

Grand Opening of A Conversational Place

Large crowds gathered at a special event to celebrate the official opening to the public of a fantastic new art-themed community garden by Town Green Station.

Major permanent features on the site include colourful patios and a mural, and new pathways through the garden.

The temporary artworks are made out of recyclable materials and were put on the site for the official opening. There were examples of yarn bombing and weaving, as well as birdhouses and pom poms being on show.

A survey carried out at the start of the project showed what plants and flowers already existed at the site, and these have been re-planted to give a splash of natural colour to the garden. Periwinkle, ferns, primroses, cowslips and honeysuckle can all be seen in the garden, along with raspberries and rhubarb.

Local people saw the results of all this hard work at the grand opening on Friday 10 July, which was performed by West Lancashire Mayor Cllr Nikki Hennessy and David Unsworth Everton Under 21's Manager and parent of the school and Kaj Mook, Customer Service Director from Merseyrail. As well as the garden being officially opened for the first time there were plenty of other exciting activities, community stalls and refreshments for people to enjoy.

Councillor Yvonne Gagen, West Lancashire Borough Council portfolio holder for Leisure, said: "I have been very impressed with the hard work of the pupils from Aughton St Michael's Primary School, the community groups and everyone involved in this project. I am sure that local people will enjoy using this garden for many years to come."

A Conversational Place will be open for the community to use during station opening hours. The children are very grateful to companies Lorne Stewart, Manor Building Solutions, Creative Impressions, Fairhurst and Germinal for supporting the project.

Emma Stone, senior leader at Aughton St Michael's Primary School, said: "This has been a fantastic project for the children and we are all really pleased with the garden, which we hope people will enjoy using it. Children and teachers will be visiting the site to make sure it is maintained, and we hope put in more permanent artworks on the site if we are successful with future finding bids."

Kaj Mook, Customer Services Director at Merseyrail, said: "We were delighted when we were contacted by Emma Stone from Aughton St Michael's with such an exciting plan. It is the type of initiative that we love being involved in. It has been great to see people from all areas of the community around Town Green be so enthusiastic about their own local area. All

involved should be very proud of what they have achieved. And myself and the team at Merseyrail are excited to see how the garden evolves and develops over the next few years...and we hope all use it and enjoy it."



A huge thankyou to everyone who supported the project and those parents that helped us get down to the site for the opening. We are very proud of everything we have managed to achieve.

A friends group has been set up for the community garden called the Friends of Town Green Station. For more details please ring Emma Stone on 01695 423295.

