

Proposal for Public Art Project

Bartholomews Development
Bognor Road



Chichester District Council

Caroline Wheaton

Summary

Chichester District Council would like to work with an artist to create a piece of public art as part of the Bartholomews Development in the Bognor Road area of Chichester.

This new housing development was built on land previously occupied by Bartholomews, the international agri-feed business; a firm which has been part of local history for the last 130 years. The council would like the piece of art to reflect this element of the industrial heritage of Chichester and in doing so, allow it to be passed down to future generations.

Location: envisaged as Florence Park – exact location to be finalised.

Budget: circa £3000

Timing: project to be completed by December 2024

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss the contents of this proposal with Council representatives as and when appropriate.

Proposal

Given the likely location of Florence Park, my proposal is a stone seating area. This practical and useful piece of artwork would be reflective of the industrial heritage of the site but also celebrate the progress of this internationally recognised firm; progress which has allowed them to expand and move premises thus allowing a new development of housing on the site of some of their original buildings.

I would propose the erection of three stone seats – each 45cm high with a 40cm square seat. Although practical in shape, the stone will be curved reminiscent not only of the cereal grains themselves which form the basis of so much of Bartholomews' product range, but also reminiscent of containers - sacks, barrels, jars - a way of storing up nature for community good just as we would with a crop harvest.





Possible detail on
face of seat

Each seat will be carved on two sides with motifs also reflective of the Bartholomews business – for example, turnip (one of many forage crops), sunflowers (part of the range of gamecover crops), wheat or barley (part of the core seed range) to name but three possible options.

The intention would be for this new communal seating area to act as an intergenerational invitation to come and stop, enjoy the outdoors and involve themselves in this community space.

The motifs can be discovered over time. The stone weathering and aging, able to stand as strong and with the same longevity as the industrial pioneer this work seeks to celebrate.

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Seats: 45 x 40 x 40 cm (HxWxL)

Material: Portland Stone

Maintenance: Wash stone every six months to year for appearance and to prevent “greening”.

Given current budget, to be sited on existing concrete/hard standing area, if possible. To be discussed along with logistics of siting seats for completion of project.

Final design and costings to be agreed with Chichester District Council.



Possible details for motif on face of seat



Art As A Community Proposition; A Local Example

I have recently provided a similar work for Donnington Parish Council as part of their new Sculpture Garden. The central seating area, this time carved with local flora and fauna, provides a focal point for this community garden; a natural invitation for young and old to come and enjoy this rejuvenated area of open space.

The project has been well received by the local community.

<https://carolinewheaton.com/public-art>

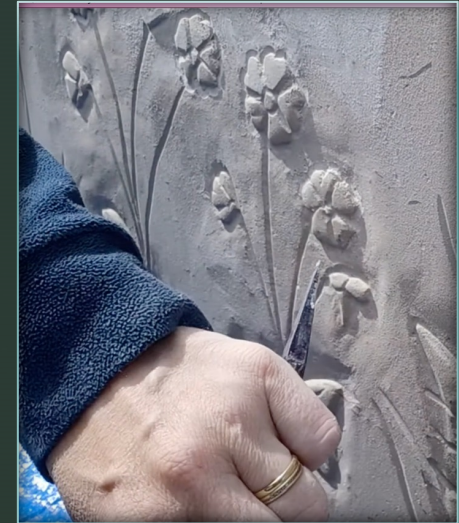


Why stone?

Stone is timeless. It has been used for centuries as a building material. It can be written on, drawn on and shaped whilst still remaining eminently functional. It withstands all weathers; its longevity unmatched.

It is easy to maintain needing just a clean with water every 6 months.

Stone would be sourced from the quarries of Portland in Dorset, thus sourcing as locally as possible for the South Coast of the UK.



Details from carving at
Donnington Sculpture
Garden 2022



About Me

I am a self-taught British artist and sculptor based in London and Chamonix. I sculpt using stone, metals, plaster-based materials and resins.

Until 2014, I had a successful corporate career and expressed my creativity when I could find the time. In recent years, however, my artistic passion has won through and now I focus solely on my career as an artist.

Journeying for work and pleasure over the years, watching people going about their every day lives, my work considers how being in a different environment drives how we engage with each other - how people work and play; how it informs the cultural aspects of our life.

This physicality of my surrounds, coupled with my fascination with anatomy and physiology is explored more deeply in my sculpture, an exploration of the connection between man and our wider environment.



Selected Exhibitions

Public Art

2022 Donnington Sculpture Garden, West Sussex

Solo Exhibitions (mix of painting & sculpture)

2017 - Current Hotel Les Lanchers, Chamonix, France

2016 - RDB Gallery at Ascot Racecourse, UK

2015 & 2016 Royal Arcade Gallery/La Galleria, London

Selected Group Exhibitions (sculpture)

2022 Landmark Arts Centre, Teddington
Standen House, National Trust – East Grinstead
Leonardslee Lakes & Gardens
Legacy - Crypt, Euston Road, London
Savill Garden – Windsor Great Park

2021 Cotswold Sculpture Park
Salon des Createurs, Chamonix
Leonardslee Lakes & Gardens
Savill Garden, Windsor Great Park

2019 RDB Gallery – Arboretum, London

2018 RDB Gallery – Villasimius, Sardinia
Galerie des Aiguilles, Chamonix
Saffron Walden Gallery, UK

2016/7 MB Factory, Chamonix



<https://carolinewheaton.com/>

Other examples of relief sculpture from my portfolio



Yorkshire Rose – commissioned for hotel in Anagni, Italy



She & Her – Relief carving in Ancaster Stone