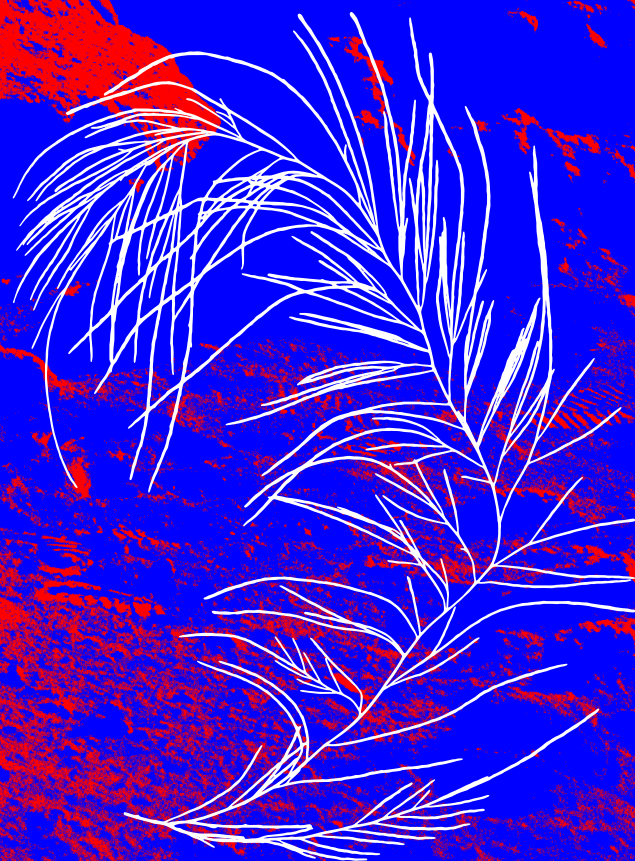
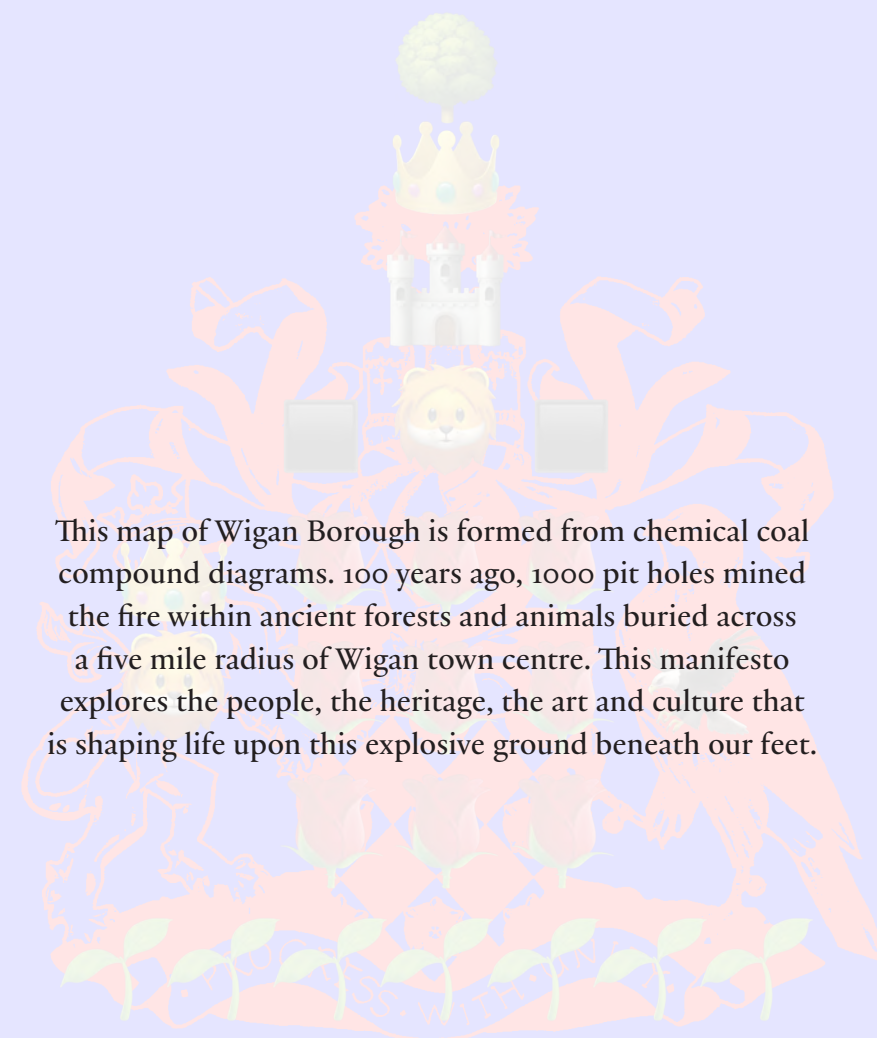
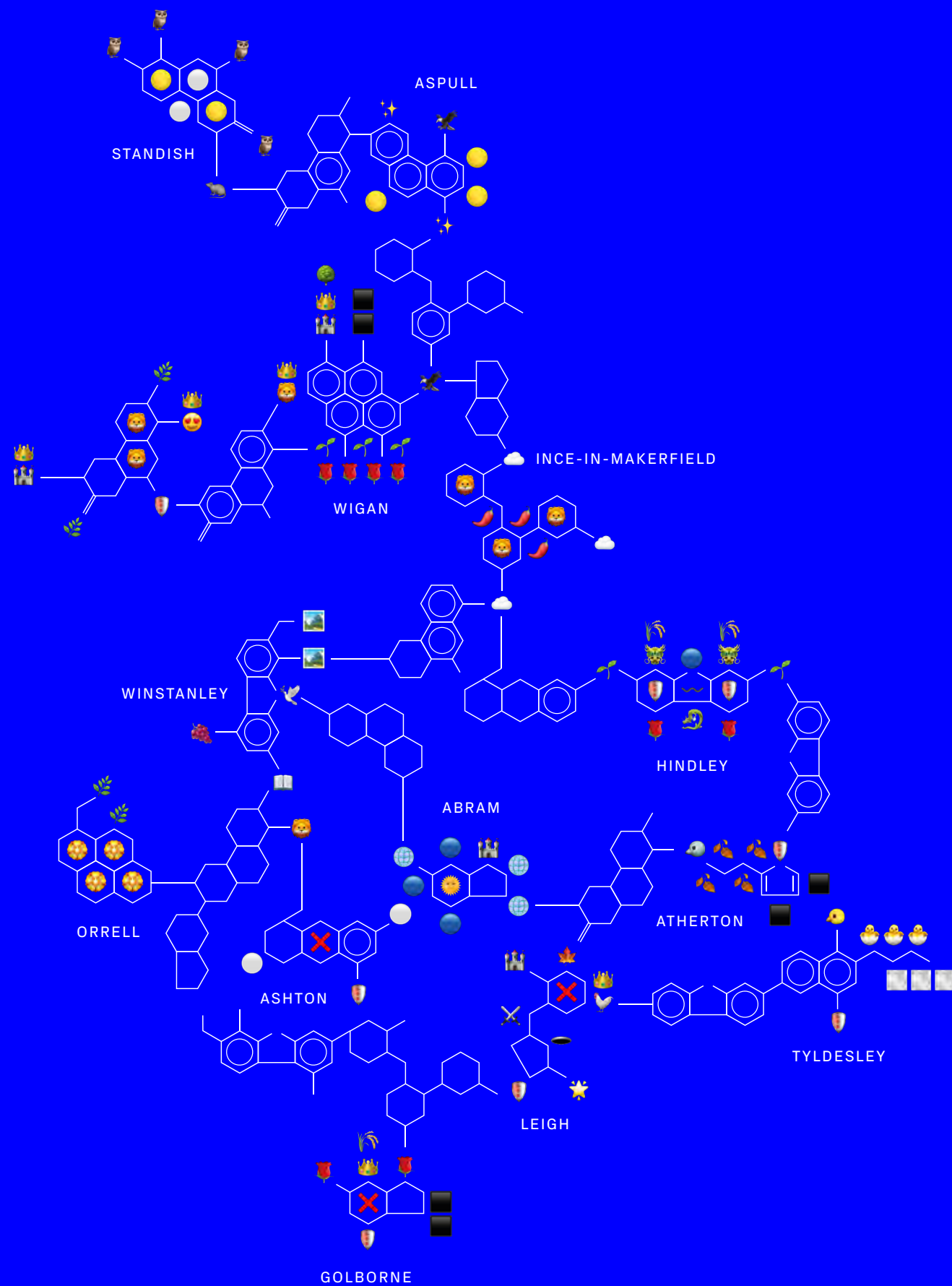


WILDFIRE

THE
FIRE
WITHIN



wigyan

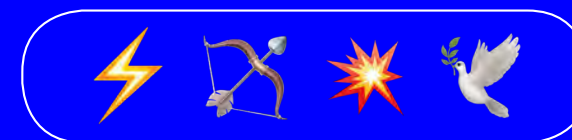
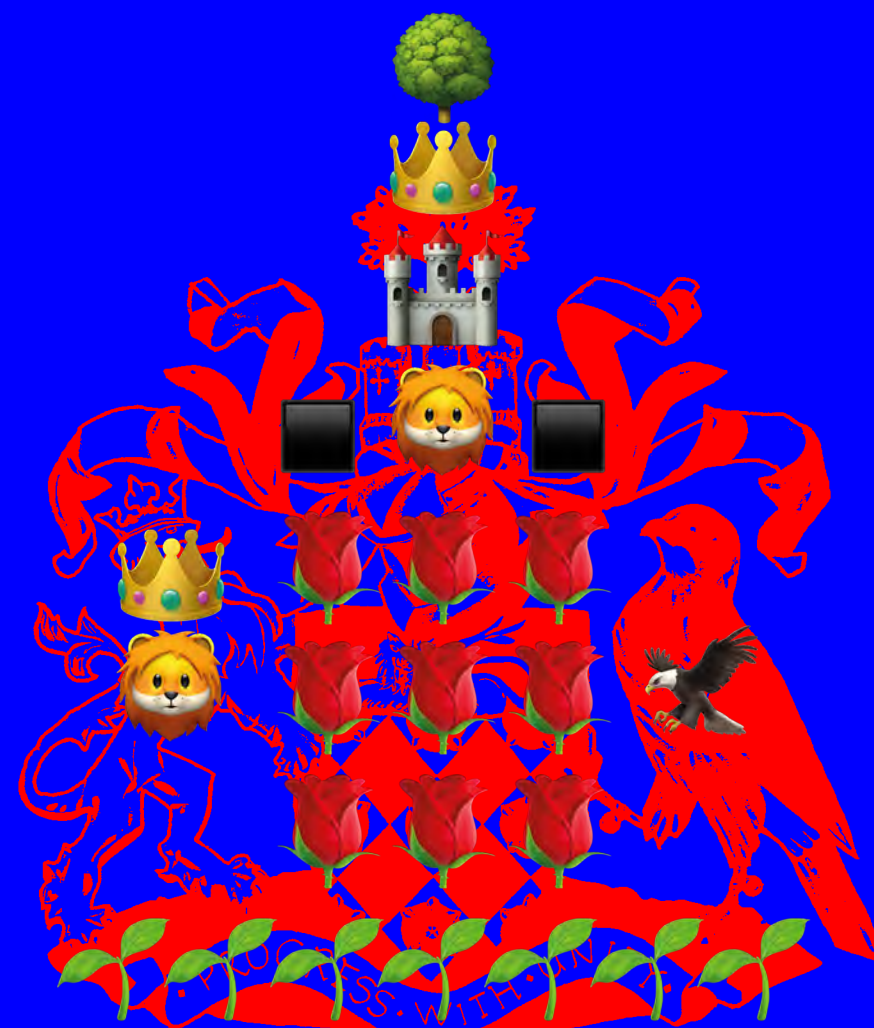


This map of Wigan Borough is formed from chemical coal compound diagrams. 100 years ago, 1000 pit holes mined the fire within ancient forests and animals buried across a five mile radius of Wigan town centre. This manifesto explores the people, the heritage, the art and culture that is shaping life upon this explosive ground beneath our feet.





This map of Wigan Borough is formed from chemical coal compound diagrams. 100 years ago, 1000 pit holes mined the fire within ancient forests and animals buried across a five mile radius of Wigan town centre. This manifesto explores the people, the heritage, the art and culture that is shaping life upon this explosive ground beneath our feet.





