

## sanctuary street

In September 2020, Regenda Housing replaced the front doors of up to 50 houses on their Fleetwood estates. The old doors lie in storage. But they are by no means, a waste. Although temporarily dormant, they can tell their own tales of Covid and lockdown in the houses they once fronted.

The Doors project is about new light in a post Covid society. It is about using the tools of the arts to hear those stories, to make door designs of hope for the future, and regenerate those doors as pieces of art, both individually and collectively.

The doors will be upcycled and as the old cliché suggests, 'as one door closes another one opens.'

The Covid 19 pandemic has had an extraordinary impact on us all. We have had to adapt our lives in an unprecedented way. Often encouraged to be anti-social and anti-septic. Households have spent more times in doors and behind doors. Shops and other public buildings are places to wear masks and keep at least 6 feet away from each other. Pubs have yo-yoed between restrictive opening and closure.

Education was stalled, yet home taught and then schools opened and pupils thrust together again in class bubbles, but were then not allowed to meet outside beyond the rule of six.

We've clapped the NHS, and a new glossary has been established where new words have become part of our everyday language.

the realisation of the 'doors project'

We have all thought differently, and some have been mentally anguished by such significant changes. Home life, furlough, redundancy, business loss and a limit on our freedom, and tragically the death of loved ones, colleagues, neighbours and friends.

It happened and we could not prepare for it, but we have adapted remarkably.

Doors is an opportunity to express our most recent history, and to accentuate our powers of coping and survival and the forward thinking that helps us carry on.

Sanctuary Street, the exhibition, is the final stage of the Doors Project, a coming together of all the doors, created in Fleetwood and Blackpool communities, under the artistic direction and curation of Wyre Council's arts and events development officer and lead artist Tina Warren. And with great assistance from Sandra Warren and Barry Warren.

The exhibition is reflective, sometimes solemn and calls on all the senses, as visitors to Sanctuary Street, walk slowly and in awe past each beautifully created door, and commissioned tableaux.

Many thanks to all contributors, your art speaks volumes, your inspiration is hope, and your hope brings new light.

Take care,

**Chris Wyatt**

Project and Event Manager



# sanctuary street

the exhibition

## exhibition dates

**Wednesday 10 – Saturday 13 November** 10am – 3pm

**Sunday 14 November** 12 noon - 3pm

Marine Hall Gardens, Fleetwood

[www.wyre.gov.uk/sanctuaryspace](http://www.wyre.gov.uk/sanctuaryspace)

# the residents of sanctuary street



## JAYNE SIMPSON

My door celebrates freedom through the painting of expressive colour in an abstract way. My aim is to feel uplifted, joyful, and most importantly hopeful.

My door represents an antidote to the last 18 months of the pandemic, when hope may have been lost.

I wanted the door to feel like freedom and a fantastical escape, the opposite of what it might have represented during continual lockdowns of our recent past. I hope it brings a smile.

## BLACKPOOL SCHOOL OF ARTS

This collection of doors have been designed by Art & Design students at Blackpool School of Arts.

The door designed by second year students takes inspiration from the Frida Kahlo portrait of botanist Luther Burbank, reflecting ideas of life and death. In this door, this painting is reinterpreted as a portrait of Jeff Bezos and his profiteering during the pandemic. You can see the Amazon smile disguised amongst the clouds. On the reverse a tree constructed from recycled cardboard reflects the increase in deliveries, also visible is the plethora of PPE – the new litter in our autumnal landscape.

Doors designed by our first year students reflect various aspects of the last 18 months; a Lichtenstein-inspired work reflects the nature of remote teaching and learning and all too common phrases such as "You're on mute!"; the reverse of this door demonstrates a progression from dark to light and a collection of words to reflect key experiences of the pandemic; a rainbow emblazoned mural shows support for the NHS and the individual panels depict activities we turned to during increased time spent at home (baking, creativity, nature and social media; on the door's other side a girl is depicted looking shocked at what has taken place – she's reflecting on time disappeared and was taken from people, the mutation of the virus, and panic buying.

## FLEETWOOD MUSEUM

Three volunteers from various backgrounds worked on the door, taking into account comments views and thoughts from the wider museum volunteer community.

The 'House side' of the door depicts the thoughts and feelings of some of our volunteers and Friends of the Museum, with the stark black door, scarred and scratched over the years of use, indicative of the way COVID19 has left some of us feeling. The words are bold and shout back at us from the background, some members wrote poems to sum up their thoughts. As many of our volunteers and friends are retired it became clear after discussion, that time and age brings acceptance of a situation, perhaps because we are more at peace with ourselves and able to manage feelings due to previous life experience/acceptance. However, for some it has been an overwhelming experience with mental health rocked and isolation becoming

overwhelming, we volunteer to integrate and socialise, and that was taken from us.

The words 'I AM ENOUGH' say loudly that we have accepted what we can and cannot change, and are mentally strong and able to deal with what life throws at us. The hearts spilling from the letterbox, in rainbow colours symbolise the NHS support we have received, and the love and well wishes we welcome into our homes via digital, written, telephony channels or callers at the door. The words HOPE shine through the window to indicate a brighter future and the AMAZON boxes inside show the changing nature of our shopping habits.

