



“It is an amazing town, full of entrepreneurs, talent with good local leaders across politics, business, public services and civil society who are in it for the long haul. But blasted by the headwinds of the last forty years, the pace scale and change have stripped Wigan of its inheritance and the future we once thought was ours”

Lisa Nandy MP

Access, entitlement and Creative and Cultural Education in Wigan

Steve Moffitt
CEO, A New Direction



**We are an award-winning not-
for-profit organisation
generating opportunities for
children and young people to
develop their creativity**



**A NEW
DIRECTION**
We create opportunity

Our vision, Mission & Values



Our Vision

A world where all children and young people achieve their creative potential.

Our Mission

To enhance the capacity and agency of children and young people in London to own their creativity, shape culture and achieve their creative potential.

We do this by working with a diverse range of partners, making connections, sharing practice, influencing change, improving the ecology that surrounds children and young people, and by providing real and transformative opportunities - from childhood, through school years and into employment.

Our Values

Equity



Connectivity



Trust and Respect



Creative culture



Kindness



St Cuthberts RC Infant and Primary School (1966 – 72)
St Peter RC High School (1972-77)
John Rigby 6th Form College (1977-79)



Wigan Metropolitan Borough was created on 1 April 1974 by the Local Government Act 1972

Of the 10 boroughs involved in the Greater Manchester Wigan had the lowest life expectancy, highest unemployment and low attainment and low achievement in schools

Charles Hopkinson appointed Director of Education appointed in 1974

Structure of Senior Advisors, Subject Advisors, Advisors

Vision and values driven

Local authority clear and visibly talking about an entitlement agenda

Arts for arts sake – open access - equality of opportunity for all

Officers, Exec and Councillors ideologically aligned

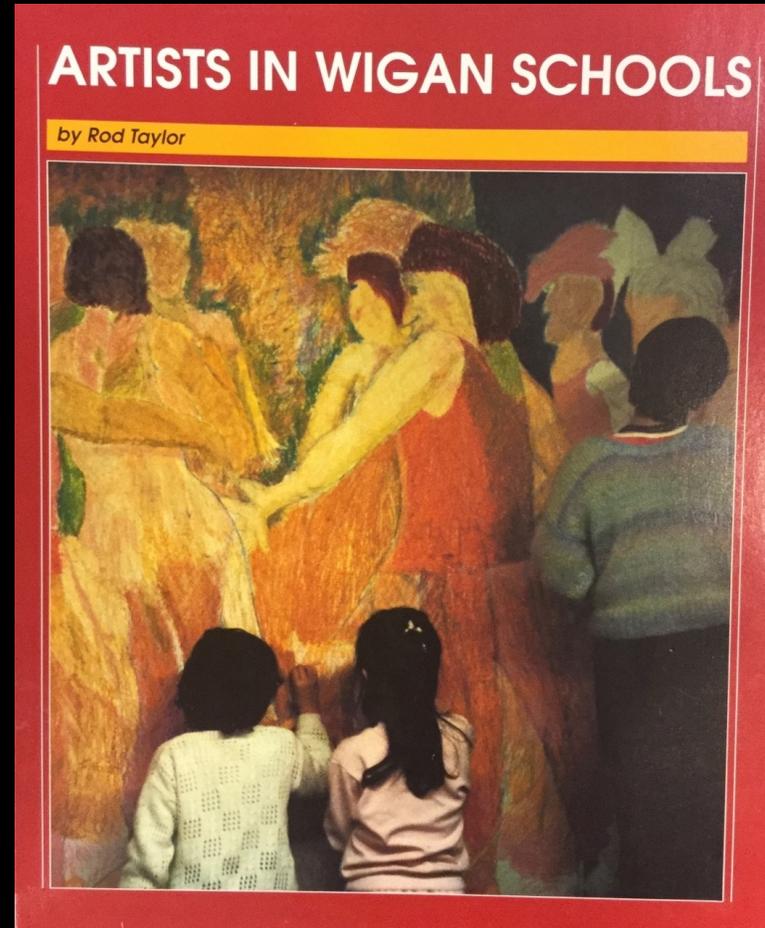
Jim Callaghan Ruskin Speech in 1976

Hopkinson argued for money from other budgets including transport and refuse collection

