



Longsight Lodge 'Doe' Sculpture

In November 2023 Longsight Lodge Residents Association invited artist Marjan Wouda to talk to residents about her work. After listening to feedback from residents, in early 2024 Longsight Lodge Residents Association applied to the Bradshaw, Hall i'th Wood & Harwood Community Alliance for a 'Growing the Good Work' Grant.

Over six weeks in April and May 2024, Marjan Wouda involved Longsight Lodge residents in creative consultation and design workshops (including drawing, claymaking and painting) to develop ideas for the garden sculpture. Live From Worktown's Peter Firth also developed a virtual version of his Harwood heritage walk, which Longsight Lodge residents were able to attend from the comfort of the Longsight Lodge communal room.

Marjan then presented two proposals for sculptures in steel, which were shared with local residents at a coffee morning and project exhibition in July 2024. Residents overwhelmingly agreed on the 'Doe' themed proposal.

Now came the task of finding the money to produce and install the chosen design. Supported by Be One Homes Community Development Officer, Longsight Lodge Residents Association submitted a number of applications to funders. It took a while but eventually - thanks to the Bradshaw, Harwood & Hall i'th' Wood Growing the Good Work Fund, the Bolton's Fund and Be One Homes - we were able to achieve that goal.

The sculpture was laser cut from Corten steel at Steel Dynamics (Blackburn) and fabricated by William Eaves (Bolton). Installation took place in the days leading up to the unveiling event, which took place on Saturday 5th September. Kathleen Proctor, from Harwood Writers, wrote an ode to the Doe sculpture (christened 'Jane Doe' by the residents). The sun shined as she performed the piece just before the sculpture was revealed to the audience of residents and invited guests, who were then treated to a celebratory afternoon tea.

More information about the work of artist Marjan Wouda can be found at www.marjanwouda.com

The sculpture was funded by Bradshaw, Harwood & Hall i'th Wood Community Alliance 'Growing the Good Work' Grants, Bolton's Fund via Bolton CVS and Be One Homes Community Engagement Team.

Peter Firth (Live From Worktown) has developed and runs a programme of My Place Heritage Walks and Armchair Heritage Walks www.livefromworktown.org.uk

Harwood Writers meet every Tuesday in Harwood Library from 1.00 – 3.00 pm and everyone is welcome to come along



The Deer Speaks.



Well, I seem to have been under this sheet for ages, I'm getting a bit bored and claustrophobic under here now to be honest, but I think something might be happening at last because I can hear voices, so there are obviously people here.

I think they might have come to see me because I've known for a while that I must be finished, because all the measuring and riveting and welding that has been going on suddenly stopped.

I felt a bit sorry really, because I liked being the centre of attention and after all, I hadn't had to do any of the work. I had had the easy bit, just standing there while Marjan worked her magic on me.

But what an adventure I've had! I've been so privileged to be involved with Marjan who created me from just an idea in her imagination.

I caught a glimpse of myself yesterday in a window and I am so beautiful. I am the vision of a creative genius. A labour of love.

I must admit, I got a bit emotional when I saw myself finished.

I felt so beautiful, so special, so unique, so elegant, so alive.

Well, I know that sounds a bit fanciful but that's how I felt.

I could imagine myself in a wild place, smelling the pine forests and bounding through the purple heather, free to roam and feel the heat of the sun on my back.

I hope Marjan is pleased with me. I think she is, well, she was smiling when she took my photograph on that last day. I will miss her smile.

I hope she will miss me a bit too now that her work with me is finished.

I know I will miss her, we have been through this whole process together and now we are bonded forever.

But now I'm ready to face the world on my own, it is the day of the parting of the ways for Marjan and me.

Although I feel sad, I am ready to be independent and to live the life which I was created for.

Marjan too can now move on and work her genius with someone else, but our relationship was unique, so very special that a part of me will always belong to her, even though I will soon have a new purpose and a new home.

**I can I can hear the voices getting closer and louder, it sounds like quite a crowd.
I can hear some clapping.
I think the time has come for me to take the spotlight.
I think my revelation must be imminent.
I can feel the excitement mounting and now someone is tugging at my cover.
I can't wait to see where I'm to be located.
I did hear a rumour that I was to be the centrepiece in a special garden.
I do hope so.
I don't want to be put in an urban setting. I need green space around me.**

**The peace and quiet of a village garden will be perfect for me and, if it is true,
then I think I will be completely content there and that this will be the first of
very many happy days in my new home.**



Kathleen Proctor