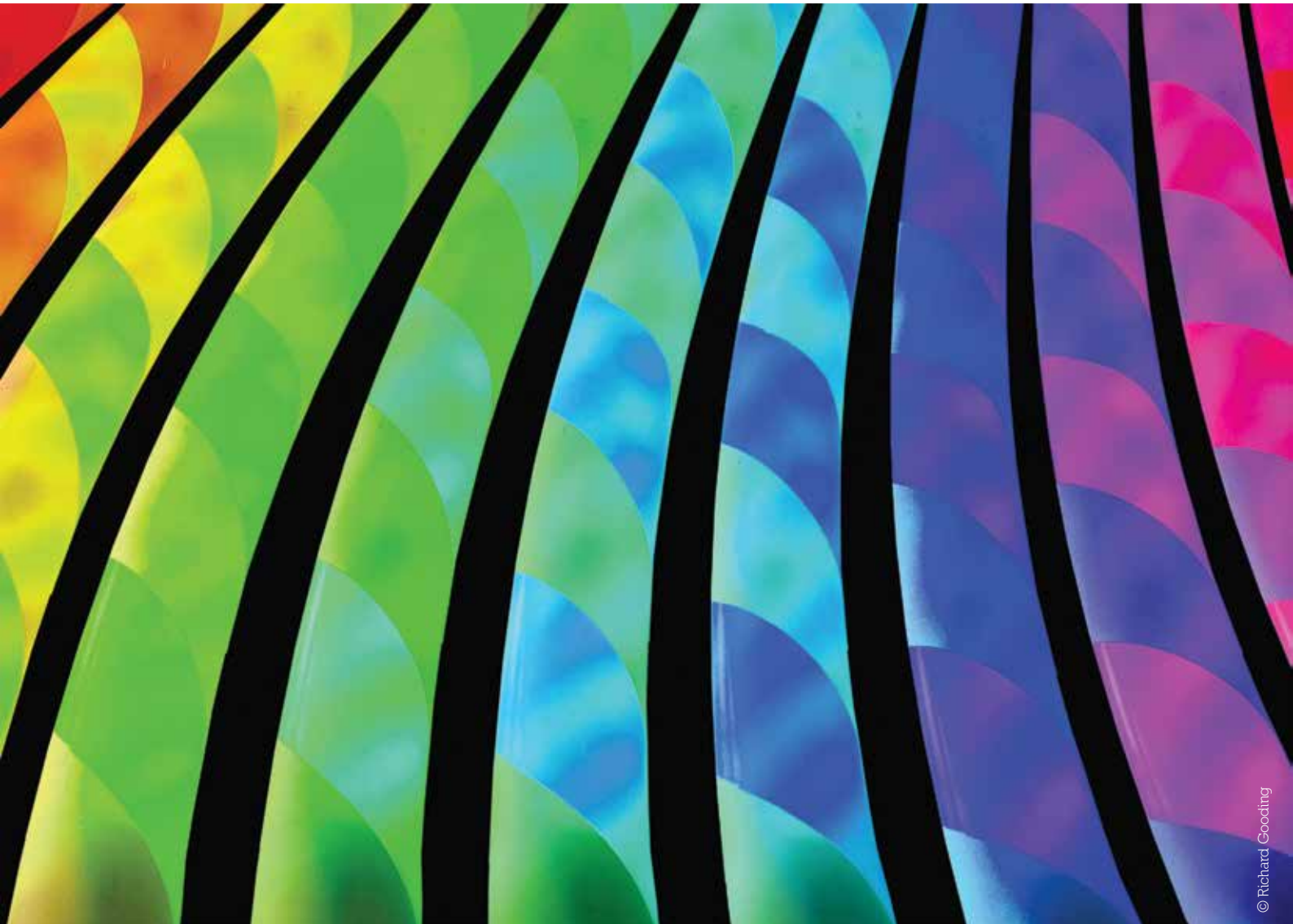


Leysdown Rose-tinted



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December 2009 – March 2013

A case study written by FrancisKnight Contemporary Arts Practice

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Queenborough
Fisheries Trust



FrancisKnight

The good news

Leysdown Rose-tinted was an arts regeneration scheme, artist-driven and community-led. The artists drawn to the project and commissioned were selected for their empathetic approach to the commissions, with art works and engagement that had a clear and meaningful relationship to the village.

