

LIVE Ribble Valley

LANCASHIRE'S PREMIER
GUIDE TO LUXURY LIVING
ISSUE 72



GLORIOUS TWELFTH
LET THE GAME BEGIN

COUNTRY WEDDINGS
RURAL RETREATS

NIGHT & DAY
BEAUTIFUL BOWLAND

NEW GENERATION
MOD WEEKENDER

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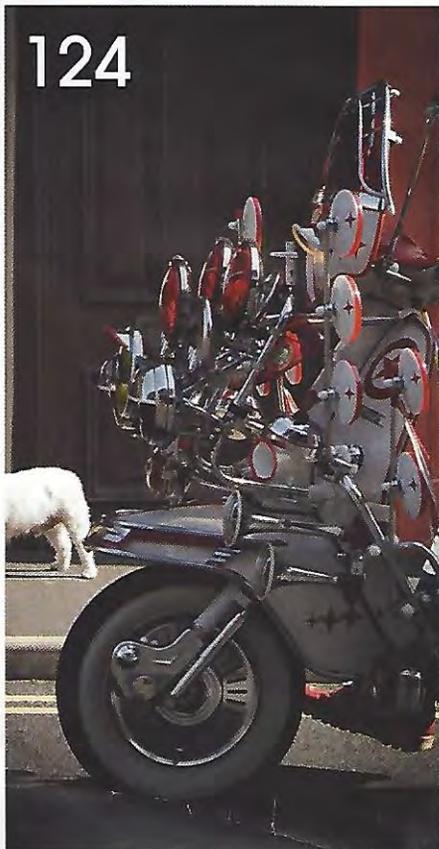
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INTERNATIONAL

The work of sculptor and artist Halima Cassell is currently being exhibited in New York and it is also on outdoor display in the rural Ribble Valley



ACCLAIM



There has been some remarkable artwork produced in the Forest of Bowland this year as part of the LANDMARKS project which saw four temporary, outdoor visual art installations sited at popular locations around the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

The works were created by a series of talented sculptors including Sun Catcher by artist Halima Cassell, which still remains atop Jeffrey Hill.

The acclaimed sculpture has attracted visitors from throughout the region as well as receiving much media coverage.

Halima's multi-cultural background is present in much of her work which features in public and private collections. Fusing her Asian roots with a fascination for African pattern work and a passion for architectural geometry, Halima's art is structured yet creative and compelling in its originality.

From an early age she showed herself to be naturally creative and she went on to gain a degree and then an MA having studied in Blackburn, Manchester and at UCLan.

She has completed many outdoor and indoor installations as well as smaller sculptures and wall friezes as Halima explains: "I used to work predominantly in clay, but I now do a lot of work in bronze and marble."

Halima was thrilled when she was commissioned to create a work to mark the Forest of Bowland's anniversary and she chose a large piece of 150 year old oak for her masterpiece.

"I wanted to create a focal point in which different things can be seen from different angles," says Halima, who was born in Kashmir and came over to Lancashire at a young age, where she was educated. She now works from a studio in Shropshire.

She explains: "The idea of Sun Catcher is to see the open beak of a bird of prey from one angle, as Bowland is famed for its wildlife, from another angle it looks like a bird perched on top of a mountain."

Each of Halima's sculptures is painstakingly hand carved and can take up to 250 hours – however Sun Catcher took her and an assistant two months to complete.

"We worked very intensely which means you become extremely involved in what you are doing. But the response we have had has been amazing and we have not had one negative comment, which is unusual for a public work of art.

"I have had some fantastic emails from people saying how the sculpture enhances Bowland's beauty. One couple actually got engaged standing under Sun Catcher which is lovely."

The 14 ft high carved oak sculpture also has four carved concrete seats, and has become a fabulous focal point in the heart of Bowland.

Halima, has recently exhibited in Norwich, Nottingham, the Saatçhi gallery in London where she showed some of her bronze work, a gallery in Germany where her marble sculptures were exhibited and in New York where she unveiled some new ceramic work.

She has just completed two private commissions in marble including a sculptured frieze for a Nordic cruise liner.

In another new Forest of Bowland art initiative the Bowland Explorers programme features a series of artist-led expeditions encouraging the public to discover the magic of the region. The Bowland Explorers Club, which is part of Bowland Revealed marking the 50th anniversary of the Forest becoming an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, was launched at the Cloudspotting Festival during the summer when a family-friendly event saw all ages share their Bowland adventures. The Explorers programme, which is supported by Arts Council of England and Lancashire County Council, is managed by Mid Pennine Arts. Bowland Explorers will continue until the end of the year. ■

Sun Catcher will remain in place on Jeffrey Hill until late September early October





which could greatly benefit from having Dark Sky status: “It could extend the tourism opportunities.

“At the moment tourism is very seasonal but astro-tourism could change that, attracting people to the area all year round.

“More and more people are interested in astronomy and that’s partly down to people like Professor Brian Cox. He attracted around five million viewers for one of his television

programmes, which is amazing considering astronomy is basically all about science.

“Most people don’t find science a turn-on

“ I REMEMBER, AS A BOY,
LOOKING UP AT THE
NIGHT SKY AND HAVING
A TOTAL FASCINATION
WITH THE STARS ”

but when you are looking at stars light years away, you are learning about how light travels, which is physics. When you see the planets you learn about geology. It is really exciting and interesting.

“I love showing people the night skies, explaining what can be seen by the naked eye and what can be seen through a telescope. Astronomy has a real ‘wow’ factor and it’s great for me to have a job that I love doing.” ■



Experience an unforgettable night under the stars with astronomer Robert Ince, who will guide you through the constellations and along the Milky Way, wrap up warm and bring binoculars

Beacon Fell 21st September 8.30pm (age 16+) and 30th October 7pm (age 8+ a family friendly event) – Booking essential 01200 448000 (Under 18s to be accompanied by an adult) www.forestofbowland.com/star-gazing

‘The Forest of Bowland Orchestral Suite’ – the Lord of Bowland’s 5th Annual Lecture with composer Christopher Gibbs. Browsholme Hall Tithe Barn – 6th October, 7.30pm The event is free but booking is essential 01200 446161 or 01200 448000