ANCIENT

AND

LOYAL



PROGRESS

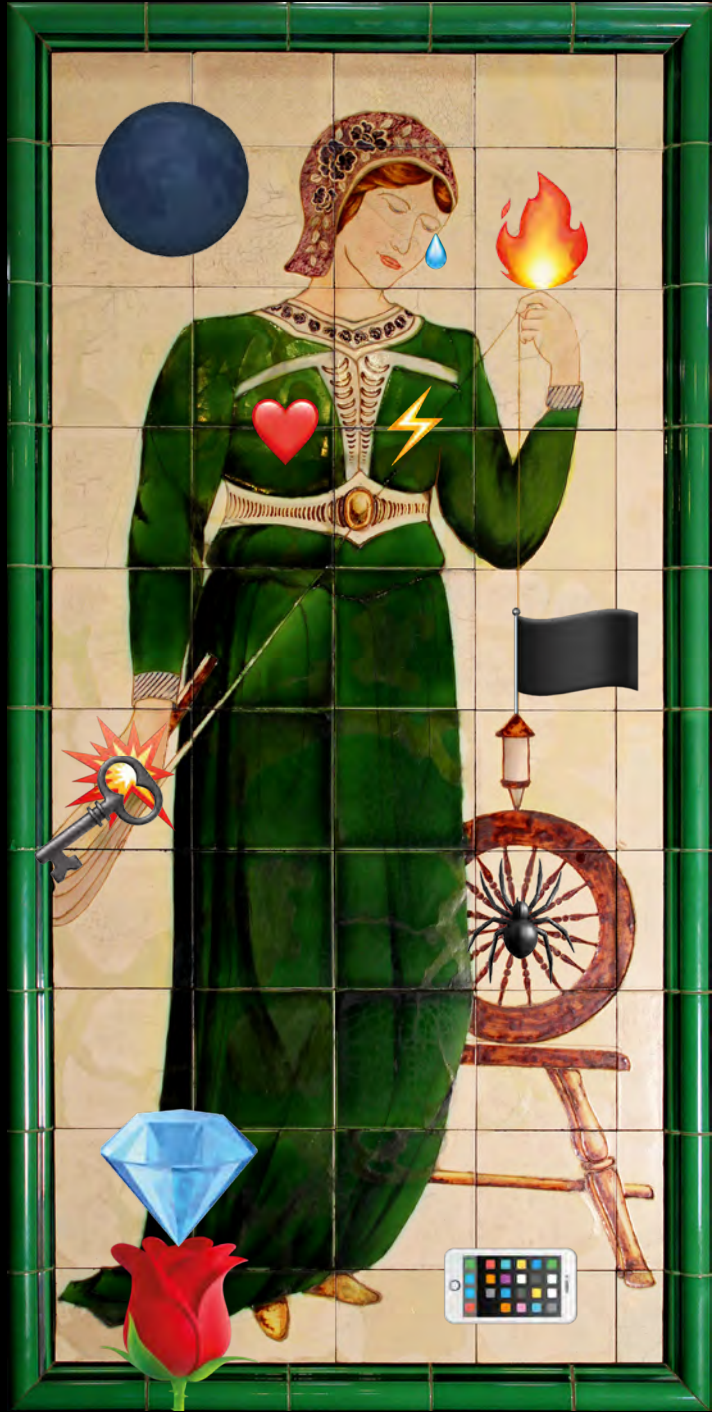
WITH

UNITY



THE FIRE WITHIN



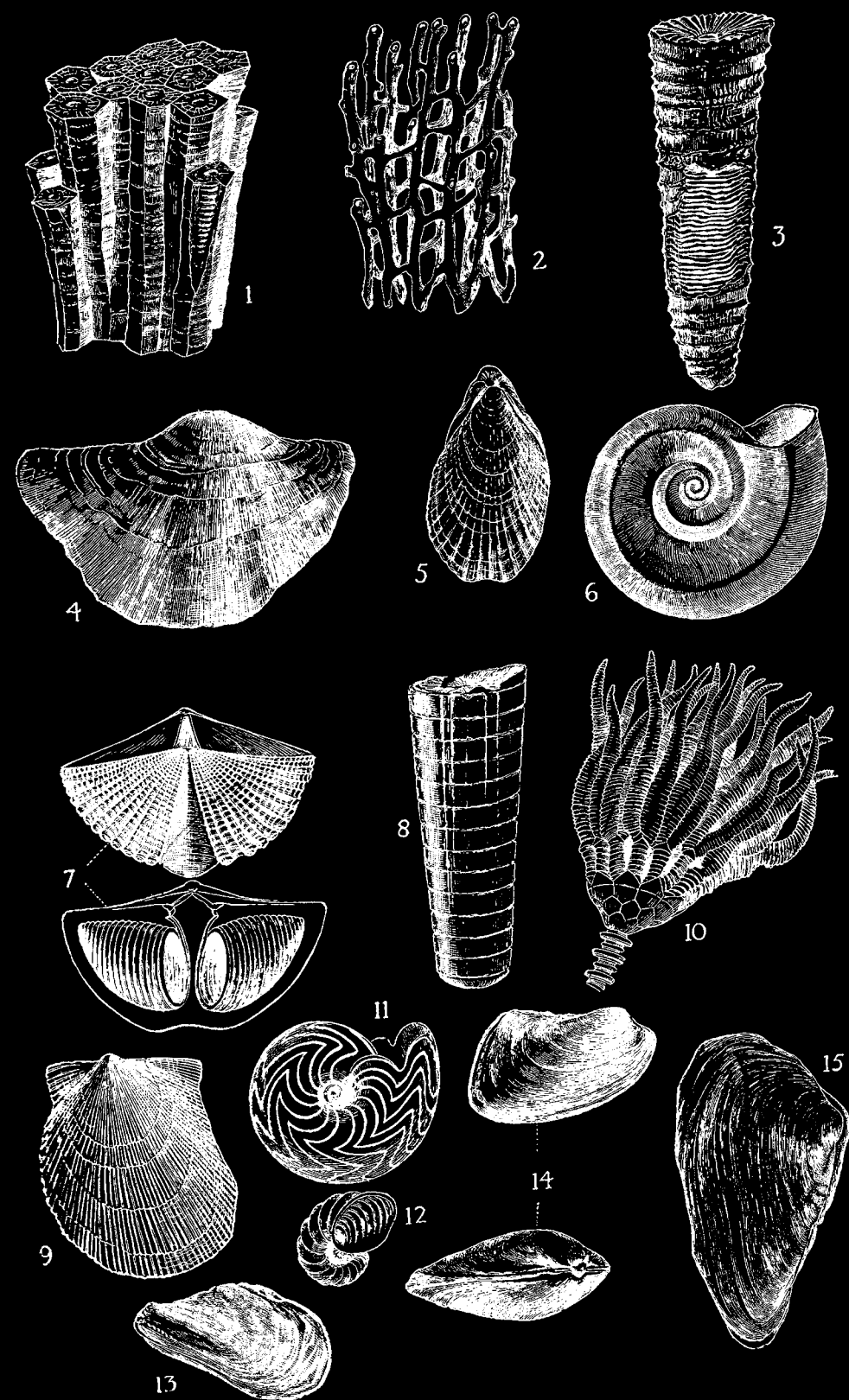


The Spinning Jenny tile panel in Leigh Town Hall remembers The Fire Within Leigh inventor Thomas Highs who in the 18th Century transformed the textile industry with mechanical motion.

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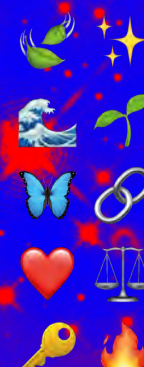
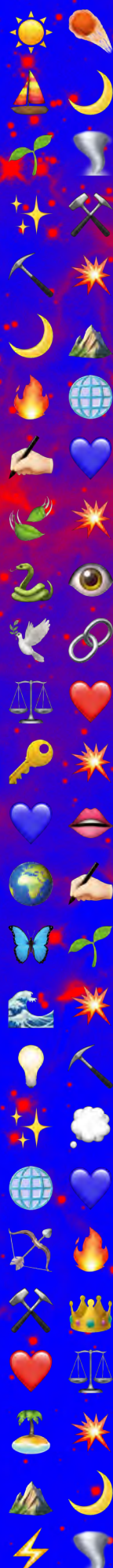
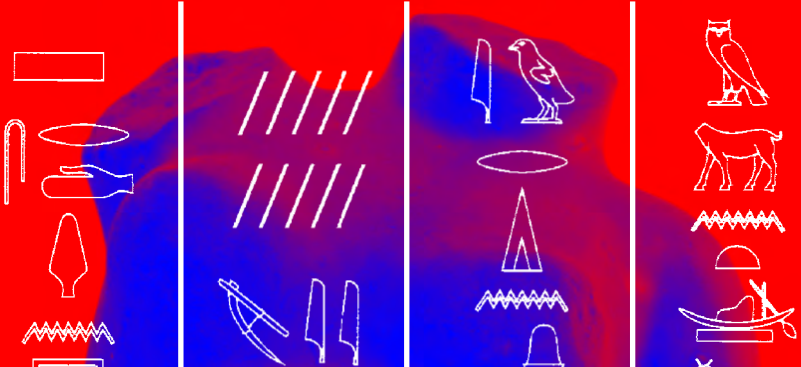


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4	Foreword	AI and AI

The Spinning Jenny tile panel in Leigh Town Hall remembers The Fire Within Leigh inventor Thomas Highs who in the 18th Century transformed the textile industry with mechanical motion.

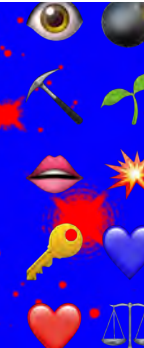
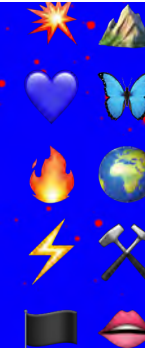
The Beginning of the
Chapters of Coming forth
by Day, of the Words which
bring about Resurrection
and Glory, and of coming
out of and entering into...
I am one of those gods,
the Powers who effect the
triumph over adversaries
on the day of the Weighing
of the Words.




The Moses from Wigan

Sir John Scott was a Judge born in Wigan. In the spirit of Wigan's fight for workers rights his  Within reformed the Egyptian legal system, abolishing slave labour that had been in existence since the Pharaohs. After his death his collection of Ancient Egyptian treasures were donated to Wigan. In this manifesto, the priceless Royal Egyptian gold death mask enchants Wiganers past and present.

Sir John Scott
1841 – 1904
63 orbits



The Unforgettable Eye

From the moment George Orwell encountered the 'lunar landscape' of Wigan Pier and experienced working-class life in our town, he found The  Within to write an unforgettable, graphic description of social injustice, slum housing, mining conditions, squalor, hunger and growing unemployment with unblinking honesty, fury and great humanity. His searing account and bitter polemic in The Road to Wigan Pier continues to grip every reader with its exceptional immediacy, freshness and vigour and will forever connect our town to the struggle for liberation from the constrictions of class.

George Orwell
1903 – 1950
46 orbits




The raw material
of Art has to be consumed
by the unconscious,
re-shaped by creative
imagination, re-made
into Art.

The Child Who Walked on Fire

Theodore Major was a visionary painter who was born and lived in Wigan. Theo believed he could paint everything, all beauty, all of life from his own village. In the industrial landscape of his home town Theo captured human relationships transformed by technology. Theo thought the great iron works in Wigan was the most beautiful place he had ever seen. The  Within Theo was lit the day he saw the great blast furnace lighting his friend's reflections on the wet pavement and saw they were like 'children walking on fire'.

Theodore Major
1908 – 1999
90 orbits

The Goddess of the Sea

Dr Kathleen Mary Drew-Baker was a botanist born in Leigh. The  Within inspired her research into the reproductive biology of algae, which is the key to efficient farming of the seaweed 'nori', the essential component of Japanese sushi. On the 14th April at the annual Drew festival in Japan, Kathleen is worshipped as a Goddess, The Mother of the Sea.

Kathleen Mary Drew Baker
1901 – 1957
55 orbits





James Edwards, 1905–1978, 73 orbits

In 1892 my Great Grandfather died tragically during shaft sinking in a Wigan coal mine, leaving his widow Anne with a young family to care for. There was no offer of Widow's pensions, or benefits for Miner's families, only the Poor Law remained, and with it the threat of the Workhouse in Frog Lane. To survive, my Great Grandmother Anne started baking pies in her fireside oven. She and her children went out selling the pies to the local community, and the business grew. Generations of her family would emerge to build Edwards award winning Bakery and contribute to the culture of our town.

I always remember my Grandfather's dedicated passionate belief in hard work and incredible attention to creative detail, which I have come to recognise as the eye of an artist. I knew from his work great success could be achieved here, but as I grew up in Wigan, I knew my desire to create Art could not be fostered in my home town at that time, it just wasn't something that happened in Wigan. And so I moved to London, and after studying with my partner AL, began a journey of creativity that took us from London to New York, to Paris, to Beijing, on a journey around the World.

My Mother Gladys would call me on her hotline from Wigan and ask me as we were travelling, "when are you coming home?", and during my travels, I never knew what she meant. It was only when we returned here to look after her during a terminal illness that I truly understood. I was a Wiganer, through and through, and this town and its people meant something to me, as all our roots do. The place we are born inspires us, shapes us, and should be fought for. It should be the place we dream it to be, because, what is stopping that from happening?

Since returning to Wigan, we have made our best work from our studio in Standish. We have made films which have been broadcast internationally on television, a space opera which premiered on Broadway in New York, exhibitions and award winning films which have been shown in 50 countries around the World and are currently being developed into multi million pound cinematic releases. The point is this, anything is possible in our great town. My family's story, like George Orwell's *The Road to Wigan Pier*, is about a struggle towards liberation, liberation from the constrictions of class.

We stand together upon this explosive ground beneath our feet. My Great Grandfather's death in a pit of this combustible rock sparked the ingenuity of my ancestor's future. My Mother passed on *The Fire Within* me, which was given to her by her Father, from one generation to the next. This burning desire to make the best of every moment. To ignite dreams and make them real. It is here that we share *The Fire Within*, that we hope to ignite *The Fire Within* you, and spark the next generation to search for the creative dreams in your hearts, and share those dreams with the people around you. We are all the imagineers of our future. We can expect no one else to do it for us.

AL and AL
25th November 2018
Standish-with-Langtree, Wigan

CREATIVE



DISCIPLINES
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I

ART

II

MUSIC

DISCIPLINES



III

DANCE

IV

FASHION

V

THEATRE



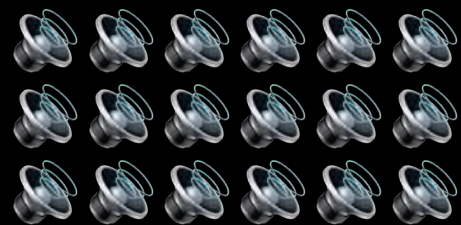
Collieries, Carbon and Catalyst

Mary Griffiths' year-long residency at the former Astley Green colliery, now a Mining Museum and home to the last surviving headgear in Lancashire, became the catalyst for a new body of work. Her lyrical drawings inspired by the mine and its machinery, the coal that was dug from the Earth, and the primeval forests that laid that carbon down 300 million years ago culminated in a critically acclaimed solo exhibition at the Turnpike in Leigh. The Turnpike, an extraordinary brutalist gem built during the end of the coal era opened its doors with an exhibition of Henry Moore. Helen Stalker today continues to bring the greatest artists to our borough with an ambitious programme of exhibitions, events and educational activities celebrating the very best in the arts.





