



HAZLEHURST STUDIOS

RECONNECTING RUNCORN DAY

JULY 2023 // PREPARED BY CLAIRE PITT

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Reconnecting Runcorn comprises of a visionary series of seven projects, collectively aimed at enhancing the lives and livelihoods of the local community while fostering economic growth. The primary goal of this initiative is to create a platform for active engagement, information dissemination, and updates for the Town Deal Board, local businesses, community organisations within Runcorn Old Town, and the general public.

To achieve this, each project will host workshops and interactive elements at their respective venues, whenever possible, to encourage active participation from the public. This approach seeks to motivate people to get involved with the various Town Deal projects, allowing them to ask questions and interact with key members of the board and the community.

Our ultimate aim is to showcase and involve the public in the Reconnecting Runcorn projects, making them more aware of the opportunities made possible by the Town Deal funding. By actively engaging with local residents, partners, businesses, and organisations, we strive to improve the understanding of the project's goals and garner support for the envisioned transformations.

The culmination of this showcase will take place at The Brindley Theatre, as Reconnecting Runcorn Day.

PROJECT PLAN

Originally, Reconnecting Runcorn Day was set for Friday, April 21st, with a series of carefully arranged events leading up to a showcase at The Brindley Theatre. A vital aspect of the plan was to hire a photographer who could capture various locations involved in the Reconnecting Runcorn project, along with the individuals contributing to its success. These images aimed to generate excitement and anticipation for the main event. Taking charge of the project coordination was Claire Pitt from Hazlehurst Studios, while the commissioned photographer responsible for the task was Lauren Quayle.

As part of the Reconnecting Runcorn initiative, workshops were also scheduled at different locations to showcase the future tenants of the upcoming redevelopment of the Camden Buildings. This particular element was categorized under the Creative and Digital Skills Centre project for Reconnecting Runcorn, with participation from the prospective tenants 'A Place for Us' and Mako Create.

ORIGINAL TIMELINE - APRIL 2023

Sunday 16th April 2023 - Celebrating Songkran Thai New Year at The Wat Phra Singh UK Buddhist Temple - experiencing a cultural celebration, seeing inside the current temple, and finding out about the plans for the Peace Garden and upcoming designs for the new temple.

Location: Wat Phra Singh UK, 88 High Street, Runcorn, WA7 1JH

What project does it connect to? [High Street Connectivity](#)

Monday 17th April 2023 - Musical showcase from A Place for Us

Location: Runcorn Library, Granville Street, Runcorn WA7 1NE

What project does it connect to? [Creative and Digital Skills Centre](#)

Tuesday 18th April 2023 - Walk and Talk - Highlighting the locations of the upcoming Reconnecting Runcorn projects (this was for Members of the public)

Location: Walk to start at The Brindley and finish at Hazlehurst Studios

What project does it connect to? [All Seven Projects](#)

Wednesday 19th April 2023 - The official opening of Hazlehurst Studios' new building - 71 High Street - showcasing new exhibitions, workshops, and studio spaces.

Location: 71 High Street, Runcorn, WA7 1AH

What project does it connect to? [Creative and Digital Skills Centre](#)

Thursday 20th April 2023 - Digital Creativity with MakoCreate

Location: 71 High Street, Runcorn, WA7 1AH

What project does it connect to? [Creative and Digital Skills Centre](#)

Friday 21st April 2023 - Reconnecting Runcorn Day - Showcase event at The Brindley, including a Walk and Talk for the members of the Town Deal Board. A canal boat ride was also proposed, highlighting the Unlock Runcorn project.

Location: The Brindley, High Street, WA7 1BG

What project does it connect to? [All Seven Projects](#)

Pre-Election Period (formerly known as Purdah)

As a result of the upcoming local elections on May 4th, the organisers made the decision to reschedule the showcase and other events to a later date. After careful consideration, June 9th was selected as the new date for the showcase event. This adjustment would provide ample time to generate publicity for Reconnecting Runcorn Day while being cautious about adhering to the restrictions on publicity during the Pre-Election Period.

