

# connected

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By Malcolm Shepherd

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# Welcome to connected



Welcome to the summer edition of connected, full of news and updates on progress on Connect2 schemes UK-wide.

We're delighted that so much is happening all over the UK. Work is well underway on over 40 of the schemes, plus a number of bridges and sections of route are expected to open this year. Over the summer, many of you will be taking the opportunity to hear people's views on who should feature in the Portrait Bench that every scheme will have.

It has been a great pleasure to see the benches that are complete evolve from photographs, through drawings, to steel cut-outs that look so much like the originals. When you see the real Rob Brydon next to his life-size man of steel, you realise what a clever concept this is. When complete, the benches will host over 200 portraits of the great, the good and the unsung from local communities – a portrait gallery accessible to all, and a massive achievement in terms of public art.

Over the coming months there are also many Connect2 Day events being organised, updating the local community on progress, and engaging people in the opportunity that already, or will shortly, exist to get around far more by foot and bike for local journeys.

Whilst there is a huge amount of progress that we want to celebrate with all our partners, we are also all aware of impending budget cuts. Local transport plans and budgets are being re-assessed, and spending priorities re-evaluated.

In this context it is worth reviewing the evidence that shows that in terms of return on investment for local travel, walking and cycling schemes are hard to beat. The benefit cost ratio of a dedicated walking and cycling route well exceeds the 'very high' value for money category of transport appraisal.

It's also worth reflecting that much of this benefit comes because walking and cycling delivers on so many local policy areas – it reduces congestion, increases levels of everyday physical activity, reduces pollution, noise and carbon emissions, and supports greater access and social cohesion.

Not many transport schemes bring so much to so many whilst delivering enormous value for money. And, of course, it's what people want – a few short years ago Sustrans won a public television vote by a huge majority to secure match-funding for all the schemes from the Big Lottery Fund, and since then people's enthusiasm for walking and cycling has only increased.

We are forecast a hot summer, and certainly the heat is on in terms of public spending. But any cool reflection on the evidence will demonstrate to all that increased levels of walking, cycling and public transport use are the smarter choice when it comes to creating a local transport system for the 21st century.

Sustrans is committed to working with all of you to deliver what we set out to deliver in 2008, and look forward to celebrating with all of you our combined great achievements in the years to come.

Sustrans makes smarter travel choices possible, desirable and inevitable. We're a leading UK charity enabling people to travel by foot, bike or public transport for more of the journeys we make every day. We work with families, communities, policy-makers and partner organisations so that people are able to choose healthier, cleaner and cheaper journeys, with better places and spaces to move through and live in.

It's time we all began making smarter travel choices. Make your move and support Sustrans today. [www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)

**Editorial:** If you have any comments, queries or suggestions please email [connect2@sustrans.org.uk](mailto:connect2@sustrans.org.uk)

**Design:** [www.trmvs.co.uk](http://www.trmvs.co.uk)

**Photography:** [istockphoto.com](http://istockphoto.com) (cover), Sustrans staff, Harbour Lights Photographers (pages 4, 5)

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Registered Charity No. 326550 (England and Wales) SC039263 (Scotland)

VAT Registration No. 416740656

Sustrans' work is supported by many partners, local authorities and other organisations together with the personal donations of approximately 40,000 supporters.



LOTTERY FUNDED



Malcolm Shepherd  
Chief Executive



Tim Temple is the Connect2 Project Manager. Here he updates us on some of the key highlights and latest news of the project over the past six months

**Pont-y-Werin bridge gets lifted into place in Cardiff**

In March, the Welsh capital saw its riverscape change as Pont-y-Werin the People's Bridge – was lifted into place across the River Ely connecting Penarth to Cardiff, completing a circuit around Cardiff Bay. The official opening of the bridge took place on 14 July.



Pont-y-Werin Bridge, Cardiff

**Work commences on the Bath Two Tunnels route**

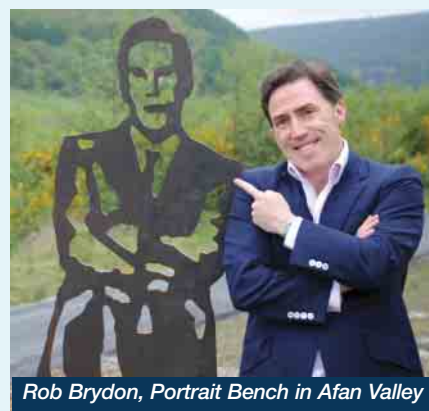
Four years since its inception, construction on the Bath Two Tunnels scheme got underway in March. Contractors began work on excavating and re-opening the Devonshire Tunnel's northern portal to create links on both sides. The route will open up the Combe Down and Devonshire Tunnels as part of a new walking and cycling route from Midford into Bath.



Bath Two Tunnels

**Richard Burton and Rob Brydon immortalised in steel at Afan Valley**

The very first Portrait Bench was produced for the Afan Valley Connect2 scheme and an official opening ceremony took place in May, at Cwmafan in South Wales. See page 12 for further details.



