

**Wrexham Paint Jam: A Tribute to the Contributions made by Avant Cymru, Andy 'Dime One' Birch and talented UK wide graffiti artists, supported by Y/The Lab & Eagles Meadow Shopping Centre.**



Visit Wrexham was tipped off on a Friday lunchtime to go down to the basement levels of Eagle's Meadow car park where something special was starting. As we approached in the low-level light during the height of an August heatwave, the unmistakable aerosol paint fumes permeated the air ever so slightly, and we knew this is where something special was happening. Over 25 artists from all over the UK had descended into town for the weekend to continue a special project of brightening up the darkest walls in one of the deepest darkest underground car parks in Wrexham.





We first met up with Kryme from Dundee who had done the redeye just that morning to get down in time for the kick-off, and despite the long journey he was fully charged and excited about the gathering and the weekend that lay ahead. The rest of the artists were also beginning to arrive around the same time as we met up with some for a brief chat about their projects. Everyone we met had amazing back stories and united in their ambition to brighten up urban places with some unique efforts and pieces, inspired by personal ideas and stories to them. Many of them regularly toured the UK working on other paint jams and we felt with no-one else around it was a privilege to share some time one-on-one with the artists. We got a sneak peek of their design process and plans that they had in mind for the weekend long installation.



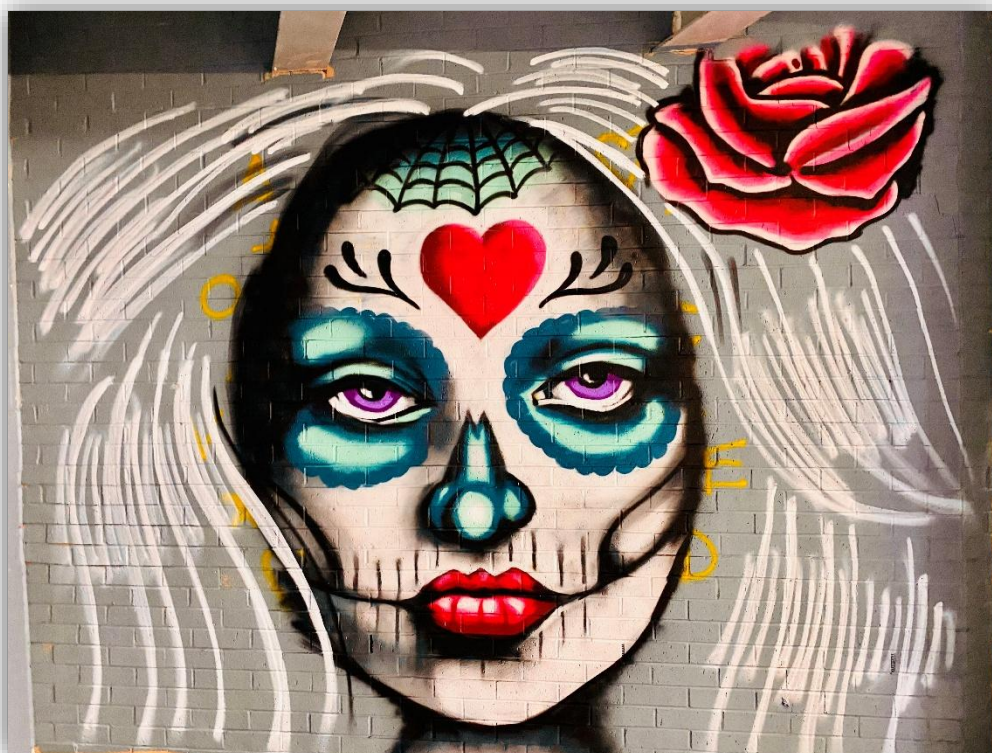


Going up a level we then met Andy 'Dime One' Birch – a self-confessed 'graffiti art geek' who is based here in North Wales and this being his fourth instalment of the Wrexham Paint Jam, discovered that this is very much his passion and project and was the lead artist. Andy explained he had decades of works to his name dotted all over Wrexham and North Wales. <https://www.youtube.com/user/dimeone1>



