

Little Digmoor Fair Share Trust Family Sculpture Unveiled



A group of Little Digmoor residents and school children and teachers at the unveiling of their sculptures

A commemorative sculpture created by Morecambe-based artist, Shane Johnstone, has been formally opened in the grounds of Little Digmoor Primary School.

Residents and school children from Little Digmoor joined with members of the Fair Share Trust Panel, along with representatives from Lancashire Police, West Lancashire Borough Council and Lancashire County Council, for the unveiling.

The Fair Share Trust project was started in 2003 and provided lottery funding to 80 communities in the UK which faced particularly high levels of deprivation and who were not getting their 'fair share' of lottery funding.

To commemorate the end of the project and its achievements, the "Little Digmoor Family Sculpture" was created with Shane initially working with students from West Lancashire College and residents from Little Digmoor and then with children from Little Digmoor Primary School, to capture the meaning of partnership and togetherness which has made the Fair Share Trust project in Little Digmoor such a success.

Martin Trengove, the Fair Share Trust project manager based at West Lancashire Council for Voluntary Service (WLCVS), said that the sculpture, which depicts three generations of family and



The Little Digmoor Family Sculpture.



Leigh Boyton, Chair of the FST Panel, Rachel Maguire from Little Digmoor Primary School and Norma Timperley from the Little Digmoor Community Association cutting the ribbon

their pets, reflected the coming together of residents, the school and all the supporting agencies, voluntary groups and community organisations who have worked together for the wellbeing of Little Digmoor over the past ten years.

At the start of the project a group of Little Digmoor residents formed the Little Digmoor Community Association [LDCA] and actively participated in a funding panel to allocate the grant funding available each year to improve life on their estate. The panel was supported by WL CVS and made up of LDCA members, local residents, borough and county councillors and representatives from the health service, police and officers from West Lancashire Borough Council.

Top of the priority list at the start of the project was the need to improve the local environment. Over the past 10 years of the Fair Share programme, 26 garden areas and squares have been upgraded or extensively refurbished. Activities for young people were also a priority and a number of projects aimed at providing activities for children and young people had been launched – including annual day trips away for residents, forming a Family Group as well as the Plastersine Drama Group in Little Digmoor, setting up a Little Digmoor Cubs and Beavers Scout group and running a Youth Club.

The needs of older residents were also met with the start of an indoor bowling group, an arts and craft skills swap group, the creation of a community allotment and a weekly lunch club set up with the help of Age UK. Funds were also used to provide a community IT suite which enabled computer classes and a job club to be run on the estate with the help of the Quarry Bank Community Association. The LDCA has also run a Community Festival each summer for the past

four years and worked with the school and the County Council to improve pedestrian safety by installing a 20mph zone on the estate and improving the road crossing by the school gates. A sensory room has also been installed in the school by the local Parents Group.

Martin Trengove said: “It’s been a very rewarding project. So much has been achieved by so many people over the past ten years but none of this would have been possible without the dedication and commitment of local residents and the LDCA”. Martin went on to report that the BIG Lottery’s Fair Share Trust Protector, Mark Nicholls, had complimented everyone involved in the programme following the visit he made last year with representatives of the London-based UK Community Foundations who ran the FST programme nationally. The Protector in his annual report for 2012 said that he was particularly impressed with the transformation of the Fair Share area in Skelmersdale since he first visited in February 2004, he went on to say that the local community spirit he witnessed on his recent visit was heart warming and encapsulated the finest aspects of Fair Shares.

Martin concluded by saying: “Everyone involved needs to take great pride in such an achievement and their contribution towards it”.