Some would say to effectively deliver a full programme of regeneration with a hesitant, down at heel community and a starting-base budget of £3,000 has been a weighty task. The leadership and delivery role of Swale Borough Council and their appointed project managers, FrancisKnight, demonstrate the strength of a partnership model of commissioning services. This has been key to its success and attracted external funding of over £200,000.

An independent organisation, FrancisKnight has achieved

strong autonomous artist-driven projects; supported, advocated and endorsed by the local authority. This has worked particularly well in securing funding, sharing knowledge and partnership working.

The programme set out to deliver its interim goals of delivering specific projects within the Rose-tinted vision including a year-round PR campaign of good-news stories about Leysdown; inward investment from a range of funders and, crucially, engaging young people in the process of contributing to their village.

The programme of commissions demonstrates an incremental approach of engagement and fundraising. Over a three-year period, 12 pieces of permanent work were commissioned by 12 artists, with work ranging from a website to signage

and seating, a rose garden and an innovative lighting scheme. Over 1,000 people took part in activity and all projects have contributed to editorial content for publicity published both in print and online. As a case study, Leysdown Rose-tinted has been published and has received recognition in local, regional and national publications.

Major partners were associated with the programme, including The Tate, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the Rural Development Programme for England and Arts Council England. Significantly, funding from local sources, including the Queenborough Fisheries Trust, Swale Council for Voluntary Services and Leysdown Parish Council, provided leverage for larger nationally awarded grants.

Developing partnerships in and outside the local authority allowed resources to be maximised in Leysdown, such as working with the local authority Parks & Open Spaces team with the Rose garden and partnering with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds on the Can-do signage commissions. This has strengthened support and

marketing opportunities.

But rather than just counting numbers, this case study highlights what approaches were successful. Artist-led workshops and activities for the public proved popular. Specific educational focused work with the Secondary Academy and local primary schools created strong working relationships. In

particular a commitment to work with the new St Clement site followed students from year 5 to 6, working closely with the artist on the Illuminations commission. This prolonged engagement led to significant changes in attitude, not only with the children but also family and extended friendships within the small community.

“I enjoyed working with Rob Olins because he got us involved with everything and he trusted us to help him. It was fun when we designed the lights, we could use any colour and put them in any pattern we liked”. - Jaimée Hicks

Three years for a regeneration scheme is a short time frame but for a small rural village a concentrated focus has created bespoke

commissions that enhance the area and leave a positive mark with an intended life span of at least 10 years. The community now have a

duty of care to look after them and take pride in them and embrace the changes that can reinvigorate it as a visitor destination.

“The children really loved getting involved in the Rose Tinted project and in particular working with Rob Olins. I feel that giving the children the opportunity to help design a project for their own locality has helped them to feel part of the community. This should also, in turn, help to encourage them to have a pride in, to respect, and to look after their local area. The work that Rob did with the children was particularly good as it focused on design and technology, art and science; it gave the children a real purpose to their learning”.

- Michelle Crowe, Headteacher, St Clement Primary School, Leysdown

Where time slows down

Leysdown Rose-tinted was an arts-led regeneration vision and delivery plan supporting an ambitious approach to urban renewal with arts as the driving force.

Artist commissions were developed with associated community engagement to inspire and involve people who lived in, worked in or visited the seaside village of Leysdown-on-Sea and to revitalise the long and proud history as a popular tourist destination.

Leysdown Rose-tinted celebrated the heyday

of family holidays in the village but also encouraged an invigorated approach to reaching new visitors by providing a stronger offer in terms of a destination.

Twelve new permanent art works were commissioned for the village that ranged from signage, seating, lighting, a rose garden to a website. National and regional artists immersed themselves within the village, teasing out the essence of the seaside location and reflecting the beauty of the area.



