

The Much Wenlock Public Art Trail



The Much Wenlock Public Art Trail, sited at William Brookes School, Windmill Hill and around the edge of the Gaskell Field, was commissioned by the William Penny Brookes Foundation for the people of Much Wenlock to celebrate the town's heritage and to commemorate the values and inspiration that led to the London 2012 Olympics.

Much Wenlock, as a town, has a long history that dates back to before 680AD, when the Abbey, which was later rebuilt as a Priory, was founded.

The town's Olympic connection stems from the part it played in the birth of the modern Olympic Games. Much Wenlock is the birthplace of Dr William Penny Brookes, the inspiration for the modern Olympic Movement and founder of the Wenlock Olympian Society. Dr William Penny Brookes set up the Wenlock Olympian Games on what is now the Gaskell Recreation Ground in 1850. These games played a significant role in the revival of the modern Olympic Games in Athens in 1896.

Further information about Much Wenlock's Olympian heritage can be found at: www.wenlock-olympian-society.org.uk

Further information about the Public Art Trail can be found at: www.muchwenlockguide.info/publicart-trail

The Much Wenlock Public Art Trail was unveiled by Philip Dunne MP on 13th July 2012 and was made possible by the following:

- William Penny Brookes Foundation**
- Arts Council England**
- William Brookes School**
- Community Arts and Festivals Development, Shropshire Council**
- Meadow Arts**
- Much Wenlock Town Council**
- Craven Dunnill Jackfield**
- Kier Construction**



Design & photography: arigomatic.co.uk 01584 856228



The five artworks by the artist Michael Johnson, show the different interests of William Penny Brookes. These works were developed with the local community of Much Wenlock including pupils from the Much Wenlock Primary School and William Brookes School (texts by Paul Francis).

1 Trees

Collecting and planting Trees was a Victorian passion. On the recreation ground, several species were planted for commemorative purposes; they stand as symbols of events, longevity and belief in the future.

Industries

Penny Brookes further contributed to the progress of the town by being a key motivator in bringing the railways and the gasworks to Much Wenlock.

Botany

The collection and classification of plants was another Victorian passion.

Penny Brookes looked closely at the world that contributed to his understanding of the effect of the environment on our wellbeing.

Culture

The balance of the body between the physical and spiritual was recognised by Penny Brookes and in response he supported the establishment of the Agricultural Reading Rooms, also encouraging music, art and history.

Sport

Penny Brookes' lifelong belief in the benefit of sport is well known and is a core conviction throughout his works.



The artist Clare Woods was commissioned to make a permanent public artwork *Brick Field*, for the Olympic Park in London. Part of that work has been reproduced and is located outside the entrance to William Brookes School.

Brick Field

Clare Woods chose to work with the history and location of the Olympic site prior to the development of the Park and to produce a painting *Brick Field*, which takes inspiration from the traces of the roads, waterways and railways of the site's history, which were discovered through maps,

photographs and old prints. The painting was digitally photographed and through a complex process of digital printing, screen printing of special colours and water-jet cutting, the piece was realised in tiles, by the specialist historic tile fabricators Craven Dunnill Jackfield, who are based at Ironbridge Gorge in Shropshire.