Ken Gouge



Rod Taylor



Anne-Marie
Quinn



Wigan Entitlement Curriculum

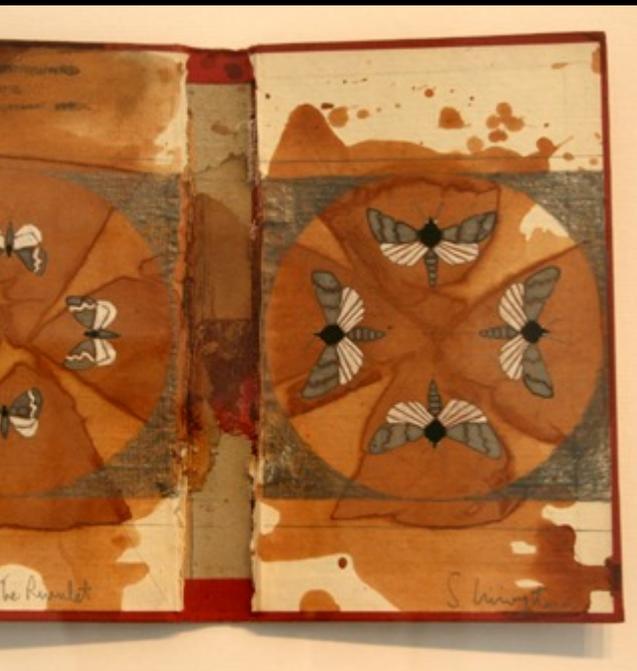
The Visual arts offer and how it developed:

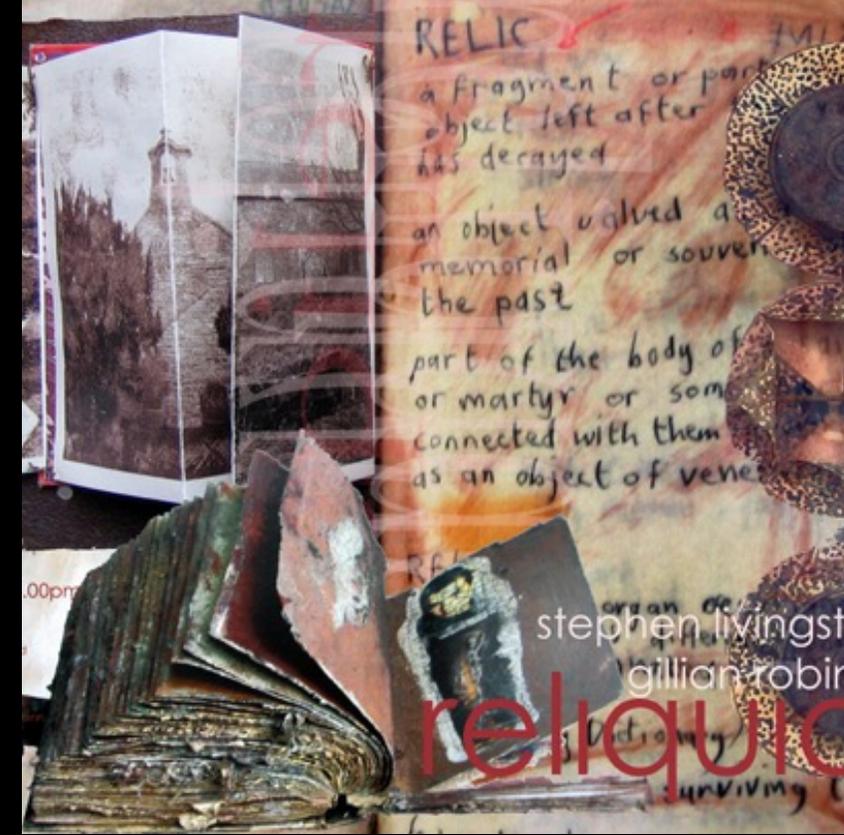
Drumcroon Arts Gallery - established in 1980 closed in 2011

Artists in Schools programme – based on YTS starting with 3 artists running for 10 years with 10 artists

Wigan Schools loans art collection – established in 1980 – over 1300 art works

Critical Studies in Arts Education – funded by the Schools, Craft and Arts Councils – how young people of schools age might beneficially learn more about art and artists as a study in its own right





DRUMCROON - ART EDUCATION CENTRE WIGAN

- 'THE DRUMCROON POLICY IS TO GIVE ALL YOUNG PEOPLE, IRRESPECTIVE OF AGE, THEIR TEACHERS AND THE BOROUGH'S COMMUNITIES ACCESS TO THE RANGE, BREADTH AND VARIETY OF THE VISUAL ARTS.'

