



# THE BOOK OF ST HELENS

# INTRODUCTION

**This is the Book of St Helens.**

**This is a guidebook made by children for adults.**

**This is a way for you to see St Helens through our eyes.**

St Helens is a quiet town but there’s still a lot to discover. There’s beautiful flowers and nature all around. There’s nice people and nice shops and nice walks to go on. There are theatres, there’s an H&M and an ASDA and a Tesco. There’s tons of people who are easy to get along with and it’s really easy to make loyal friends.

Sometimes there’s litter on the floor everywhere and pollution in the air. Sometimes gangs of irresponsible teenagers swear and play loud music. Sometimes the weather isn’t the best. There used to be a good soft play area but they turned it into a terrible shop called Oops. We really don’t recommend Oops.

But most of the time St Helens is crazy, wild, beautiful and just completely great.

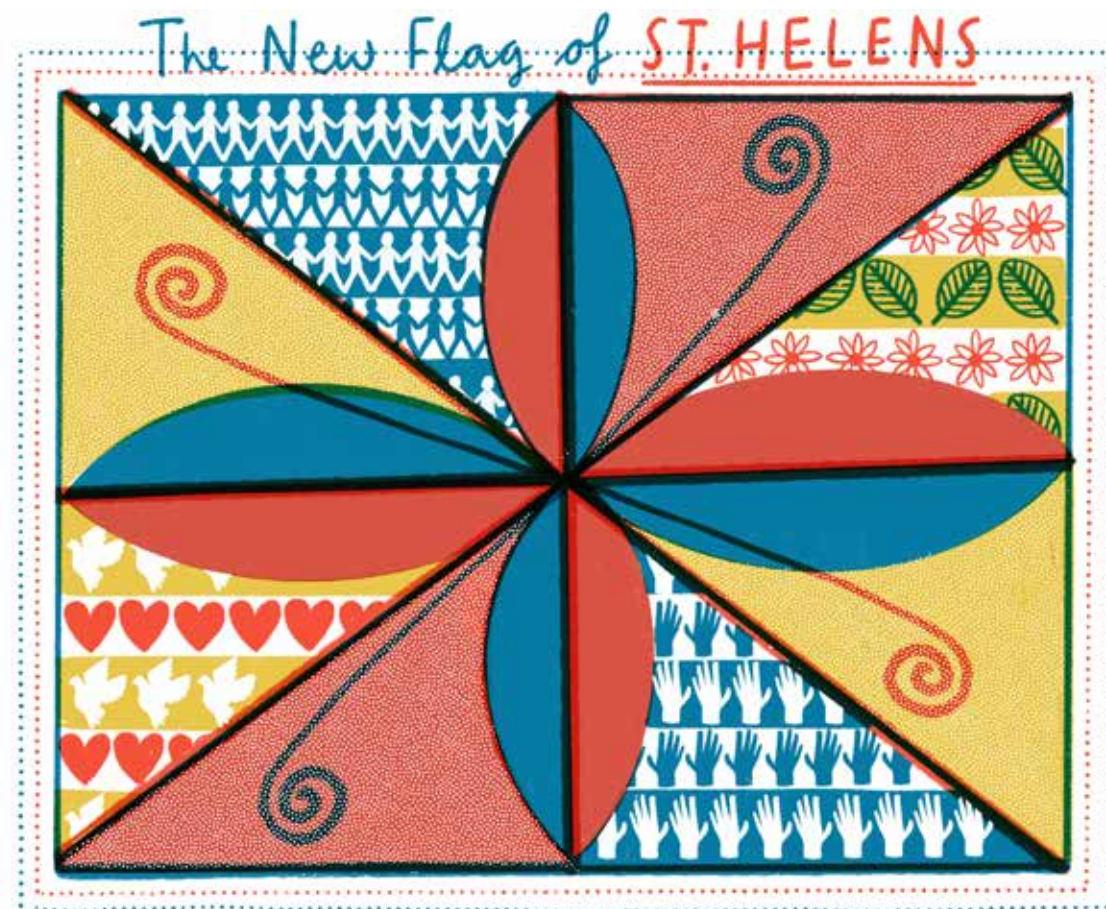
<p>We recommend you don't be afraid of anything. Whatever you need, you'll find in this book. We suggest you read this book on a quiet park bench in Sankey Valley, or next to a lake or in a big green field, or if the weather is bad you could read it in a library. We don't recommend you try to read it on a roof in the pouring rain and please don't try and read it in Morrisons.</p> <p>Explore everything and enjoy it all. Remember to watch out at night for the teenagers. Remember that you should only read this guidebook if you know how to read. Remember to be nice and you'll get that in return. Remember St Helens is a small town not a big city.</p> <p>Remember that children only have small legs. Remember that sometimes parents can be overprotective. Remember that school work is harder than you remember it being. Remember that people can be mean on social media and that you didn't</p>	<p>have to deal with that when you were little. Remember (this is very important) that you can't pause online games. Remember that sometimes everyone needs some alone time. Remember to only call us down for tea when tea is actually ready. Remember everything's not always about mobile phones.</p> <p>Remember how quickly we grow.</p> <p>When you're finished with this guidebook you could give it to someone else or trade it for some other goods or even sell it for money. Or you could use the pages to make a paper aeroplane or origami or a blanket or for wrapping up your sandwiches in the park. Or it could just end up as litter. That's up to you.</p> <p>We hope you enjoy our guidebook to the amazing town of St Helens.</p>
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# FACTS & INFORMATION

