toll booths.

The Face it Together (Bradford) group actively campaigns for improvements to these systems. If the companies concerned with ATMs involved people living with dementia to learn about the problems of their ATMs, they might then improve their systems.





Symbolism

The banner has two versions, a negative side and a positive side.

This is a simplified form of oppositional narrative representation, i.e. good versus bad, safe versus dangerous. This style was often employed on traditional banners to illustrate the benefits of joining a union or other organisations.

The embellishments represent train tickets and shopping receipts. The corner illustrations represent some of the problems people living with dementia face.

The colours, blue, gold and red are taken from the Bradford coat of arms.

Blue represents loyalty, red courage and revolution, gold ambition.



Artists

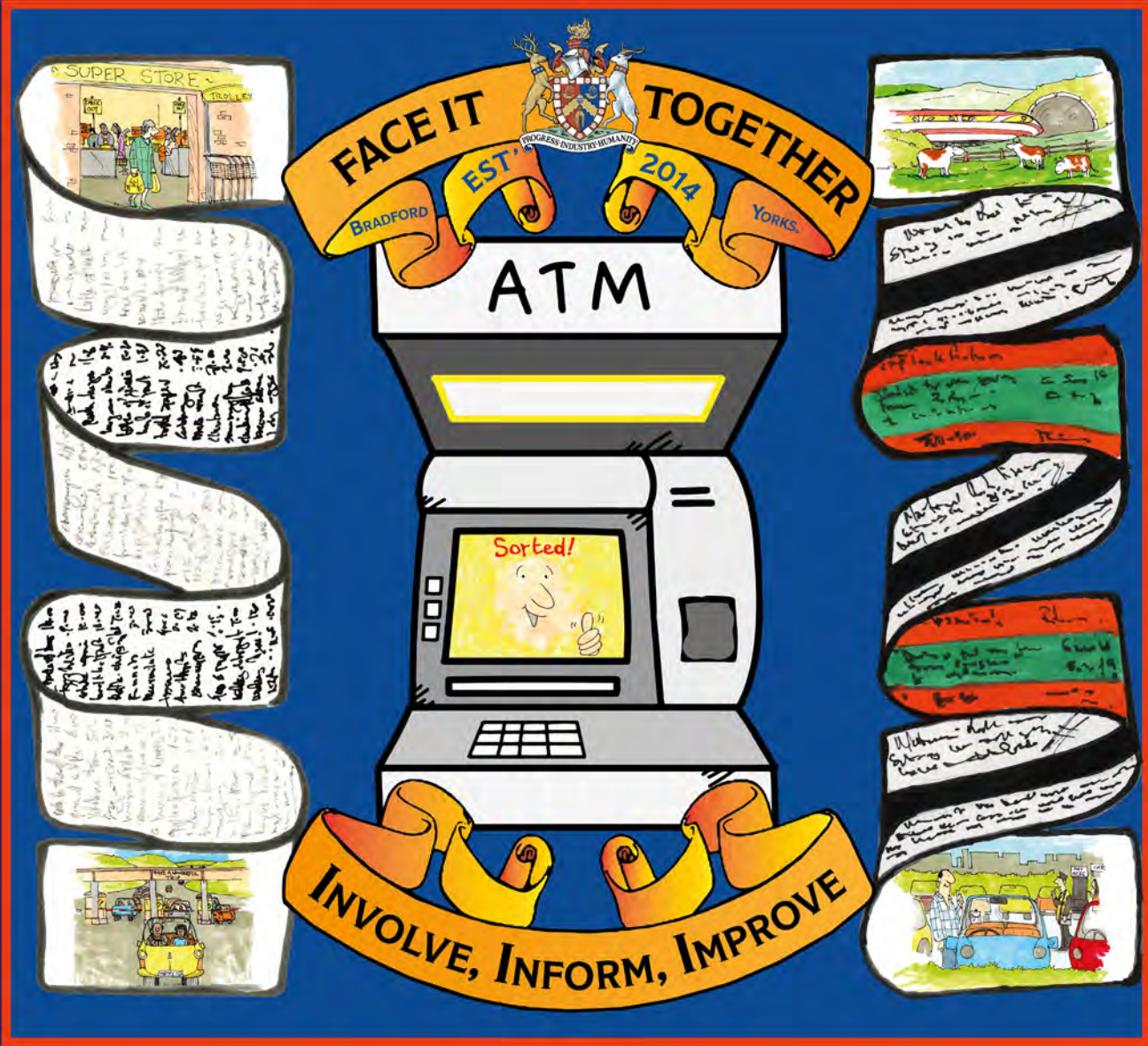
Concept **Ian Beesley**

Design **Martyn Hall**

Illustrations **Tony Husband**

Poem **Ian McMillan**

Embellishments **Ian Beesley**





INVOLVE INFORM IMPROVE

Involve, inform, improve;
Machines for ever get you,
Technology on the move
But will it ever let you
Do the things you want to?

