



Phoenix Rise Estate

Photography, animation, film, audio recording,
mosaic, powder coated cut steel

In 2008, Phoenix Rise Estate celebrated its 10th Anniversary and to mark this event, artist Stig Evans was commissioned to replace a plot of wasteland with a mosaic. The mosaic needed to be personalised to the estate with creative input from the community. The project was such a success that more money was raised enabling Stig Evans to devise a wider programme of art activities aimed at involving everyone on the estate. As well as the new 'mythical animal' mosaic, the resulting work included an animation and a series of permanent artworks situated around the grounds of the estate.

A workshop specifically aimed at teenagers and young people included a photography session where their brief was to take photos of each other playing basketball. They then used the images to make a stop frame animation. For the audio, they recorded the bounce of a basket ball in order to make a beat and then edited the film using the beat as the soundtrack. The silhouettes from the original photos of the basketball players in action were then made into coloured steel sculptures and are positioned in various playing poses around the basketball court.

In the community centre at the side of the estate there is an original mosaic that exists from when the land was part of the Old Phoenix Brewery. The central motif of this original mosaic is a phoenix which was taken as the inspiration for a golden phoenix wall sculpture and the other mythical animal works. A 'pet's day' encouraged families to bring their pets to have their portrait taken by a photographer. The residents then divided the images of the pets in two, matching different halves of the animals together to create their own mythical creatures. These mythical animals were recreated in the new mosaic and also in the steel railing and roof sculptures that chase each other around the estate.