TOUCHSTONES
ROCHDALE

# Our Town

## 26 extraordinary characters



# Our Town

13 collaborations · 26 characters · 26 poems

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## listen to the songs here

# WHO ARE YOU?

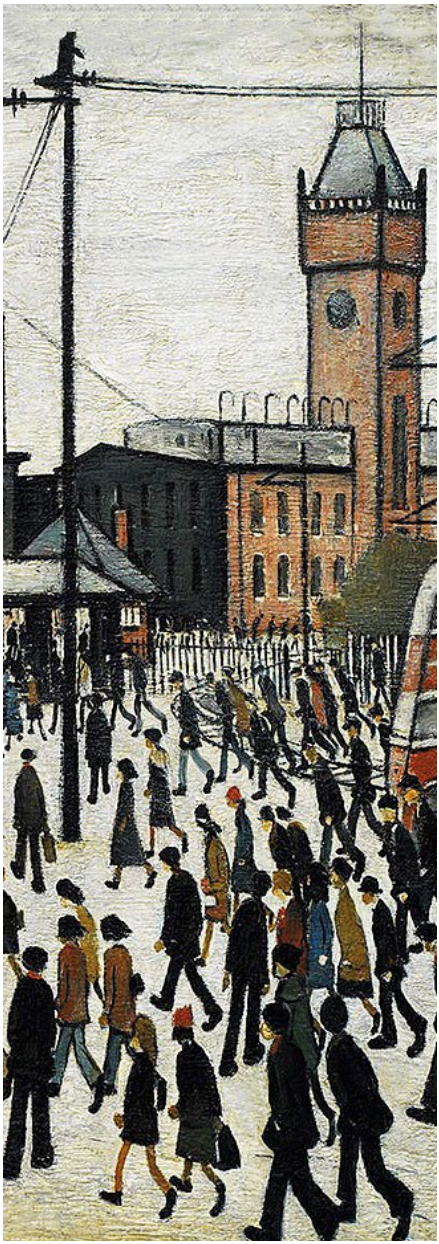
**Look closely at L.S. Lowry's art**

Among the streets and buildings are so many different people.

WHERE ARE THEY GOING?

WHAT ARE THEY THINKING?

WHAT ARE THEY AFRAID OF?



# HOW THEY CAME TO BE...In 2026,

15 primary schools from across the Rochdale area took part in the Schools Linking project, bringing children from different schools together through a year of shared activities.

**NAME.** ROSE REGINA

Touchstones Rochdale invited artist James Lyons to deliver a series of music workshops using Lowry's Our Town as the starting point.

**FEAR.** HORROR FILMS WITH CATS

The children chose anonymous figures from the painting and began inventing their lives. The answers were **mixed together**, combining different children's ideas, personalities and imaginations.

**STRANGE HOBBY.** EATING BRICKS

The class then wrote an eight-line poem about their character, which was then recorded and developed into one of 13 original songs.



# Layla Lilly



Layla Lilly loves to dance
She has green shoes full of **ants**
She watches TV with a chicken
Whilst she's knitting a pair of mittens
She wrote down 'football is good'
She's got a really shiny lime hood
In the morning, she can be seen
Lying, reading, on a trampoline.

# DAVE



Dave has a werewolf as a pet
But it hates going to the vet
His violin makes angry people happy
People shouting makes him flappy
He thinks chicken wings are the best
When he eats, the floor's a **mess**
He's scared of horror films with cats
When they battle with bad bats.

# John Lewis



**Everyone**

**Should have**

# A choice”

John Lewis dances to jazz
He wants a meal with pizzazz
Really smart cos he reads books
He is braver than he looks
In Manchester, walking his Westy
But he is frightened of Frenchies
He says everyone should have a choice
To speak up and use their **voice.**

# Annie Brown



"The world is **beautiful**," said Annie Brown
She likes to boogie, down in town
In Egypt she's got a red house
And she loves to swim about
She fights with delicious food
She's a child, she's not a dude
On Wednesdays, she plays the drums
Next to a pyramid for some fun.