Rob Brydon, Portrait Bench in Afan Valley

**Official opening of Sale scheme**

Another Connect2 scheme was successfully completed in June, in Sale. See page 4 for more details.

**New successful cycling initiative for women in Derry**

Six women got back in the saddle and took part in a project called 'Feel Good Cycling on the Foyle', from Sustrans and the Derry Well Woman project. The women were all returning to cycling; some had not cycled for over 20 years.

**New mast of Diglis Bridge in Worcester is hoisted into place**



Diglis Bridge, Worcester

On 14 June, the new mast of the Diglis Bridge was hoisted into place, towering 26 metres (85ft) above the riverbank. The bridge is planned to be completed and officially opened in July.

**Reach Lode Bridge makes its debut in The Fens**

A big step forward for improved access in The Fens was made with the latest addition of the new Reach Lode Bridge which was put in place at the end of May. The bridge is part of a new walking and cycling network being built by Sustrans, together with the National Trust to create The Lodes Way a 14.5 km virtually traffic-free greenway.

**Official opening of new route and Connect2 Day celebrations in Sutton Coldfield**

May Bank Holiday saw the official opening of a new walking and cycling route for Sutton Coldfield. Members of the local community came out in force to celebrate this vital new transport link which is the New Hall Valley section of the route from Penns Lane to Rectory Park.

**Completion of Padiham greenway**

A week of Connect2 Day celebrations took place in Padiham in June, to mark the completion of the route which runs along the old railway line from Padiham to Rosegrove. It is already proving very popular with walkers and cyclists.



Connect2 Day, Sutton Coldfield



# Blyth: Integrated, sustainable local travel

Inspirational and unique, a new 'Active Travel Town' in Blyth is at the very core of a new ambition to make South East Northumberland a healthy, prosperous and inclusive place to live, work and visit.

Sixteen miles north of Newcastle, near the edge of beautiful coastline and wooded valleys, a unique Connect2 project in Blyth is underway. Once completed, it is set to become the UK's very first Active Travel Town. This inspirational project is the first of its kind and shows how a variety of other Sustrans projects including Active Travel, Bike It and a Links to Schools programme are all being effectively integrated into a Connect2 scheme, to extend the benefits of sustainable and active travel into the wider community long-term.

Mostly flat, just two miles square and with a population of over 30,000 people, Blyth is the perfect place to introduce this range of activities and new infrastructure that will compliment the regeneration and growth of the area. Considering the relatively small size of Blyth, short distance, local journeys should be quick and easy to make, however currently no direct routes exist north to south, or east to west of the town, making any short journeys by foot or by bike far longer and more difficult. This project will provide 20 miles of new, direct walking and cycling routes, crossing a valley, river and four busy roads within Blyth, connecting

communities with their local amenities including schools, libraries, markets, shopping areas and leisure facilities.

The commitment to sustainable travel extends even as far as the contractors Carillion who even do all site visits by bike, instead of driving!

"Enthusiasm for cycling is high, especially amongst the school children! Blyth and the surrounding areas are great for getting outdoors and the fantastic new Connect2 infrastructure will enable this type of exploration and active play" says Richard Rothwell, Bike It Officer for Blyth.

“

We have a fantastic opportunity to help residents of Blyth to be healthier and happier and to save money. I will be helping employers to have healthier, and subsequently more productive workforces. With cycling infrastructure identified as a key obstacle to active travel in the area, the delivery of a fantastic new network of cycle routes will go a long way to getting the people of Blyth to travel actively.

**Mark Curr,**  
Active Travel Co-ordinator Blyth

”

As the man who will work with every school in Blyth, Richard will be educating children to encourage them to cycle more and travel actively, by using various Dr Bike workshops, road safety talks, games, bike handling skills and repair sessions.

Working closely alongside the Bike It project, Mark Curr – Active Travel Officer will be working with local employers in Blyth using a series of useful, practical workshops and bespoke action plans to help encourage their employees to travel actively and sustainably. Cycle hire schemes, cycle repair events, walking groups and cycle proficiency training are just some of the possible solutions available. A survey has been distributed

to residents which will provide essential information on travel habits, perceptions and obstacles to active travel faced by employees in Blyth. This information will be used to remove those existing barriers and enable bespoke action plans to be produced for individual businesses.

Running alongside the new Blyth Connect2 project, is another Connect2 scheme - the Bedlington to Cramlington Connection, which will create 10 miles of new routes linking all three communities of Blyth, Bedlington and Cramlington. The new routes between the three neighbouring towns, plus the new north-south connection between Cramlington and Bedlington via a spectacular new bridge, will provide one of the most comprehensive programmes of sustainable transport development in the county. The new bridge will span 80 metres and will provide a much-needed, direct route between Bedlington and Cramlington. The only existing means of travelling between the two currently, is either the heavily congested A192 Horton Road or a steep road with uneven surfaces unsuitable for cycling. Work began on site in March 2010 and the entire scheme is due to complete in 2013.