- The number of people that live in St Helens is either 1,000 or 134,092 or 333 million.
- The number of children is 9,000.
- There are 502 dogs in St Helens and 750 cats.
- The number of pigeons is between 300 and 96 million.
- There are 10 rats.



## New Crest of ST. HELENS



- The most common jobs in St Helens are artist, shop-keeper, teacher, cook, doctor and horse-riding instructor.
- The average adult in St Helens makes about £20, £50 or £5,000 per week.
- The average happiness of people in St Helens is 7.5 out of 10.
- The people of St Helens like to eat Toblerone, hot dogs, pizza, eggs & bacon, grapes, curry & rice, and soup & beer.



- For fun, they like to go shopping, to the rugby and to dance in the rain.

- At night the people of St Helens dream about sunny weather and being rich, fish and chips, animals, being in other countries, their dream job and a nicer, eco-friendly world.

## THIS IS THE TOWN ANTHEM OF ST HELENS

Welcome to St Helens, a town for you and me  
Welcome to St Helens, lots of history to see

Welcome to St Helens, where the grass is always green  
Welcome to St Helens, where every house is very clean

Welcome to St Helens, a place you can be free  
Welcome to St Helens, do you know your geography?

Welcome to St Helens, because we are never mean  
Welcome to St Helens, a place you won't be seen

Welcome to St Helens, please enjoy our company  
Welcome to St Helens, come and have a cup of tea

# THE SIGHTS OF ST HELENS

## THESE ARE THE FAMOUS SIGHTS OF ST HELENS

### **The Blue Office**

The Blue Office is a skyscraper next to a lake. There is a big fountain in the lake and the fountain is called The Fountains of Fortune. The skyscraper is big and very useful for the people of St Helens. It used to be a glass house but now it's mostly used by nurses. It's one of the most glamorous places in the town which is why we are recommending it to you. We recommend you go and eat something next to the fountains which are beautiful.

### **Vincent's Ice Cream Factory**

This was a factory where they made Italian ice cream a long time ago. It looks more modern than Victorian-style houses but it also has an old look. The windows are different to how windows are made today. It used to be really fun and popular. It's nice because it's not very busy here. The road might be called Strawberry Road.







### **Sculpture of Zeus**

This is a sculpture of a dog called Zeus. He is celebrated because he was small and hopeless but lived for a long time. Zeus had a hole in his mouth and his organs weren't formed yet. He died, but lived a good life. He always warms our hearts.

