

STREET ART HEADINGLEY



Redskin Creates, *Rob Burrow*, 2021
Cardigan Lane, Headingley

My name's Reggie Challenger, I'm 51, and I hail from Chapeltown. I was an art director in advertising, but I jumped into plastering 15 years ago, and I'm now embarking on a journey into commercial and industrial flooring! Meanwhile, my creative endeavours go under the name of **Redskin Creates** – my Facebook and Instagram pages show some of these, and as you can see I flit!!! (I am also part of a company named Singtasia, look us up to see our costumed singing capers!)

A friend of ours is Ian Saul, who's a member of my partner's choir at St Gemma's Hospice. He's the owner of Silverspring Lettings, a letting agency in Headingley. And he's a massive Rhinos fan. He heard I did a mural for a company called The Branch Wellness Clinic, in Wakefield, so he commissioned me to fill this gable end of one of his properties, to dissuade graffiti and to add to the street ambience! He has good vision.

The brief was open! I ran a few rough-thought visuals by him, based on our discussions of the current climate, political, cultural, etc. In the end, we focused on Leeds icons, things that would make a lasting statement and depict a stamp of our current time through icons!





For Rob himself, I chose a caricature to take advantage of my latest artistic itch! And in light of those other superb realistic artists in the city, I found it prudent to take the opposite style direction! (Note, the Rhinos' Super League kit in 2017 was predominantly white.)

Otherwise, the elements of the mural are –

- Rob's number and signature (top)
- the Parkinson Building of the University of Leeds
- the Carnegie Pavilion of Headingley Stadium
- Rob is holding a road block planter, which is planted with -
- the Super League trophy, won by the Rhinos with Rob in 2017.



The story of the planter was a nod to the then recent council initiative to help clean the air, curb the flow of traffic, figuratively and literally creating less congested, healthier streets! It of course has ruffled feathers of the locals for one reason or another.

I digress, the main man Rob is such a hero in many respects and Ian the owner of the property is a massive fan so after pitching and convincing him of this concept I was good to go! I worked on the mural through the winter at the beginning of 2021 (when we were in the second Covid pandemic lockdown!). And the mural was finally finished on 25 March that year.



Reggie Challenger

Redskin Creates

<https://m.facebook.com/RedskinCreates/>

For an interview with Rob (with the mural), see Donald McRae, "Rob Burrow: 'I've had such a wonderful life. I want to make the most of the time I have left.'" *The Guardian*, 7 May 2021

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2021/may/07/rob-and-lindsey-burrow>

For more street art in Headingley, visit the [gallery](#), and for Rob and the Rhinos, click [here](#).