#### ART

Interactive artwork, imaginative monuments related to the heritage of Blyth and atmospheric bridge lighting ...these are just some of the artistic ideas currently being considered for new public art pieces which will be integrated into the new routes. Two artists, both

originally from Milan have been selected to produce eight different art pieces which will be placed along the route to give a series of focal points and enhance the enjoyment for users. Members of the local community have been asked for their comments and opinions on some of the ideas generated so far, by posting their suggestions for the artworks into a red Tricycle Post box which has been doing a local tour!

“It’s the local people of Bedlington and Blyth, who best know the area,” says Gloria Ronchi, one of the artists “Before designing the detail of any artworks we really want to hear from the public about their ideas. We’d like our designs to capture some of your thoughts and feelings which walking and cycling can give.” Postcards will be available for the local community to comment in public libraries, bicycle shops, leisure and sports centres and at community events across Bedlington and Blyth during June and July. To see the progression of this art project online please visit the project at [www.aether-hemera.com/blog/connect2](http://www.aether-hemera.com/blog/connect2)

The new schemes will link to existing walking and cycling routes to give Blyth’s communities genuine travel alternatives to the car. Beyond the infrastructure the programmes aimed at schools and workplaces will provide practical support to enable local people to travel actively more often and improve their health and the environment.



“

There’s a real sense of excitement around the Bike It project amongst the pupils. Many of the children have indicated that they would like to do some bike-handling skills sessions and this is something I’d really like to develop. Working alongside Mark Curr, we will work across the generations and aim to make cycling the natural, fun and healthy choice.

**Richard Rothwell,**  
Bike It officer, Blyth

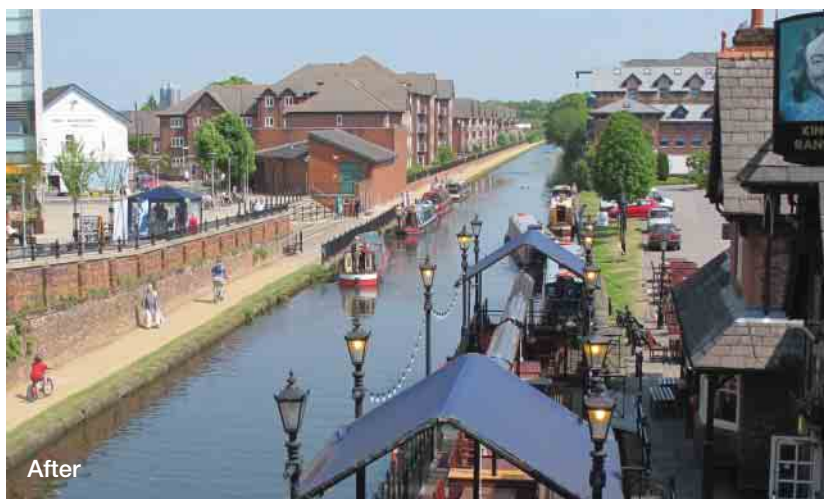
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# Sale – Opening of Bridgewater Way

On 4 June, crowds of people gathered on a beautiful hot summer's day to celebrate the official opening of the Sale scheme, the second Connect2 scheme to be completed. Celebrations began at 11.30am in the heart of the town at a prime location on the new route, next to the Waterside Arts Centre and the Town Hall. The official opening was the grand finale to a week of celebrations and Connect2 Day festivities, including boat trips along the Bridgewater Canal, cycling, rowing events and a Bridgewater Way exhibition.



Before



After

Members of the local community came out in force on the day, along with volunteers, local activists and supporters of the route. Attendees also included representatives from the Bridgewater Canal Trust and Peel Holdings, members of Trafford Council, Malcolm Shepherd Chief Executive of Sustrans, Paul Goggins, MP for Wythenshaw and Sale East, and Kate Green MP for Stretford and Urmston.

At 12pm the ribbon-cutting ceremony took place and people gathered by the new Portrait Bench as Cllr Mayor Kenneth Weston officially opened the towpath amongst cheers from the crowds. Speeches and acknowledgements followed at the Plaza, then VIPs were ushered onto an awaiting canal boat and sailed north up the canal where they alighted at a local nearby pub to meet the rest of the crowd, who had all walked and cycled along the canal admiring the much improved journey along the towpath and beautiful views.

The new Portrait Bench was also unveiled, close to the Sale Waterside piazza. The local characters of the bench were chosen by the community and feature William Bleasdale, a founder member of the Watch House Cruising Club, Dr. Charles White co-founder of Manchester Royal Infirmary and Darren Campbell MBE, Olympic Gold medalist.

