

Ashley Phillips, the Creative Director at Glartique Ltd was commissioned by Ealing Council in London to design and create a 6m high sustainable Christmas tree to help highlight, support and inspire people to reuse and recycle plastic in the Borough.

The steel sub frame was laser cut and fabricated by master welders to make efficient use of height and width and allow 900 reused plastic water bottles to be securely attached to the structure. LED Neon flex was chosen to be the only means of lighting the tree, based on its vibrant and glowing light and its excellent flexible and weatherproof properties. The installation has a continuous 50m length of green neon flex attached to the inside of the structure connected to the 23 steel rings going up to in a giant spiral. This gave the surface of the installation bottles a stunning green light that could be seen from several hundred meters away.

The ingenious design and structure was constructed on site on Dec 1st 2013 in front of Ealing Town Hall and was on display for 4 weeks.

The beauty of the design meant that it was like a giant meccano set and could be dismantled and re used again. The whole structure with another load of reclaimed bottles was re-created for 2015 Xmas tree in Southall, using a pink LED neon light

Ashley a graduate of Chelsea College of Arts and Goldsmiths, is also an Associate Lecturer at Chelsea College of Art on the MA Textiles course to bring sustainability to the forefront, and Associate Lecturer at LCC on the Design Cultures BA. Glartique transforms functional surfaces into art. www.glartique.com