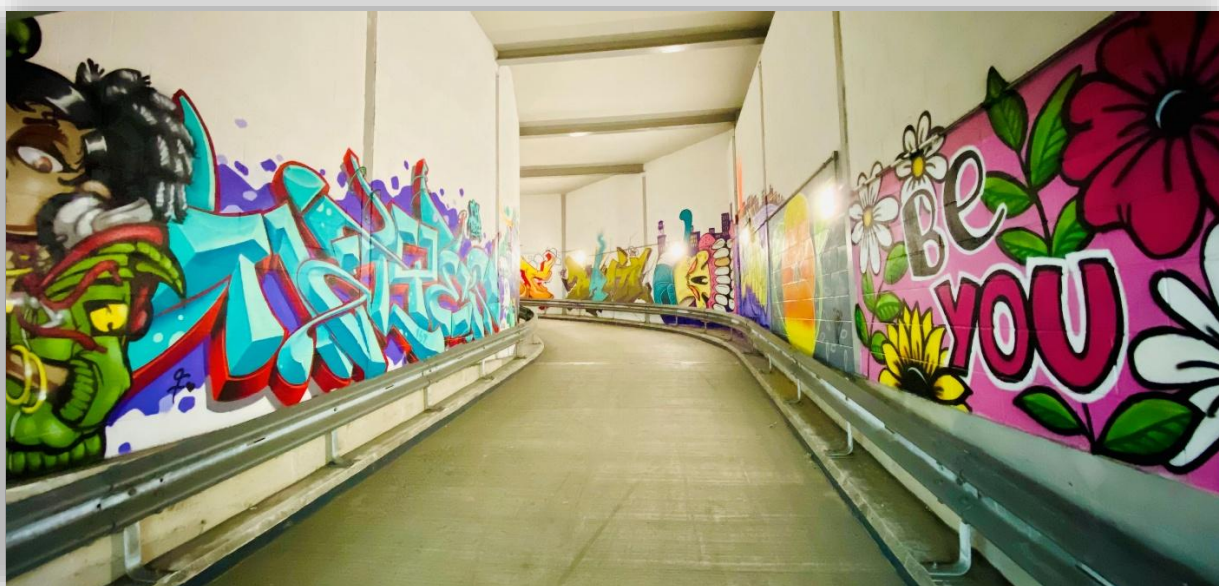
Andy 'Dime-One' Birch and Josh Price, Eagles Meadow Centre Manager.

Andy shared with us the event wouldn't be possible without the support of Rachel and the team who run Avant Cymru /The Lab based upstairs and the work that they do curating the content and planning the event. Their dedication to promoting arts and culture in the local community has been instrumental in helping the Paint Jam now reach even new heights. Avant Cymru's support has enabled the project to engage with local residents, businesses and schools, fostering a sense of ownership and pride in the town's artistic endeavours.



Then excitement broke out when there was talk of lunch being served by the Lab for all the artists. Before we left we also met with Josh Price, Eagles Meadow Centre Manager, who kindly host this event every year and shared with me this is just one of the new and creative initiatives that they are actively engaging the local community with, to help grow the value and potential that this amazing urban site and venue Eagle's Meadow can bring to the people of Wrexham. From what we could see and learned, this was an amazing project that the people of Wrexham should be proud of.





Through their work with the Wrexham Paint Jam, Andy 'Dime One', Avant Cymru and Eagle's Meadow have helped to:

- Develop and deliver community-led art projects
- Provide training and workshops for local young people and adults
- Collaborate with local organisations to help secure funding and resources
- Create a platform for local artists to showcase their talents and gain recognition

The contributions made by all have been crucial to the Wrexham Paint Jam's success, and their dedication to promoting arts and culture in the local community will undoubtedly have a lasting impact on the town.