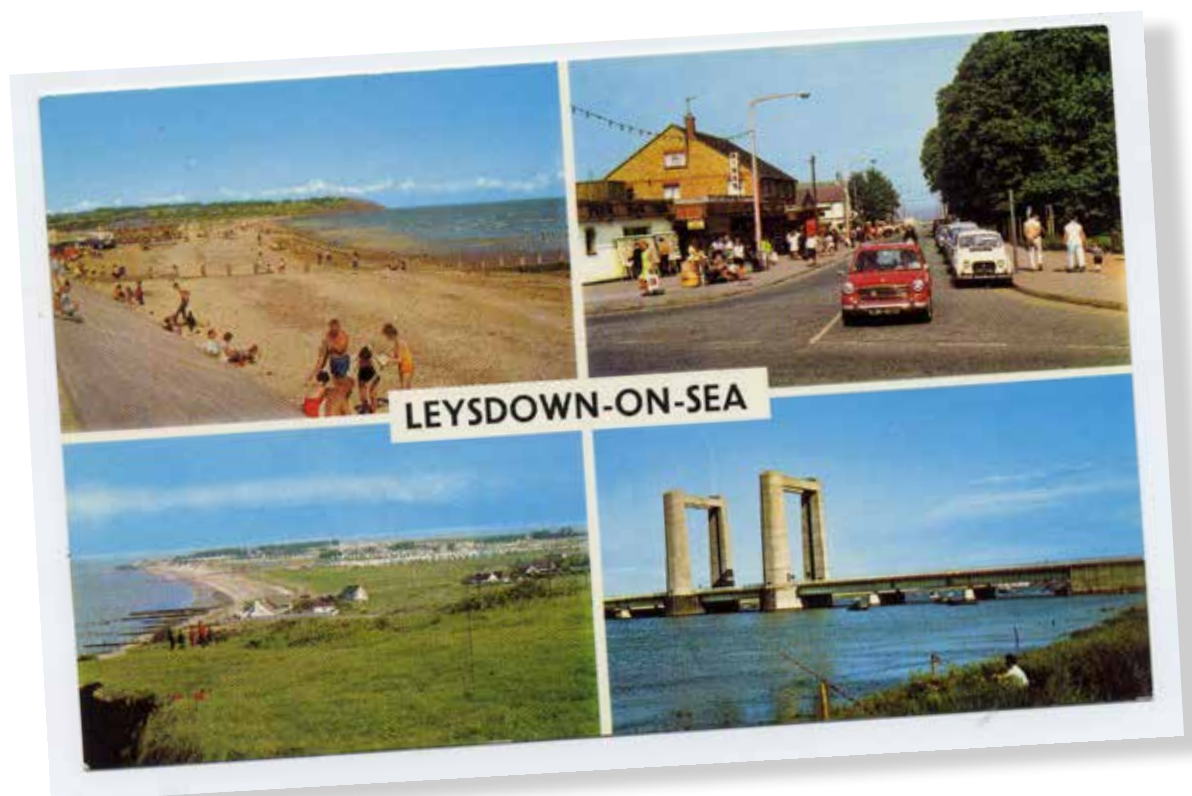
A sense of place

Leysdown-on-Sea is a coastal village on the eastern side of the Isle of Sheppey, Kent. It has an estimated resident population of 1,500. It is in the local authority borough of Swale and in the electoral ward of Leysdown and Warden.

Leysdown-on-Sea is a traditional seaside resort and has become known for its transient tourist population occupying colourful, noisy penny arcades and high concentration of holiday camps. During the summer

season the population triples.

A rural area, this isolated location lacks cultural facilities/ activities for residents and is poorly served by transport with no evening bus service. Access to the area is via one main road, the B2231. This road is the primary route connecting the western part of the Isle of Sheppey to the east. Based on the 2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation, Leysdown is one of the neighbourhoods indexed as the 20% most deprived nationally.



The village is in economic decline owing to limited investment and a changing tourist industry, bringing a range of social issues including low educational attainment and higher levels of crime and vandalism than in the whole of the rest of Swale.

Despite these challenges Leysdown has many striking qualities, from its combination of pioneering history to its remarkable natural landscapes. It is the birthplace of aviation and importantly the first recorded flight and circular mile in Britain was made here by JTC Moore-Brabazon in 1909. It also boasts clean sandy beaches, coastal walks, diverse stunning landscapes of RSPB and Natural England sites that surround the village with

excellent bird watching across marshes, farmland, scrubland and mudflats.

The Rose-tinted Vision was developed through an initial Feasibility and Visioning phase from April – September 2009. This Visioning process was funded through the National Sea Change programme from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and led by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) and Tourism South East.

The Visioning process included a range of formal and informal consultation activities with over 780 participants in photographic workshops, exhibitions, talks, reminiscence events and

an academic exploration of themes through a symposium.

Following on from the initial phase, funding was committed to commission a project manager and FrancisKnight¹ were appointed in December 2009. They further developed and refined the delivery plan with a series of artist-led workshops, achievable milestones for funding and an ambitious curated commissioning timetable.

In summer 2010 a series of artist-led workshops were programmed for residents and visitors to take part in. This provided a successful track record for future funders, a buy-in to the Rose-tinted Vision and confidence within the village community.