Inform, improve, involve
A problem we can solve
And will they all evolve
To help us understand
The card that's in our hand?

Improve, involve, inform;
Technology is the norm,
But don't feel so forlorn
The path is so well worn
The human touch is warm
Let's be closer, not withdrawn.

Ian McMillan



Preston Focus on Dementia

Alzheimer's Society Focus on Dementia Central and West Lancashire group was set up in 2016 and is run by and for people living with dementia. The group members influence the work of Alzheimer's Society and other organisations by sharing their personal experiences of dementia, knowledge and skills to shape a wide range of projects and topics chosen by them. The group's involvement in the Unfurlings project stemmed from work with the Harris Museum Art Gallery and Library to make the building and signage more dementia friendly.

For further information please contact
centrallancashire@alzheimers.org.uk

or see

www.alzheimers.org.uk

www.harrismuseum.org.uk



Understanding leads to action

by **Preston Focus on Dementia**

Unfurled

People's History Museum Manchester
16th December 2019

Artists

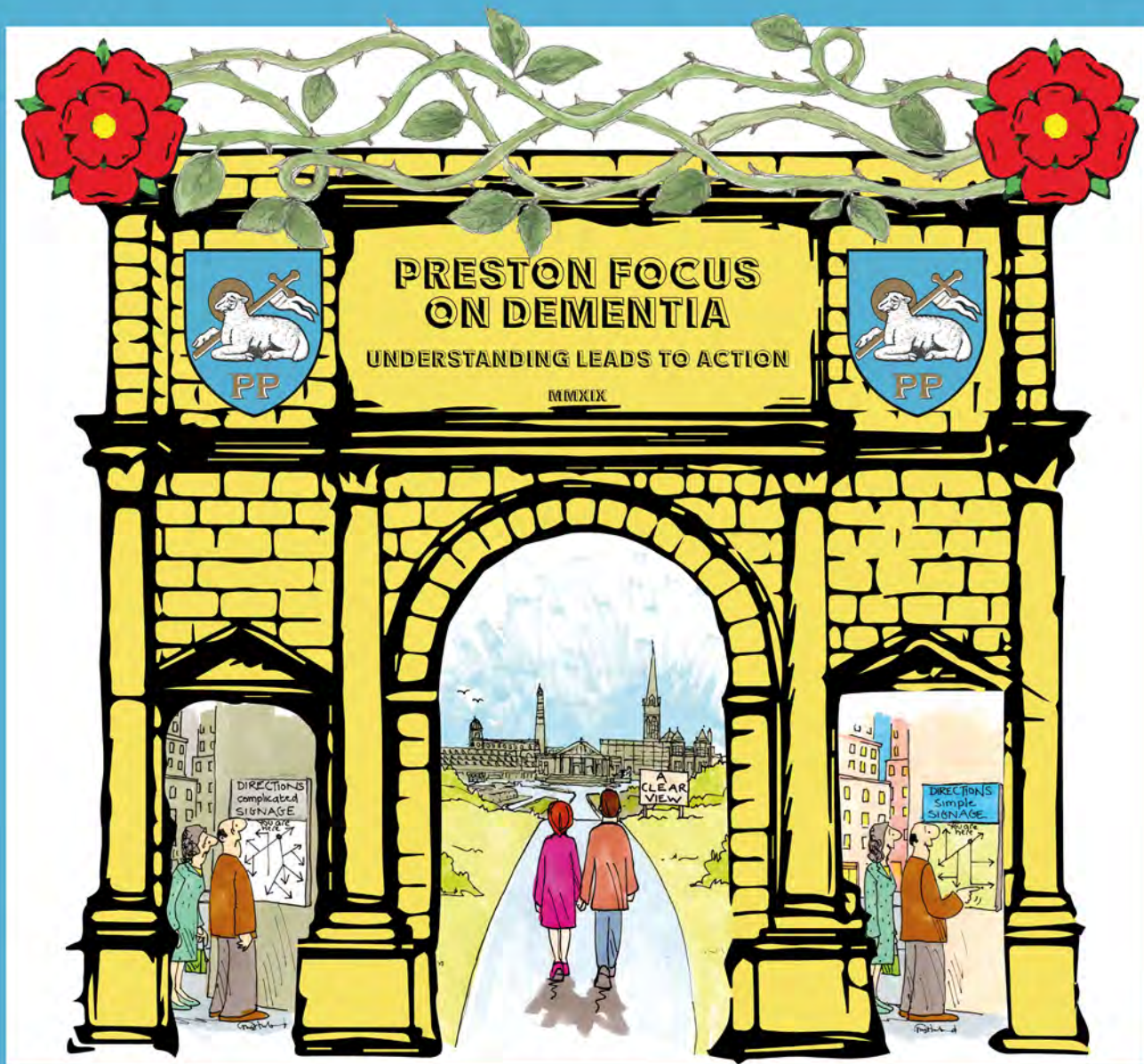
Concept **Ian Beesley**

Design **Martyn Hall**

Inset illustration **Tony Husband**

Poem **Ian McMillan**

Triumphal arch **Ian Beesley**





Meaning

“Understanding leads to action”: the Preston Focus on Dementia group has been working with the Harris Museum and Art Gallery in Preston advising about the creation of clearer signage for people living with dementia. Understanding problems through consultation and collaboration can lead to change.

Symbolism

The main image of the banner is based on a triumphal arch constructed for the Preston Guild in 1882. The Guild takes place every 20 years. There are ceremonies, processions and events. Preston is the only place in Britain to still celebrate a Guild.

