The memories, experiences and adventures of Widnes R.L.F.C are fundamental to the Golden Generation’s relationship with the club and a core value in their relationship to one another. Taking on the shared vision of wider group, three members, Bill Griffiths, Denis Thomas and Phil Fearnley took up the responsibility to help shape how the group, and its love for the club would be presented in this exhibition.

Perhaps more importantly, the members also took up the role of archivist and curator, sifting and organising fellow member, Mike Flynn own vast personal collection in order to arrange the exhibition of his unseen works. A documentarian for three decades, Mike amassed a huge personal library of photos that represented the highs and lows of the club, its changes and developments both on and off the field. A social history of the club, Mike’s 10,000 plus photo collection function as a window into the past and represent many of the important memories that shape the Golden Generation as a group of life long supporters.

Perhaps more importantly, these photos are also an aide memoire for Mike. As a dementia suffer, Mike’s own personal collection acts as an important link to the past that provides comfort in the now.

Recognising the importance of Mike’s work, Bill, Dennis and Phil worked to select images that represented the club’s own efforts to engage with the past. Basing their ideas on photo collages exhibited around the club’s social spaces, including function rooms and suites within the stadium, the Golden Generation exhibition sub-committee pointed towards an
aesthetic that was consistent with work presented around the club whilst reflecting on their relationship to it.

This collage is a gift from us to them.

Created by Robert Parkinson.