WIGAN INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL
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ORBITS	1992	2000	2008	2016
	1993	2001	2009	2017
1986	1994	2002	2010	2018
1987	1995	2003	2011	2019
1988	1996	2004	2012	2020
1989	1997	2005	2013	2021
1990	1998	2006	2014	2022
1991	1999	2007	2015	2023



Jazz, Brass and Bounce

Wigan has a deep history and connection with the liberating spirit of music. Wigan's annual International Jazz Festival hosts iconic Jazz musicians and is considered one of the finest Jazz festivals in Europe. Pemberton Brass Band continues to celebrate a century long formidable reputation of prize-winning performances. The legendary Northern Soul all-nighters at Wigan Casino continue to spin mythologies into infinity. A new generation bop to Bounce, a unique uplifting electronic sound evolved from Chicago House that put a Donk on Wigan Pier. Wigan Music Service and Wigan Youth Zone continue to light the fire within a new generation of musicians.

Freedom, Movement and Liberation

Amy Burdon, director of WigLe dance is a true hero of the cultural community in Wigan. Her commitment to providing dance as a creative discipline to a new generation of our borough's youth is igniting The Fire Within a company of girls and boys, inspiring them to experience the freedom and liberation of expression through movement. Each WigLe session is filled with joy and friendship, directing Wigan's youth to live happy, healthy and socially engaged lives through dance.

Steam, Silks and Sewing

Wigan Borough's heritage is forever entangled in the history of the textile industry. The Spinning Jenny in Leigh ignited the industrial weaving process. Over 10,000 people created beautiful Victorian silk designs woven on domestic hand looms and in weaving sheds. The extraordinary steam engine at Trencherfield Mill was built to power a cotton mill. The canal was etched into the landscape to ship American cotton from Liverpool to Wigan Pier. This story of the textile industry transformed Wigan and Leigh and continues to inspire Mikael Nzembani-Biaka, pictured here in the fashion sewing rooms at Wigan & Leigh College, School for the Arts.

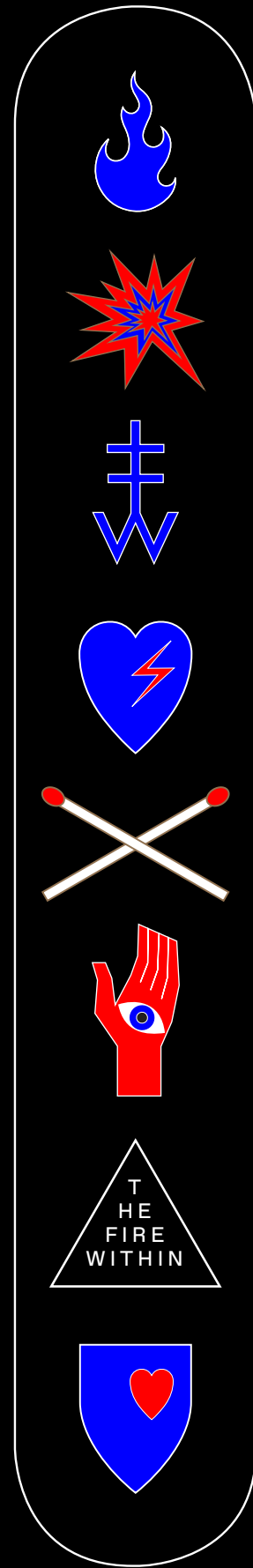




Shakespeare, Pride and Performance

In 2019 Sir Ian McKellen will celebrate his 80th Birthday by going back to where it all began, returning to Wigan Little Theatre where *The Fire Within* was lit when he saw his first Shakespeare production as a child. Sir Ian grew up in Wigan during World War Two and makes regular visits back to his home town, pictured here performing a sell-out solo appearance at the Old Courts during Wigan Pride. The Old Courts are currently renovating the extraordinary Royal Court Theatre, ushering an exciting new era of theatre and live performance into our borough.





THE FIRE WITHIN



A NEW CULTURAL MANIFESTO
FOR WIGAN BOROUGH

W

A New Cultural Manifesto For Wigan

This Manifesto emerged from a cultural strategy which was commissioned by Wigan Council, supported by Arts Council England, and researched by consultants Maria Brewster, Debbie Chan and Sue Potts. Their research brought together the findings of an in-depth, cross-sector consultation.

This Manifesto builds on the collective and collaborative groundwork the cultural strategy instigated, connecting and enabling the Borough in a joint effort.



G A

This Manifesto builds on The Deal 2030 and Wigan's vision to be a place where people want to work, live, visit and invest.

This Manifesto sets out a five year plan of five curatorial themes in which Cornerstone projects are embedded. Following rigorous research and a democratic consultation process across Wigan Borough, the five themes were formulated by artists, cultural organisations and community groups to focus and ignite their collective energy. The five themes are written by the People, for the People.



S

Wigan will celebrate our unique heritage and identity.

P

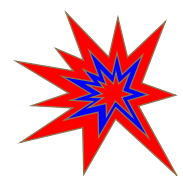
Wigan will spark and commission homegrown talent.

Wigan will invest in our cultural innovators and dynamic artistic community.

A

Wigan will activate artists to transform our Borough's cultural vitality.

Wigan will welcome new talent into our inspirational Borough.



Wigan will collaborate with artists to make great works and stage World Class events.

Wigan will provide exceptional creative education to stimulate a sustainable cultural economy.

R

Wigan will democratise the creative process and act to amplify unheard voices through culture.

Wigan will galvanise our new generation and kindle The Fire Within them.

Wigan will empower people to produce social justice through the culture it makes.

K

Wigan will inspire The Fire Within us all to burn brightly with pride and belief in our Borough.



Opposite: Florence Peake working with young artists in Leigh, 2018
Above: Leigh born Pete Shelley, Buzzcocks singer and songwriter, 1978



The Fire Within 5 year goals are to...

- Create cultural events in Wigan. Ambitious for Wigan.**
- Stage World Class cultural events and commissions in Wigan.**
- Nurture, raise Wigan's cultural achievement**

Create culture led transformation in Wigan. Seek and develop ambitious cultural opportunities for Wigan's creative talent.

Support artists in Wigan on their journey from the seedlings of early years practise.

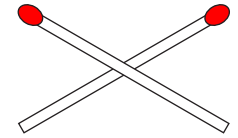
**Invest in professional artists
to make innovative, ground
breaking work in Wigan.**

Stage World Class cultural events and commissions in Wigan.

**Nurture, nourish and connect
Wigan's cultural talent to
achieve our aims together.**

Offer radical research archival access to stimulate and develop extraordinary Wigan stories.

Attract creative innovators to Wigan.



Produce dynamic local and international collaborations with Wigan's cultural organisations.

Empower a people-led cultural identity inspired by Wigan's magnificent social heritage.

Provide exceptional cultural education in Wigan for future creatives.

Find cultural methods to benefit everyone in Wigan, in solidarity with the entire community.

Amplify Wigan's flourishing and distinctive cultural scene.

Enable thriving creativity in Wigan through resourceful and stimulating cultural networks.

Enhance life experience in
Wigan, nourishing love and
progress with unity.

Stay loyal to Wigan's roots, expanding social cohesion and growth.

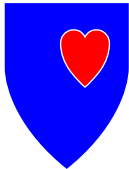


Above: Mary Gough and friends, Trencherfield Mill, 1957
 Opposite: Saffron taking part in the workshop as part of
 Lindsey Mendick's Turnpike Pottery, 2018



Securing investment to stimulate artistic talent, cultural entrepreneurship and people led cultural activity in unique local places.

The Fire Within will accomplish the goals of our 5 year plan by....



Commissioning hyperlocal exceptional culture which is inspired and driven to nourish our people's love of Wigan and their neighbourhoods, causing national interest and significance.

Activating dynamic creative hubs which empower our cultural community to innovate, collaborate, network, connect and mobilise.

Focusing on the local communities dreams and memories, creating an arts and cultural programme that responds to their hopes and wishes to improve our community life.

Engaging, challenging and galvanising our young people to take centre stage and show us new ways of seeing the world which create pivotal cultural innovations and experiences.



Opposite: Ryan Robinson, aged 17 from Wigan with Mark Titchner artwork, Ryan, 2017
Above: Al Taylor, St Wilfred's Church Choir, aged 7, Standish, 1977



F

The Fire Within 5 year plan will ensure....

The culture we create represents and involves artists, creative industries, cultural organisations, public sector and voluntary services in decision making.

The culture we create focuses on the people of Wigan, stimulating stories that have meaning and purpose, fuelling local mythologies which lead to social happiness and health.



The culture we create unifies everyone to work together and collectively take responsibility for delivering World Class events to the people of Wigan and beyond.

The culture we create stimulates national and international visitors, activating new partnerships which boost our economy, driving Wigan forwards in the Northern Powerhouse.

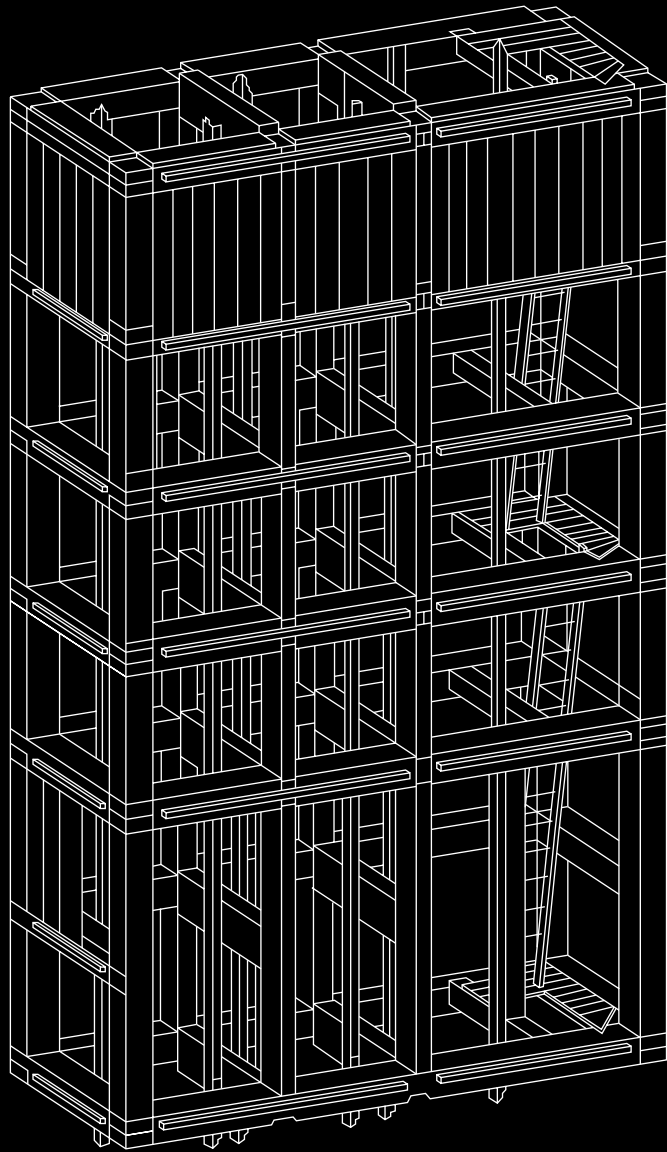
The culture we create enables everyone in Wigan the opportunity to be involved in celebrating our unique local traditions, social histories and magnificent heritage.

The culture we create will awaken untapped potential in Wigan's young people, encouraging the local community to embrace the transformative power of innovation through creativity.

R

E

5 YEARS × 5 THEMES



2019



2020



2021



2022



2023

Level 1	WIGAN’S FUTURE ARTISTS	2019
Level 2	DIGITAL WIGAN	2020
Level 3	HEALTH AND HAPPINESS	2021
Level 4	EVERY COMMUNITY NEEDS A STAGE	2022
Level 5	A NEW HERITAGE	2023

OBJECTIVES

Following the rigorous research and consultation in Wigan, 5 themes were formulated by artists, cultural organisations and community groups to focus and ignite their collective energy.		The 5 themes are written by the People, for the People.
The 5 themes will unite programming across Wigan’s diverse cultural organisations.	The 5 themes will engage new audiences and resources.	The 5 themes will orchestrate Wigan based community cultural activity.
	The 5 themes will inspire brave and ambitious new cultural commissions in Wigan.	
The 5 themes will connect Wigan to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.	The 5 themes will coordinate with national funding to empower Wigan’s cultural landscape.	The 5 themes will attract national and international expertise and partnerships to Wigan.
From 2019–2023 the 5 themes will provide a framework around which cultural organisations and communities will collectively curate and collaborate for the people of Wigan and beyond.		In each year, an innovative and ambitious new public work of national significance will be commissioned. These projects will take the form of a temporary or permanent public art work, exhibition or performance.
The Fire Within will ensure quality, inclusivity and delivery of World Class events for the People of Wigan and beyond for the next 5 years.		



W I G A N ' S	F U T U R E	A R T I S T S
W I G A N ' S	F U T U R E	A R T I S T S
W I G A N ' S	F U T U R E	A R T I S T S
W I G A N ' S	F U T U R E	A R T I S T S
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W I G A N ' S	F U T U R E	A R T I S T S

“Every human being is an artist, a freedom being, called to participate in transforming and reshaping the conditions, thinking and structures that shape and inform our lives.”

Joseph Beuys

While adolescence is a period of vulnerability, it is also a 🕒 of enormous creativity, one that should be acknowledged, nurtured and celebrated. In 2019 Wigan's future 🧑 will ✍ upon 🏆🏆 neuroscientist Sarah-Jayne Blakemore's ✂-edge and 🏆🏆 research about what happens inside the adolescent 🧠, what her team's experiments have revealed about our behaviour, and how we relate to each other and our environment as we go through this period of our lives. The 🧠 develops during adolescence, and previously unknown details of this process mean society's treatment of the often-maligned group should change. Self-absorption, hyper-sensitivity and risk-taking, she explains, are all reasonable responses when the biological purpose of adolescence is the creation of a sense of self. This vital process of the creation of oneself will be explored within the context of Wigan's own cultural transformation in collaboration with 🧑🧑. The 🧑🧑 of today are the imagineers of our future.

