



At Cotmanhay in Derbyshire  
They're carrying on Mel's Mission.  
Mel – Guerilla gardener who planted flowers  
And courgettes, whatever he could get for free,  
On waste land. Now he's passed on,  
But his efforts aren't wasted  
They're putting in the muscle, putting in the  
Spadework to carry on his dream.

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At Easington Colliery in Durham  
They're digging an allotment  
Picking litter  
Biking coast to coast (150 miles) riding that funding cycle.  
At Easington Colliery they're busy mining the possibilities.

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At the Rhythms of the World Festival in Hertfordshire  
The Westmill Crew put the focus on the local  
At a celebration of the global  
Brought pride and ownership: we are, I am,  
There on the main stage – young folk pitching  
Their ideas, drumming up support, acceptance, recognition  
For the work they've done in Hitchin  
Bringing it all back home.

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In West Durham  
The Growing Space ... expands  
Works to get a community garden off the ground  
Searches for funds to help the gardeners grow,  
Plant the seeds to aim for their own final frontiers.

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Callon Estate, Preston:  
No Go area – known for trouble, known for fighting  
Where no taxi would go  
Where no Police would go  
Callon Estate – transformed  
Now students are fighting - *to get in*  
and work there.

\*

Skoles in Lancashire:  
A renewed play area in an old blind spot  
Is arranged to give a clear view.  
That one place to slope off to  
Now three steps: safety in numbers.  
What was once a cause of tears  
Tiered like a celebration cake.

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Kingswood Estate, London  
Went cultural dining  
Ate French and Polish,  
No chips on the menu  
The gamble paid off  
Ended up at the Savoy  
The world on their plate.

Bathed in the Spa at The Sanctuary  
Washed it all down with a Turkish delight

And after three years sent a student to Oxford University  
A different kind of cultural dining.

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St Hellier's Skate Park, London  
Where the master disaster was for real when night came down  
And the half pipe hand plant crashed to the ground  
Campaign for lighting – skating around the obstacles.

\*

Gorton South, Manchester  
Painted garages red, cheering up a run-down area  
While others just saw red and ran down young people  
whenever they were mentioned,  
Went to Manchester United FC,  
Had lots of red letter days.  
Recorded a song on a cd.

\*

Over at Footprint, Tameside  
They upped their own image,  
Painted flower pots, filled them with colour  
And handed them out on the Crowswood Estate,  
Where people said 'Caw, look what they've done,' then  
Created a mural that no one has touched for three years  
Feathered their own nest from other people's down.

\*

At Rossendale: no place to go  
Branded as Yobs, named to shame;  
But the 'Yobs' got organised, achieved,  
And shamed the adults into getting involved  
Into playing their part, drew them into meetings  
Drew on their new reputation not on their walls.

\*

In Nottingham  
high youth unemployment in the Forest and Arboretum areas  
and a lack of open space, young people outdoors, outlawed and branded  
yet when they banded together  
they became a driving force of redesign and redevelop,  
Engaged in the decision making process, seeing the wood for the trees  
(One branched out to represent the UK  
At a UN environmental Conference in Germany)  
Negotiated from the rich to give to the poorly resourced.

\*

Gosport. Rowner  
Turned sleuth, rooted out rubbish, rooted out the truth  
Of what people wanted, of what they could do,  
Turned scrap into scrapbooks, to inform the future, to renew.

\*

Wakefield – We can: we did. Canvassed opinion door to door  
Shocked the adults that we had the same concerns as them!  
Designed and built a dream, made medallions we cast into the earth  
A medal for our efforts, a reminder forever that  
You can change something that you might never have thought that you could  
That  
We Can!

From all around the land there's a buzz  
A buzz from the youth  
Doing the grind, the day to day grind  
Grinding it down , the prejudice and negativity,  
Getting hands on, getting stuck in  
Painting the walls  
Digging the ground  
Doing the Groundwork.