

PROJECT

Carving 'catches' the eye on Bowland hill

Striking piece of art celebrates 50 years of 'beauty spot' tag

By JON ROBINSON
jonathan.robinson@nqnw.co.uk

THE trunk of a 150-year-old oak tree has been fashioned into one of four public artworks celebrating a major milestone for the Forest of Bowland.

The artwork, which is known as 'Sun Catcher', has been created by Blackburn-based international sculptor Halima Cassell and installed at Jeffrey Hill.

The commission is part of the Bowland Revealed project which marks the 50th anniversary of the area being designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

It was created along with works by Salina Somalya at Gisburn Forest, Philippe Handford at Langden Intake and Geraldine Pilgrim at Beacon Fell Country Park.

The installations have become so popular since being

installed that they will now be maintained until the end of the year.

The exhibition had been due to finish earlier this month but the public response prompted the scheme's partners, who include Ribble Valley Borough Council, into action.

Now the artworks are due to star in an upcoming episode of Countryfile which is slated to air on Sunday, November 30, on BBC One.

Katherine Rodgers, Ribble Valley Council's arts development officer, said: "Halima has used the trunk of a 150-year-old local oak tree to carve a strong geometric design into the heart of the wood creating a compelling and thought-provoking work, where ever-changing light interacts with faceted surfaces to create its own unique drama.

"Bowland Revealed is a great opportunity to experience contemporary art in some beautiful locations, while encouraging people discover their very own artistry."



The Sun Catcher takes pride of place on Jeffrey Hill in the Forest of Bowland