The legacy of Wigan's historical investment in cultural education and 🌐 for Wigan's youth continues to define the Borough's future. The Wigan 🌐 Jazz Festival was formed in 1986 in response to the region's 💖 audience for jazz and 🎵🎵 band 🎵🎵, created in part by the Wigan Youth Jazz Orchestra. Featuring many of the 🌐's finest jazz artists, the iconic event has acquired a reputation for being one of the finest jazz Festivals in 🌐.

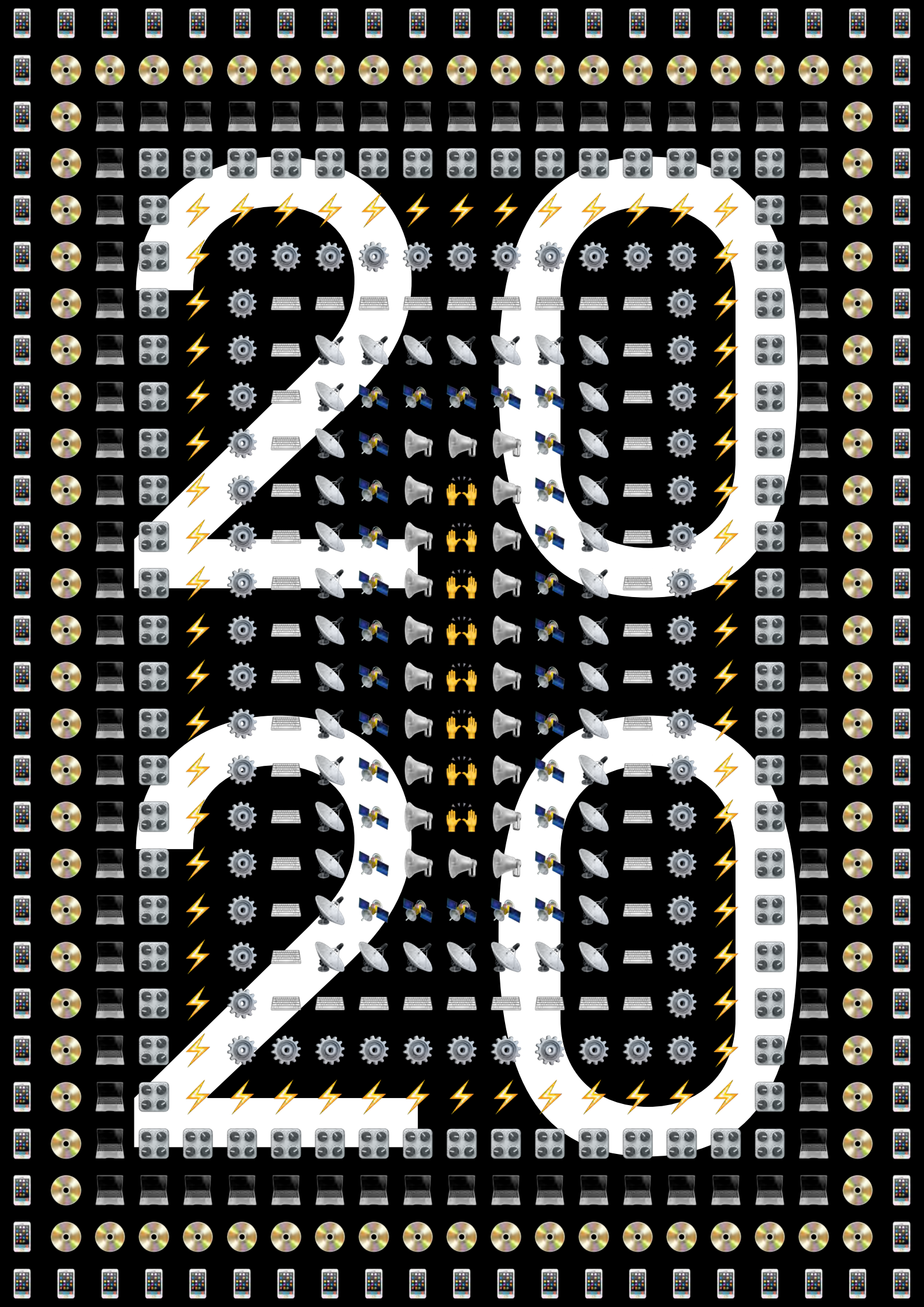
Wigan's leading cultural curators, producers and 🧑 all attribute a lifelong passion of the 🎨 from visits and encounters at Drumcroon, The Turnpike, tuition from the 🎵🎵 service, or playing in Pemberton Brass Band. The 5 year plan aspires to ignite The 🔥 Within a new generation of Wigan's future 🧑, creatives, producers and audiences. Wigan Youth Zone's 🎨 programme, Wigan College of the 🎨, and all the cultural organisation's programmes in our Borough keep this legacy 🔥.

In 2019 The Fire Within will... 🔥 Establish a Local Cultural Education Partnership, with support from Curious Minds, who are dedicated to improving the lives of children and young people through great art and culture. 🔥 Spark creative programmes and develop cultural education in schools, colleges, cultural organisations and support a new generation of Wigan artists utilising the Communities Investment Fund. 🔥 Expand on creative progression routes for our new generation with the inspired team at Wigan School of the Arts, The Academy of Live and Recorded Arts and other cultural organisations. 🔥 Listen to young people, providing a voice for the new generation within cultural programming, tailoring activity to their needs. 🔥 Ignite The Fire Within aspiring young artists by creating platforms to showcase new talent. 🔥 Develop cultural incubator work spaces to attract and retain creative talent in the borough.

🕒 time
🧑 artists
✍ draw
🏆 award
🏆 winning
✂ cutting

🧠 brain
🧑 young
🧑 artists
🌐 activity
🌐 international
💖 growing

🎵 big
🎵 music
🌐 world
🌐 europe
🎨 arts
🔥 fire / burning



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D I G I T A L

W























I










W I G A N





















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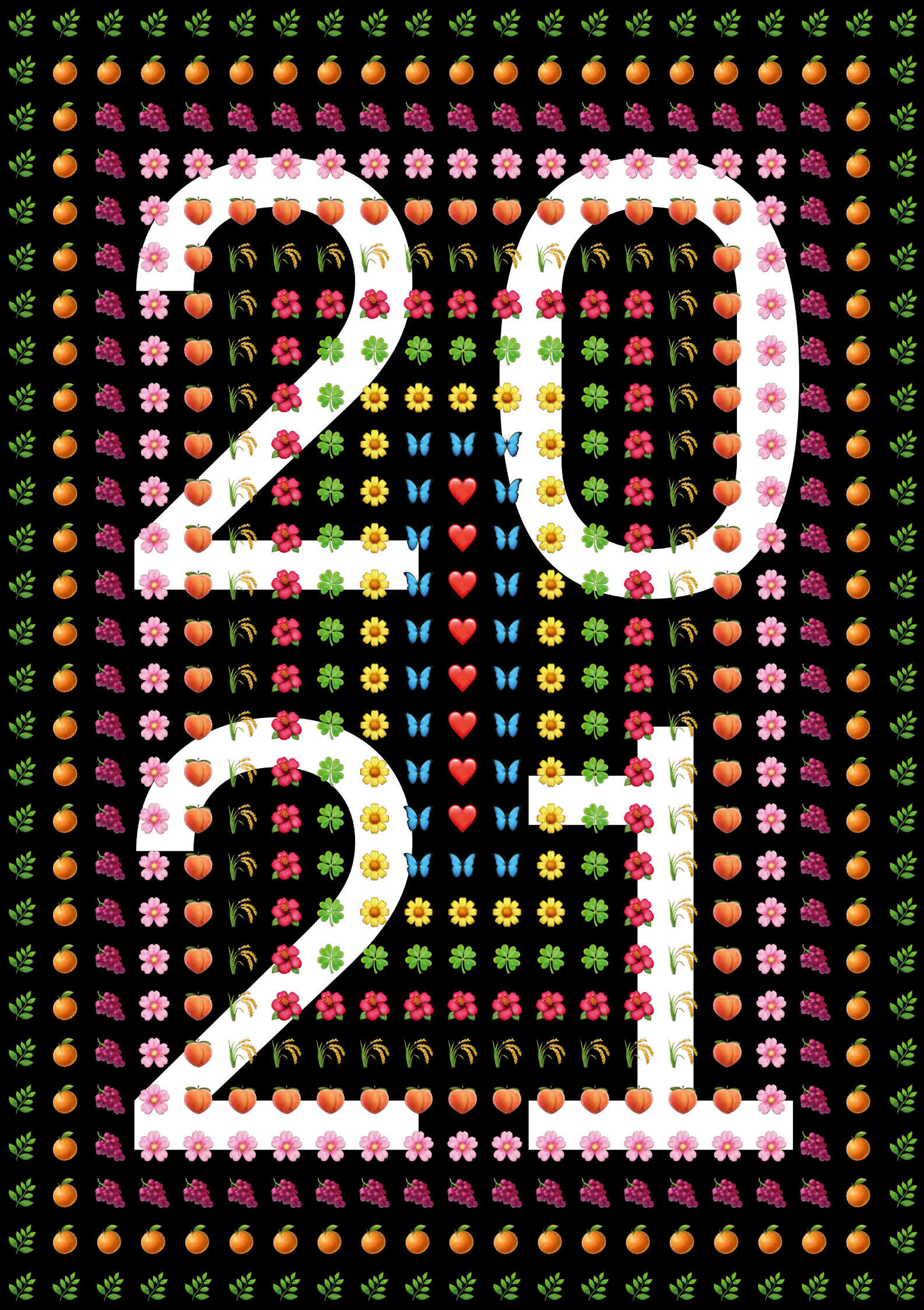
*“Sometimes it is the people no one can imagine
anything of who do the things no one can imagine.”*
Alan Turing

The  age has transformed everyone into an . Teenagers on average have created over 200,000  on their  by the  they  from college. This digital democratisation of   and the power to broadcast on social media, enabling us all to creatively publish our own life stories and incidents, is a revolution which is fuelling a radical metamorphosis of society. Furthermore, the far-reaching consequences of digital technology have extended out into the exponential  of online  and   services, causing a huge vacuum of  in our towns and high streets. The North West region's cultural heritage has played a fundamental role in the creation of this  age. Alan Turing created the 's  computer in Manchester and  the seeds for a   species of machines. Digital Wigan 2020 will explore how computers have transformed aesthetics and hierarchies, revealing how the Digital Age has reshaped  , research and knowledge,  life, social connections and the capacity to reconfigure human communities and the built environment.

Wigan has nurtured a groundswell of digital cultural events and . Wigan-STEAM provides learning opportunities, enriching social , and collaborative  environments to empower  and  with creative digital knowledge to navigate and innovate future . D:Circus stages ground  digital  and  in Wigan Libraries and in site specific locations around Wigan and Leigh.

 computer	 growth	 sowed	 adults
 artist	 shopping	 new	 worlds
 image(s)	 home	 intelligent	 breaking
 smartphone	 delivery	 art	 artistic
 time	 space	 making	 performances
 graduate	 world	 working	
 making	 first	 young people	

In 2020 Digital Wigan will explore, celebrate and amplify our technological heritage and future...  Developing strategic collaborations with regional New Media Arts organisations Abandon Normal Devices, FACT Liverpool and Future Everything to generate co-commissions, touring programmes and festival housing.  Commissioning multi-sited digital public art works by Internationally renowned Wigan based artists AL and AL, as a linchpin for a year of digital activity to coincide with their solo exhibition at The Turnpike in Leigh, which explores Machine Intelligence and the future of this new sentient species.  Launching the new Heritage Lottery Funded digital archive, with the creation of a public searchroom, heritage exhibition space and expanded specialist storage strongrooms for the archive collections at Leigh Town Hall, providing a network of digital resources for artists and public.  Curating digital programmes across the Borough's cultural organisations which celebrate and connect our unique technological heritage to our digital future in Libraries, from WiganSTEAM, Leigh Hackspace, Get It Loud, The Turnpike and The Old Courts.  Staging new artistic interventions and approaches for utilising and sharing public space in The Galleries Shopping Centre at the heart of Wigan town centre, now currently vacated as a consequence of the digital online shopping revolution.  Exploring the potential of a digital hub, network lounge, multi platform performance and exhibition space for WiganSTEAM.



H E A L T H
H E A L T H
H E A L T H

A N D

H A P P I N E S S
H A P P I N E S S
H A P P I N E S S

*“Happiness is not something ready-made.
It comes from your own actions.”*
Dalai Lama

Recent 🔍 in cognitive psychology have corroborated the same synapses of the 🧠🔥 whether you are remembering your own experiences, recalling a scene that you once read in a 📖 or 👁️ in a 🎬 , or dreaming of some future happiness. This research is especially significant in relation to 🎨 and Culture and the power it contains to transform our collective spirit and the quality of our lives. Everybody should be able to enjoy the pleasure, the opportunity for 💻💡 and the insightful, life-changing journey it can take us on. Through culture, the individual and communities are enriched with vitality to live healthy and 😊 lives.

In 2021 Wigan will begin a programme of cultural events, actions and happenings which will invite our citizens to imagine, visualise, build concepts and images which will begin a process of cultural transformation in our towns, 🏡, streets and 🏠. This stirring of the creative 🔥 Within is integral to 🏢 a vital path to health and happiness.