### **An Old Bridge**

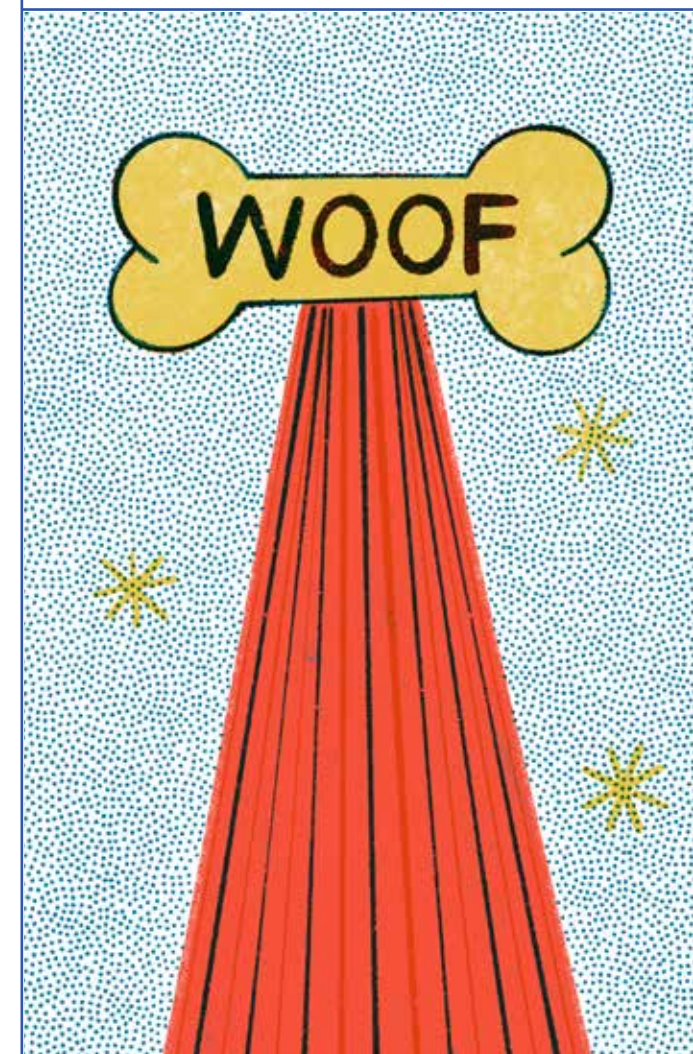
There's an old bridge at Carr Mill Dam. We think it was built in the 1800s. You can walk on it to get to the other side. It's quite old and messy now and overgrown with leaves. It's still cool though. The bridge looks good, but there's too many bugs and flies. Carr Mill Dam is also known as Goose Lake.

### **Coal Man**

This is a statue also known as The Miner's Roundabout and The Miner's Grave. This statue is at the back of St Helens by Argos. The statue looks like a screwdriver. It's a good statue because it shows history. It shows what the miners did to help the world and how hard they worked. They left it on a roundabout because of how rusty it is.

### **Ted**

This is a statue for a dog called Ted. It is a giant bone with the word 'woof' written on it. Through lockdown Ted kept everyone feeling positive. He always knows how to put a smile on your face. He truly is the greatest dog ever and 100% deserves this bone statue.



### **The Odd Head Out**

This is a monument for tourists that signifies St Helens. It's a statue of a girl looking outwards in a kind of creepy way. It's mainly the eyes that are creepy. It's very skinny and tall. It was probably made in the 1980s. We think it represents human growth. It looks like it's a very calm place. People do yoga here. You can come and walk around and be at peace.

### **Totally Wicked Stadium**

This is the St Helens rugby stadium and was most likely made 10 years ago (2010). You can play and watch rugby and football and you can do cheerleading there too. It's vast, modern and well-built. It's a massive tourist attraction because Saints are a very good team. We like how big it is. We also like that it is a vaccination centre now.



### **NHS Rainbow**

This is a sculpture of a rainbow with the words NHS on it. This sculpture is for a lady who works for the NHS helping people who can't talk properly. In these tough times she has taken too many tests to count, been kitted with PPE, all whilst juggling a sick mother-in-law, two kids and a diabetic husband. She is an inspiration.

### **The Pyramid of Glass**

This is a big pyramid built in the 1860s or it might have been built in the 1760s. Now it is a glass factory and a museum that celebrates St Helens' industry of glass. It represents all of the glass over the years. There are old mines that you can go through, a library, and you can see how glass is made and it is famous. We like browsing the art. There is a good mix of modern and vintage. It's good for children so if you have children go here.

### **St Helens Town Hall**

The Town Hall is where people go to do important work. The mayor has an office there. It's amazing how long it's been around – it looks like it's medieval. They have weddings here and other gatherings and they hold town meetings. We walked there when we walked for Save Our Greenbelt. This is where people make all the decisions. Important people go there but it's not much use for us.



### **Nan**

This is a statue for a Nan. She works in a nursing home where she looks after elderly people all night for 12 hours and she is a loving person. It is a colourful sign that says Nan on it surrounded by stars.