The arch is adorned with the red roses of Lancashire and the coat of arms of Preston.

The inset illustrations contrast complicated signage with simple clear signage.

The colour blue represents loyalty, and yellow is associated with joy and laughter.



WHERE IS THIS LEADING?

Where is this leading, this life that we're living?
What are the signs? What are they pointing to?
And what is a sign without understanding?
And anyway what is a sign meant to do?

If a sign's just a jumble then it's worth nothing
If a sign is a jungle you can't find your way through
Then it's useless. Give us directions to something
We will understand then we'll have a clue

How to start to make changes in how things seem,
Begin to change minds and then get a reaction.
This is the way forward; this is the dream
Because, yes, understanding leads to action.

Ian McMillan



Kent Dementia Engagement & Empowerment Project

Kent DEEP comprises six groups who have come together to campaign for better support and understanding for those living with dementia.

- **The Sun Shiners Dover, Deal & Shepway**
- **Ashford Phoenix**
- **Memorybilia West Kent**
- **The New Seaside Margate**
- **The Pathfinders Swale**
- **East Kent Forget-me-nots Canterbury**

www.dementiavoices.org.uk/a-z-list-of-groups



Standing together: growing a better future

by the **Kent DEEP groups**

Unfurled

People's History Museum Manchester

16th December 2019

Artists

Concept **Ian Beesley**

Design **Martyn Hall**

Centre Illustration **Eleanor Tomlinson**

The New Seaside logo **Tony Husband**

Poem **Ian McMillan**

Embellishments **Ian Beesley**

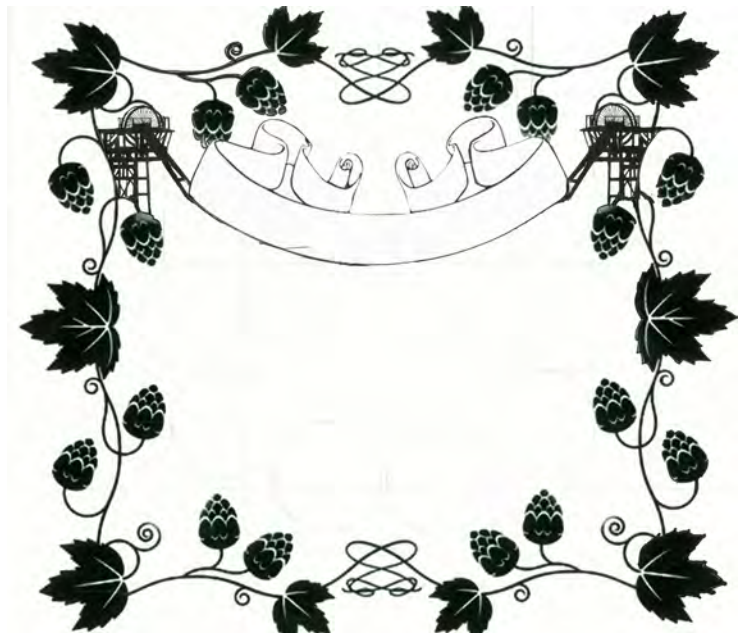
KENT



STANDING TOGETHER



Growing a Better Future



Meaning

“Standing together” as a community with shared experiences, support and resources will help us as a society grow a better future.