The other side of the door reflects nature and the beautiful landscape we are so lucky to have in Lancashire. The poem by one of our volunteers sums up how nature brings the delight of being in the moment. COVID 19 has given us the time to reflect, contemplate and look more closely at nature and what is around us, and be more thankful of it.

## LANCASHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service Prince's Trust team 48 planned, designed and painted each door with a theme they felt matched their characteristics such as the Animal's, LFRS Prince's Trust door, Fire Safety, Flowers and LGBTQ door. They enjoyed the project and managed to get the doors completed within the 2-week time scale given for the team. The team worked hard and are looking forward to seeing them showcased.

Team leader Ashleigh says she is "proud of all the group for working together and creating some very artistic displays! A BIG WELL DONE."

## ST WULSTAN'S & ST EDMUND'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Staff and children in KS2 took part in creating a joint piece of work that displays the memories of the national lockdown, with a focus on what positives they were able to take away from the time they had with their families. We chose to use a rainbow theme for the base of the door as we have always associated a rainbow with the sign for hope.

## TINA WARREN

This November the UK hosts the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26), bringing together heads of state, climate experts and campaigners to agree upon actions to tackle climate change. As we begin to attempt to learn to live with the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic we are now under additional pressure to consider our actions and responsibilities in terms of our environment, at both a local and global level.

Our behaviour has had a catastrophic impact on global emissions, but it took an existential threat like Covid-19 to

show us that, even though short lived, by changing our behaviour we can do something about, the even larger threat that is, global warming. During the global lockdowns of 2020 there was an unprecedented fall in emissions of around 7% (approximately 2.6bn tonnes of CO2).

During those lockdowns many of us took to nature as a source of solace; I, for one, found some semblance of peace walking along the beach close to my home, and, although I have always appreciated, even the smallest of, nature's marvels, the situation somehow made me want to gain a

deeper appreciation for and of them.

Although '2222' was created, somewhat, as a portent of doom (200 years from now, in the year 2222, many of our homes may be under water if we don't act), it also serves as a reminder of how lucky we are to live on such a stunning coastline, somewhere that is still so full of life and beauty. The work acts as a symbol of hope; the number 2222 is considered to be an 'Angel Number', believed, by some, to be a supportive message of peace, harmony, and faith.

## BLACKPOOL GRAND THEATRE AND HEADSTART YOUTH ARTS PROJECT

Blackpool Grand Theatre has been working alongside the Headstarts Digital youth group to deliver a Bronze Arts Award through Trinity College London.

Through this award the Grand offers a qualification which supports our young people's creative development in any setting and puts them at the heart of the creative process. This increases their experience and understanding of arts practitioners and cultural organisations and gives an opportunity to try new art forms and technologies, helping us reach a wide range of young people.

Through photography, working alongside local artist Claire Griffiths, the young people have been exploring a 'sense of place' which has led to discussions of hope and frustration, opportunity, and system barriers. We looked at the hardships faced through lockdown and through a 'sense of place' how Blackpool offered help.

Through the Doors project the young people have offered you two opportunities. Which Door will you choose? Don't forget to use your torch, to get the full effects!

## FIELDEN HOUSE, YMCA

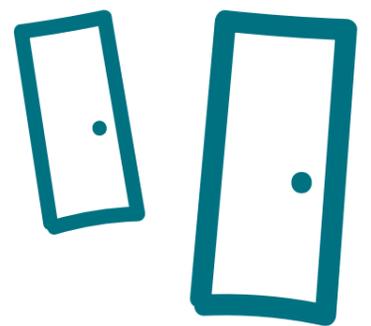
7 residents participated in the doors project. It was a great activity as it encouraged our young people to think about the pandemic and consider the affects it had on them and others. It helped our young people to work together, as a team.

They thought about the people that were alone, during that time, and how not having the reassurance of others could have led them to feel a sense of panic and impending doom, so our residents have tried to incorporate a sense of positivity, calmness and serenity into the project as they feel this is what many people may have lacked during the pandemic.

Our young people have expressed a sense of accomplishment and are very happy with the completed result.

## FLEETWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

When Fleetwood High school was contacted about the opportunity of working with Regenda Homes we were thrilled to be involved in a community arts project again. I set the task of designing the door as a competition for the Year 7 students, who rose to the occasion. I received many great entries, but the design which was particularly eye catching, belonged to a highly talented student called Maddison Larkin. Maddison can be often found attending the Year 11 Art intervention classes even though she is only in Year 7! She enlisted the help of her two creative friends, Poppy Grieve and Ella Parker, who brought her design to life! Maddison explains 'I wanted to design a door which will remind people of the way the Fleetwood community came together during such a hard time'.



# thank you for attending the exhibition

Thank you for attending the exhibition. Please take some time to explore and relax. Help yourself to some refreshment, sign our visitors book, and fill in one of our monitoring cards. To book for the evening events, please visit [www.wyre.gov.uk/sanctuaryspace](http://www.wyre.gov.uk/sanctuaryspace)