## **THESE ARE SOME LESS FAMOUS SIGHTS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT**

### **Bluebell Woods**

No one really knows about Bluebell Woods because the path to it is really hidden, but it is really good because there are bluebells and a fire pit and a tyre swing and a river and a fallen tree which we use as a bridge to get to the other side of the river.

### **The Secret Entrance**

There is a secret entrance to the Golden Lion in Rainford. We found it because we saw a football through a hole in the fence when we were playing hide and seek during lockdown. We kept on looking for a way to get it until we found this spot. No one has noticed it since they are busy walking their dogs, so it is still a secret.

<p><b>The Abandoned Bike Park</b></p> <p>I found the abandoned bike park when I was on a bike ride with my dad. Nobody was there. I think it is abandoned because it is in an unknown place in Rainford. I think no one really knows about it because they haven't had the idea of going down the strange path you need to go down to get there. There is a main jump from the top of a hill and something called a table which is up and down with a long flat centre. Another jump is the most difficult because there is a hole in the ramp of dirt that you need to get over to build up speed.</p> <p><b>A Cottage on a Hill</b></p> <p>This is an old cottage that is isolated on a hill and I have never seen anyone go in it. I found out about it when we were driving past it and now I notice it every day. I don't think people have noticed it because it is on a hill and I have never seen anyone go near it. I think I would like to live there because it is very old and it would be cool to live in an old building.</p>	<p><b>A Shop</b></p> <p>This is a shop that is falling to pieces behind my gymnastics gym. I was coming home from gymnastics and I saw it there hidden behind a wall and a bridge. I think it is a bit weird because I've never seen a sign up or the shutters open.</p> <p><b>The Dog House</b></p> <p>This is a den I found in the woods behind my house. I found it a few weeks ago. I think it is a brilliant design for a den. I think no one knows about it because it is hidden in the trees. There are logs to sit on and a place for a fire and at night you can see lots of stars around.</p> <p><b>The Old Café</b></p> <p>I found this old café because my dad used to live near it and we see it when we go to Carr Mill Dam. People do know about it but they ignore it because it's not open and looks like it's been abandoned. I think it is scary because it looks very old and neglected.</p>
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<p><b>A Broken Wall</b></p> <p>This is a broken wall near my Nan's house. Nobody bothered to fix it when teenagers kept destroying it. I'm scared in case it falls and hurts someone.</p>	<p><b>A Tunnel</b></p> <p>This is a tunnel next to my grandmother's. People don't go down in the tunnel because it stinks. It is super scary. My Nan tells stories about it. She says if you go in you don't come out.</p>
<p><b>THESE ARE ALL THE THINGS WE MISS THAT DON'T EXIST ANYMORE</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The pop-up Co-op because it was small and good</li> <li>• The trampoline park</li> <li>• The Frankie &amp; Benny's in the retail park because the new one is really hard to get to</li> <li>• Game</li> <li>• Sherdley Park pets corner</li> <li>• The M&amp;S in town that got moved to a retail park</li> <li>• The big snake slide in the shopping centre</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Happy Hippo Play Centre</li> <li>• The old swimming place</li> <li>• The old library</li> <li>• The old ice cream shop</li> <li>• The cinema (the cinema we miss most of all)</li> <li>• Millie's Cookies</li> <li>• Toys "R" Us</li> <li>• Debenhams</li> <li>• Our old houses that aren't there anymore</li> <li>• The little play area in Mt Pleasant</li> <li>• A normal life out of covid</li> <li>• The sandpit in Sherdley Park</li> <li>• The horse stables</li> <li>• The community centre for kids</li> <li>• The farm fields and the coal mines</li> <li>• The old park in Little Wood</li> </ul>
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# THE ORDINARY STREETS OF ST HELENS

If you get away from the town centre you will find the ordinary streets of St Helens, like the streets near our schools where we live.

The best thing about these streets is the people that live there. The people are kind and friendly and the neighbours usually all talk to one another. A lot of the people are pensioners so it's nice and calm and quiet, but also sometimes a little bit boring. Also our families live nearby and most of our friends are there. There are lots of dogs and cats. There are two horses. There's the chickens in our neighbour's garden. There's a goat that always escapes from the farm. When someone's budgie escaped the whole street

helped to catch it. The ice cream van stops every Sunday. At night you can hear fireworks.