Crucially, FrancisKnight's work gained the commitment of substantial funding in October 2010 towards the Rose-tinted programme from Leysdown Parish Council. This unlocked funding for projects worth over £200,000 during the period 2011- 2013.



The facts

12 new permanent art works

were commissioned for Leysdown Rose-tinted.

11 of the commissions take into account the **exposure to the elements** in the **seaside location** and had to withstand **extreme weather conditions** and have a life span of at least 10 years.

All the commissions reflected upon Leysdown's character, **natural beauty, heritage and people** and were designed to reflect on its personality, and to enhance and redefine its identity for both residents and visitors to the village. **Community involvement** was key to a successful commissioning process.

Commissions ranged from **£3,000 - £98,000** and were funded through a range of grants and in-kind support.

10 local, regional and national artists

were involved in the project: Rosa Ainley, Cathy Bird, Laura Boswell, Big Fish Arts Trust, Alun Heslop, Mark Hewitt, Nicole Mollet, Daniel Nash, Rob Olins and Ed Thompson.

Over **1,000** people have been involved in the project and over **1,000** visited information online.

Voices of Leysdown

www.voicesofleysdown.co.uk

Voices of Leysdown is an online village archive, made up of stories by and about people who live and work in Leysdown.

Words and images were collected in this intergeneration project through a programme of artist-led workshop activities. Story telling and writing, image, sound recording and interviewing engaged a large number of community members of Leysdown to explore their perceptions and recollections of the village.

Artist Rosa Ainley² spent time in and around the village talking to and interviewing individuals and existing community groups, transcribing their memories of Leysdown. Groups ranged from the WI, Sheppey Walkers Club, the Bowls Club, and the Bingo to local school children at Eastchurch Primary and the secondary school Minster Academy. Visiting the coffee

shops, fish and chip shop, pubs and night club gave her contact with residents and visitors and all the stories Rosa collected now populate the Voices of Leysdown website.

As part of the launch of the website a story competition for children and adults was held with winning entries uploaded to the Voices of Leysdown website.



Spring Visitor

by Ruth Partis

An extract from the winning story

'He saw the sea in the distance as he came over the hill from Eastchurch. It was glittering like diamonds in the spring sunshine and he was so happy to be almost there after his long journey.

All his tiredness vanished as he went straight to the beach. It was deserted and the tide had just turned. The sea was running over the pebbles, leaving them clean and gleaming in the sunshine. He walked along picking at the shells and stones, looking under some wet driftwood and peering into tiny pools left behind by the retreating water. He was glad to be back at one of his favourite places.'

Summer Romance Sometimes Lasts a Lifetime

by Marie West

An extract from the winning story

“‘I first met your gran,” I looked at the twins, “your mum,” I looked at Ron and Lilly, “when I was 19 ...

“I had come down for the summer holidays, a break from college. I came down alone because I was old enough and my ma and pa were too busy.

“I had just pulled up to the entrance to the Happy Valley campsite. I was staying in number 2. I had been there for about two weeks before I met her.

“It was a lovely warm day, I was planning to go down the beach, but first I was going to get breakfast. I walked up to the Cosy Café and sat at the corner table.....’

Skill sharing workshops were also important to the project. Street photography workshops by artist Ed Thompson³ proved successful with the Minster Academy students. Students

were exposed to documentary photography, through history and practical workshops with field trips to Leysdown village. Portraits of village life, café communities and local

residents provide a social document of Leysdown and are used to illustrate the stories on the Voices of Leysdown website.



© Ed Thompson

“I was very impressed with Ed particularly with our site visits into Leysdown – his work with the students was excellent, he turned what might have been a cold and miserable day into a real learning experience for the students.”

- Head of the Abbey Unit, Minster Academy, Jo Chester

Daniel Nash⁴, artist and radio presenter, also worked with the students sharing his expertise in interviewing techniques as a radio presenter with local radio station Bridge FM⁵, Sheppey. This boosted their confidence to approach people and find out more behind the story.

Spinney Rose Garden

The Spinney Rose Garden commission worked with the local community to select a new planting scheme for the Spinney; a well used public green space in the heart of the village.

The planting scheme devised by the Park & Open Spaces Officer at Swale Borough Council includes 21 varieties of roses, a mixture of shrubs, grasses, and hedging that will flower and create interest throughout the year.



