

THE WOODCARVERS



Dan Sly

Dan Sly is a former Meadows sculptor, trained in fine art, who specialises in woodcrafts. Using chainsaws and angle grinders, as well as more traditional tools, he creates abstract and realistic forms, often inspired by the faults and features in the wood. He also makes household items such as bowls and lamp bases.

For this project, he carved the Welcome, Youth, Sport, Friendship, Faith and Old Meadows story poles.



Mark Manders

Mark Manders is a chainsaw woodcarver and sculptor based in Nottingham. He studied fine art and sculpture and now creates woodcarvings and presents demonstrations of his work.

For this project, he carved the Queen Victoria pole.



Karl Wilby

Karl Wilby is a Nottingham-based sculptor. He mainly works with wood, stone and metal, creating pieces for public and private commissions.

For this project, he carved the Green, Industry, Transport, Armed Forces and River story poles.

MEADOWS TREE CARVINGS

Lime trees have lined Queen's Walk for as long as anyone in The Meadows can remember. To accommodate the new tram line to Clifton, some of the trees needed to be removed. But as many as possible were given to the community for reuse, and the Meadows Tree Project was formed.

Twelve trees were set to become the story poles that now line Queen's Walk and 33 were given to other woodcarving projects, while replacement lime trees have been planted on Queen's Walk. The story pole carvers worked with over 200 people of all ages to create these works of art, illustrating The Meadows and its people.



SPOT THE CROCUS

Before The Meadows was developed, wild Nottingham crocuses used to grow here, probably because they were useful in marshy areas for treating malaria. Crocus Street is among the places still named after them. Every story pole includes a crocus.

Can you find them all?

Special thanks go to Meadows Tree Project Co-ordinator Pat Thomas, New Meadows and Old Meadows Tenants' and Residents' Associations, The University of Nottingham and all the individuals, community groups, places of worship and schools who contributed to the project.

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MEADOWS TREE CARVINGS

Catch a tram to follow the story poles trail and discover The Meadows past and present.





1 WELCOME POLE

The carvings on this pole were transferred from drawings by children from Meadows primary schools and the Crocus Fields Residential Unit. They include a happy self-portrait of one of the boys using his wheelchair, which emphasises how flat and accessible The Meadows is.



6 FRIENDSHIP POLE

These giant hands hold fast, demonstrating the strong friendships this area enjoys. As one resident says, "That's the thing for me – the cosmopolitan nature. The ethnic mix is unbelievable - there's no room for intolerance."



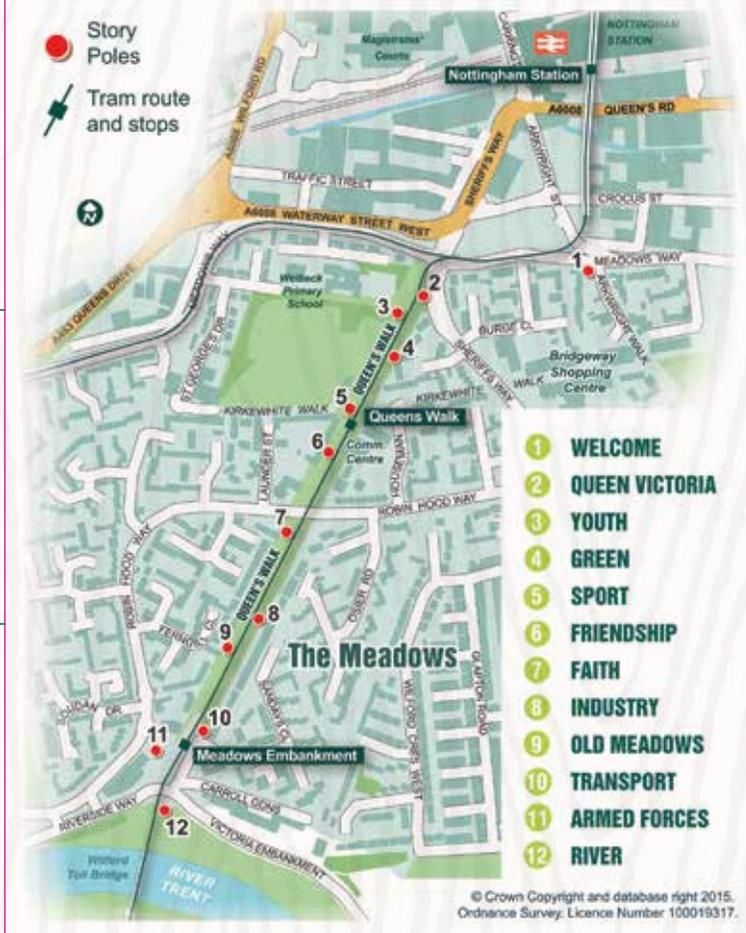
8 INDUSTRY POLE

In days gone by The Meadows was a busy workplace, with a network of railway lines transporting goods from factories. Lace-making machines were manufactured here, while the gun factory, Turney's leatherworks and many smaller businesses provided much employment. The Meadows History Project contributed to the design of this pole.



2 QUEEN VICTORIA POLE

Queen Victoria arrived with Prince Albert at the Midland Station in 1843 on her way to Belvoir Castle. Queen's Walk was named after her when it opened in 1850 and was planted with lime trees in 1862. The 26th Nottingham Scouts were excited to contribute designs for this pole as they remembered the visit of HRH Prince Charles to The Meadows in 2010.



9 OLD MEADOWS POLE

The Meadows has always been a friendly, sociable place and, in the past, had a number of cinemas and pubs. This pole has a film strip winding around it with a picture from the golden age of cinema in each frame. It was designed in consultation with Old Meadows Tenants' and Residents' Association.



3 YOUTH POLE

Members of Bridge and Meadows Youth Clubs helped design this pole with contemporary features, so look for their carvings of footprints, a street scene and gaming images, as well as hopscotch from another era.



10 TRANSPORT POLE

This pole depicts the different forms of transport that have been and are used in The Meadows, including the railway, cycles and trams past and present. Pupils from Nottingham Emmanuel School helped design the carvings.



4 GREEN POLE

The Meadows aspires to be a green neighbourhood, with the mini allotments of Arkwright Meadows Community Gardens, the solar panels of community energy group Meadows Ozone Energy Services and the flowers of East Midlands in Bloom. It all began in 1832 with the waterworks built by Thomas Hawksley to provide clean water.



11 ARMED FORCES POLE

A wireless operator from one of the Lancaster bombers that sank the 'unsinkable' Tirpitz battleship is featured on this pole representing the Armed Forces. It is crowned with the British Legion lion because the veterans' organisation used to have a retirement home nearby.



5 SPORT POLE

In the 1845 Nottingham Inclosure Act, Queen's Walk Recreation Ground was set aside for cricket, then Notts County Football Club played there from 1864 to 1877. The field is still used for sports, including bowls and croquet. Each year, thousands of people run through The Meadows in the Robin Hood Marathon.



7 FAITH POLE

This giant candle, a symbol of faith and hope, depicts six icons of the area's major faiths. It was designed in consultation with The Meadows' faith communities.



12 RIVER POLE

Depicting the river winding from the old Trent Bridge, past the suspension bridge to the toll bridge, this pole also features river pastimes including fishing, canoeing and rowing.