

For Immediate Release March 2018

New Lease of Life for Major Sculpture Exhibition

Sculpture in the Vineyard 2018 – Saturday 8th to Sunday 23rd September

A major Oxfordshire sculpture exhibition, cancelled last year due to the untimely death of its visionary curator Lendon Scantlebury, is back on the cards again this autumn. Plans for reviving the biennial Sculpture in the Vineyard exhibition at Bothy Vineyard are well under way with a team led by Lendon's partner in life and work Dawn Benson.

The 7-acre grounds of the county's oldest vineyard, just 6 miles from Oxford, will be graced with 200 outdoor sculptures, produced by over 50 professional artists. The public will be invited to view and purchase the art in September, just before harvest, when the vineyard is in full autumnal leaf and laden with fruit. Further indoor sculptures will be on show in the working winery, giving visitors an opportunity to admire the artwork in between the fermentation tanks, barrels and press.

Dawn Benson and Meriel Lewis, who assisted Lendon with previous exhibitions, will select artworks from many artists in a variety of sizes, media and materials. Dawn said: "It has been a very difficult year - Lendon is missed hugely by all who knew him. He was an exceptional character and his energy filled his sculpture shows with joy. The work he did curating these shows made sculpture accessible to the Oxfordshire public and beyond. The new team is carrying on in his spirit.

"Lendon's ambition was to encourage young people to make the transition to professional artist through mentoring, teaching and helping to fund them, which he did himself throughout previous exhibitions. We have set up the Heartstone Fund to continue and develop his work. We would love to hear from anyone who would like to join us as volunteers during this event."

The profits from Sculpture in the Vineyard will be donated to the Heartstone Fund and local wildlife charity, Wild Oxfordshire.

The exhibition is being given a boost by Jane Beedle, finalist in the Great British Bake Off 2016 and garden designer, who will be patron of the event. Jane is best known as the 2016 GBBO "mum of the group," popular with both her fellow Great British Bake Off contestants as well as TV viewers at home. Jane's company, Mulberry Garden Design, has been creating gardens around Bromley, Kent and London for over 17 years.

Jeanette Howse, Heartstone Fund trustee and chairman of Didcot Events, is a member of the organizing team. She said: "I'm thrilled that Jane Beedle has agreed to be our patron – her enthusiastic personality and good taste – both in the kitchen and in the garden, are just the thing to widen the appeal of the event. We mustn't forget that there is also a link between food, wine and art - our host, Bothy Vineyard produces delicious wine right here on our doorstep.

“Lendon’s exhibitions were fabulous – they helped raise the profile of sculpture in Oxfordshire whilst providing new and established artists with an affordable platform for reaching the public. These exhibitions are also gaining a reputation as tourist attractions. His legacy lives on and I am delighted to play my part.”

Jeanette brings to the team a wealth of contacts and experience in organizing events. She was awarded a British Empire Medal two years ago for her work in Didcot in bringing tourism to the area.

Sculpture in the Vineyard will run from Saturday 8th to Sunday 23rd September. The gates will open from 10 am to 6 pm, and the cost of entry will be £2.50 per adult which includes a programme. There will be events organised over the weekends, an art trail for children and food and other refreshments available throughout. Free parking.

For more information visit sculptureinthevineyard.uk or follow us on www.facebook.com/sculptureinvineyard where you can view videos and photos of previous events.

..... End.....

Notes for editors

Photos on request.

1. Contact information

Sian Liwicki (Exhibition host and contact for corporate bookings)
Bothy Vineyard, Frilford Heath, Abingdon OX13 6QW. www.bothyvineyard.co.uk
telephone: 01865 390067 email: sculpture@bothyvineyard.co.uk

And from the Heartstone Fund:
Jeanette Howse, telephone: 07771 967633 email: jeanette.howse@btinternet.com
Meriel Lewis telephone: 07890 032725 email: info@heartstone-fund.uk
www.heartstone-fund.uk

2. Bothy Vineyard – the host venue

The philosophy at Bothy Vineyard is to produce the highest quality wines from grapes cultivated in an environmentally-friendly way as possible. Bothy continues an ancient tradition of wine making in the Vale of the White Horse, Oxfordshire. The local micro-climate, warm sandy soils, long ripening season and mature vines produce wines of consistent depth and quality which have won many awards. Wines from Bothy will be on sale at the exhibition, and groups of over 12 people may also book tours.

For more information visit: <http://www.bothyvineyard.co.uk> or www.Facebook.com/bothyvineyard

3. The 2018 Good Causes

Two charities have been invited to be involved in Sculpture in the Vineyard which will help them to raise funds and gain wider awareness of their projects.

The Heartstone Fund www.heartstone-fund.uk

This fund has been set up in memory of Lendon Scantlebury, who curated the previous shows at Bothy Vineyard and many other shows in Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, including the largest show at Ardington, where he took over the whole of the 50 acre site for a stunning exhibition in 2014. Lendon's ambition was to encourage young people to make the transition to professional artist, through mentoring, teaching and helping to fund them, which he did himself throughout these previous exhibitions. The Heartstone Fund aims to continue and develop his work.

Lendon had already taken five artists, Jenny, Kira, Molly, Ollie and Tom, on a journey from their first expressions of talent to becoming confident artists with bright futures. Lendon's partner in life and art, Dawn Benson, has now taken on the responsibility to fund future developments through continuing the exhibitions that she and Lendon started.

Wild Oxfordshire www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk

Wild Oxfordshire is a local charity which provides a coordinated and strategic approach to conservation in Oxfordshire. Through providing support and encouraging environmental organizations and volunteers to work together, Wild Oxfordshire will be the catalyst for solutions that benefit wildlife within our rich and vibrant county. Wild Oxfordshire works in partnership with over 60 organizations.

Current projects include:

- Saving our bees and other pollinators under threat
- Delivering natural solutions for effective flood management
- Giving nature a voice in County strategy and planning.

Wild Oxfordshire also published the State of Nature in Oxfordshire 2017 report which is the most comprehensive review of Oxfordshire's Wildlife and vital baseline data including input from over 60 species experts and over 40 environmental organisations reflecting the work drawn from thousands of data sets and volunteer hours.