Despite the adjustments required due to the upcoming elections, certain aspects of the initial timeline had to be rescheduled until June. Nevertheless, there remained an opportunity to capture and record the positive developments associated with various projects. Hazlehurst Studios' commissioned photographer, Lauren Quayle, and project coordinator, Claire Pitt, actively participated in multiple events and community sessions during the subsequent two months. Their efforts revolved around documenting the projects' progress and initiating meaningful discussions leading up to the Reconnecting Runcorn Showcase day.



HAZLEHURST STUDIOS

CAPTURING THE PROJECTS

JULY 2023 // PREPARED BY CLAIRE PITT

SUNDAY 16TH APRIL 2023

CELEBRATING SONGKRAN THAI NEW YEAR AT THE WAT PHRA SINGH UK BUDDHIST TEMPLE



Sunday 16th April 2023 - Celebrating Songkran Thai New Year at The Wat Phra Singh Buddhist Temple - Lauren and Claire immersed themselves in the joyous festivities of Songkran, the Thai New Year, at Wat Phra Singh Buddhist Temple. They delved into a rich cultural celebration, exploring the intricacies of the current temple's interior while also learning about the future plans for the Peace Garden and the upcoming designs for a new temple. The day was filled with delightful food tasting, participating in traditional offerings, and engaging in meaningful conversations with fellow celebrants.

What project does it connect to? [High Street Connectivity](#)

Website: [Wat Phra Singh UK](#)

Link to further images: [Wat Phra Singh UK - Songkran](#)

WEDNESDAY 19TH APRIL 2023

SOFT LAUNCH OF HAZLEHURST STUDIOS



Wednesday 19th April 2023 - Due to the new dates for Reconnecting Runcorn Day on the 9th of June, Hazlehurst Studios made the decision to postpone their official opening. Instead, they opted for a soft launch event on the 19th of April. This event was dedicated to welcoming the first occupant of 71 High Street - Gail Louise Jewellery. Gail had set up a bespoke jewelry school within her space.

During this extended period before the official opening, the commissioned photographer took the opportunity to capture moments of the artists at work. They documented the evolution of both the existing and newly developed spaces as the studios geared up for the grand opening and began recruiting new artists to join their community.

What project does it connect to? Creative and Digital Skills Centre

Website: Hazlehurst Studios

Link to further images: Hazlehurst Studios - Soft Launch 19th April

SATURDAY 6TH MAY 2023

INSIDE WAT PHRA SINGH UK



Saturday 6th May 2023 - Inside Wat Phra Singh UK

On Saturday the 6th May 2023 - Tony Collacott graciously conducted a guided tour of the temple, extending a warm invitation for us to stay and witness the daily food offering ceremony. This open invitation extends to all members of the public, encouraging them to visit the temple and explore it firsthand.

What project does it connect to? [High Street Connectivity](#)

Website: [Wat Phra Singh UK](#)

Link to further images - [Wat Phra Singh UK - Inside the Temple](#)

SUNDAY 7TH MAY 2023

OUTSIDE THE WAT PHRA SINGH UK TEMPLE, THE PEACE GARDEN
LOCATION AND WATERLOO BRIDGE



Sunday 7th May 2023 - Outside the Wat Phra Singh UK Temple, The Peace Garden Location and Waterloo Bridge

Prior to the commencement of work on the temple grounds, our photographer took shots of the temple's exteriors and the surrounding area designated for the new Peace Garden. Additionally, Lauren captured images of Waterloo Bridge, a key element of the Unlock Runcorn project, which offers a vantage point to observe the current termination point of the Bridgewater Canal.

What project does it connect to? [High Street Connectivity](#) and [Unlock Runcorn](#)

Website: [Wat Phra Singh UK and Unlock Runcorn](#)

Link to further images: [Peace Garden and Temple](#) and [Waterloo Bridge](#)

SATURDAY 13TH MAY 2023

UNLOCK RUNCORN



Saturday 13th May 2023 Unlock Runcorn: Every Saturday morning, dedicated volunteers from the Unlock Runcorn Campaign gather together, focusing their efforts on the compound. Their tasks include restoring a canal boat and offering guided tours to individuals interested in the project. Regardless of the weather, they always manage to stay productive, finding various activities to engage in. Lauren, our photographer, skillfully captures them in action, documenting their hard work and commitment.

