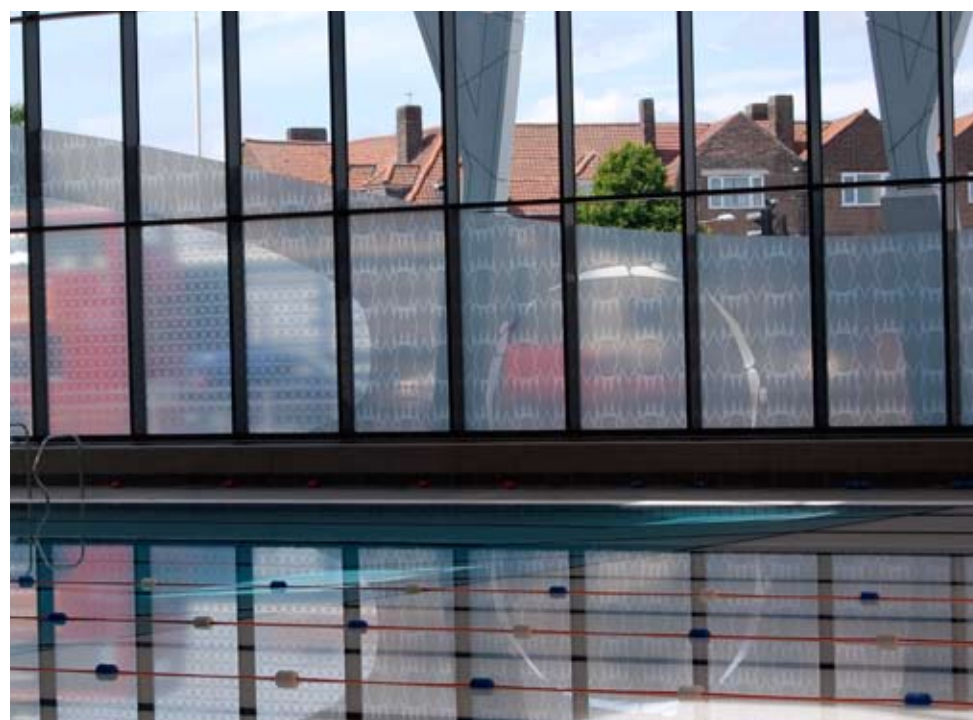


# Becontree Medley

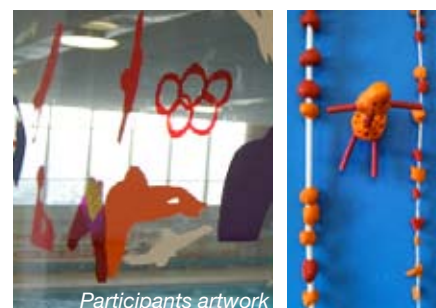
In February 2011 The London Borough Of Barking and Dagenham commissioned local arts organisation Studio 3 Arts to design and produce this piece of public artwork for Becontree Heath Leisure Centre.

The council wanted the artwork to refer to the local history of the area and to encourage as much input from the local community as possible. The purpose of the artwork was to encourage participation in the arts by local people, celebrate the new leisure centre and provide a high quality piece of public art for the



borough. Studio 3 Arts employed artist Elaine Tribley to work with the local people to produce designs which she then developed to make the final artwork. Local people of all ages and from a variety of backgrounds were involved in these workshops, which ran during March 2011 at William Bellamy Junior School, Bcontree allotments and the former Dagenham swimming pool.

The project took six months from beginning to end with the artwork being installed in May 2011. This project and the completed artwork was made possible through partnership working between the Culture and Sports Service of Barking and Dagenham, members of the Barking and Dagenham community, Studio 3 Arts, Elaine Tribley, S+B Architects and Purlfrost Ltd.



Three distinct local histories have been included within the pattern repeat filling the main shape, beginning with the bunting which appears on many old photographs of outdoor pools in the Dagenham area. The bunting contains imagery to reflect 'The Merry Fiddlers', the public house which dated back to 1851 and from which the main junction takes its name, and 'Nanny Goat Common', which is the name associated with the Heath throughout its history and still used today.

The main shape of the road includes the roundabout in front of the Civic Centre which is depicted by a ring of swimmers. Three swimmers are visible on the glass and the circle is completed in the reflection of these on the surface of the pool. The swimming figure was reproduced from the original Dagenham Swimming pool logo.

The internal elements of a swimming pool which were referenced during workshops have been included in the form of lane dividers and the swimmer re-appears from the old Dagenham pool logo.



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BY LBB&D



The pattern in the areas between the main shape is constructed from a tracing of a small section of the Becontree Heath map. The image is reflected, rotated and repeated to form the pattern.

The main shape which sweeps across the glass panels originated from several maps of Becontree Heath ranging from 18th century hand drawn maps to 21st century google earth satellite images. The combination of shapes covers the area from the Art Deco Civic Centre to the junction of this new leisure centre. The fork of the road echoes the 'trees' within the external architecture of the building.

As a whole the shape can also be seen as a swimmer doing the front crawl or butterfly stroke.

For further information about this project please contact the Community, Sport and Art Service on 020 8724 8797 or [artsadmin@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:artsadmin@lbbd.gov.uk). Further details of this project can be found on the council's website at [www.lbbd.gov.uk/somewhere](http://www.lbbd.gov.uk/somewhere).