- | | | |
|------------|--------------|------------|
| 🔍 findings | 🎬 film | 🏡 parks |
| 🧠 brain | 🎨 art | 🏠 homes |
| 🔥 fire | 💻 personal | 🔥 fire |
| 📖 book | 💡 expression | 🏢 building |
| 👁️ saw | 😊 happy | |

In 2021 The Fire Within will... ⚡️ Evolve and expand Wellfest, Wigan’s health and wellbeing festival, as a showcase for rejuvenation and creativity in our Borough. ⚡️ Collaborate with Public Health and Clinical Commissioners Group activity to focus on cultural activity that explores mental health, encouraging open dialogue and expression, giving voice which creates more understanding and eradicates stigma. ⚡️ Galvanise the 15 Libraries in our towns across the borough, to work closely with our communities, and highlight exciting new scientific research, literature and publications focused on health and happiness. ⚡️ Mobilise and explore Wigan’s exceptional green spaces to stage cultural events and community activity. Haigh Hall has the largest area of ancient woodland in Greater Manchester. Wigan’s Central Park (now Mesnes Park) was once host to an annual Carnival with 1500 performers and attracted 40,000 visitors. ⚡️ Activate and promote Wigan’s exceptional green network of canals through the borough, in partnership with The Canal and River Trust, highlighting the 23 locks of the Wigan Flight Canal Route, which according to World Heritage Expert John Hinchcliffe is ‘one of the most impressive ensembles of canal infrastructure in the country’.



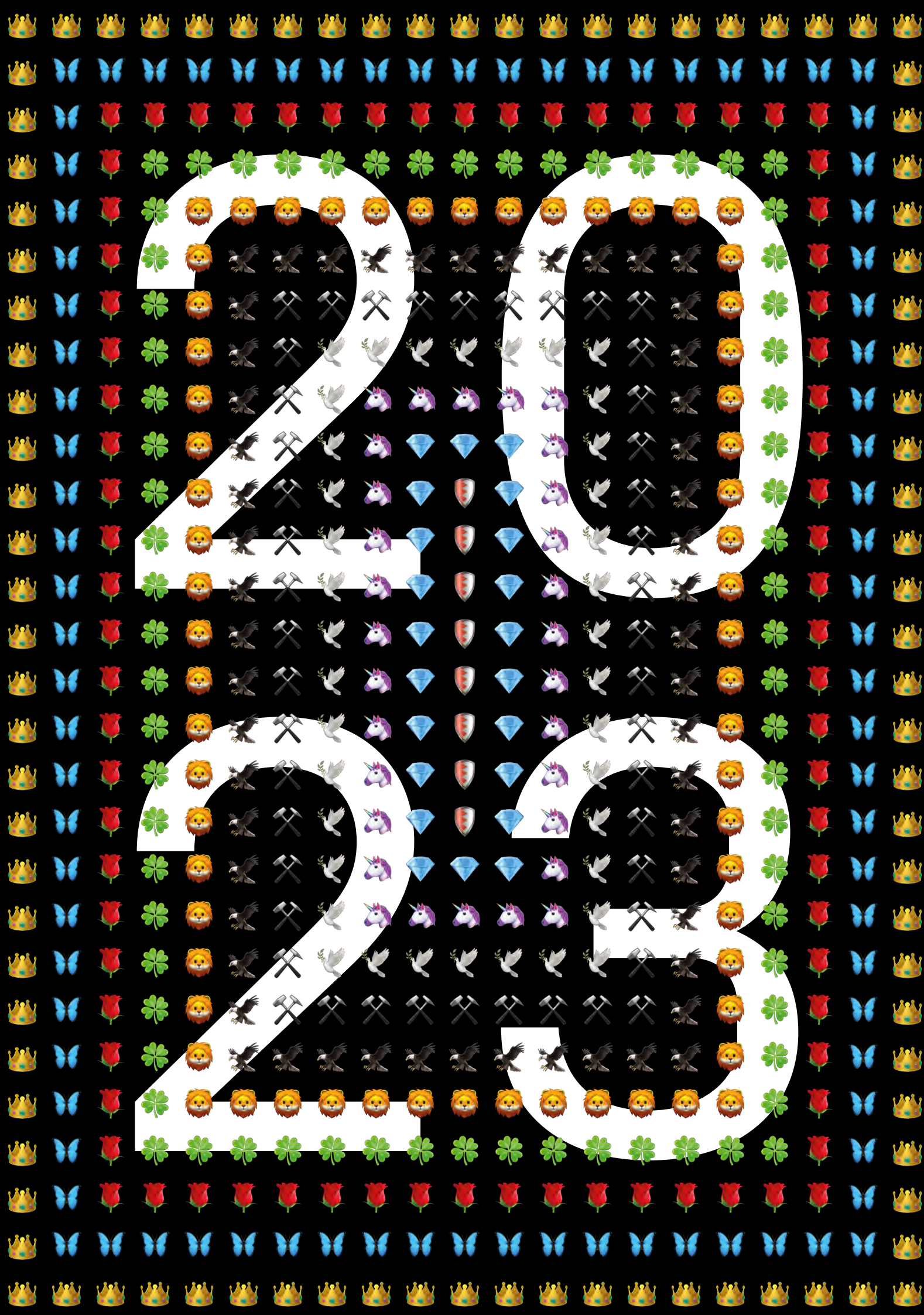
ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE,
AND ALL THE MEN AND WOMEN MERELY PLAYERS;
THEY HAVE THEIR EXITS AND THEIR ENTRANCES,
AND ONE MAN IN HIS TIME PLAYS MANY PARTS,
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

*"All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players;
They have their exits and their entrances,
And one man in his time plays many parts,"*
William Shakespeare

Every year on 🥊 Day the people of Wigan come together, transforming the streets into a stage with a festival of costume and fancy 👗. Through this extraordinary collective imagination, a festival of 🎭 and masquerade is already evolving and demonstrating the will and desire of local people to create a stage of 🎉. 🎭 are inherently social 🗣️ and provide a necessary opportunity to develop social and communication ⚡ required by a healthy democracy. Cultural activities and the 🎭 specifically, can uniquely serve as a 🗨️ place and site for the formation of a shared communal ID. To ignite The 🔥 Within, it is ❌ enough to 🎁, it is necessary to cultivate lively, candid and meaningful participation. Every community needs a 📺 to show their creative 🌟 and to share its diverse stories. Stages, both permanent and temporary, festivals and moments of collective participation bring people together and ⚓ our community and cultural ID.

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| 🥊 boxing | 🎨 arts | ❌ not |
| 👗 dress | ⚡ skills | 🎁 present |
| 🎭 theatre / performing | 🗨️ meeting | 📺 space |
| arts / performances | ID identity | 🌟 expression |
| 🎉 celebration | 🔥 fire | ⚓ anchor |

In 2022 Wigan will cultivate stages, as well as develop theatre as an artform in our Borough... ⚡ Supporting the Royal Court Theatre development plan, which will provide a stage for a wide range of cultural events and performances. ⚡ Developing a first floor project space at The Turnpike as part of the Leigh Cultural Quarter. ⚡ Collaborating with the Academy of Live and Recorded Arts at Trencherfield Mill to fulfill their potential in our Borough. ⚡ Partnering with the Royal Exchange Theatre Development programme to enable the creation of new works made collaboratively in community spaces. ⚡ Commissioning a socially engaged performance piece that embeds the collective making and sharing of new work in our Borough’s communities. ⚡ Financially and practically supporting hyperlocal festivals, happenings and performances, opening resources and event spaces to collaborate, share and redefine social space. ⚡ Encouraging everyone to get involved in their communities, social groups and local projects as part of the incredible Wigan LGBTQ+ Pride Festival of equality and diversity.



A N E W

H E R I T A G E

H E R I T A G

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H

*“He who controls the past controls the future.
He who controls the present controls the past.”*
George Orwell

During the democratic consultation process which instigated this manifesto, the significance and importance of heritage was universally identified and accepted as a fundamental 📍 of focus to be explored. George Orwell, who is forever entangled in the history of our town after his visit, understood and reported in an 💣 way the struggle towards liberation for ⚙️ class Wiganers. 🎨 and culture 📺 a central role in the way our heritage and history is 🗣️ and understood by each generation, liberation from the constrictions of class lies at the ❤️ of our struggle. This manifesto has suggested some icons from the town for future research and representation. Sir John Scott, Wigan's own Moses, a rebel leader 🧑 who ⏪ Pharaonic slavery in 🇪🇬. The 🔥 Within Sir John Scott's story can shed 🆕💡 on Wigan's own quest for worker's rights and the socialist dream of equality. Dr Kathleen Mary Drew-Baker was a botanist born in Leigh, 🏠 as a Goddess of the 🌊 in 🇯🇵, her ground-💔 research is an amazing story about the quest for scientific truth and it's far reaching consequences. Her story also reminds us of the importance of women's fight for equality and liberation. If we tell stories from our past with a 🆕🏠 and insightfulness, the future is certain, and the past will become unpredictable and the source of inspiration. This manifesto has begun this process of 🛠️ for 🆕 meanings, 🆕 mythologies, it is a ⚙️ that is never ⌚.

Wigan's heritage should be protected for the future and everyone should have the chance to explore and define it. Every historical site in our Borough has an important story to 🗣️ and these stories have inspired many 👥 to strengthen their convictions and commitment to fight injustice and oppression. Our Heritage sites are living monuments, a record of happenings that embody a real connection to our past. Wigan's history matters because it reminds us of who we are, what we've ⌚ and what we might become. It's central to our sense of place and 🆔, and how we learn from the past as we go forward into the future. Heritage shapes how people identify with the places they live, ⚙️ and play. Historic buildings and the historic 🌐 of our major towns and cities are the very places where 🆕💡 and 🆕📈 are most likely to happen. This is true of The 🏠🏛️, Wigan Pier and The Royal 🏛️🎭.

In 2023 The Fire Within will commence...💣 Systematic and inspired cataloguing of Wigan and Leigh's Heritage, from personal stories to Museum archives, engaging volunteers with organisational support. 💣 Continued support for Wigan's local heritage groups and projects. 💣 Coordinating and promoting the visibility for the Heritage Open Days in our Borough. 💣 Collaborating and commissioning creative residencies which explore heritage sites. 💣 Continuing the development, which will begin in 2019, of Wigan Pier as a cultural and entertainment centre. 💣 Curating exhibitions of local icons and stories at the Heritage Lottery Funded Digital Archives in Leigh Town hall. 💣 Exploring Wigan's historical role in socialism, supporting the annual Diggers festival 💣 Repurpose significant Industrial heritage sites Trencherfield Mill and Spinners Mill for cultural use and locations for artistic production 💣 Exploring the culture of food in Wigan. Heinz in Kitt Green is Europe's largest food factory. Uncle Joe's Mint balls and Edward's Bakery have extraordinary local heritage and culinary success stories. 💣 Collaborate with The Canal and River Trust as a co-commissioning partner across the Canal network in Wigan, exploring the industrial transformation of the landscape and the technological creation of space and culture.

📍 point	❤️ breaking	🏠 worshipped	🆔 identity
💣 explosive	🧑 judge	🌊 sea	🌐 quarter
⚙️ working / work	⏪ ended	🇯🇵 japan	📈 growth
🎨 art	🇪🇬 Egypt	🏠 hope	👴 old
📺 play	🔥 Fire	🛠️ mining	🏛️ court(s)
🗣️ told / tell	🆕 new	👥 people	🎭 Theatre
❤️ heart	💡 light	⌚ done	



🔥, 🔥!
She's 🔥, She's 🔥
Too much for me
She's 🔥, She's 🔥
Too much for me
When your lips meet mine
Sets my heart ablaze
Sets my soul on 🔥
🔥, 🔥!
She's 🔥, She's 🔥
Too much for me
She's 🔥, She's 🔥
Too much for me
When your lips meet mine
Sets my heart ablaze
Sets my soul on 🔥

Opposite:
Levitating dancer at Wigan Casino
Northern Soul All Nighter

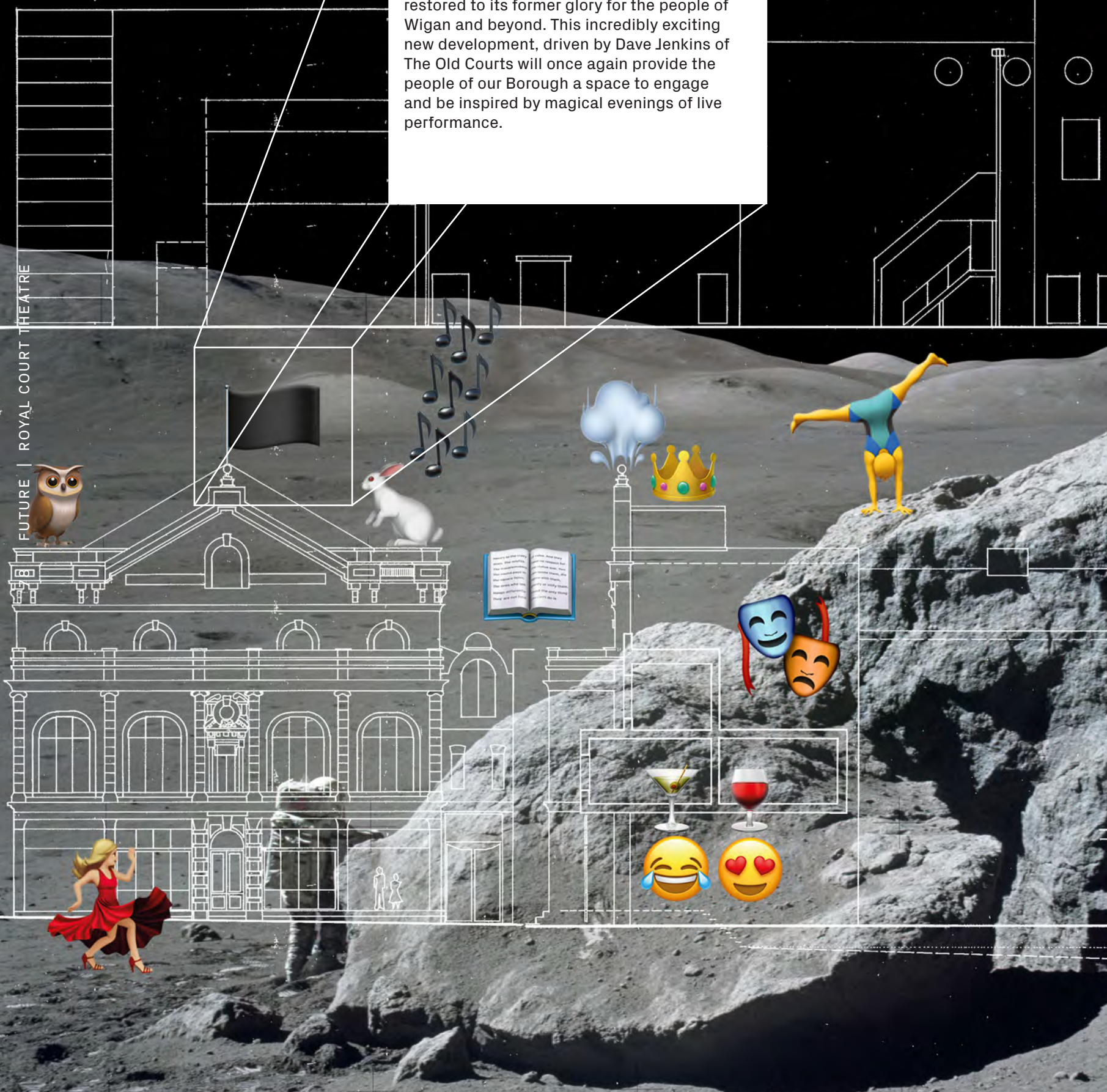


I WANT FUTURE
WANT TO BE A
SINGER WHEN I AM
OLDER BECAUSE I
LIKE SINGING
I WANT
WORLD
PEACE
UNIVERSAL
HEALTHCARE
NO
OPPRESSION
NO
PREJUDICE
NO
POVERTY