What project does it connect to? [Unlock Runcorn](#)

Website: [Unlock Runcorn](#)

SATURDAY 13TH MAY 2023

HAZLEHURST STUDIOS: ARTIST AT WORK



Saturday 13th 2023 - Lauren, the photographer, revisited Hazlehurst Studios with the intention of capturing the artists in action. The goal was to obtain content that could be utilised for creating promotional material for their upcoming open day.

What project does it connect to? [Creative and Digital Skills Centre](#)

Website: [Hazlehurst Studios](#)

Link to further images: [Artists at Work](#)

TUESDAY 23RD MAY 2023

HAZLEHURST STUDIOS: 71 HIGH STREET EXTERIOR SHOTS



Tuesday 23rd May 2023 - Hazlehurst Studios Exterior Shots

Following several discussions with the public and local organisations, who faced difficulties in finding the new building, Lauren decided to revisit Hazlehurst Studios and capture photographs of its exterior. These images were intended to be incorporated into the promotional material being developed by Hazlehurst Studios for their upcoming open day.

What project does it connect to? [Creative and Digital Skills Centre](#)

Website: [Hazlehurst Studios](#)

Link to further images: [71 High Street Exterior Shots](#)



HAZLEHURST STUDIOS

PUBLIC EVENTS

JULY 2023 // PREPARED BY CLAIRE PITT

RECONNECTING RUNCORN

SHOWCASE: WEEK COMMENCING 5TH JUNE 2023



Reconnecting Runcorn Showcase Week - Week commencing 5th June 2023

Public events in June gave local residents and businesses an opportunity to see and hear first-hand about the progress that was being made to deliver the seven exciting projects that formed the £23.6m Reconnecting Runcorn programme. The events were:

- A 'Walk and talk' tour – starting at The Brindley at 10 am on Tuesday, 6th June. Reconnecting Runcorn Showcase –The 'walk and talk' tour on 6th June showed off the full scale of the Reconnecting Runcorn programme, with a route that took in all seven projects.
- A Drop-In event at The Brindley from 2 pm to 6 pm on Friday, 9th June - with an opportunity to talk to architects and project leads behind the seven projects.
- Question and answer session – with the Runcorn Town Board at The Brindley at 5 pm on Friday, 9th June

WALK AND TALK - 6TH JUNE 2023

Tuesday the 6th June: *Public Walk and Talk around the Seven Reconnecting Runcorn projects from 10am to 1pm.*

19 members of the public joined us on a walk and talk around the area, plus Local Ward Councillor Emma Garner and Trudy Jones (Library Development Officer), so 21 in total.

Leading the walk: Claire Pitt (Hazlehurst Studios) and Jane Rhodes (HBC Community Development Officer), with Jochem Hollestelle (Principal Regeneration Officer).

Joined by: Tony Collacott (Wat Phra Singh Buddhist Temple) and Louise O'Brien (Regeneration Officer)

The tour started at The Brindley at 10 am and worked its way along the High Street and through to Runcorn Station Quarter, stopping to hear from some of those directly involved in leading the work on the Reconnecting Runcorn projects. The tour finished at Hazlehurst Studios' new building 71 High Street, where participants were invited to explore the new studios and meet some of the artists in residence.

Leading the tour was Claire Pitt from Hazlehurst Studios – the first tenants of 71 High Street – the Grade II Listed building renovated and refurbished as part of the Reconnecting Runcorn programme.

Claire hoped that local people would be keen to learn more about Reconnecting Runcorn, saying, "I hope that everyone who joins the tour leaves feeling more informed, but more importantly, really enthusiastic and optimistic about the future of our town centre."

Feedback: This was a well-received event on the day, lots of healthy debate around some aspects of the projects, mainly differing opinions about architectural style, but overall positive responses for the projects. We have also received feedback about the timings of the walk and talk, so a further two are going to be planned, looking at early evening and weekend dates/times.

