

PRESS RELEASE November 2008

Arts inspire Neyland

The preview of an exciting new multi media exhibition in Neyland's newly refurbished library takes place on Friday 21 November from 7pm – 9pm, showcasing a newly composed piece of music, a documentary film and a series of large-scale paintings created by the pupils of Neyland Community School.

Guy Norman, from spacetocreate community arts, co-ordinator of the project, said: *“The exhibition will provide a fitting tribute to the involvement of over 100 local people who have contributed to an exciting programme of community arts projects that have taken place in October and November as part of Neyland's community heritage and public art project, Rite of passage”.*

“During a 6 week residency in Neyland Community School, Pip Lewis, a visual artist, has been working with 50 year 6 pupils exploring their perceptions of themselves, their town and the wider world.”

“Helen Adam, a classically trained musician and composer, has worked with local musicians to rehearse traditional tunes alongside her new work “Crossing the water” specially composed for the project.”

A local film-maker, Sharron Harris has documented the evolution of the project on film inter-weaving stories from local residents with images connected to the historic links between Neyland and Ireland.”

The exhibition will run from 22 November through to 19 December 2008 prior to touring to Waterford City Library in Ireland in the spring of 2009

Simon Hancock the president of the Brunel Festival Association said:

“ The project as a whole aims to celebrate Neyland's unique role in the history of the Irish in South Wales, commissioning a landmark public artwork to commemorate the town's momentous past and reflect on how responses to immigration change over time. “

For more information about the project visit the website www.riteofpassage.org.uk

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Image: Pupils from Neyland Community School “mapping the town” as part of the residency with Pip Lewis from spacetocreate community arts