The Royal Court Theatre opened its doors in 1886 to a performance of the comical Opera, The Beggar Student. Originally seating an audience of 3000 people, the Royal Court showcased Opera, Music and Theatre until 1930 when it was redesigned into a home for the silver screen. In 2019 The Royal Court Theatre will undergo a transformation, and be restored to its former glory for the people of Wigan and beyond. This incredibly exciting new development, driven by Dave Jenkins of The Old Courts will once again provide the people of our Borough a space to engage and be inspired by magical evenings of live performance.

FUTURE | ROYAL COURT THEATRE



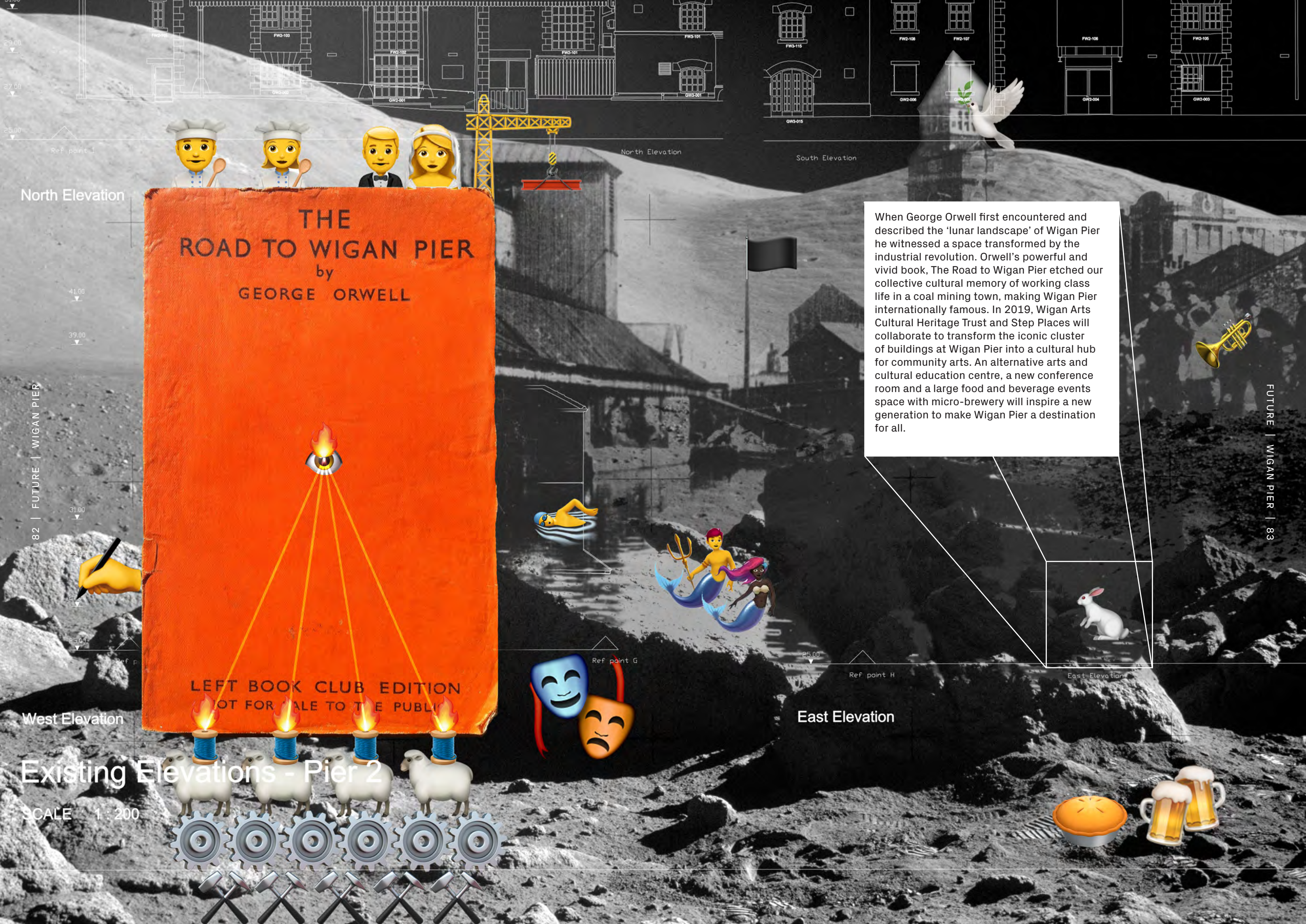
FUTURE | ROYAL COURT THEATRE | 79





I remember a winter afternoon in the dreadful environs of Wigan. All round was the lunar landscape of slag-heaps, and to the north, through the passes, as it were, between the mountains of slag, you could see the factory chimneys sending out their plumes of smoke. The canal path was a mixture of cinders and frozen mud, criss-crossed by the imprints of innumerable clogs, and all round, as far as the slag-heaps in the distance, stretched the 'flashes' – pools of stagnant water that had seeped into the hollows caused by the subsidence of ancient pits. It was horribly cold...

George Orwell
The Road to Wigan Pier
1937



North Elevation

North Elevation

South Elevation

West Elevation

East Elevation

Existing Elevations - Pier 2

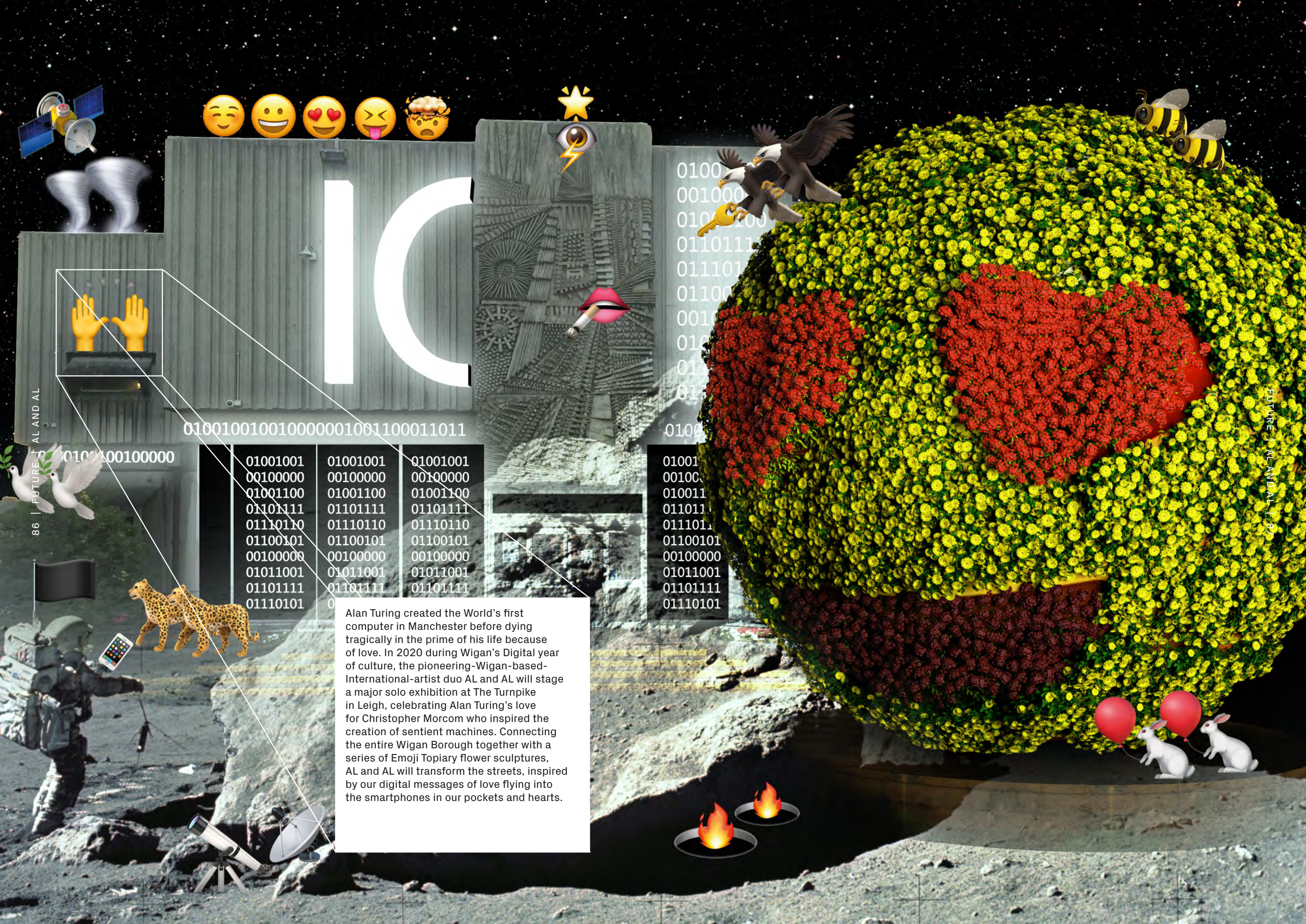
SCALE 1 : 200

When George Orwell first encountered and described the 'lunar landscape' of Wigan Pier he witnessed a space transformed by the industrial revolution. Orwell's powerful and vivid book, *The Road to Wigan Pier* etched our collective cultural memory of working class life in a coal mining town, making Wigan Pier internationally famous. In 2019, Wigan Arts Cultural Heritage Trust and Step Places will collaborate to transform the iconic cluster of buildings at Wigan Pier into a cultural hub for community arts. An alternative arts and cultural education centre, a new conference room and a large food and beverage events space with micro-brewery will inspire a new generation to make Wigan Pier a destination for all.



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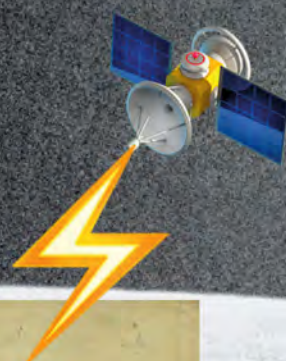
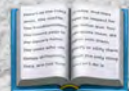
Alan Turing created the World's first computer in Manchester before dying tragically in the prime of his life because of love. In 2020 during Wigan's Digital year of culture, the pioneering-Wigan-based-International-artist duo AL and AL will stage a major solo exhibition at The Turnpike in Leigh, celebrating Alan Turing's love for Christopher Morcom who inspired the creation of sentient machines. Connecting the entire Wigan Borough together with a series of Emoji Topiary flower sculptures, AL and AL will transform the streets, inspired by our digital messages of love flying into the smartphones in our pockets and hearts.

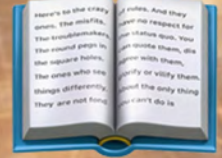
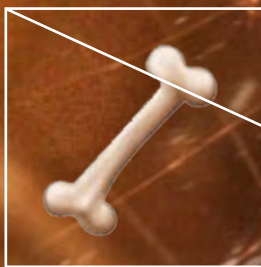
In 2019, building work will begin on the new Heritage Lottery Funded regeneration of Wigan Archives and Local Studies space in Leigh Town Hall. The project aims to redevelop Wigan Borough's Archives with the creation of a new public search room, heritage exhibition space and expanded specialist storage strong rooms for the archive collections. A programme of cultural engagement activities, will investigate The Fire Within our Borough's history and encourage people to donate records to the Archives for preservation.

Town Hall, Leigh.
ON TUESDAY EVENING NEXT,
NOVEMBER 18th, 1856,
WILL BE GIVEN

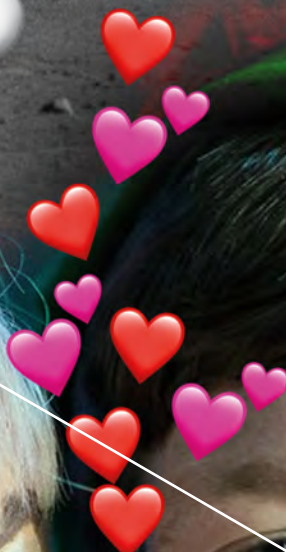


HOFFMAN'S
ORGANOPIANIC
ENTERTAINMENT
OR
HUMAN VOICE
ORCHESTRA.