Several of those that attended the walk and talk returned to the event on Friday 9th June and one participant was interested in a studio space at Hazlehurst Studios.

THE BRINDLEY SHOWCASE

Friday the 9th June: Open to the public from 2-6 pm

All seven projects were invited to bring along representatives from their organisations, as well as the architects to showcase plans (where possible). The studio at The Brindley was laid out with tables and refreshments were provided.

Also invited to be part of the day were some of the potential end users of the Digital and Creative Skills Centre (Camden Buildings): A Place for Us (Theatre company) and Mako Create (Digital and Creative Skills for all ages).

From 2-5 pm Members of the public could speak to all the projects at their individual stands, then at 5 pm we invited questions from the public.

A Place for Us performed a showcase of music throughout the session - utilising local performers they highlighted the potential of using performing arts in public events - they were also available to answer any questions from members of the public and explained the importance of creating accessible avenues into the performing arts for local people.

Mako Create showcased some of their engaging family-friendly digital activities, this time with the creative fun of digital AR face painting.

Just before the Q/A segment of the day, A Place for Us performed and allowed us to reset the room slightly, inviting members of the board up to the panel area.

The Q&A session received a positive response, with a significant portion of the visitors staying for this part of the day. The topics raised during the Q&A revolved around accountability, including questions about how the town deal money is being spent, why certain projects were chosen, whether there is enough funding for all the projects, and how to obtain more information about the projects.

While the primary purpose of the session was to showcase the selected seven projects, attendees also expressed their viewpoints regarding the absence of specific facilities and their aspirations for the implementation of other projects.

These themes from the Q&A align with the feedback forms that were collected, as they also touched on similar concerns and inquiries.

Link to images: [The Brindley Showcase event](#)

Yasmin Longshaw, Assistant Project Officer (Regeneration), kindly shared the collated feedback report from the event, prepared by Richard Parr. (attached separately)

Please note that some attendees lived in the same household and only listed one postcode, resulting in more attendees than reflected in the postcode count. Based on the number of postcodes received, there were at least 61 attendees, with 26 of them providing feedback during the event.

Feedback: The event received positive responses, indicating a strong desire for more similar gatherings. Participants appreciated the opportunity to be well-informed about ongoing projects, while also acknowledging the value of networking among various organisations involved in the Reconnecting Runcorn Projects.

HAZLEHURST STUDIOS

Friday the 9th June: Open to the public from 12-6 pm

The 9th of June also saw the official opening of Hazlehurst Studios' new building 71 High Street, which is adjacent to their current 73a High Street (which they have occupied since 2013).

Over 120 people attended the official opening: A few comments -

- Some very talented artists, producing some inspirational work
- A wonderful space full of inspiration and imaginative works. Thrilled to visit this fabulous space
- This exhibition is absolutely beautiful. The woodcuts and lino prints especially stood out. We love all the colours! This Georgian building is the perfect backdrop. Thanks
- Very inspirational to see, presented in a lovely way.
- So interesting to see and appreciate what is going on at a grass root level
- Lovely variety of work, very inspiring! Love the building.

What's next for Hazlehurst Studios? Currently, their primary focus lies on recruiting new artists to occupy the vacant spaces. The 9th of June served as an excellent opportunity to invite potential artists to explore the available spaces.

Following the event on Friday, June 9th, they received six serious inquiries. They have initiated the evaluation process to determine the suitability of these candidates for a studio space. Priority is given to individuals residing in Halton, but they are also open to considering applicants from outside the area, provided they are willing to actively engage with the local community and contribute to upskilling local talent. This is especially relevant if their art practice brings something unique and complementary to the existing offerings at Hazlehurst Studios.

Additionally, Hazlehurst Studios plans to host Open Days to welcome the public at least once a week. Furthermore, they are diligently working on developing a 12-month workshop program that will enable local residents to access creative workshops either for free or at a reduced cost. This effort aims to foster creativity within the community and provide opportunities for artistic growth and development.



