Lancaster Civic Vision

Celebrating our Heritage – Enhancing our Environment – Shaping our Future

PUBLIC ART, LANCASTER

Lancaster Civic Society Guide 7

In this guide 'public art' refers to monuments, statues and other artefacts on outdoor display in public places. We are excluding the architecture of buildings and landscape designs. The author has made a personal selection of items of different forms and across the city. We hope you too will appreciate them and the many others we do not have the spaces to include here. The many excellent items of public art in Morecambe are dealt with in the companion guides 13 *Morecambe: the Station to the Sea* and 12 *Morecambe: Along the Prom*.



Bull's Head by Shawn Williamson (1991) was carved from Shap granite. It sits outside the Chaplaincy Centre of Lancaster University. Other works by him can be found locally at Lancaster Priory, University of Cumbria (Bowerham), Lancaster Magistrates' Court and elsewhere at Lancaster University.



The Good Samaritan is a plaque in Coade stone above the door to Medical Unit 1 at Royal Lancaster Infirmary. Probably carved in the 1780s, it was moved here in 1896 from the last of the three public dispensaries at each of which it had been part of the building. Nearby are stained-glass windows (perhaps by Shrigley & Hunt) and Biblical references on healing.



Dual Form by Barbara Hepworth (1965) is in bronze and has been on display at Lancaster University since 1973, currently in Alexandra Square. It is one of seven similar sculptures by this internationally famous artist who was based in St Ives, Cornwall. Another example of her work locally is in the University of Cumbria (Bowerham).



The *Queen Victoria Monument* by Herbert Hampton (built in 1906 and unveiled in 1907) stands prominently in Dalton Square in central Lancaster. It is constructed of bronze and Portland stone. It was a gift to Lancaster from Lord Ashton, its richest industrialist. The history, details and iconography of this complex work are described in the companion guide 17 *Queen Victoria Monument.* Hampton also contributed to the design of the Ashton Memorial in Williamson Park (see Guide 55 The Ashton Memorial).



The *Westfield Memorial* shows a soldier helping a fallen comrade. It is in bronze and was cast in 1925 and unveiled in 1926. The sculptor was Jennie Delahunt, the only one of the artists in this guide to have lived and worked in Lancaster (at the Storey Institute). The statue and the rest of the Village are described in more detail in the companion guide 19 *Westfield War Memorial Village* where this statue occupies a central position.



Lancashire Rose by Maggy Howarth combines the emblems of Lancaster and Lancashire. It can be found in Williamson Park by the entrance to the Ashton Memorial. It is a large mosaic constructed from mostly natural stones of different colours, shapes and sizes. Other local examples of her work can be found in Wray (Millennium Mosaic), Hornby (by the butcher's shop) and along Morecambe Promenade (the leaf or feather design in the paving).



Captured Africans by Kevin R. Dalton-Johnson (2002) is a reminder of the slave trade and the Lancaster merchants who participated in it during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. It sits on Damside Street near the quays on the River Lune from where the ships set out. The structure is made from stone, steel, mosaic and acrylic blocks.



Sheep Run by Gordon Young is a mural along Gillison's Lane that shows a shepherd, collie and (in 2014) 29 sheep, beside what was Lancaster's covered market. The design was truncated during later building works.

Text and photographs – Gordon Clark.

Published by Lancaster Civic Society (©2014; revised 2024)
Lancaster Civic Vision is the trading name of Lancaster Civic Society, registered charity no. 258434