There's an ice cream shop and a park down the road and out the back of some of the houses there are big fields where we can go and play football or you can even play out on the road because there are so few cars. Once we did a bingo and another time a karaoke night. During lockdown we all clapped on our doorsteps and everyone went onto their drives and had picnics. On Halloween we go trick or treating with our families and then we go to the woods for an adventure, and on Easter our whole street had an Easter egg hunt. In the spring you can watch the blossoms

fall from the trees and when it snows we have sledging races down the big hill.

Sometimes our neighbours play their music too loud. Sometimes the fireworks go off too late. Sometimes the pensioners can be grumpy. Sometimes there are troublemakers and drunk people. There was a car on fire once and one time our neighbours got robbed. We worry about the crime. We worry about the pollution. We worry about living too close to the bypass. We worry about Malcolm because he is very suspicious. We worry about the haunted alleyway. We worry about all the wasps.

But we still remember the water fight we all had once. And we remember when lightning struck nearby. We remember the funeral, and when the new kids moved in, and when we had a street party. Everyone came out of their houses. We had a really nice time.

There are some things on our streets that we know are there but you probably won't see. Things like spiders, pennies in the gutter, tiny pieces of shattered glass, butterflies, footprints and pavement cracks. There is dog pee and cigarette butts, ants and slugs, bird poo and shadows. Beneath the streets are sewers and beneath them are dinosaurs, in the sky there are satellites and the stratosphere, and above that heaven.

There are flies and bees. There is the air and wind and pollution. There are fumes and germs like covid. There are atoms which are very, very tiny and finally, there are ghosts.

You are welcome to visit our streets any time. The people are very friendly.





## MAP OF RAINFORD

1. The best place in the whole neighbourhood is the VILLAGE CHIPPY as it sells nice food and it's really warm.
2. The place that will disappear first will be the CHARITY SHOP because when the older generation dies nobody will be interested in antiques any more.
3. The best place to keep a yacht is our SCHOOL because it has a flat roof where you could display it.
4. This is the best place to GO WILD because there is so much space. It's also the best place to build a SKYSCRAPER.
5. The safest place is the CO-OP because the staff are friendly and it is open a lot.
6. The LINEAR PARK is the best place to hide because it has many hiding places such as bushes, trees and endless greenery.





MAP OF ASHURST AND BROAD OAK

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|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The best place to keep a pet tiger is SANKEY VALLEY because there are supplies for tigers to survive.</li><li>2. The best place to have a sleepover is BURGIES WOODLAND because the tent there is so big.</li><li>3. ASHURST PARK is the place that makes us most angry because it's so boring.</li><li>4. THE DUCKERIES is the best place to bury treasure because it's massive and has been around for a long time and it's full of bushes and trees.</li><li>5. The best place for an airplane to make an emergency landing is our SCHOOL PLAYING FIELD because it is big and thick. In the summer they have to be careful because we might be playing on it.</li></ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>6. We think SCHOONER WINES is the most dangerous place because there are lots of gangs hanging around there.</li><li>7. The place that will disappear first will be GASKELL PARK because probably there will be houses built on it.</li><li>8. The best place to film a music video is NANNY GOAT PARK because there are loads of objects.</li><li>9. BOLD MINERS is the happiest place because there are clubs like football, rugby and fun games.</li><li>10. The worst place is THE FLASH because there's a lot of teenagers that go around with very loud music.</li></ol> |
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## THE BEST THING ABOUT OUR STREETS IS THE NEW PARK WE DESIGNED.

The park is big and green. There are beds that people can plant in and a statue of a panda with flowers on it to attract animals. There is a water fountain surrounded by greenery and a tall wall of plants with a neon flower sign and bird seed feeders. There are pathways and a pond with a bridge over it.

There are squirrels and deer. There is a city farm like there used to be in Sherdley Park. There is a Bug Hotel for insects to have shelter, and a warm place for animals to stay and rest when it's winter and they need to hibernate. There is a dog park, with poo bags and balls and treats for the dogs. There is a community gardening centre, so all the people who don't have

much to do can meet up and plant vegetables and flowers. There is a centre for animal adoption and next to it a place called Kitty Pig for people who love animals but can't afford one where they can just go and look at the animals.