The Sustrans' Connect2 scheme in Sale will improve the number and quality of access points to the historic Bridgewater Canal and provide a pleasant environment for pedestrians and cyclists, along the canal towpath. It passes over the River Mersey and under the M60 motorway, connecting into local facilities and into the Transpennine Trail, enabling people to get to work, to school, or the shops quicker and more easily. The scheme's main feature is the newly resurfaced 2km canal towpath, with links connecting local residential areas and schools nearby. This creates both a leisure route and enables people to get to work, as well as opening it up as a public space. Thousands of people live within a mile of the scheme to walk or cycle more for daily journeys to the benefit of both their health and the environment.

Work began in 2009 on the Sale to Stretford section of the Bridgewater Way. The two-mile stretch is part of 12 miles of work in Trafford which will extend north of Stretford towards The Trafford Centre. This stretch is part of the Bridgewater Way, which is a unique 65 km scheme that will regenerate the canal towpath and create a new route for cyclists. The project forms part of National Route 82 of the National Cycle Network.

The anticipated cost of the two-mile stretch between Sale and Stretford is approximately £730,000, with £250,000 coming from the Big Lottery Fund as part of Sustrans' Connect2. Longer term it is hoped to form the basis for 12 miles of improvements in Trafford connecting into local schools and tram stations and extending the towpath surface north of Stretford towards The Trafford Centre.

Sustrans and its partners have also seized the fantastic opportunity to expand the Connect2 route through two more schemes part-funded through a Links to Schools project; this is a three-way partnership between Sustrans, Peel Holdings and Trafford Council. This will provide better on and off road links to Springfield and Stretford Grammar schools for the benefit of staff and pupils, and will maximise benefits to local communities through using a mixture of private and public funded money. The £797,500 Stretford Grammar project and Springfield School's £522,000 scheme are both being funded by a Sustrans' Links to Schools grant, Peel Holdings and Trafford Council. Both projects are extensions of the improved Bridgewater Way north to Watersmeeting where the canal divides, and south from Sale to Marsland Road.



**Peter Green, Sustrans Area Manager for the North West**

“We are immensely pleased to be opening this new walking and cycling route. Trafford is really leading the way in giving its residents more sustainable travel choices. The Bridgewater Way makes it easier for people to do more short local journeys on foot or by bike to reach local shops, schools and amenities whilst keeping away from the busy roads in the area.”



**Andrea, lives in Sale**

“It’s brilliant – my daughter and I live near the park and we get on the towpath at Brooklands and we use this route to get into Sale. It gives us a bit of exercise and fresh air and where it has all been re-done we can get on the Transpennine Trail for picnics and days out.”

**Kate Green, MP Stretford and Urmston (Lab)**

“I think this route will be really special, it’s giving the whole community a lift. It looks great – it will be a place for people to come and enjoy themselves, families on outings as well as great for everyday use. It’s good to see Sustrans opening up new sustainable transport routes and great to see the canal coming back into use in this way.”

**Dylan Ollerenshaw, lives in Sale**

“I use it regularly when I go to work in the morning. If I didn’t have this I’d have to go down the main road which is a lot of effort, lots of stopping and starting and far more dangerous.”

# Crossing the divide – the bridge revolution

As Connect2 continues to grow and communities across the UK are using the routes for more local journeys, one aspect of the project is building bridges and not just metaphorical ones. Wooden, steel, large, small, modern or traditional, they cross rivers, roads, railway lines, motorways and, in some cases, cultural divides. They are connecting communities and making engineering history as the largest bridge-building initiative in the UK for over 150 years.



*Pont-y-Werin bridge, Cardiff*

“No one has done anything like this on a national scale since the height of the railway boom!” says Martin Philpott, Senior Engineer for Sustrans. “The Victorian engineers knew how to build structures that were aesthetic and lasted – and 21st century engineers are doing the same. And the fact that they are walking and cycling bridges means this is a great step forward for sustainable transport.”

As the man in charge of this engineering feat, Martin knows that building one bridge is a challenge but taking on over a hundred is seriously ambitious.

“It seems impossible but we are genuinely achieving it. We are working with so many different local authorities – that’s lots of engineers, each with their own ideas, timeframes and pressures. But the boom in bridge building in the 1800s worked because so many different small, local railway companies were involved and this project is no different.”

And with some structures already in place, others getting planning permission and even more having designs approved,

the bridge revolution is well underway and creating invaluable links for many communities. There have been huge advances so far this year with an impressive bascule bridge placed across the River Ely in Cardiff – Pont-y-Werin – which opened in July as well the towering Diglis Bridge across the River Severn in Worcester which opens later this month. In Watermead Park, Leicestershire, the Thurston and Birstall bridges are small, neat, wooden structures to help people cross the canals and are used by many school children. In Northwich it is estimated that a thousand people will use the new low-level swing bridge every day to cross the river when it is completed later this year and in East London, the Meath Gardens Bridge – a sleek urban structure over the Regents Canal – is already in place. But grand designs to cross impressive riverscapes are not the only kind of bridges making huge differences to local communities.