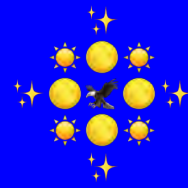
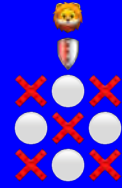
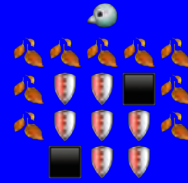
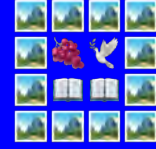
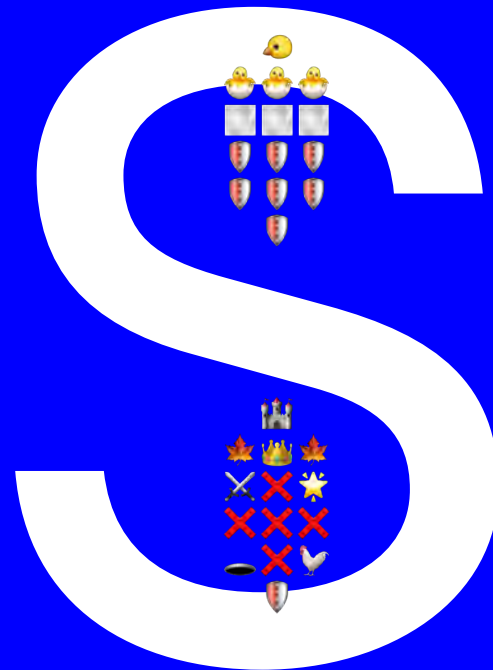
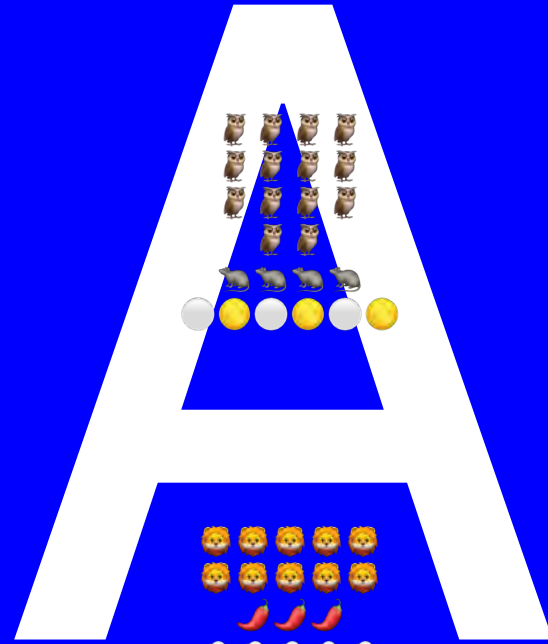
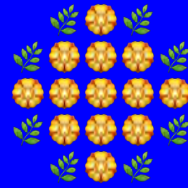
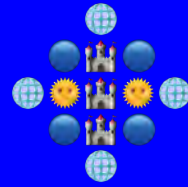
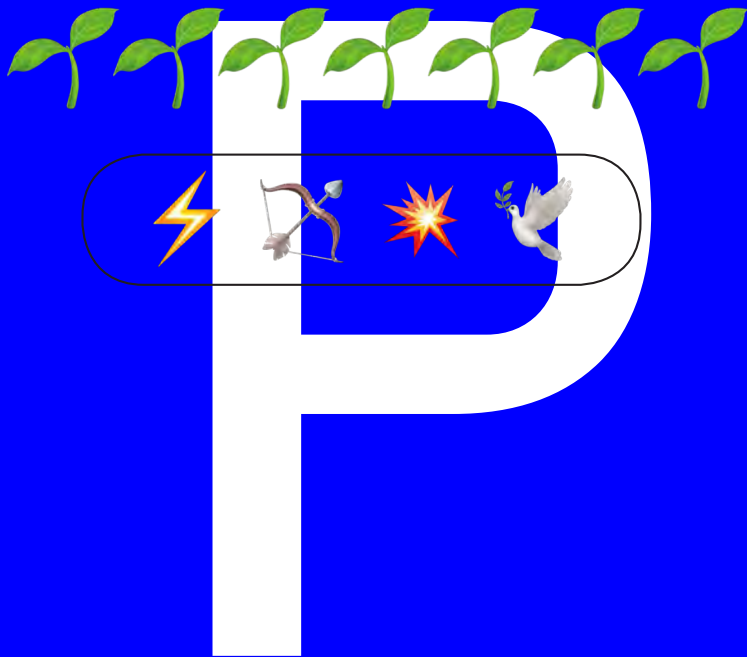
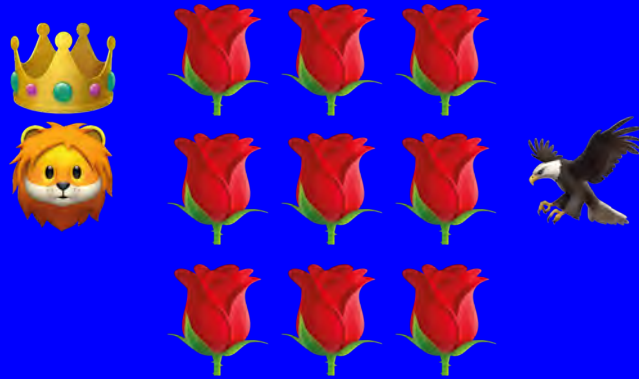


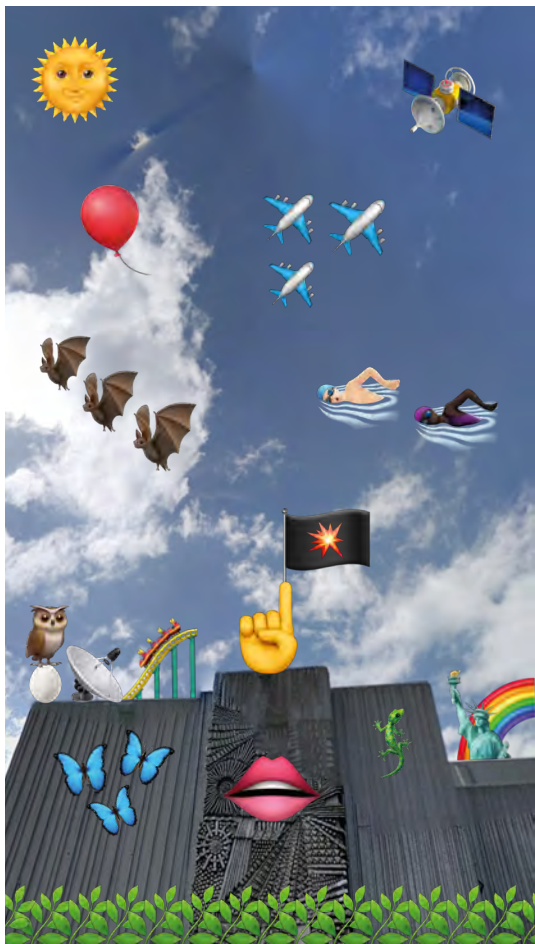
ALRA North is an established and important centre of learning in the Greater Manchester film and theatre community. Based in Wigan's historic Trencherfield Mill the innovative ALRA MA Directing course integrates the performance environment with audio and film directing. In collaboration with Wigan libraries, ALRA North is planning to house historic screenplay archives as a national resource to light The Fire Within future film makers. Wigan borough hosts the annual Leigh Short Film Festival, an international event staged by the Leigh Film Society, who in 2018 were awarded The Queens Award for Voluntary Service for providing socially-inclusive cinema screenings for everyone in the community and broadening access to culture.



Every year on Boxing Day the people of Wigan come together, celebrating on the streets in magnificent costumes and fancy dress attracting international news coverage. Through this extraordinary collective imagination, a festival of performance and masquerade has evolved over 40 years of celebrations demonstrating the will and desire of local people to create culture together.







The Turnpike

Latitude: 53.497734
Longitude: -2.519849

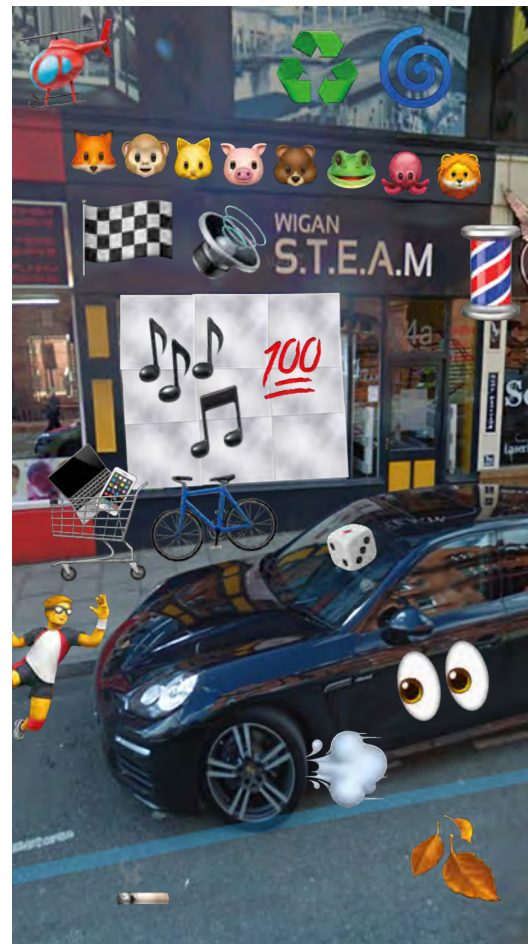
The Turnpike is an independent arts organisation situated in the iconic 1970's brutalist building in the centre of Leigh. Their purpose is to bring the very best art to our Borough, creating high quality new cultural opportunities for all and raising aspiration across the community. Helen Stalker leads an inspirational curatorial programme, following on from her work at Tate Liverpool and curator of Fine Art at the Whitworth art gallery.



The Old Courts

Latitude: 53.545736
Longitude: -2.634163

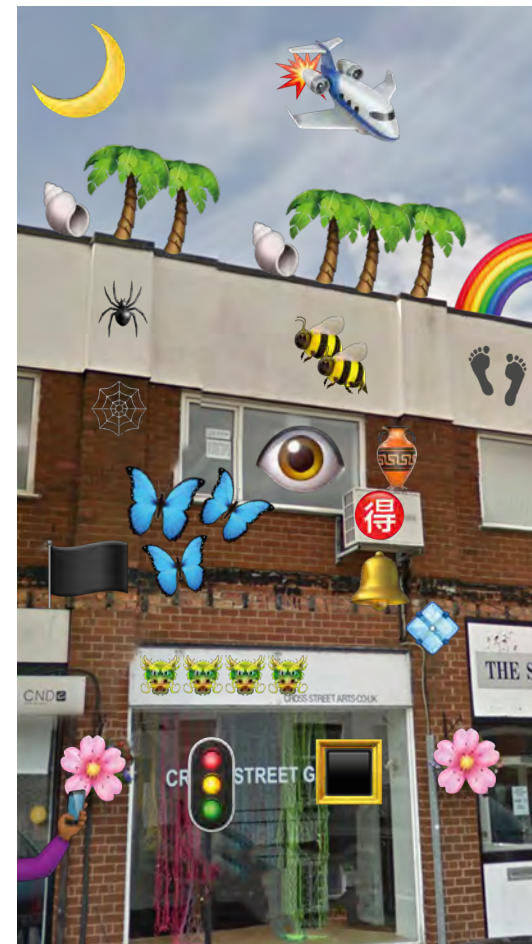
The Old Courts is a not for profit centre promoting the best in arts and culture in the Wigan Borough. With two music venues, a theatre, an art gallery, Victorian Court Room, rehearsal rooms and performance space. The Old Courts attracts worldwide performers and artists, as well as collaborating with renowned institutions such as Battersea Arts Centre and Central St Martins.



Wigan STEAM

Latitude: 53.544801
Longitude: -2.630382

WiganSTEAM provides learning opportunities, enriching social spaces, and collaborative working environments to empower young people and adults with creative digital knowledge to navigate and innovate future worlds. They support STEM learning, working to achieve a world-leading education for all young people in science, technology, engineering and mathematics through art and culture.



Cross Street Arts

Latitude: 53.586044
Longitude: -2.662533

Cross Street Arts is a group of professional artists based in Standish who aim to provide access to studio spaces and exhibition opportunities for artists. They run a curatorial programme of group exhibitions, open studio events, artists talks and workshops. Resident artist Anna FC Smith, recently showcased her Suffragettes inspired work in New York.



Lancashire Mining Museum

Latitude: 53.495406
Longitude: -2.447854

Lancashire Mining Museum at Astley Green Colliery hosts artists residencies exploring the unique site which houses Lancashire's only surviving headgear and engine house, both of which now have scheduled monument and listed building status. Mary Griffiths' year-long residency culminated in a critically acclaimed body of work which featured in her solo exhibition Wild Honey.



WigLe Dance

Latitude: 53.499893
Longitude: -2.518834

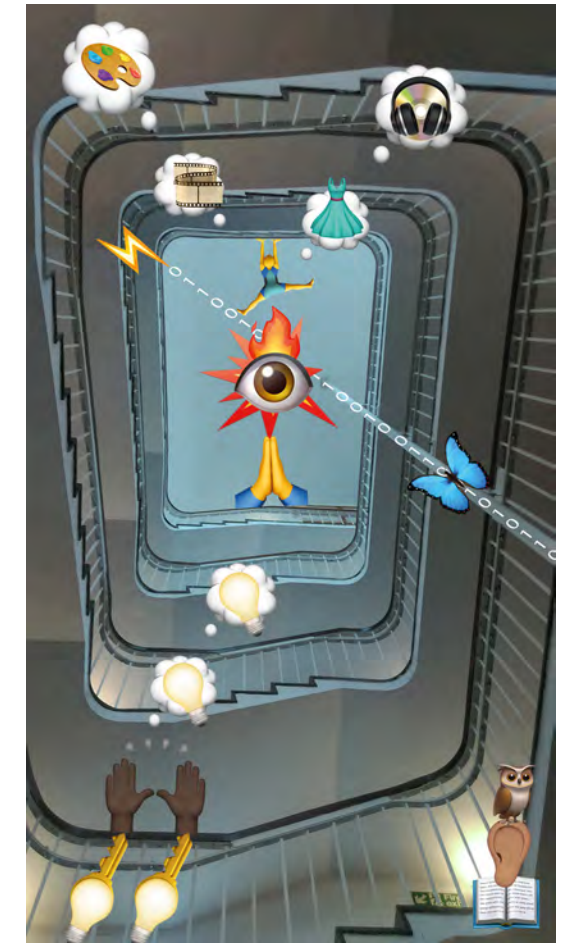
WigLe is a dance development organisation that aims to inspire children and young people to be happy, healthy and socially engaged through dance. Their purpose is to ensure the residents of Wigan and Leigh have the opportunity to experience dance at its best, through participation and performance.