Alun Heslop⁶, award-winning artist/designer of exceptional sculptural seating and form, was commissioned to produce a piece of work for the garden. The resulting 10 sculptural forms are inspired by the shapes of the many razor fish shells found on the sandy and shell beaches in Leysdown. Alun hand-carved the shapes, that are made from solid green oak; now sited, they will age slowly to a silver colour. A stainless steel construction holds the sculptures in place and has been chosen for its robust quality and rust-free properties.



Artist-led workshops

Artist Cathy Bird⁷ ran watercolour workshops on the beach, on the Spinney and at the local holiday park for local residents and seasonal visitors to Leysdown. Cathy was also joined by artist Nicole Mollett⁸ and the Kent Cultural Baton (a mobile creative workspace), which exhibited the paintings and hosted workshops over the carnival weekend.

“A most enjoyable peaceful afternoon. I’ve never sat in Leysdown before and I’ve lived here for 35 years.” - Local resident

From the watercolour workshops, a Leysdown-specific colour palette was developed and was used in commissioning the Can-do signage and Light and Flight

commissions. It also informed the design and planting for the Spinney Rose garden project.

Local allotment holders took part in choosing the roses and a group of local

residents visited RHS Wisley for a guided tour of the rose gardens, planting designs, and Alun Heslop’s studio to see work in progress.

Can-do signage 2012

New seaside signage replaced outdated and prohibitory signage, decluttering the village, making more of what already exists, and highlighting the new and unexpected.

Artists Laura Boswell⁸, Mark Hewitt⁹ and Alun Heslop were commissioned to work on a

new village sign, 6 individual signs, and two resting point commissions for the new 9.5km route 'The Harty Trail' linking Leysdown-on-Sea with the Isle of Harty.

Mark Hewitt was commissioned as writer in residence and through his

conversations, travels and investigations produced the wording for the individual signs and worked collaboratively with Laura Boswell on the village sign and with Alun Heslop on the two resting points titled 'Raptor Point' and 'The Edge'.





© Laura Knight

The village sign

Artist Laura Boswell was commissioned to create the unique village sign welcoming visitors to the area. Laura is a printmaker who uses innovative techniques and specialises in freehand painting of large-scale vitreous enamel. The sign is double-sided and made up of four separate steel panels with vitreous enamel coating, a suitable material for permanent exposure to the coastal

environment. The panels range in height from 1,575mm to 2,400mm and the colours used reference the Leysdown-specific colour palette.

Her designs pick up on the images of the coastline and countryside but also connect people to the landscape, best loved places, seasons and memories of the seaside village.

Mark Hewitt has created a narrative that welcomes people to the village and gives visitors and holidaymakers an idea of what they could do and see in Leysdown.

Both Mark and Laura have effectively combined through imagery and words the landscape, the beach and the sea, the people, the pride and fun of the holiday village.

“I hope my sign represents the enormous pride people have in the village and the individuality of the place. It’s a fun place to be, as well as being surrounded by areas of great beauty. The sign has the function to direct and inform the visitor, but I hope it’s also a celebration – I’ve had great fun on this project. I’ve also had some of the best fish and chips – delicious!”