There is an adventure playground with a tyre swing, mini ground trampolines, a zipline, a tunnel slide, climbing nets, a running-around doughnut and a rotating bowl. There is a rock-climbing wall and a paintball woods. There is a caged-in football pitch because on the old park the pitch was always too wet and the grass too long to play on and the nets were never on so we had to run after the ball every time it went in the goal. There is an underwater exploration park with a marine zipline across a body of water, with a mermaid and an underwater slide. There is a rollercoaster which is held up by a wall of living plants that absorbs carbon dioxide to help stop pollution.



Now the kids no longer get bored and they are able to get lots of fresh air. We pick the litter every day to make sure the park is always clean. There is a big fun hill to ride your bike down and food and drinks for people with not a lot of money.

And finally, there is a place for children with no teenagers allowed, so that when we play out it is just for us.

## WE ALSO DESIGNED SOME OTHER IMPROVEMENTS, SUCH AS:

- A Pet Cinema
- A Japanese food shop
- A trampoline park just like the one that closed down but better
- A penguin shop
- A hot tub

- A fairground
- The Kingdom of Knowledge
- Slides between houses for people who can't walk very well
- A study centre for people who can't afford things to study with like computers and books
- A new hospital in Rainford
- A stall to sell crafts
- A community BBQ and swimming pool and sitting area
- A homeless shelter
- A gaming zone
- A fairy library
- A go kart track
- A youth club with soft play
- A community centre for elderly people, with a fire pit, a seating area and a cabana
- A statue to remind people not to litter
- A fun house
- And a play centre with a chocolate fountain

None of them have been built yet, but they will be soon. You should come back and visit again then.

## SOME INTERESTING WALKS



In St Helens there are lots of nice walks to go on. These are some walks we recommend to you.

### A Wild Walk

Start your walk at Ashurst Primary School. Begin by walking up Chain Lane and then walk in a giant circle, going up and down every street that

you come to, until you end up back at Ashurst Primary School again. On your walk look out for a doughnut with rainbow sprinkles and then bring it to me. The most difficult part is doing the walk on your head. Walk on the wall (near Co-op) and try to balance the doughnut. Then go to my nan's house, get a glue gun and other crafty stuff

to make a paper cat. Try to hear an argument or fight on your walk, narrate it from afar. Smell sweet peas to learn how nice they look and smell. This walk will make you feel happy. And make the paper cat cute!!

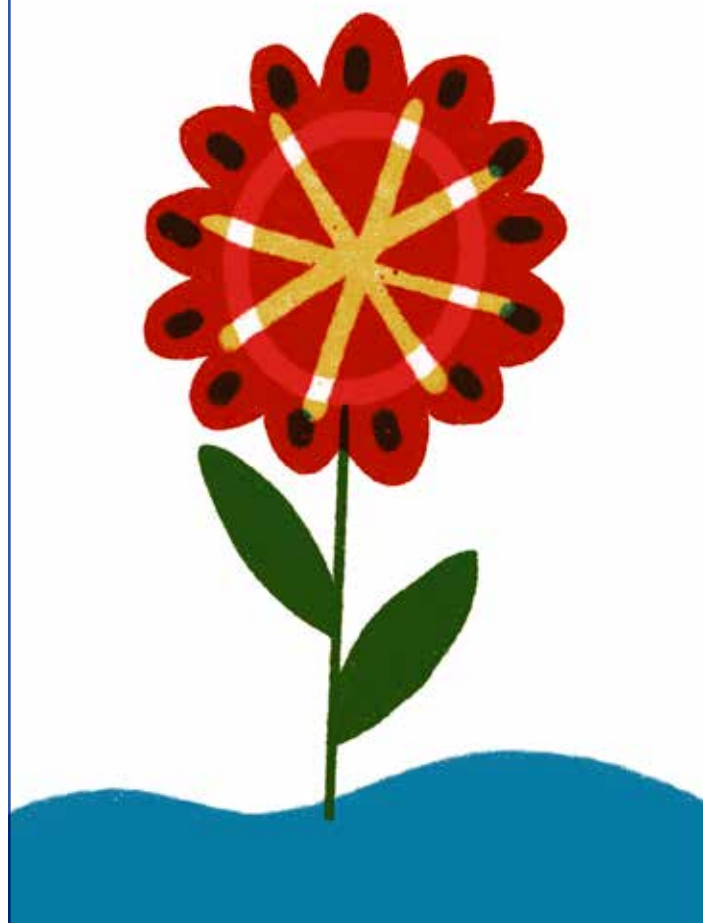
(Warning: if an argument or fight *does* break out, make sure they don't hear you narrate or you might get involved.)

