

# No puzzle that jigsaw brings village together



**Richard (left) and Mike in front of the 16-foot long puzzle**

A COMMUNITY “jigsaw” has been hailed as a huge success after it took centre stage at an art exhibition showcasing the talents of people living in Leigh on Mendip.

Villagers were asked to decorate individual pieces of the jigsaw in whatever way they thought suitable – no-one was allowed to see any other piece until the mural-like work was unveiled at the show.

Artists Richard Blaker and Mike Bloxham, who designed the jigsaw, said they were delighted by the results. They counted at least 40 different materials used in the work, ranging from paint to dog hair and lentils!

Richard said: “Although I’ve lived in Leigh for quite some time, people were coming to my door who I’d never met before; it’s really brought people together.”

As well as looking at ways to make smaller versions of the jigsaw to sell – the original may go on permanent display in the village’s Memorial Hall – Richard and Mike may now approach other communities to help them create their own pieces of work.



Lily and Amy help to complete the mural