# Alex James



Alex James is twenty three
He is going on a shopping spree
Then he got hit by a butterfly
He tried to swat it out of his eye
He called his family to come nearby
They walked into a **wall** and said, 'bye'
Now he's in Manchester, playing violin
Then he's off to the pool for a swim.



# Amelia Olivia



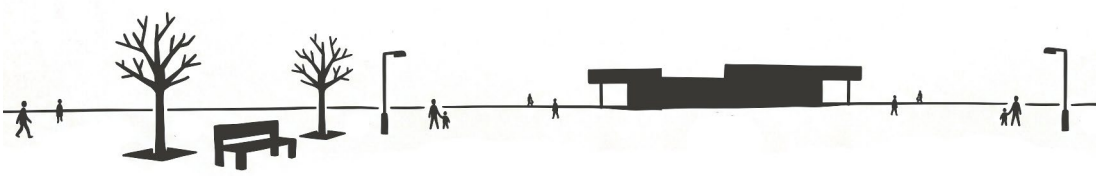
Introducing Amelia Olivia
She feels safe when the weather's familiar
She's 49 and lives in a school
She didn't do her chores, cos she's a fool
Tired of her parents, wants to be a tree
She said, "Smile, be happy and free!"
In a restaurant, eating chicken pasta
She won't play music in Alaska.



# Mr Himmy Junior



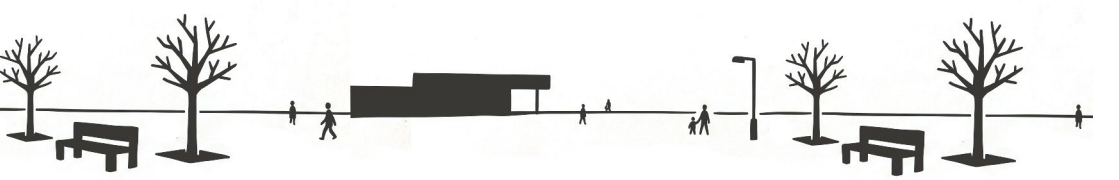
My name is Mr Himmy Junior
I want to be a chimp, I wish I'd known sooner
I'm a sea lion, I like tuna
But my favourite food is chicken bhuna
I'm dull at home, in my pizza kitchen
My friend, Oxford Bun Man, is a pigeon
I like swallowing bananas whole
I've got millions in a dog bowl.



# Rose Regina




Rose Regina learned to tap dance
Wearing a suit with her favourite pants
In a rocket going to the Milky Way
And she turns 1000 today
She is best friends with Godzilla
The way she grills a steak is killer
She's a model who dreamt of New York
Then ate six pounds of cheese with a fork.