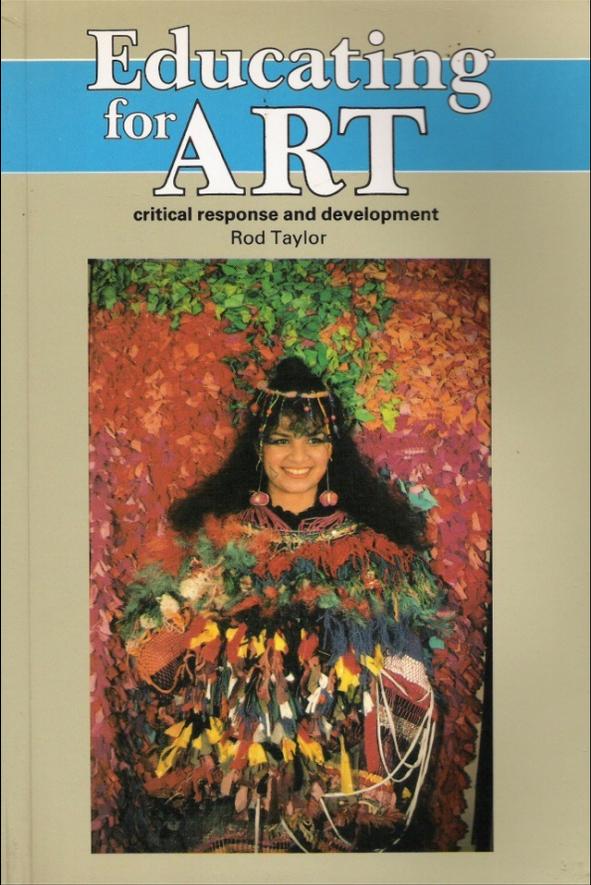
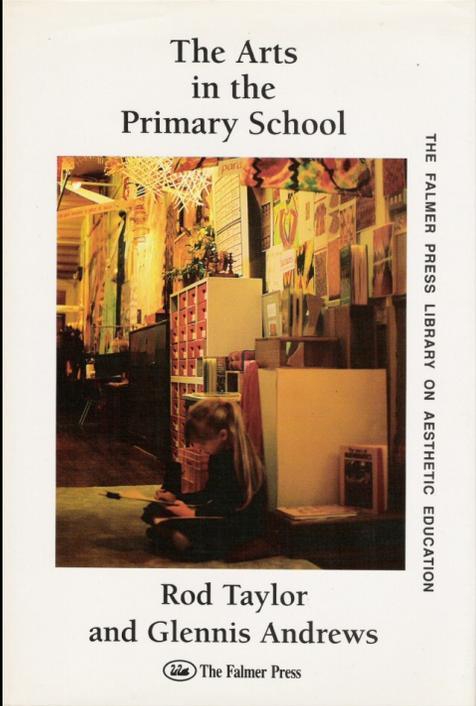
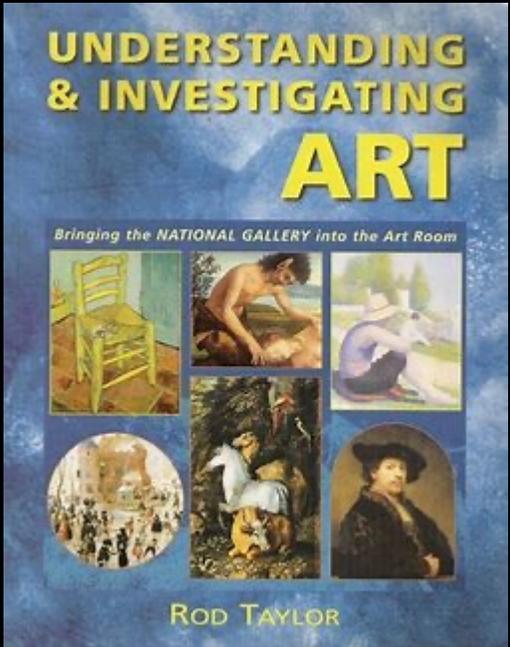