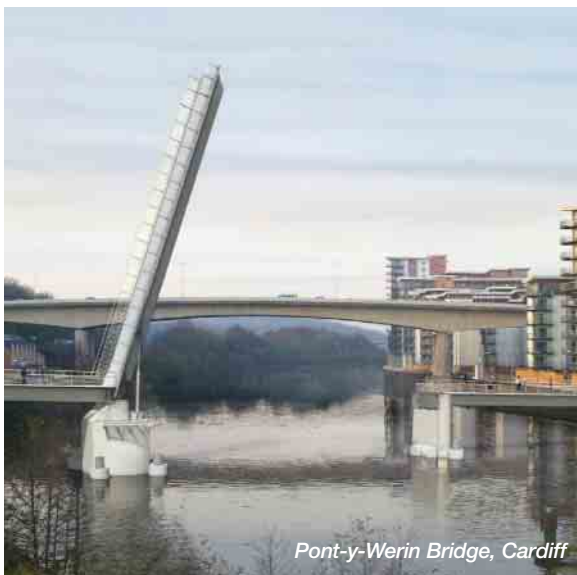
As well as being functional, the bridges are enveloping local culture too. Merthyr Tydfil’s Trevithick Bridge will not only mean people can easily cross the A4060 trunk road, but it will also commemorate the first journey by a steam locomotive pulling a load on rails – a big part of Merthyr’s history.



Reach Lode Bridge



Watermead Park, Leicestershire



Pont-y-Werin Bridge, Cardiff



Diglis Bridge, Worcester

"Bridges don't only overcome physical obstacles – they help people integrate socially and economically. They have allowed us to connect in more ways than one," says Martin.

Local communities have become a part of the design process with public exhibitions and consultations happening across the UK. "Each bridge has to be right for that route and that can mean weighing up 'iconic' designs versus functionality and not forgetting the ecological considerations, construction timescales and budget," says Martin. "These bridges aren't for the engineers, they are for the communities who will use them and design teams are really achieving that level of engagement."

Aside from the bridges, other historic structures are being renewed and re-opened as part of the route. "We are bringing back to life at least six key Grade II listed railway viaducts – including the Nidd near Harrogate, Ponrhydyfen near Port Talbot and the Leicester Road in Rugby – and two old railway tunnels outside Bath, one of which is in excess of a mile long," says Martin. "We're revitalising several railway bridges and one of the South Wales schemes is using an old aqueduct. We're also looking at renewing more modern structures from the 1970's to provide solutions to barriers caused by the urban expansion on our trunk road and motorway network."

As the Connect2 bridges begin to appear across the UK, it is clear that they are proving to be more than just an ambitious engineering project – they are sustainable giants transforming the urban and countryside landscape and the transport choices for people across the UK.

**"We're building new structures across some of Britain's most well known rivers – the Severn, Wye, and Tay – but fast busy roads are sometimes as big a barrier to walking and cycling. Our bridges are trying to re-shape everyday travel by creating vital sustainable transport connections within**



**communities and enabling people to become less reliant on car travel."**

Martin Philpott,  
Connect2 Senior Engineer



# Your Connect2 Day 2010

Connect2 Day is a fantastic way to get your local community involved with their Connect2 scheme. This year your event can take place on any day between July – September, it's up to you to choose! With so many different fun activities you could plan, here are some ideas to get you started...

## Ideas for Connect2 Day

- led rides and walks to schools
- bike breakfasts
- route openings, site visits and exhibitions
- stalls and processions at county shows and local carnivals
- local community events, face painting for children, and competition quizzes
- community BBQ/fête style event – show people the scheme on display and provide “ideas” and “wish” trees giving people the chance to provide their comments
- guided wildflower or wildlife walks through the scheme
- artwork exhibitions for schools to participate in and display work
- run competitions in local schools to win a bike
- tie in Connect2 Day with larger launch event openings e.g. completed sections of route
- storytelling walks - could be fictional, magical, historical or humorous and each story should respond to the local area. The walks could lead along existing paths or to the site of the Connect2 route.

## Stuck for ideas on choosing your local Portrait Bench characters?

Why not use Connect2 Day this year as a way to get your local community involved in competitions and events to nominate local characters?

Think about:

- **Asking the Steering Group to make some initial suggestions of characters** to get things started and then hold a community vote
- **A media campaign to invite submissions from the public** – run a competition inviting people to nominate their characters, you could include a suggestion box or book on the day...
- **Work with a school on the route or local historic or photographic society** - encourage children to take photos of local characters who are important in their lives; the green grocer, sweet shop owner, their teacher or lollipop person.

# Padiham's Connect2 Day Pageant!

The Padiham scheme took part in Connect2 Day this year with a week of planned events and celebrations. Types of events organised included:

## Family wildlife walk

The Big Dribble sponsored football event

Brass in the park music event

Padiham town trail

Community Cycle ride

Heritage and arts exhibition

Photography competition

Art displays, face painting, Bling your Bike...

## Secret to their success?

With a helping hand of fantastic weather to help draw in the crowds, all the Connect2 events were all planned well in advance. Padiham's Steering Group met almost nine months ago to start planning the events. They also formed a sub-committee consisting of community representative members from the steering group and met regularly to discuss the events' progress.