### **A Fishy Walk**

Start and end your walk where Carr Mill Dam Road meets Garswood Old Road and walk around Carr Mill Dam in a circuit. You should do the walk bare foot. Look out for horses. The difficult part is the woods. The interesting part is the water because it has fish in it. You will hear the waterfall. You will smell the fish. The walk will make you feel calm.

### **A Relaxing Walk**

Start the walk at Lidl on Park Road and walk along Blackbrook Road then turn left onto Chain Lane. Walk all the way up Chain Lane until it becomes Laffak Road, keep going until you turn right onto Carr Mill Road, then turn right again onto Garswood Old Road and end your walk at The Boathouse at Carr Mill Dam. Look out for Ashurst Primary School. You might hear or see people playing out. The walk will hopefully make you feel relaxed. Your challenge will be that you have to walk in your pyjamas.



### **A Nature Walk**

Start the walk at the area of grass near where College Street meets Hill Street. Walk up College Street until you can turn right onto Islands Brow, and walk down there until you reach Merton Bank Road. Look out for how many birds there are, and look out for the garden centre. See if you can hear bees or wasps. This walk should be nice and can relax you a bit.

### **An Invisible Walk**

If one day you wake up and you are invisible, this is a walk you could do. First run out of the house and down the street. On the streets of Blackbrook creep around the buildings and the bins, seeing all the smaller things people normally didn't see, like pennies on the floor and rubbish flying by. You can also see the bigger things like homeless people, cold and scared and being brushed past and ignored. Rush back to your house and grab a blanket and some food and drink. Hurry back to the street and carefully



lay out the blanket and the food and drink out. Then go to Splash and have a rest in a tube slide. Go to a shop and borrow a few chocolate bars and drinks (they won't mind because you are invisible). After that run to the cinema and watch all the movies for free. Don't leave the cinema until you hear thunder and lightning, then sprint home in the rain. Make sure to remember your own key because no one else will be able to see you. Get in your best pyjamas and hope to be visible again by tomorrow.



## SOME QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

Before we go, we have a few questions to ask you.

- Who are you?
- How old are you when reading this guidebook?
- Do you live in St Helens?
- What do you think about St Helens?
- What do you do?
- What things do you do in your spare time?
- Do you have eyebrows?  
Because some people I know don't.
- Why are you reading this book?
- Where are you reading this book?
- Can you read?
- Where is your favourite place to visit in St Helens?
- What's your favourite part of this book?

- How many field mice are there in St Helens?
- How many trumpets are there in St Helens?
- How many pairs of shoes are there in St Helens?
- How many people live in St Helens?
- How many houses are in St Helens?
- Do you know about dinosaurs?
- Do you think St Helens is a better place now than when this book was written?
- Are the teenagers more responsible now?
- Are there more houses than usual?
- Are the new people nicer?
- Have you enjoyed reading this guidebook?

## SOME SPACE FOR YOU TO WRITE

Thank you for reading our guide to St Helens. It's a good place to live now and we think it will be better in the future. Right now they are building a lot of new houses, which means in the future there will be lots more people. Most people in St Helens are very kind, and more kind people will make it an even better place to live.

We hope there will be more shops and less pollution. We hope there will be more money put into the community. We hope people will actually start putting stuff in the bin and doing more recycling. We hope there will be electric cars.

You might see us here in the future, or we might be in Poland or London or Gibraltar or Australia.

But wherever we are remember us, and remember what we showed you about St Helens. This is a memento from a moment in time. This is what it was like to live in St Helens in 2021.

The Book of St Helens was created by Year 5 and 6 children from Ashurst Primary School, Broad Oak Community Primary School and Rainford Church of England Primary School in collaboration with Andy Field & Beckie Darlington

The book's editors were Benjamin, Chloe, Euan, Jessica, Kaiden, Katie, Layla, Leah-Rose, Luc, Millie, Ryan and Scarlett

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**THIS IS OUR BOOK OF ST HELENS.  
WHAT WOULD BE IN YOUR BOOK?**

#thebookofsthelens  
[www.heartofglass.org.uk/tbosh](http://www.heartofglass.org.uk/tbosh)