# Tiny Tim Pebble

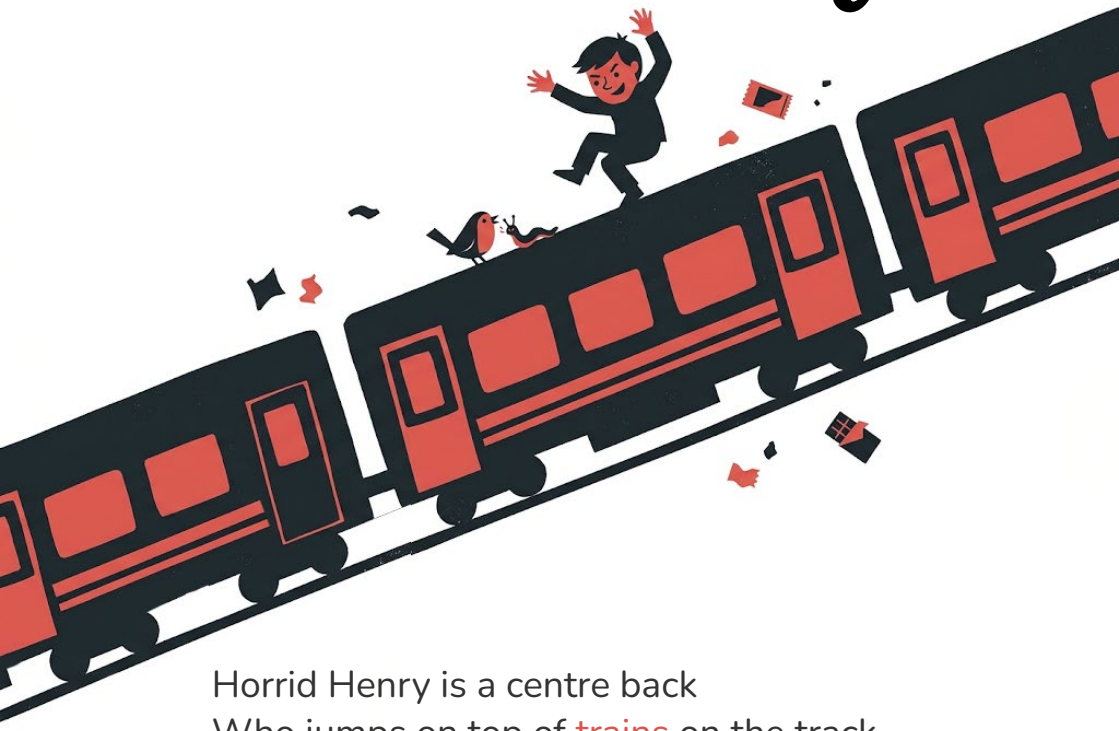


## He came back to life”

Tiny Tim Pebble won the dog World Cup
He’s been the greatest since he was a pup
He can eat everything cos he’s so buff
Now he’s tired, he’s had enough
When he wakes up, he dances in the street
He’s pretty neat and he moves to the beat
He came back to life cause he’s magic
Now he’s scared of walking, how tragic.



# Horrid Henry



Horrid Henry is a centre back
Who jumps on top of trains on the track
He doesn't like when people drop litter
But he's OK with nicking a Snicker
He's a member of a secret club
His pet, Robin Bob, loves to eat slugs
All he wants is love and money
But he doesn't think speedy cars are funny.



# Lucy Lloyd



Lucy Lloyd wants pollution to end
She hasn't got many friends
She's got a purse and a brown cloak
She doesn't like factories with thick smoke
She cooks puffer fish for her pet dragon
And drives round town in a black wagon
She's an artist from Hebden Bridge
Strong enough to bend the door on the fridge.

# George Best



Hi there, my name is George Best
I love Jamaica in the West
I am trying to eat the world
My friend Geoffrey's made of pearls
I'm 24 billion years old
Stopping me raiding the fridge is bold
I like dancing in cool cars
In an alien's stomach on Mars.

# Jack



## BETTER RUN...”

Jack is a person that’s scared of death
At 16, his father left
He likes to destroy universes for fun
If he’s near you, you’d better run
Only his mum finds him friendly
His t-shirt is not very trendy
He’s 22 and still in jail
Nobody can afford to pay his bail.



# Lilly May



Let us tell you about Lilly May
A boxer that loves Banana USA
She shouted out, “I love ice cream!”
But she doesn’t like people being mean
She’s alone, so she plays the violin
8 out of 10 at flamingo dancing
She left Mexico because of the war
21, and when she sleeps, she snores.

# Kaleb



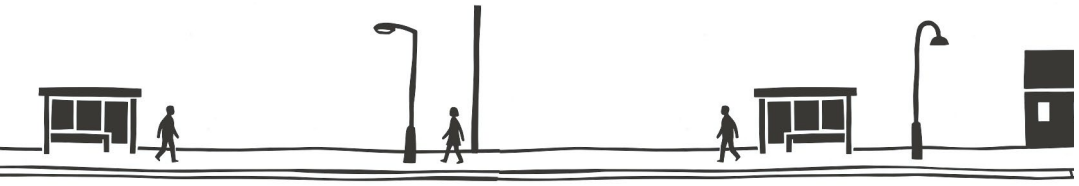
Apples make Kaleb feel safe
An Anglo Saxon that carries a mace
He is going to the candy shop
Sick of war and he wants it to stop
At the circus, he juggles fire
His friend, Jimmy, is on the high wire
Playing ‘Happy Birthday’ on piano
Is he 68? We don’t really know.



