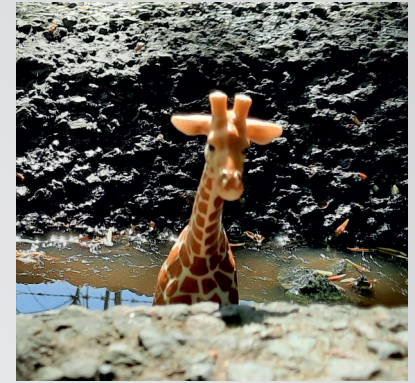




POTHOLE ART

Tim Webb Orpington, Kent



"I enjoy what I'm doing and what I'm doing is making a difference," Tim says. "I was tired of seeing potholes everywhere. It was taking over 100 days before they were repaired."

He decided to do something about it. Instead of angrily complaining, he's using humor. The scenes he creates in potholes point out, in a light-hearted way, a serious problem. Potholes cause severe damage to car tires and wheels, even greater damage to bicycles and cyclists.

"At first I was using rubber ducks — they seem to still be called rubber ducks even though most of them are made from plastic now. I'd fill potholes with water and put in the ducks."

He takes photos and then removes the ducks. "I don't want to create traffic hazards. And I don't want the ducks crushed. That could cause a shortage of rubber ducks. God forbid that should happen."

"Eventually I grew tired of using ducks and started thinking of scenes — dioramas — I could create. This is turning out to be great fun. Ideas for these keep popping into my head."

Using kids' toys he rounds up from family, friends, and charity shops, he's depicted roadside recovery trucks pulling vehicles out of sinkholes, construction scenes, and American astronauts landing on a lunar landscape. There's also been a UFO crashing and creating a crater.

Although they have not said so directly, it appears what Tim is doing is causing road works authorities to speed up the repairs.