HAZLEHURST STUDIOS

TOWN DEAL BOARD

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TOWN DEAL BOARD

The primary objective of Reconnecting Runcorn Day was twofold: firstly, to facilitate meaningful interactions between local residents, organisations, and businesses, and secondly, to keep the members of the Town Deal board well-informed and updated about ongoing projects. The Runcorn Town Deal Board consists of various crucial stakeholders from both the public and private sectors, with its leadership provided by a local businessperson, Adrian Fillingham, who serves as the independent chair. The Board also includes representation from Halton Borough Council, which additionally offers administrative support. Some local ward councilors, along with Derek Twigg MP, are also part of the Board, ensuring that elected members are closely attuned to the needs and aspirations of the community, and are fully aware of the improvements sought by their constituents.

WALK AND TALK

Friday the 9th of June

Walk and Talk - For the Town Deal Board

12 pm - 3 pm

The Walk and Talk for the Town Deal Board featured participants from DLUHC (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) and BEIS (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy), in addition to project partners, who all joined the tour.

Leading the walk: Claire Pitt (Hazlehurst Studios) with Jane Rhodes (HBC Community Development Officer),

At each 'Stopping' point during the tour, a representative from each project spoke briefly about their project and answered any questions from the group.

THE BRINDLEY THEATRE ENHANCEMENT

TOWN DEAL WALK AND TALK JUNE 9TH 2023



The Brindley Theatre Enhancement: Sally McDonald - Leisure Services Divisional Manager at Halton Borough Council, guided us on a short tour around the Brindley Theatre, explained how the theatre is currently used and the vision for the new expansion plans:

The Brindley expansion will see a well-designed large café-restaurant and make the Brindley Green a welcoming, safe, and inclusive civic space. With the aim of making The Brindley more accessible and visible. Furthermore, the Granville Street library is to be relocated to The Brindley building, as part of a wider ambition to create an exciting cultural hub in Runcorn.

What project does it connect to: [The Brindley Theatre Enhancement](#)

Link to images: [Brindley Theatre Enhancement](#)

HIGH STREET CONNECTIVITY

TOWN DEAL WALK AND TALK JUNE 9TH 2023



High Street Connectivity: Jochem Hollestelle explained briefly about the current ideas about the improvements for High Street (for cars, pedestrians, and cyclists) - this forms part of Reconnecting Runcorn's High Street Connectivity project. This project will improve the connectivity, accessibility, and environment on key routes in and around the Old Town.

Specifically, the project will aim to:

- Improve the High Street so that it can become more pedestrian and cycle-friendly, reducing congestion and pollution in the town centre
- Invest in a new pedestrian footbridge across the Bridgewater Canal to the Brindley.

What project does it connect to [High Street Connectivity](#)

Link to images: [High Street Connectivity](#)

HEALTH AND EDUCATION HUB

TOWN DEAL WALK AND TALK JUNE 9TH 2023



Health and Education Hub: Lucy Garner (Warrington Hospital) and Mary Murphy (Riverside College) - They both talked about the changes to what will be the former town centre library and the future collaborations with Riverside College.

The project is to deliver a mixed-use hub that will deliver health and education services. The plan includes the provision of a variety of new health services in a single location in the Town Centre. These are likely to be diagnostic services, including breast screening, obstetric ultrasound, cervical screening, and phlebotomy. This will provide local residents in Runcorn Town with much better health service access in their area, with less need to travel to health centres further away and reducing pressure on hospitals.

The service would also provide health promotion and signposting, ensuring that members of the public are aware of and able to access all services available within the community, including those provided by primary care, community care, and the third sector. The health and education service will share a building and reception with other services, and further education and job-seeking support have been identified to be complimentary and a good fit.

What project does it connect to [Health and Education Hub](#)
Link to images [Health and Education Hub](#)

DIGITAL AND CREATIVE SKILLS CENTRE

TOWN DEAL WALK AND TALK JUNE 9TH 2023



Digital and Creative Skills Centre (Camden Buildings): Jane Rhodes (as Claire Bradbury from PIP Power in Partnership had sent in apologies) explained briefly about the plans for the Camden Buildings.