All the Connect2 Day activities were organised and brought together by the different steering group sub-committee members, including representatives from the local Football Club, local History Society and Countryside Rangers. This enabled a wide variety of different types of activities to be organised in addition to walking and cycling based activities and it resulted in a week of varied events. The local Council co-ordinated all the activities and produced leaflets to publicise the events which were distributed to schools, libraries and sports centres.



## Top Tips to Connect2 Day success from Padiham

- Plan events well in advance
- Have a wide range of representatives on your steering group to give opportunity for a wide range of activities
- Buckets of enthusiasm!
- Get local schools and children involved in competitions and events.

## Resources

### New, free poster and leaflet templates now available!

New poster and leaflet templates have been developed for all Connect2 schemes and steering groups to download online, for free. Each will be pre-branded with logos and imagery, and you will be able to tailor them with your own event information.

To use the templates, you need to apply for a log-in.

Please email: [editor@sustrans.org.uk](mailto:editor@sustrans.org.uk) with the words 'Design and print template request' in the subject header.

### Website update

All Connect2 website pages are currently being updated and will contain the latest information on all your Connect2 schemes by September.

### Press and publicity support available

We have a dedicated Connect2 Press Officer who can arrange free publicity and PR coverage for you of your Connect2 Day event. Please get in touch and let us know the details of the event, email: [matthew.hemsley@sustrans.org.uk](mailto:matthew.hemsley@sustrans.org.uk)

### Event materials

Marketing event materials are available for Connect2 Day events; items include banners, balloons, stickers and flags. Please give us at least 2 weeks notice.

### Connect2 Day video clip

A new promotional video clip promoting Connect2 Day is available for schemes and steering groups to view. It gives people some top tips from Watermead Park in Leicestershire as they explain what made their Connect2 Day last year a success.

# Portrait Bench launched in Afan Valley

Sustrans is the largest commissioner of public art in the UK with over 2,000 pieces displayed along public walking and cycling routes. The Portrait Bench is a simple bench with three life-size effigies of local heroes chosen by the local community to represent, their culture and history. The figures are cut from Corten steel (like the famous Angel of the North) so that they will rust and weather to become a natural part of the landscape. These benches will be placed on newly created Connect2 walking and cycling routes as part of an art initiative by Sustrans, funded by the Big Lottery Fund.



On 1 May, the installation and opening of the very first Portrait Bench took place in Cwmafan in the Afan Valley, South Wales. Richard Burton, Rob Brydon and local man Dick Wagstaff, a forest ranger and pillar of the community, were honoured by being immortalised in steel in a Portrait Bench – which will soon be springing up all across the country thanks to Sustrans. The Afan Valley Portrait Bench is the first of nearly 80 to be unveiled across the country and each will be unique to the local community. On the day, the family of Richard Burton, including his brother Graham Jenkins, and Rob Brydon's parents Joy and Howard, were there along with the local community to see the bench unveiled for the first time.

**Graham Jenkins – brother of Richard Burton:** “This portrait is fantastic and I’m very proud that my brother is part of it. We were born in this Valley and it’s wonderful that the people here have chosen Richard he would have absolutely loved this. We just live nearby so we are looking forward to coming for walks and maybe having a rest to enjoy the scenery with Richard for company.”

**Joy Brydon – mother of comedian Rob who lives in nearby Port Talbot:** “We are a Port Talbot family and Rob wished he could be here to see this installed but he will be visiting soon and hopes to bring the family to see his figure. He looks forward to supporting lots of weary bottoms in the future. We are very proud of him and we are looking forward to a bike ride up here.”

**Dick Wagstaff, local forest ranger who has lived and worked in the Valley for over 36 years, said,** “The artist has done a remarkable job - they’ve really got my stance and features exactly right and people have recognised straight away that it is me. I was shocked to be considered alongside an international icon like Richard Burton and a famous son like Rob Brydon. It’s very flattering.”

## TOP THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- **location, location, location!**  
Choose an easily accessible area, with good views that allows the bench to be seen from both sides, so that people can stand next to them and inbetween
- **mark the location on the plans** and include it in the planning application and discuss with the planners
- **complete the order form** to ensure your bench will be ready when you need it
- **when completing the order form** don’t forget to include the actual height of the characters.

## TOP TIPS FROM KATY HALLETT – sending in your images:

- If you're taking photographs, then choose figures wearing plain, light clothes
- Think about what they are carrying – what does it indicate about the person?
- Look for a gender/cultural mix
- If it's a historical character, we can help to improve any images that you send in.
- Take several photographs!