- Laura Boswell

AVOCETS BARN OWLS BARNS BARN SWALLOWS BEDSTRAW
HAWK MOTHS BIG SKIES BIRD SONG BLACK-HEADED GULLS
BOATS BRENT GEESE BUZZARDS CATTLE CLOUDED YELLOW
BUTTERFLIES CROP FIELDS CROWS CURLEWS CYCLISTS DAI-
SIES DOGS ON LEADS DOVES DUCKS DWARF EEL GRASS EI-
DERS EMERALD BUTTERFLIES ESTUARY VIEWS FARMLAND
FERRY HOUSE INN FROGS GARGANY GATES GLASSWORT
GODWITS GOLDEN SAMPHIRE GRASSES GRAVEL PATHS HAR-
TY CHURCH HARTY JETTY HEN HARRIERS HOBBIES KESTRELS
KNOTGRASS LAVENDER MARSH HARRIERS MERLINS MOTHS
MUDFLATS MUSWELL MANOR NETTLES OYSTERCATCHERS
PEACE & QUIET PEREGRINES PINTAILS PONDS POTHOLES RAB-
BITS REDSHANKS REED BEDS RESTING POINTS SALTMARSH-
ES SEA SEA ASTOR SHEEP SHELLNESS HEAD SHORT EARED
OWLS SMALL FURRY ANIMALS TERNS THISTLES TRACTORS
TRAFFIC-FREE COUNTRYSIDE TREES VIEWING POINT VISTAS
WADERS WATERFOWL WHITE SEA KALE WIGEONS WILDNESS
AMUSEMENTS ARCADES ALL DAY BREAKFASTS BARNACLES
BASEBALL CAPS BATTERED FISH BEACHES BEER BENCH-
ES BOOT FAIRS BOXING BREEZES BUNTING CAFES CAKES
CANDY FLOSS CARAVANS CARNIVAL CARS CHIPS CLASSIC
HITS OF THE 50s 60s 70s 80s CRABS CRABSTICKS CUPS OF
TEA DAY TRIPPERS DELI DISTANT SHIPS DOGS EASTEND-
ERS ECCENTRICS ESSEX ACROSS THE ESTUARY FAMILIES
FAVERSHAM FLAGS FLIP-FLOPS FLOWERS 4x4s FRY-UPS
GROYNES GULLS HOLIDAYMAKERS HORSES ICE CREAM
JOG PANTS KARAOKE KIDS LONDONERS ONE-ARMED BAN-
DITS OPEN SPACES PEBBLES PICNICKERS PIE & MASH PITCH
& PUTT POSTCARDS POST OFFICE PUBS RAZOR SHELLS
SAND SEA SEA WALL SHELLFISH SHELL SUITS SHOPS SHORTS
SKIES STARS SUNSETS SWEETS SWINGS & SLIDES TANS TAT-
TOOS TERNS THE SWALE THE THAMES TRIBUTE BANDS VIL-
LAGE HALL WEATHER WHITSTABLE WIND TURBINES WINGS

Individual can-do signs

Six shiny jewel-like signs are dotted around the village and surrounding area of Leysdown. They are located to delight whoever stumbles across them and to celebrate its beautiful views, natural assets and the character of the people and place.

Writer in residence Mark Hewitt spent time in and around the village talking to local residents and visitors about Leysdown.

The signs are made of vitreous enamel and the colours are taken from the Leysdown-specific colour palette.



“There’s been a lot going on in Leysdown over the last couple of years. Leysdown is transforming itself into a vibrant destination where people want to visit again and again. To encourage visitors to appreciate the revitalised Leysdown there are now some fun new signs, put up in the new spirit of ‘Let’s visit Leysdown’. More and more people are ‘discovering’ Leysdown so when you come look out for these signs, enjoy them and then enjoy our little holiday resort and the beautiful countryside that surrounds it.”

- Geoff Partis, Chairman of Leysdown Parish Council



© Richard Gooding

The Raptor Point and The Edge

Artist Alun Heslop was commissioned to create two resting points as part of the Isle of Harty Trail, a 9.5km cycle route that links Leysdown-on-Sea with the Isle of Harty. The cycle route's starting point is the Spinney in the heart of the village with the resting point commissions sited at the midway point of the route. Most of the route travels through RSPB and Natural England sites and offers a varied wildlife and heritage experience using

quiet paths and tracks across marshes, farmland, scrubland and mudflats.

The RSPB Capel Fleet Raptor site was chosen by Alun for 'Raptor Point' as a dynamic space to place seating guaranteeing views of the Marsh Harrier and as a place to sit and reflect on the landscape. The commission features a two-element structure made from solid green oak and cast concrete,

providing comfortable, hand carved and welcoming seating in the inspired form of bird wing feathers. It also provides a sculptural centre-piece installation that is visible from many directions.

'The Edge' is a sculptural piece reflecting the sense of intertwining flight and is placed close to Swale Nature Reserve to encourage cycle visitors to stay and explore the area.

A collaboration with Mark Hewitt has incorporated text into the commissions reflecting on the spirit of flight. Mark has

referenced the combination of pioneering history with the birthplace of aviation and the excellent bird watching. The

text elevates the pieces further, creating additional layers of imagery and meaning.

“Many thanks for your work on the resting place which, through successful collaboration with the landowner, the RSPB, and the artist, has resulted in a significant enhancement of the Capel Fleet Raptor viewpoint. It has been a pleasure to work with you and participate in the project. The artist’s response to the brief is truly imaginative and on my first visit to the finished work I saw my first short-eared owls circling me while very comfortably seated! I shall be working with Sheppey Tourism Association to promote the site, and an event is already planned for this year’s Promenade Festival, which aims to get Sheerness residents out across their isle and will bring them to see the new feature.”

- Rolf Williams, Communications Officer – Kent, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds





Light and Flight

Forty two candy-striped radio controlled lights string across the seafront in Leysdown brightening up the area and enhancing the lights from the amusement arcades that surround the promenade.