Located on the High Street, this project will see the refurbishment of buildings to provide a home for local creative and digital organisations, providing a visible focal point for creative and digital organisations and learning in the Old Town. Building on the presence of Hazlehurst Studios, It will be home to a range of existing training and skills providers that have a long track record of delivery. The project will also be able to show links to the wider borough, with the participating organisations being able to teach a wealth of new skills including those used in creative and digital activities, like coding, radio, and drone programming. Having a physical presence will make it easier to link with Sci/Tech Daresbury bringing their educational outreach in relation to future employment opportunities to the town centre. The project will also link to the nearby Brindley Theatre giving the organisations based at the centre access to new audiences. The centre will also provide affordable, quality, shared training, and learning spaces.

What project does it connect to [Creative and Digital Skills Centre](#)
Link to images [Creative and Digital Skills Centre](#)

TOWN CENTRE NEW HOMES

TOWN DEAL WALK AND TALK JUNE 9TH 2023



Town Centre New Homes: Paul Mullane from Halton Housing talked about Halton Housing's plans for the High Street, as well as Halton Housings' commitment to the local area and other possible improvements to the local area.

This project will unlock the development of two derelict sites in the Old Town and deliver 104 independent living units site and a community lead housing project on the Rutland Street site. These houses will regenerate the area and provide a stronger catchment for the town centre. There is interest for the site from a registered housing provider to deliver an independent living scheme. The area is suitable for the older age group due to adjacent town centre conveniences, including shops, the GP practice, and the theatre. Promoting an increase in footfall and reducing car journeys. Rutland Street site has emerged after the demolition of the Trumpet Loop. The area is attractive to families and the older age group due to town centre conveniences and shops. The aspiration is for a regeneration housing scheme that attracts professionals and young couples who may wish to start a family and settle.

What project does it connect to? [Town Centre New Homes](#)
Link to images [Town Centre New Homes](#)

WAT PHRA SINGH UK: TEMPLE DEVELOPMENTS

TOWN DEAL WALK AND TALK JUNE 9TH 2023



Wat Phra Singh UK Temple developments: Tony Collacott from Wat Phra Singh UK talked about the upcoming plans for the temple as well as the development of the Peace Garden

The monks and trustees have committed to building a new Ubosot Hall on the temple car park together with a ceremonial gateway. This is a very ambitious project, but they feel confident that they can deliver this unique building as they have the full support of Luang Por Sopano, the Abbot of their parent temple in Chiang Mai, and all their regular supporters. The project also forms a strategic fit with other developments such as the new Mersey Crossing, the Bridgewater Canal locks restoration scheme, and the Station Quarter project all of which will help with the regeneration of Runcorn Old Town.

What project does it connect to [High Street Connectivity](#)
Link to images [Temple Plans](#)

WAT PHRA SINGH UK: PEACE GARDEN

TOWN DEAL WALK AND TALK JUNE 9TH 2023



Wat Phra Singh UK: Peace Garden

Adjacent to the temple is a sloping, grassed triangle of land belonging to Halton Borough Council. The plans for the Station Quarter project show this as not being utilised under the current designs so they approached Halton Borough Council to ask permission to create a Peace Garden there as their gift to the Runcorn Old Town community.

What project does it connect to? [High Street Connectivity](#)
Link to images [Peace Garden](#)

UNLOCK RUNCORN

TOWN DEAL WALK AND TALK JUNE 9TH 2023



Unlock Runcorn: Claire Pitt talked briefly about the Unlock Runcorn project but encouraged the group to ask specific questions once back at The Brindley, as there was no one directly involved with the project on the tour.

This project is hoped to increase the visitor economy of Runcorn and is also part of the efforts to restore the canal link between the Bridgewater Canal and the Manchester Ship Canal. The project requires site excavation to create a new canal bed for a stretch of 150m. The project will deliver a major new visitor attraction and source of visitors to the Old Town, bringing in an estimated 100,000 additional visitors per annum.