Email your images to [katy.hallett@sustrans.org.uk](mailto:katy.hallett@sustrans.org.uk)

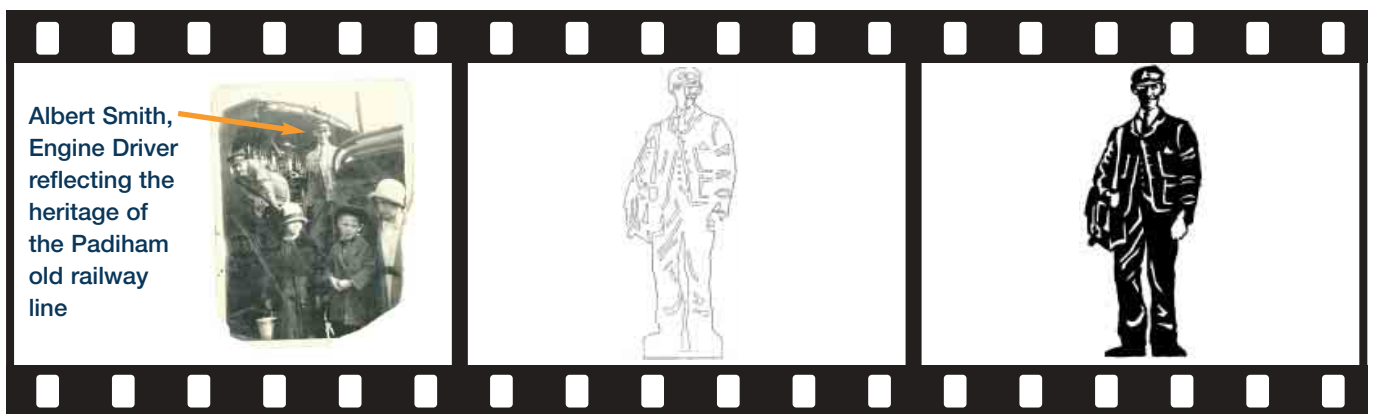
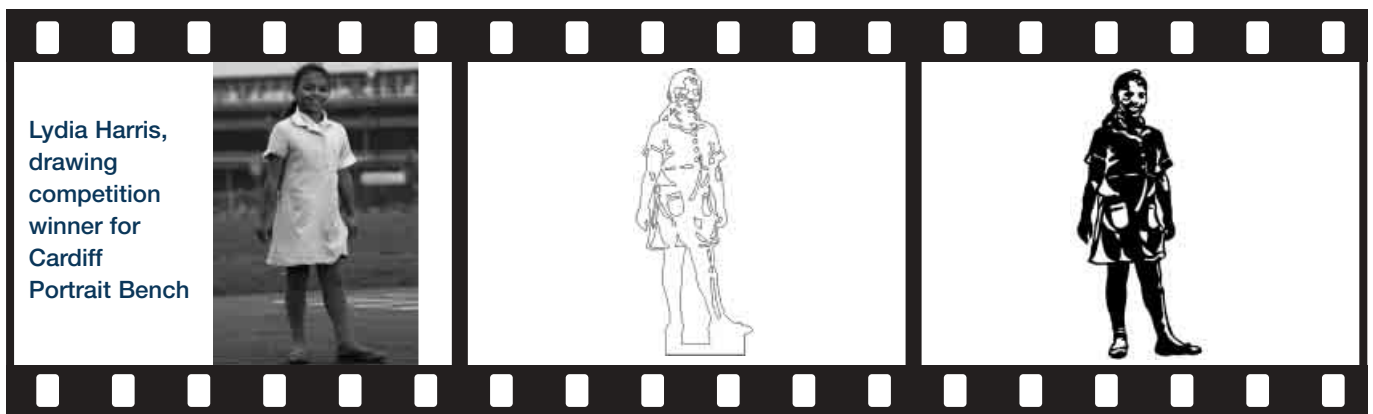
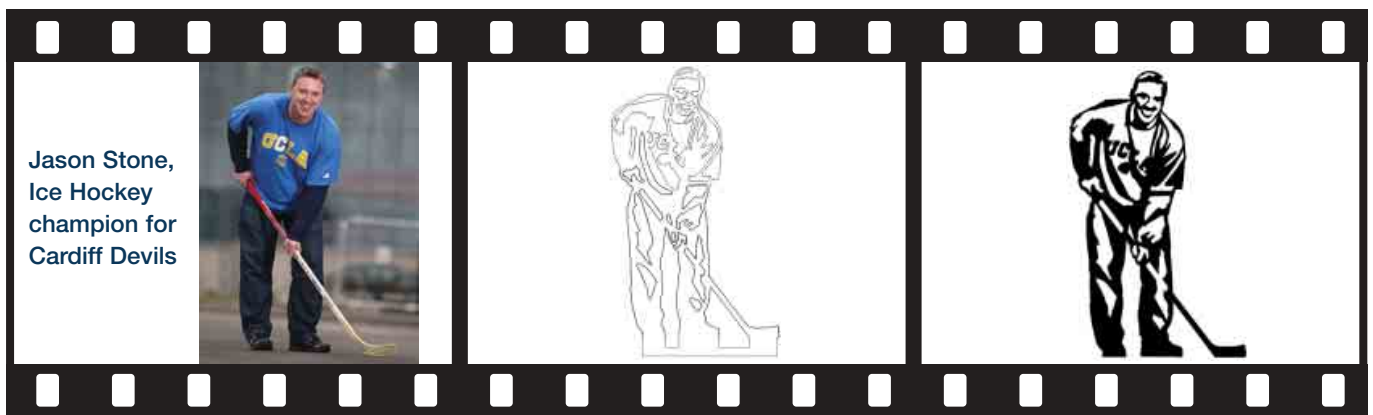
# From paper.... To steel!

