



Sculpture Stands Tall

A huge sculpture to promote family learning has been unveiled in the town.

The sculpture has been commissioned by NDC and stands on Westmoreland Street as a signpost for the Stranton Learning Centre.

Local residents and volunteers have taken over six months to complete the

8ft public artwork which depicts a family peering over a book.

Members of the Tramsheds Integrated Mental Health Project have given their free time to carve out the design which would have cost a massive £15,000 in artists' fees.

More page 2....



Sculpture Stands Tall

Continued from page 1...

By getting involved with a project like this, people dealing with mental health issues can build confidence and self-esteem whilst striving to achieve their goals.

Phil Swinburne NDC Arts Facilitator, said: "This project provides the opportunity for people to see and appreciate public art.

"Hartlepool residents have put a lot of work into the sculpture and were out in all weathers. They have learnt new skills which they can hopefully put to good use in other aspects of their lives."

Kevin Hunton-Young, from the Tramsheds Project added: "This initiative is about promoting positive mental health and allowing people who deal with it to put something back into the community.

"It will be a great achievement when

they see the sculpture put into place and the culmination of months of hard work."

NDC Resident Chairman Bryon Hanna MBE unveiled the artwork at a special ceremony at the Stranton Centre.

"this project provides the opportunity for people to see and appreciate public art."

Commenting on the new sculpture, Centre Manager, Sharon Pounder, added: "I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has been involved in the project.

"Especially Guinness Trust for permission to use the land and the Lonsdale Court residents who helped with the initial concept and design. Without them none of this would have been possible."

The sculpture - made out of Cedar of Lebanon - has cost a total of £700 and features a solar powered light for night time illumination.



Whale

As I dive into a new world
My mind is full of worries
In investigation of unknown species
Here lies a watery world
Full of strange creatures
Known as fish

But then I come across it
A titanic ocean thing
Then it starts to surface
I must follow it for it attracts me
Then it starts to leap
In the orange sunset
Feel the glory
Witness the freedom

Of the whale
As the sunset begins to die
The whale slowly disappears
Down to the ocean floor
To feed and rest
A new love to me is born

By Alex Hooks

2

Under a Watchful Gaze

Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) is helping to keep communities safer thanks to an NDC investment of £360,000.

In a survey conducted by MORI in 2000, residents identified CCTV as being a significant factor in crime prevention and increasing their feelings of safety.

NDC have responded to residents priorities by installing a total of eleven cameras which are situated in locations across the area.

Images from the state of the art equipment are sent via a fibre optic and dial-up connection to the CCTV control room.

Staff from the control room monitor the cameras and are so highly trained that they can sense an incident is about to happen, allowing them time to quickly seek police response to the incident.

Of the eleven cameras in the NDC area, nine of these are dome cameras which can point in any direction without its direction being noticeable to the public. This type of camera is also relatively resistant to vandalism because of its outer shell.

The two other cameras are of the traditional box style which can be seen moving in different directions - this has the advantage of deterring people gathering in certain areas. All of the eleven cameras have the ability to pan, tilt and zoom long distances.



Commenting on the CCTV system, Community Safety Project Manager Clare Clark added: "It is a powerful weapon in preventing and detecting crime and these cameras are vital in catching criminals and bringing more offenders to justice.

“the system has been responsible for bringing 183 arrests across the town between January and June '06”

“Since the installation of the cameras, the system has been responsible for bringing 183 arrests across the town between January and June '06. 95% of cameras responsible for these arrests are situated within the NDC area.

“The location of each camera has been carefully considered in order to deter criminals, detect offenders and reassure the public.”

All footage is recorded and retained after an event so residents who believe that an incident has been captured on CCTV should contact Hartlepool Police on 01429 221151.

Big boost for 16-25 year olds

Are you 16-25 with an idea for making a lasting change to your community? Or perhaps you know of someone who fits this bill? Either way, Lorna Evans (pictured) – NDC's newest team member – would like to hear from you.

Lorna's job is to assist young people turn their ideas into reality and make a difference - both to themselves and their community. How will she do this? By helping them to obtain between £500 and £5,000 and providing support and advice to get their idea off the ground. This money, exclusively available from the Big Boost fund for young people, is only for individuals or small informal groups of up to three young people, not for groups with constitutions or formal members.

Although based at The Arches on Park Road Lorna is actually employed by the national charity UnLtd, which is

dedicated to unearthing and supporting what they call "social entrepreneurs" - people with the vision and the go to make a difference. UnLtd are the managing agents for the Big Boost, a special fund for young social entrepreneurs funded by the Big Lottery Fund. Lorna will work across the whole of the north east, but with a special interest in Hartlepool.

Amongst young people's ventures made possible by Big Boost funding are a youth magazine, a local history project, ethical knickers (!) and a mobile coffee stall for selling fairly traded coffee.

See the Big Boost website - www.thebigboost.org.uk or call Lorna (894046) to find out more. She'd love to hear from you if you think you can make a difference, either on your own or with a couple of friends.



thebigboost
getting young people's ideas off the ground