What project does it connect to [Unlock Runcorn](#)

Link to images: [Unlock Runcorn](#)

RUNCORN STATION QUARTER

TOWN DEAL WALK AND TALK JUNE 9TH 2023



Runcorn Station Quarter: At Runcorn Station Quarter, during a pause in the tour for refreshments, Claire Pitt mentioned the present community utilisation of the former first-class lounge. The group enjoyed the musical talents of local artists Junior Davis and Nathan Bradbury, who have transformed the lounge into their podcast recording studio and a venue for weekly drop-in sessions, providing a space for open conversations. This facility is generously offered to community groups and organisations, making it a valuable asset for the community.

What project does it connect to [Runcorn Station Quarter](#)
Link to images [Runcorn Station Quarter](#)

RUNCORN STATION QUARTER

TOWN DEAL WALK AND TALK JUNE 9TH 2023



Digital and Creative Startups: Louise O'Brien talked about the plans and potential of the former Inflata Nation site

This project will invest in redeveloping an opportunity site close to Runcorn Station as part of the redevelopment of the Runcorn Station Quarter within the Liverpool City Region. Towns Fund investment will be used to redevelop a site into an enterprise hub with flexible office space. It will create quality office accommodation which is currently not available in the area, and therefore support the strategic aims.

What project does it connect to [Runcorn Station Quarter](#)
Link to images [Runcorn Station Quarter](#)

HAZLEHURST STUDIOS

TOWN DEAL WALK AND TALK JUNE 9TH 2023



Hazlehurst Studios: Artists from Hazlehurst Studios were stationed around both buildings (71 and 73a High Street) and the group was encouraged to explore the buildings and speak directly to those involved in the project.

What project does it connect to [Creative and Digital Skills Centre](#)
Link to images [Hazlehurst Studios](#)



HAZLEHURST STUDIOS

FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS

JULY 2023 // PREPARED BY CLAIRE PITT

FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS

Suggestions on how to go forward with showcasing Reconnecting Runcorn

1. The Showcase event was a tremendous success, and replicating a similar event would provide an opportunity for the public to engage with the seven projects and their creators. For projects without a physical presence, showcasing drawings and plans alongside meetings with the architects was highly effective in bringing the concepts to life.
2. To maximize the impact, curating future showcases around milestone events would be beneficial. Seeing the progress of completed projects, like 71 High Street, generated excitement among attendees. Identifying the next milestone event and centring the showcase around it should be a priority.
3. Feedback indicates a lack of familiarity with many projects, except for larger ones like The Brindley Enhancement, Runcorn Station Quarter, and Unlock Runcorn, which have a significant physical presence or strong social media presence. To increase overall awareness, organising workshops and tours for all projects that highlight their goals and positive influence on the area would be highly beneficial.
4. Considering the timing of the event is crucial to ensure broader attendance, especially for those who are working. Planning the next event with more flexible timings, including After Hours and weekend activities, will allow a wider age range to participate.
5. Regularly updating the Reconnecting Runcorn Website with additional photographs is essential. The website serves as a crucial introduction for many people to the projects, and visual documentation can significantly enhance interest and engagement. Links have been provided to all the images commissioned during this project.
6. When selecting the date for the next Reconnecting Runcorn Day, it would be prudent to check for other events that could potentially serve as a launch for a week of information sharing and celebration. Coordinating with other events can amplify the overall impact.
7. Tailoring targeted walk/talks for specific audiences is a key strategy. Engaging with local ward councillors, local business owners, and front-facing staff from organisations like Halton Carer's Centre, Library Staff, Change Grow Live, Halton Disability Partnership, Halton Play Council, and Local School Teachers will strengthen community involvement and support for the projects.

