



## Mill Road Lanterns

### A spotlight on our distinctive community

**Love Mill Road** has grown from the Fair and from the legacy of the Suzy Oakes Trust. It has been established to provide a way to channel sponsorship and donations to local Mill Road community projects, including the non-commercial aspects of the MRWF. As a charity, it can benefit from Gift Aid and will help to ensure the long-term sustainability and community focus of the Fair while also supporting community projects throughout the year, including (currently under discussion) a Repair Café at The Edge, support for Jimmys' 25 year celebrations, a translation service to support the Mill Road Traders' Association and a series of Mill Road Fringe events.

**Mill Road Lanterns** will be funded by Love Mill Road. It will celebrate the identity and culture of Mill Road, highlighting the diversity, history and independence of its community.

The local communities from one school and nine side streets have provided a set of ideas, pictures and word to describe what they like about their road. Using these ideas, local artist and illustrator, Penny Sobr, is making 10 stunning community lanterns which will be hung and illuminated in ten shops on either side of the Mill Road bridge in the weeks running up to the Fair and over what would have been the Fair weekend, Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December.

An illustrated **Mill Road Trail** which will depict the distinctive character of Mill Road, featuring the lantern venues as well as other places of interest along the road. We hope to organise a photography competition so that we have some lovely photos to help us promote Mill Road. The aim of the project is to encourage people to come to Mill Road to explore its shops, eat in its cafés and generally soak up the special Mill Road vibe. We are also hoping to be able to arrange online events and art and (via the Trail) to be able to promote the activities of local organisations and charities throughout the neighbourhood.

The Mill Road Trail and the Mill Road Lanterns projects are organised by the Mill Road Winter Fair Committee. We can't replace the 2020 Fair but, with the help of Love Mill Road, we can cast a spotlight on some of Mill Road's stories, buildings, history and culture. We hope that we can add more lanterns in the years to come and that they will form the core of the Community Parade in future Mill Road Winter Fairs.