



The Future In Your Hands

The Future In Your Hands photography exhibition sees photographers Luke Brooker and Amanda McGovern celebrating people living with a musculoskeletal condition in Greater Manchester and its surrounding areas and highlighting how these people have taken control of their lives to live them to the fullest – the future is in their hands.

The exhibition hopes to raise awareness of people living with a musculoskeletal condition in our communities and show that these conditions are not restricted to older people, but affect people of all ages.



Why is this exhibition important? Although most people have heard of arthritis, there are in fact over 200 musculoskeletal conditions, many of which are not always obviously visible. Around 1 in 4 adults in the United Kingdom have a musculoskeletal condition – 9.6 million adults - as well as over 12,000 children.

These conditions can have a substantial impact on people's quality of life and working life, but as this exhibition shows, people living with a musculoskeletal condition are still able to lead inspiring, active lives in spite of their diagnosis.



The exhibition was opened with a launch event at GalleryOldham on Monday 6th November 2017, where it was shown for three weeks. It will tour venues in the North West of England in 2018 starting at the Manchester Craft and Design Centre 15th-17th February, before heading to Altrincham Library at the beginning of March.



As part of the exhibition some participants were photographed passing a baton to well known figures in the North West community. The passing of the baton symbolises passing on a message about musculoskeletal conditions to our communities. To the left we see Shelley Lanchbury, a participant who lives with Psoriatic Arthritis, passing the baton to Eddy Newman, Lord Mayor of Manchester.

To the right we see Caroline Wallis, who lives with Rheumatoid Arthritis passing the baton to Lord Mayor of Oldham, Shadab Qumer.



About the photographers...

Luke Brooker graduated from Huddersfield University in 2015 with a BA Honours degree in photography and is now a Medical Photographer at Leeds Teaching Hospitals. Luke has a particular passion in photographing members of the public and telling their story through photography.

Amanda McGovern has been an active photographer since 1998 with a particular interest in wildlife and nature photography. Away from photography Amanda is a researcher studying the genetics of musculoskeletal diseases at the Centre for Musculoskeletal Research, The University of Manchester