Symbolism

The banner represents Kent, known as the garden of England, famed for its growth of fruit, vegetables and hops, but it also refers to the county’s industrial past as Kent had the most southerly coal field in England.

In the top corners of the hop vine embellishments are the headstocks of Betteshanger colliery, which closed on 26 August 1989.

The colours red, pink and yellow are taken from the county’s emblem.

Red represents courage and revolution, pink peace and prosperity and yellow hope.

The central image is of a fruit orchard in blossom with a group of oast houses behind. Oast houses were traditionally used to dry out hops.

WE ALL STAND TOGETHER

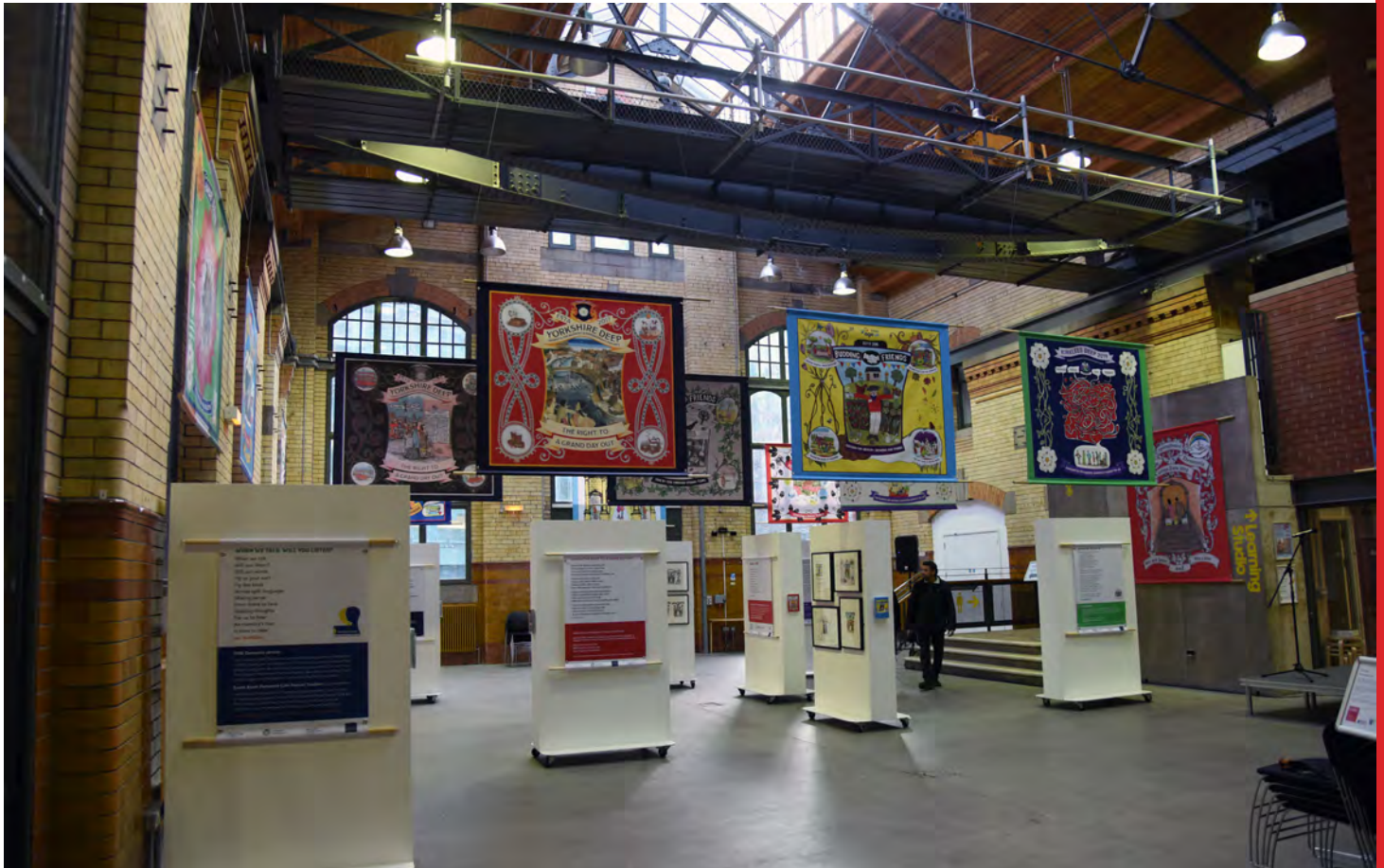
Here we are, all standing together
In the teeth of this rough world's gale
Working as one to fight against whatever
Threatens to make us fail.