Pemberton Brass Band

Latitude: 53.534554
Longitude: -2.675085

Pemberton Brass Band has a long and outstanding history that dates back to the late 19th century. In recent years their organisation has gone from strength to strength. As well as having a First Section band conducted by Ben Dixon, they have a thriving, diverse B Band of all ages currently well placed in the 2nd section. They also have a Junior Band where 30 youngsters are trained by John Don-Duncan. An extensive, historic library of Brass Band music is housed at their rehearsal studios in Mount Zion Hall.



Wigan & Leigh College, School for the Arts

Latitude: 53.549534
Longitude: -2.634991

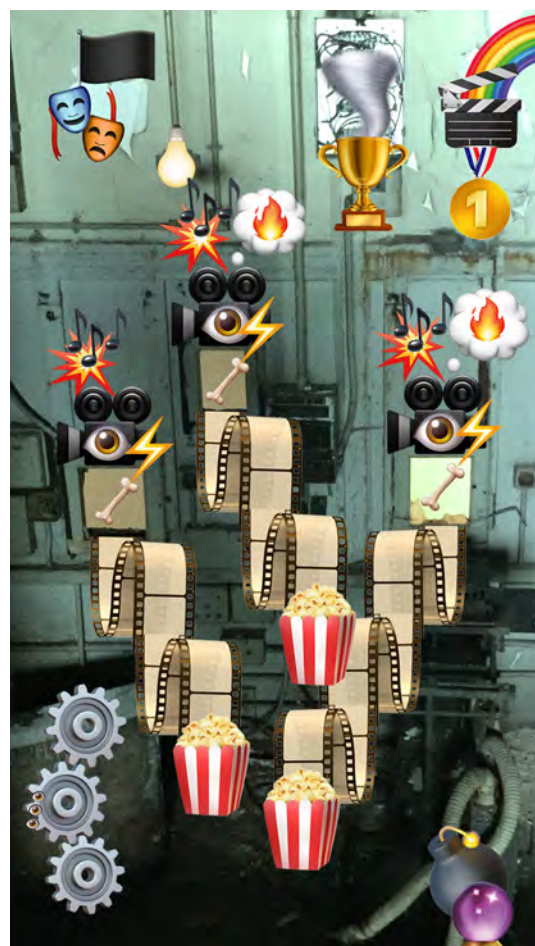
Wigan School of the Arts is a centre of education excellence focused on raising aspirations in Creative Arts through innovative and outstanding teaching and delivers a wide range of courses up to degree level for careers in Creative Direction & Design, Fine Art, Fashion, Music, TV & Radio, Photography, Broadcasting, Arts Education, Illustration, Journalism and PR.



Museum of Wigan Life

Latitude: 53.544077
Longitude: -2.629624

The Museum of Wigan Life holds over 30,000 treasures relating to life in Wigan Borough, past and present. Their collections include fine art, Roman archaeology, social history, natural history, coins, decorative art and industrial history. The Museum houses Sir John Scott's Egyptian collection, including the priceless Royal gold death mask. The nineteenth-century listed building is by architect Alfred Waterhouse. It originally housed Wigan Library, where George Orwell researched his book *The Road to Wigan Pier* in 1936.



Leigh Film Society

Latitude: 53.497734
Longitude: -2.519849

Leigh Film Society is a cultural organisation which in 2018 won the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. They provide professionally delivered, quality film screenings in venues around Wigan and Leigh including dementia-friendly classic cinema clubs, autism friendly screenings and staging one-off events to support a wide variety of good causes and local campaigns. At the prestigious Film Society of the Year 2017 they collected the Film Discovery Award for the 2nd year running and also won Best Film Programme. They also received Commendations in the Best Marketing & Publicity, Best Single Event and the Community Award categories.



Wigan International Jazz Festival

Latitude: 53.547463
Longitude: -2.653755

Wigan International Jazz Festival was formed in 1986 in response to the region's growing audience for jazz and big band music created in part by the Wigan Youth Jazz Orchestra. Featuring many of the world's iconic jazz artists, the event quickly gained a reputation for being one of the finest Jazz Festivals in Europe. Artists such as Freddie Hubbard, Horace Silver, Red Rodney Art Blakey, Diana Krall, Michael Brecker, Paquito D'Rivera, Maynard Ferguson, Phil Woods, Ray Brown, Bobby Shew and many more attract capacity audiences to make it a 'must-attend' event on the European Jazz Festival circuit.



Leigh Hackspace

Latitude: 53.493034
Longitude: -2.510153

Leigh Hackspace is a membership-funded creative workspace where people with common interests can meet, socialize and collaborate. Currently occupying a 4,500 sq ft converted cotton mill, they have a fully-fitted darkroom, a woodworking area, a textiles area, a well-equipped electronics bench, 3D printers, Raspberry Pis and laptops for members use.



Wigan Music Service

Latitude: 53.530585
Longitude: -2.57482

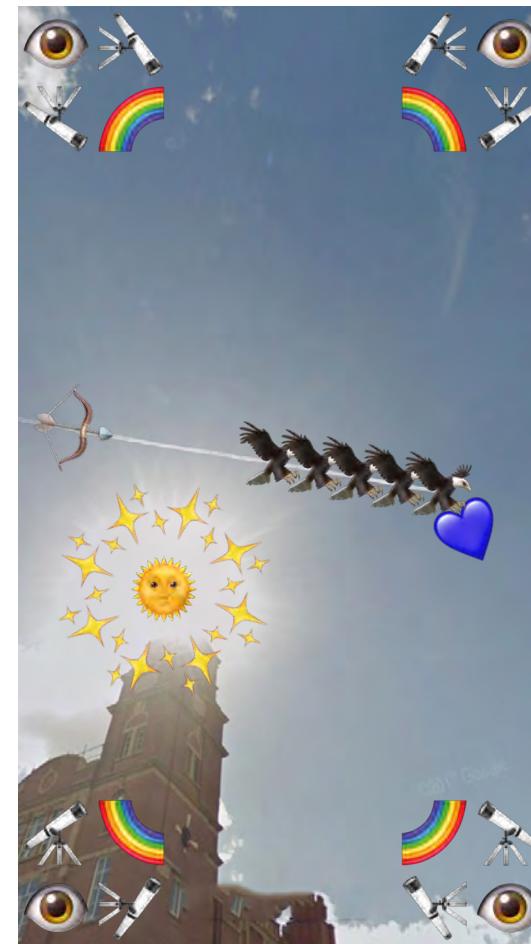
Wigan Music Service is an award-winning Music Service that supports children and young people to access a wide range of music making opportunities both in and outside of the classroom through instrumental music tuition, curriculum Support for Schools, Bands, Choirs, Orchestras and Ensembles. A teaching team of over 80 music specialists deliver music in schools and colleges throughout the borough.



Get It Loud In Libraries

Latitude: 53.545529
Longitude: -2.6303

Get It Loud in Libraries is a unique award-winning project designed to give people who love music, the chance to see top-notch artists in their local library. Since 2005, it has delivered high quality gigs in libraries in towns and cities all over the UK, featuring breakthrough and established music acts such as Adele, Jessie J, Plan B, Cate Le Bon, Clean Bandit, Juliette Lewis, Meilyr Jones and many more.



ALRA

Latitude: 53.541215
Longitude: -2.6379

Academy of Live and Recorded Arts equips actors and theatre professionals with skills fundamental to a productive and creative life in the performance industries. It is dedicated to helping students of all backgrounds and ages to enter the world of live and recorded arts. It has a distinguished record of training professionals prepared and ready to work in collaboration with the industry.



Trencherfield Mill

Latitude: 53.541215
Longitude: -2.6379

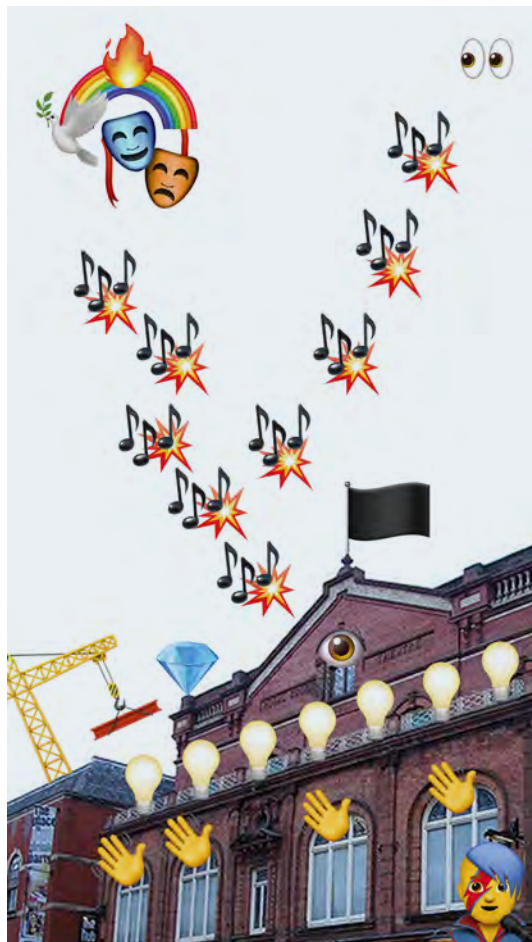
Trencherfield Mill engine room is a cathedral of the industrial revolution, home to one of the largest and finest fully operational steam engines. Built over 100 years ago, this mammoth metal powerhouse is highly regarded as a feat of industrial engineering. Churning out a massive 2,500 horse power to drive the cotton making machinery of Trencherfield Mill, it plays an instrumental role in Wigan's industrial heritage.



Wigan Pier

Latitude: 53.542452
Longitude: -2.638629

Wigan Arts Cultural Heritage Trust and Step Places will collaborate to transform the iconic cluster of buildings at Wigan Pier into a cultural hub for community arts. An alternative arts and cultural education centre, a new conference room and a large food and beverage events space with micro-brewery will inspire a new generation to make Wigan Pier a destination for all.



Royal Court Theatre

Latitude: 53.544214
Longitude: -2.630430

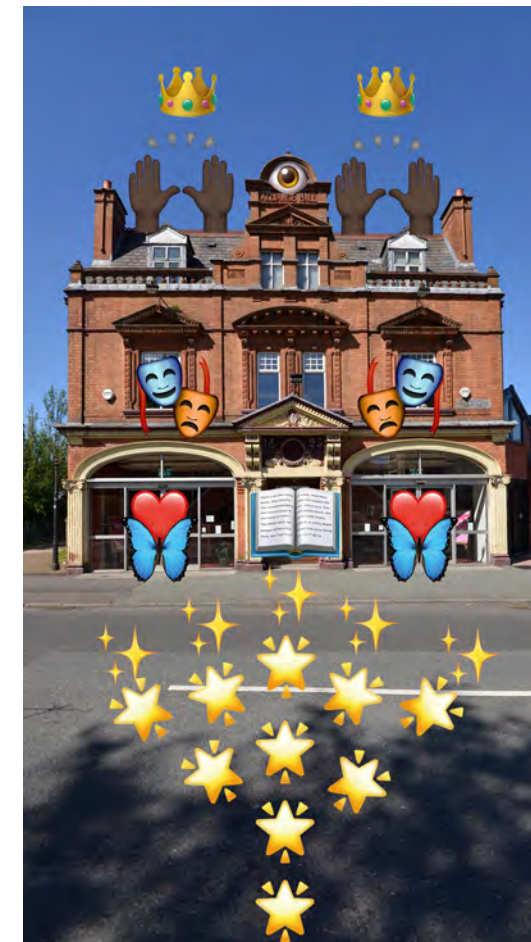
Wigan's Royal Court grade II-listed theatre was built in 1886 and is currently undergoing renovation as a destination for touring theatre. Preserving the heritage of the building, The Old Courts arts centre team plan to restore the Royal Court to its former glory, transforming the space into a 1,500 capacity venue, making it fit-for-purpose for contemporary audiences.



Wigan Youth Zone

Latitude: 53.549399
Longitude: -2.634251

Wigan Youth Zone is a state-of-the-art youth facility in Wigan town centre. Inside the art room, painting, drawing, model making, animation, printmaking, sewing and clay are open to all young people across Wigan aged 8 to 21. With 15 dedicated areas to choose from including a music room and recording studio Wigan Youth Zone lights the fire within to develop skills in music production, video editing, radio broadcasting and playing and performing in bands.



Wigan Little Theatre

Latitude: 53.547179
Longitude: -2.627228

Since its opening in 1948, Wigan Little Theatre has been at the forefront of Wigan's entertainment scene. The amateur dramatic company stages shows each year including drama, comedy and musical theatre. Sir Ian McKellen witnessed his first Shakespeare performance in the 230 seater theatre as a child and was inspired to become an actor. In 2019 he returns to the stage where it all began for a solo performance.

The Fire Within Cultural Manifesto
was made possible with the help of...



Gemma Atkinson
(Wigan Borough Community Partnership)



Kate Ardern
(Wigan Council)



Emma Barton
(Wigan Council)



AL and AL
(Artists)



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(Jigsaw Homes Group)



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(Consultant)



Ian Brownbill
(Artist / Producer)



Victoria Broxton
(True Colours)



Samantha Broxton
(CRISP / SKILS)



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Paula Lucas
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(The Brick / Brickworks)



Stewart Parsons
(Get it Loud in Libraries)



Laurie Peake
(Super Slow Way)



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Jonathan Davenport
(The Old Courts)



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