## Examples of the stages of image development

**1** Final photo received of chosen character which is scanned in

**2** Simplified line drawings and tracings drawn to scale from original photograph

**3** Final design filled in black to show what the final steel figures will look like



# My National Cycle Network

## Tell us your story and win



As part of our celebrations for the 15th anniversary of the National Cycle Network, Sustrans is running a short film competition. For the chance to win some fantastic prizes you are invited to make a video no longer than two minutes in length showing us what the Network means to you. Why do you love it? How does it make you feel? Where does it take you? Who do you meet? What do you see on it and from it? Our judges will be looking for creative, original and entertaining stories in three age categories. The competition is open from **5 July to 30 September**. For full details and to enter your video, go to the 'My National Cycle Network' competition website at [www.myncn.org.uk](http://www.myncn.org.uk)

## The National Cycle Network is fifteen years young



This year Sustrans is celebrating 15 years of the National Cycle Network. The Network now extends to just over 12,000 miles and carries more than a million walking and cycling journeys every single day. Over half the population lives within a mile of the Network so why not make a point of discovering your nearest routes this summer? Sustrans publishes maps, guides and a free information pack and also has detailed online route mapping available at [www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)



Sustrans has teamed up with Globe bikes to bring a series of family-friendly, 'Fresh Air Miles' bike rides to the National Cycle Network, throughout summer 2010. Organised by Sustrans' volunteer groups the rides suit all ages and abilities, and are a great way to discover your local cycle routes whilst getting fit and enjoying the fresh air. It's free to enter and everyone who registers to take part has the chance to win a fabulous Globe bike! Find out more at: [www.freshairmiles.org.uk](http://www.freshairmiles.org.uk)



# Connswater Living Landmarks project in Northern Ireland

**Connect2 is one of four Big Lottery Funds Living Landmarks beneficiaries; three further projects were successful in a keenly fought competition behind closed doors. Our previous issue of connected looked at The Helix Project in the Forth Valley. This is the turn of the Connswater Community Greenway in Northern Ireland.**

Work is due to start this summer on one of Northern Ireland's biggest community led environmental and engineering projects, thanks to a £23.5 million grant from The Big Lottery Fund. The Connswater Community Greenway in Northern Ireland will provide 16km of urban cycle paths and walkways and a 9km linear park through East Belfast, following the course of the Connswater, Knock and Loop Rivers, connecting the open and green spaces.

The project team has been working with key stakeholders such as Belfast City Council, Rivers Agency and other Government Departments as well as architects, ecologists, designers and most importantly, the local community to finalise the work programme which will also create a civic square and reconnect communities via new and refurbished bridges.

The Connswater Community Greenway represents a £32 million investment in

East Belfast which is being developed by the East Belfast Partnership and is funded by the Big Lottery Fund, Belfast City Council and the Department for Social Development. It will create vibrant, attractive, safe and accessible parkland for leisure, recreation and community events and activities, benefiting an estimated 40,000 people in the immediate vicinity. When completed, new heritage and education trails will attract thousands of visitors. In addition to delivering a new linear park the project will, through a joint contract with Rivers Agency, deliver a Flood Alleviation Scheme along the rivers to address the extensive flooding problems that have blighted East Belfast over the past three years.

Wendy Langham, Programme Manager for the Connswater Community Greenway says the project will create safe spaces for exercise and recreation helping people to get healthier and more active. "It will improve the urban environment and help create a safer community. The Connswater River was once a source of energy for the local mills and other industries; a place where children had adventures and local residents walked and talked. Decades of neglect resulted in a river that was in places inaccessible, and an unwelcoming, unpleasant environment. The Greenway will connect the communities of East Belfast and restore the rivers to reach their potential as living community assets."

Outreach Centres have been established throughout the area and Community Engagement Officer, Sean Brannigan says many local groups have delivered fantastic events, "We've had easter egg hunts, nature days, bat talk and walk, fun days and tours of the Greenway as well as an art competition with the local schools. We recently worked with local community groups and the Prince's Regeneration Trust to clear weeds and overgrown beds, plant flowers and organic vegetation, and re-paint fences to transform a walled garden. We've also just completed our third annual Bluebell Walk along the Connswater Community Greenway route. Direct involvement and engagement with the project by the local community is critical to whether or not the project is successful and I am delighted with the levels of support shown for the project by everyone I meet in the local community."

For more information click [www.communitygreenway.co.uk](http://www.communitygreenway.co.uk) and for regular updates follow the Connswater Community Greenway duck on Facebook.



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