Here we are; we're all standing as one
As History's slow pit wheel turns
And we'll stand together till the work is done
And everyone lives and learns;

Here we are; all shapes and sizes,
The sunshine shines and the paths are found
And the seaside's new and the Phoenix rises
From this ancient Kentish ground.

Here we are, please forget-us-not;
We're memorybilia of the powerful kind
We stand together where the struggle's hot
In the endless battleground of the mind.

Ian McMillan



Banners

Banners have a subversive history. The earliest were produced in the late eighteenth century, by secret craft workers' societies and by socialist and radical groups agitating for political reform. In the 1790s, frightened by revolution in France, Britain's rightwing government declared trade unions and many political groups illegal. As a result, these societies would meet clandestinely in the back rooms of pubs, or out in the fields. They made banners to exhibit at their meetings. Often these depicted the tools that members used in their work. In this way, the banners asserted the skill and value of ordinary workers' labour, in contrast to the poor pay and treatment that working people received from employers and politicians.

Increasingly, banner-makers also represented the hopes that members harboured for the future. During the Industrial Revolution, such hopes included the right to vote and organise in trade unions; universal education; co-operation (against capitalist competition); and harmony between humanity and nature (rather than the polluted slums in which increasing numbers of people were housed).

By the late nineteenth century, working people had succeeded in their fight for legal trade unions. As the unions developed, banners became more

ornate. Many depicted the benefits that union membership could bring, such as sick pay and help for workers' widows and children.

As trade unionists grew more assertive, banners began to represent their victories in strikes, or their journey from the days of illegal societies to fully-fledged unions. These banners showed what ordinary people were capable of winning for themselves when they united in a common cause. In this way, banners could be beacons of hope in times of defeat or repression.

Some socialist women helped transplant the banner tradition into the women's suffrage movement. In the early 20th century, huge suffrage demonstrations were structured around hundreds of banners, representing women's trade union branches, professional associations, Co-operative Women's Guilds and university suffrage societies. Feminists had only recently won the right for women to join trade unions and to enter universities, and by naming their union branch or university, these banners proclaimed their victories.

Suffrage banners were often beautifully embroidered, on costly silk. This investment of time and money was a sign that these women's fight was underpinned by determination and confidence; they were in it for the long haul (they eventually won the vote for all women in 1928).

Despite the explosion of media and advertising in the 20th century, the power and potency of banners has survived. A diversity of banners at a demonstration or celebration shows that behind the specific interests of the different groups represented, they share a common goal: making the world a better place. This is very apparent at the Durham Miners' Gala, which has been meeting annually since the late nineteenth century. Despite a lack of working coal mines in Britain, the Gala attracts thousands of people each year. Among the Labour Party and trade union banners carried through Durham on Gala day are others from the peace movement, the Workers' Educational Association, and women's groups.

In the 21st century, a widespread desire to conserve or replace banners demonstrates their power to create a shared identity and witness a shared history of struggle against adversity. In 2018, to mark the centenary of some women being given the vote, women at Oxford University commissioned a reproduction of the original Oxford Women's Suffrage Societies banner. This now hangs in the entrance of St Hugh's College, Oxford. In 2019, Woman's Place UK, a feminist organisation formed by socialists and trade unionists, commissioned its first banner in 2019, and supporters marched behind it at the Durham Miners' Gala that year.

Some of the banners in this book depict hard times as well as good, in the tradition of older trade union banners. But all of them represent the better world their creators want to see. Just like earlier banners, these ones suggest that this future won't be won easily, but can be achieved by community, solidarity, and a refusal to accept the status quo.

**Votes for women
Huddersfield**

Designed by Florence
Lockwood from Linthwaite
in 1907
Kind permission of
the Tolson Museum
Huddersfield



Written by

Professor Selina Todd

Professor of Modern History, University of Oxford
St Hilda's College, Oxford



**Manchester First
in the Fight**

Unfurled
22nd June 1908
Manchester
Kind permission of the
Peoples History Museum
Manchester

Supported by



ISBN no 978-0-9957712-6-0

Published by the **Darkroom Press**
Design **Martyn Hall**



Banners for hope and change