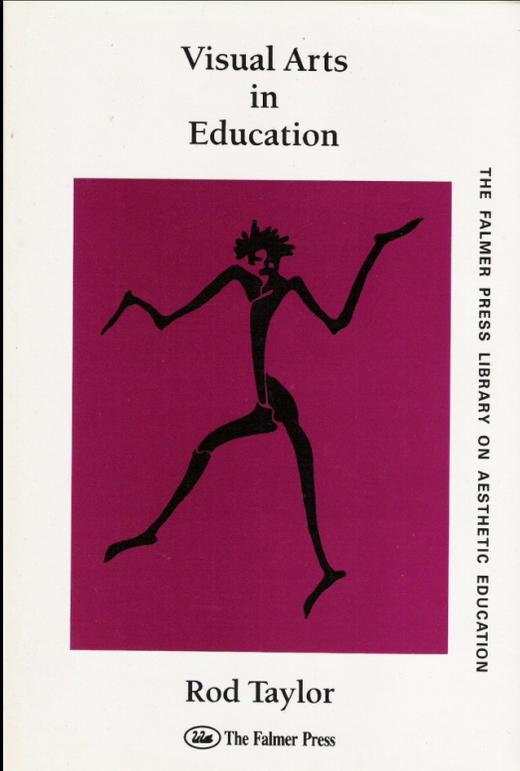
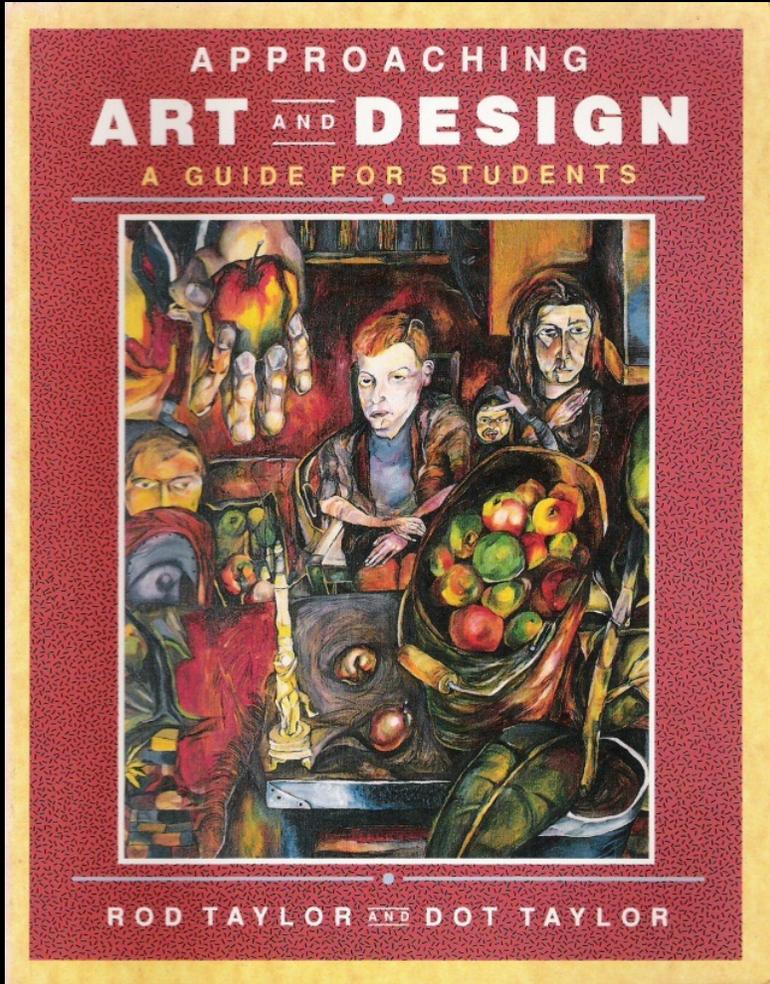
Teachers from other boroughs wanting to work in Wigan