Artist Rob Olins¹ was commissioned to create a unique and bespoke lighting scheme for Leysdown reflecting the spirit of flight: from man's early exploration to the birds found on the marshes of the RSPB and Natural England sites that surround Leysdown.

A working group from the local resident community was set up to take the commission forward and in the first instance took part in selecting the lead artist Rob Olins. Throughout the commissioning process the group were included and informed of the development of the work. This has helped with

advocacy and provided them with a valuable insight into an artist-led project.

Artist Rob Olins has provided residents and visitors with experiences and opportunities during the commission through artist workshops, consultations and presentations. Year 5 & 6 pupils from St Clements Primary School in Leysdown worked closely with the artist helping to design the new LED programmed lighting scheme. Rolf Williams, Communications Officer from the RSPB, supported the artist's model-making workshops with research trips to the beach; looking at the movement of

flight found in the natural habitat on their doorstep.

Big Fish Arts² group held lantern-making workshops with the school, which were used in the lantern parade for the big Switch on. Importantly this is the final project to be realised as part of the Rose-tinted Vision. There has been some concern over maintenance and care for the future of the lights. A combination of local authority inspection procedures and local vigilance has proved to date that partnership working is crucial to the long-term care and consideration for the public realm.





The learning

Although Leysdown faces a number of challenges, Leysdown Rose-tinted has been a vehicle in which to respond to community issues and has kept an open dialogue with its residents and visitors. Through participation and involvement in decision making, art works have been commissioned that have a clear and meaningful relationship to the village.

Leysdown Rose-tinted has promoted collaboration, developed new audiences and continued to strengthen partnership opportunities with the new Primary School – St Clement.

A working group made up from the local resident community has been invaluable for the project and has helped with advocacy and provided an invaluable insight into the commissioning process, artist's practice and arts-led regeneration.

Learning from programmes such as Leysdown Rose-tinted has helped us to understand that the challenges were:

Time

Quick wins gained support and demonstrated to local residents that the project managers meant business when delivering. However many of the projects required long lead-in times to help form relationships, raise funds and progress ideas to a successful and meaningful conclusion. A balance of both helped to build trust, and being visible within in the community was paramount in forming relationships.

Resources

Securing funding was difficult and took time; on a couple of occasions funding applications were submitted several times before they were successful. Communicating this process

had to be clear and concise. Confusion and misinformation did occur and subsequent rumours referred to figures for budgets which were blown out of all proportion.

Management of budgets had to be realistic and commission fees needed to reflect the quality of artist and work. This was communicated with sensitivity especially in this area of deprivation.

Managing Expectations/ Outcomes

From the outset involving the community with the decision making helped to create a more receptive and transparent process. Including community supporters and challengers made the process harder but provided the opportunity to

create an open dialogue that respected different views and accommodated compromise and hopefully a consensus.

Legacy

Commissioning one-off, bespoke work can make a destination distinct and unique but the argument over time, budget and maintenance continues to rumble on. There is no doubt with Leysdown Rose-tinted that working with communities to shape the places that they live in, work in, and visit provided ownership and pride. Through support and guidance the commissioned work reflected a community that was willing to take risks, and was imaginative and forward thinking.

And finally...

from the Project Managers

Between December 2009 and March 2013 there were many changes and significant cuts in budgets held by Swale Borough Council. Securing match-funding for funding bids was no easy task. The projects were incremental in their progress, from a base budget of £3,000, small grants as little as £50 to £40,000 were secured to make projects happen. Each funding bid was specific to the project and the projects were flexible enough to respond to a range of agendas depending on the funders. For example, work with Swale Council for Voluntary Services secured money and support through the Community Cohesion fund; the original Rose-tinted Vision was awarded a Certificate of

Commendation from the Royal Society of Public Health; The Kent Downs and Marshes Leader fund supported rural development and Arts Council England supported cultural tourism. Throughout the period Swale Borough Council's priorities changed too. In April 2012 the Arts Development team and their budget ceased to exist. Instead regeneration funds were secured to match-fund the final Illuminations project. This approach demonstrates the flexibility of an arts-led programme. At times funding bids were careful not to mention arts and at other times creative outputs were essential. Most notably the relationship with the Parish Council went from hesitant to supportive while at all times

remaining interrogational, perhaps rightly so; this is a village on hard times but much loved by its residents and visitors.