UNLOCK RUNCORN

FUTURE SUGGESTIONS FOR PUBLIC EVENTS



Unlock Runcorn:

- Walk and Talk - Visit the current site of the project, exploring the heritage of the area and plans for the future. What is the progress on the site a year from Reconnecting Runcorn Day 2023?
- Canal boat rides - Exploring the Bridgewater Canal by canal boat is a unique way of seeing Runcorn, seeing the world at a slower pace
- Paddle Board and Canoe/Kayak sessions - Joining in initiatives such as '[The Big Paddle Clean Up](#)' and from the Canal and River Trust '[Let's Paddle](#)' and '[Green Kayak Tour](#)'

What project does it connect to [Unlock Runcorn](#)

HIGH STREET CONNECTIVITY

FUTURE SUGGESTIONS FOR PUBLIC EVENTS



High Street Connectivity:

- Walk and Talk - Visit the current site of the project- utilising the art and history trail created by the Runcorn Street Art project- what is the progress on the site a year from Reconnecting Runcorn Day 2023?
- Community Bike Rides - Celebrating the improvements of the cycleways - with some basic bike ability skills and bike maintenance - this could be a local company like [Bicycle Revival Halton](#) and accessibility projects like [Wheels for all](#)
- Peace Garden and Temple updates - what is the progress on the site a year on from Reconnecting Runcorn Day 2023? The Temple hosts a series of cultural events throughout the year, so opportunities to provide updates to members of the public at these.

What project does it connect to [High Street Connectivity](#)

DIGITAL AND CREATIVE SKILLS CENTRE

FUTURE SUGGESTIONS FOR PUBLIC EVENTS



Digital and Creative Skills Centre

- Walk and Talk - what is the progress on the Camden Buildings site a year from Reconnecting Runcorn Day 2023?
- Visit Hazlehurst Studios - a year on from having 71 High Street
- Workshops - Showcasing talents from new creatives based at Hazlehurst Studios and future tenants of the Camden Buildings
- Collaboration with Sci/Tech Daresbury and their community outreach team to showcase future partnership working

What project does it connect to Creative and Digital Skills Centre

HEALTH AND EDUCATION HUB

FUTURE SUGGESTIONS FOR PUBLIC EVENTS



Health and Education Hub

- Walk and Talk - Visit the current site of the project - what is the progress on the site a year from Reconnecting Runcorn Day 2023?
- Healthy Walk - Utilising the Active Halton team - get conversations going around Health while going on a healthy walk or other activity suggested by the Active Halton team <https://activehalton.co.uk/> - This could link with other activities offered around cycling, canoeing, kayaking etc
- Careers day - Centred around apprenticeships and careers in health - partnering with Riverside College
- Science/Biology-based creative workshops - Using creativity to start some conversations around health

What project does it connect to Health and Education Hub

THE BRINDLEY THEATRE ENHANCEMENT

FUTURE SUGGESTIONS FOR PUBLIC EVENTS



The Brindley Theatre Enhancement

- Walk and Talk - Visit the current site of the project - what is the progress on the site a year from Reconnecting Runcorn Day 2023?
- Workshops: Musical/Drama showcase/workshop
- Mobile library in the cafe/foyer/gallery space - start showcasing some of the events that the library currently offers by hosting pop-up events at The Brindley - including Rhyme time

What project does it connect to: [The Brindley Theatre Enhancement](#)

RUNCORN STATION QUARTER

FUTURE SUGGESTIONS FOR PUBLIC EVENTS



Digital and Creative Startups:

- Walk and Talk - Visit the current site of the project - what is the progress on the former 'Inflata nation' site a year from Reconnecting Runcorn Day 2023?
- Art Exhibition - Collaboration with Hazlehurst Studios and local musicians to create an event that showcases local talent - future ambitions to become part of the [Liverpool Biennial](#) program of events which will next be in 2025 - and when Halton is Borough of Culture again in 2026 (which is a [Liverpool City Region Combined Authority initiative](#))
- Collaboration with Sci/Tech Daresbury and their community outreach team to showcase future partnership working

What project does it connect to [Runcorn Station Quarter](#)

TOWN CENTRE NEW HOMES

FUTURE SUGGESTIONS FOR PUBLIC EVENTS



Town Centre New Homes:

- Walk and Talk - Visit the current site of the project - what is the progress on the site a year from Reconnecting Runcorn Day 2023?
- Runcorn Community Land Trust - what is the site's progress a year from Reconnecting Runcorn Day 2023 - can there be a tour of the proposed location that RCLT will work on first?

What project does it connect to? [Town Centre New Homes](#)



HAZLEHURST STUDIOS

THE END



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