First specialist arts status school

Northwest Arts partnership and investment

Daily Telegraph article on Wigan Schools being in the top 10 most improved schools in the country

National and International interest in the borough, BFI, British Council and various academic institutions across the country



The Drama offer and how it developed:

Drama in all schools – drama studios in every secondary school

Established Youth Theatre (1976) Wigan Young People's Theatre (1979)

Pitprop Theatre (1979 – 1993) touring all schools

Fringe First Award for Somewhere Resting (1980)

Ludus dance residencies from 1980 – later Royal Exchange and RSC touring

Leigh Drama Centre established - Media Centre also



Wigan Young People's Theatre take the dangerous subject of an individual's long journey into herself and handle it with restraint and imagination creating an engaging story. Natural vitality, humour , intelligence and poignancy. This soars above my image of youth theatre, one of the better plays on the Fringe.

Brian Pendreigh, The Scotsman 1980

A photograph of conductor Jaap van Zweden, a bald man with a serious expression, wearing a dark suit jacket over a light-colored shirt. He is holding a baton in his right hand and gesturing with his left hand. The background is dark, and the image is framed by large red diagonal shapes at the bottom corners.

HKPhil

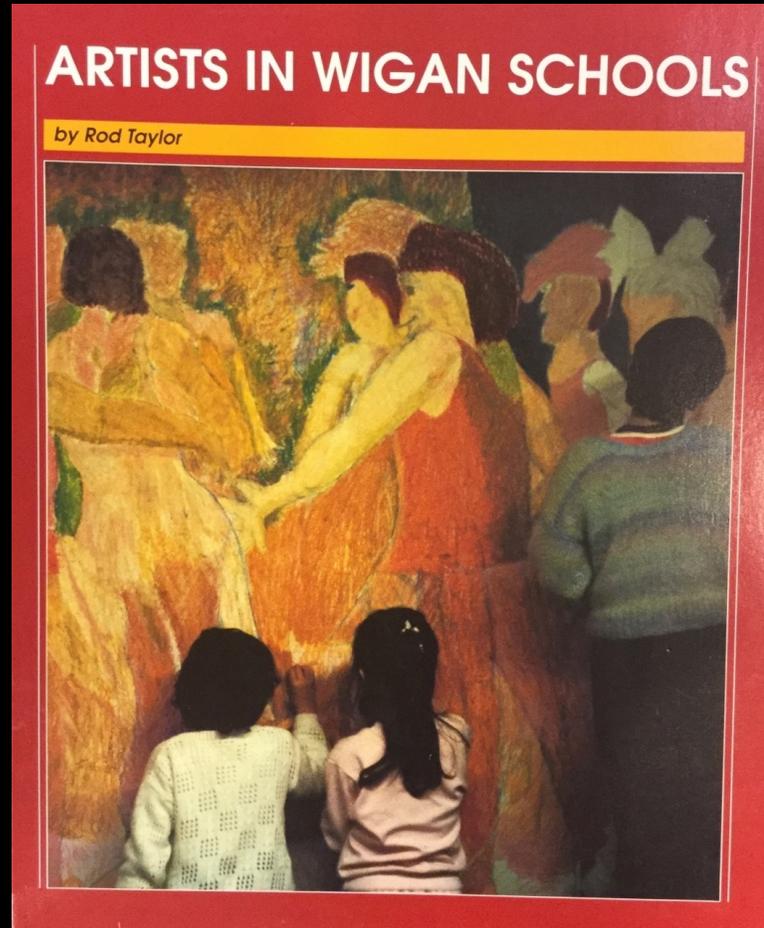
JAAP VAN ZWEDEN

Dvořák Symphony no. 7

Ken Gouge



Rod Taylor



Anne-Marie
Quinn





COURTAULD INSTITUTE
GALLERIES

Steve McQueen Year 3





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Questions:

Is the story of arts education in Wigan narrative that warrants recording and documenting?

Does Wigan still own the Drumcroom site?

What happened to the Wigan Schools Arts Collection?

What role can Curious Minds tell in this story and stories of cultural and creative education in other places in the North?