Leysdown-on-Sea really is a place where time slows down. As the Big Local, Sustainable Communities and Creative People & Places programmes come forward with their funding streams it will be interesting to see if communities in such remote rural locations can find harmony and cooperation. Leysdown Rose-tinted has demonstrated that with a clear vision, and with energy, enthusiasm, time and cooperation anything can be achieved.

Footnotes

¹**FrancisKnight** is an arts organisation consisting of two Directors: Louise Francis and Laura Knight. Established in 2004 they have a passion for connecting people directly with art and artists with over 20 years wealth of experience as independent curators and project managers.

They offer support for the creation, development and production of artist led projects in the public realm for the public benefit. Rooted in visual arts FrancisKnight offer unforgettable experiences to raise aspirations, change attitudes and create meaningful engagement..

²**Rosa Ainley** is a writer artist editor with a background in architecture and photography. Her published work ranges from short story to non-fiction, from guidebooks to sound installations. With degrees in literature and photographic studies, her practice extends into digital writing. Her specialism is space, buildings and regeneration. Rosa took part in the initial visioning process for Leysdown Rose-tinted.

³**Ed Thompson** is a freelance documentary photographer. His photographs often focus on fringe groups and subcultures, although his choices of subjects are widely eclectic. His first job after graduating was working at a chain of static caravan holiday camps in Leysdown, taking portraits of children sitting on the knee of a giant rabbit. His documentary photo-essays have been published in international magazines including National Geographic Magazine, Newsweek Japan, Greenpeace Magazine, The Guardian Weekend and The Sunday Times Magazine Spectrum Supplement (U.K).

⁴**Daniel Nash** is an artist and designer, working in the mediums of photography and sculpture. He produces indoor and outdoor

sculptures, which explore the versatility of concrete as a sculptural material. His work takes influence from the modernism and brutalism concrete styles of architecture. Daniel is also the Arts & Community Presenter for BRFM, the Daniel Monday Night Community show and the Daniel Saturday & Sunday breakfast show. On his community show he interviews a wide range of guests from the community of Swale. These interviews are broadcast on Monday evenings but he also posts them on YouTube, Facebook & Twitter with Podcasts on his Bridge FM blog.

⁵**BRFM**. Community radio station based in Minster-on-Sea, on the Isle of Sheppey, Kent. It broadcasts a wide range of music, news and local information, traffic & travel. BRFM broadcasts 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

⁶**Alun Heslop**. Artist Alun Heslop is an award-winning artist designer of exceptional sculptural seating and form. Working from his Sussex studio, Alun has been commissioned to produce work for public spaces, schools, parks and private gardens.

⁷**Cathy Bird** is a classically trained artist with a wide range of experience in both traditional and contemporary art forms, and available for every type of drawing or painting commission. Cathy is an actively exhibiting and working artist, teaching watercolour techniques to people of all ages. She is also a keen portrait painter who draws upon her formative years and experiences in Malawi and The Gambia.

⁸**Nicole Mollett** is an artist/curator having previously been the lead artist for Art at the Centre, Swale Borough Council, an Arts Council funded art in regeneration project.

In 2009 Nicole won the commission for the Kent cultural Baton. The Baton concept is her work, she curated and supported artist residencies as well as presenting her own responses to places in Kent.

⁹**Laura Boswell** is a printmaker with her personal work focused on rural landscape with its pattern, light, weather and seasonality. 'Printmaking and enamelling are demanding processes and I thrive on the tension between what I want to say and how I can say it within the boundaries of the process. I want to jog memories in my viewer of places they've been, walks they've taken or weather they've experienced.'

¹⁰**Mark Hewitt** is a writer, theatremaker and director of live literature productions. With artistic collaboration central to his practice, Mark's output includes interdisciplinary work with visual artists and photographers, video artists, composers, writers and performers.

¹¹**Rob Olins**. Based in the Forest of Dean, on the Welsh Borders, Rob Olins is a sculptor working in cross media, informed by architecture, the urban environment, landscape, acoustics and modern engineering techniques; Olins exhibits widely in the UK and abroad, building up a considerable and varied portfolio. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of British Sculptors. he has been commissioned to create site-specific works in the UK, USA, Kuwait, the UAE, South Africa, Germany and the Maldives for a wide range of sites and clients.

¹²**Big Fish Arts Trust** celebrate local heritage through street theatre music and art. Based in Sheerness on the Isle of Sheppey they run weekly workshops to rehearse and devise their performances.