# Daniel No He Can't



Is he a hero, or a villain?
Daniel No He Cant's out pocket picking
He is a powerful fighter too
His friend, Charlie, has six seven IQ
He brought back fifty dinosaurs
His support dog has got little paws
In space he sells invisible cloaks
To a load of random blokes.



# James William



James William is one hundred and twenty
He eats plenty nuggets, but his stomach's empty
He travels round helping scorpions and frogs
In a bright red dress and glamorous togs
Doesn't like numbers, scared of maths
His best bud, Bob Barry's never had a bath
He pretends to be a monkey, eating ice cream
Making nature better is his dream.

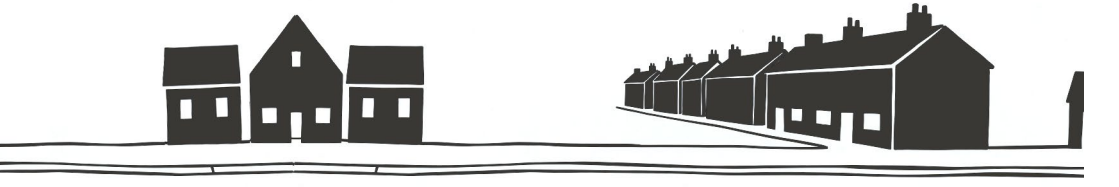


# Summer Smith



## Never give up Stay strong”

Summer Smith has so many brothers
She time travels to save others
Her dream is to eat bricks
At the carnival she does tricks
She hates swimming in the ocean
Ferocious sharks are always in motion
In her castle she plays ping pong
And says, “Never give up, stay strong”.



# Mike Williams



Mike Williams rode a dragon to the moon
With an iPhone playing his tunes
He plays basketball in his room
And eats cereal with a spoon
He's two hundred and sixty five
And is happy to still be alive
Living in a golden castle in London
With a black and red car in his dungeon.

# Trever Roberts



Trever Roberts has a baby carrot
It got eaten by a parrot
He loves a sausage roll from Greggs
Whilst he's lying in his bed
He's a dictator, and his brother,
Bob Shawarma, got told off by his mother
He won the lottery, but a mouse
Ran off with the ticket in its mouth.

# Alexa Siri



## Give everybody RESPECT!”

Alexa Siri is six years old
She has a caterpillar that is gold
Very clever and crazy wild
A musical magician pop dancing child
She works at the zoo, baby sitting pigs
Doing gymnastics, wearing wigs
Extremely kind, she makes her own tech
And says, ‘Give everybody respect!’.



# Lily O'Donell



Lily O'Donell doesn't brush her teeth
And she likes golden beef
She lives in a flying house in Japan
And loves cooking with a frying pan
An amazing heavy metal rock star
Who plays a purple electric guitar
She dreams of it raining meatballs
And jumps out of trees that are tall.



# James Balloon Bigface



James Balloon Bigface likes flipping tables
And he dances to break people's cables
He's disappointing, sneaky, and mean
With his scam disco slushy machine
He's got a pet spider called Ziggy
He eats all the pizza like a piggy
On the bridge, playing the flute
He is very likely to toot.



# Rosie Watts



## Horrible people make her sad”

Rosie Watts is over five thousand years old
She’s got a hot dog, and her drink is cold
From Portugal, with a scar on her eye
Wearing a black and white suit and tie
Manchester is her favourite place
Space in her case, but she doesn’t have a mace
She wants to talk about how Hitler was bad
Horrible people make her sad.



# Hello Junior



Hello Junior wants to back flip
She came to Jamaica on a big ship
Last month she turned thirty one
She almost got eaten by a swan
Eating burgers with loads of cheese
She saves animals, even the bees
Playing the piano with only one key
Learning to glide on a flying donkey.



# Tunnel

I have a tunnel to the future
That helps me sniff out a rumour
Don't try to be a smart guy
Or you're off to a different land, good bye
I steal fast, crazy cars
And rob rockets and send them to Mars
I pretend to be the police
because freedom,
**brings me peace.**






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The Linking Network

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