



Working with Gold

Contributed by: Clare Bryden

What does St Loyes mean to you? The City Council ward is a bit of a mishmash of council housing, old and new suburbia, retail park, industrial park, J30 services, north part of Ludwell Valley Park, and public services. For me, it's an opportunity to explore, talk to people, observe, dig down, find stories, pick blackberries, be subversive, make art.

I'm an artist who lives in the Broadfields part of St Loyes. I'm working with Digby Community Association and others on a broad programme of public art called "Working with Gold". It will be for anyone who lives, works, or passes through St Loyes.

Did you know? St Loyes is the patron saint of goldsmiths. The logo is one of the alchemical symbols for gold, showing the five gold rings. I chose it because it also reflects the different uses of space within St Loyes.

I've already got lots of ideas for ongoing activities and events. I'd love to hear your responses to these, and other ideas you have for art in St Loyes. Really, it's all an excuse to get to know where we live, get to know other people, be creative, and have fun! First, I apologise that 'St Loyes' lends itself to making up daft acronyms!

- St Loyes Arts n Times (SLANT) will be a monthly newspaper of your reflections and stories about St Loyes, poetry it inspires, nature you spot, myths and horrible histories you make up.
- St Loyes Anyone's An Artist Meetups (SLAAAMs) will be an opportunity to get together to encourage each other in being creative.
- St Loyes Random Picnics (SLURPs) will sort of do what it says on the can: picnics in random locations, pockets of green space like the water tower near the big Tesco, or the tree circle at J30 services.
- Free Art Friday Exeter St Loyes Love Anagrams (FALAFELS; work it out!) is all about leaving small pieces of art in a public place for other people to find, enjoy, and take away. It's easy for anyone to get involved as artist or finder. Keep your eyes peeled!
- I'd also like to hold a competition and put on an exhibition of your artwork about St Loyes: photography, drawing, painting, printing, even sculpture. Ideas for themes so far include 'Bigger than me' and 'Wildlife on my doorstep'.

It's already started in a small way. During Art Week Exeter in May, I arranged a safari concert around the part of Broadfields where the roads are named after English composers. We had great fun chatting and wandering around Britten Drive, Delius Crescent, Elgar Close, etc,

singing the music of each composer on their street corner, with plenty of audience participation too! The residents loved finding out more about what's on their doorstep, and other people visiting an unfamiliar part of Exeter.

- So my final idea is for another street-name related activity. The area of royalty around Heraldry Way is a distinct possibility for a mediaeval fun day. Watch this space!

Exeter City Council have been very generous in providing a Grassroots Grant towards the project, as have Kaleider studio in providing in-kind support. Our City Councillors and Devon County Councillor are also fully behind the project.

Please get in touch!

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