

1. 'NORgate' by David Wilson, 1996, stonework and copper
Located at Livingston East roundabout



COMMUNITY SCULPTURES IN WEST LOTHIAN

TITLE OF SCULPTURE	‘NORgate’ 1996
ARTIST	David Wilson
MATERIALS USED	Stonework and copper
LOCATION	Livingston East roundabout

The sculpture called ‘NORgate’ is one of four large scale, abstract sculptures by the artist David Wilson which were used as prominent features in the landscape and help people find their way around Livingston. The other three are called ‘Chrysalis’, ‘Compass’ and ‘Dyke Swarm’. These four major works by Wilson were positioned in the centre of four of the main roundabouts in Livingston creating new and interesting landmarks. Each one is made of stonework and machined copper and each is unique to its setting.

The sculpture called ‘NORgate’ which has been installed at the Livingston East roundabout looks at first like a whales Jaw bone or even a giant wishbone. It acts as a visible archway or gateway into Livingston.

‘NORgate’ has been made from chiselled stone, cemented together in a gateway to produce an arch shape.

The top of the structure which brings the two twisting columns into a peak has been sculpted out of copper.

The overall effect is interesting and eye catching and the sculpture now adds an unusual feature to an otherwise nondescript stretch of tarmac.

Other artists who use abstract shapes and forms in this way are Richard Deacon and Andy Goldsworthy.

2. 'Chrysalis' by David Wilson, 1996, stonework and copper
Located at Eliburn North roundabout



COMMUNITY SCULPTURES IN WEST LOTHIAN

TITLE OF SCULPTURE	‘Chrysalis’ 1996
ARTIST	David Wilson
MATERIALS USED	Stonework and copper
LOCATION	Eliburn North roundabout

Another of David Wilson’s four landmark sculptures positioned on prominent roundabouts in Livingston is called ‘Chrysalis’.

Like the other three abstract sculptures, ‘NORgate’, ‘Compass’ and ‘Dyke Swarm’. Chrysalis is made from stonework and copper.

The sculpture sits on the Eliburn roundabout resembling a large cairn or part of a stone fortress.

The title ‘Chrysalis’ suggests that the structure holds something inside like a giant pupa.

‘Chrysalis’ has been built from traditional stone forming a large round shape with triangles of copper at the top.

The whole sculpture, because of the type of natural materials used, works well against the surrounding landscape.

‘NORgate’, on the Livingston East roundabout, ‘Compass’ on the Lizzie Brice’s roundabout and ‘Dyke Swarm’ on the Newpark roundabout as well as ‘Chrysalis’ on the Eliburn North roundabout all provide interesting sculptures for people to look at on what would otherwise be fairly monotonous roundabouts.

Each sculpture enhances the surrounding landscape adding points of interest to what used to be motorway monotony.

Other sculptors who used stone and metal this way to make abstract sculptures are Richard Deacon and Andy Goldsworthy.

3. 'Angel' by William Tucker, 1975, steel
Located at Willowbank, Ladywell



COMMUNITY SCULPTURES IN WEST LOTHIAN

TITLE OF SCULPTURE	‘Angel’ 1975
ARTIST	William Tucker
MATERIAL USED	Steel
LOCATION	Willowbank, Ladywell

The abstract sculpture called ‘Angel’ by the artist William Tucker was made in 1975 from steel and is positioned at Willowbank in Ladywell.

The sculpture is made up of three angles which form a triangle of steel, possibly symbolising the wing of an angel. There are evenly spaced spikes running down each of the three sides giving the sculpture a spiky appearance. The overall effect is striking and the sculpture looks very abstract and modern. It looks as though it was inspired by electronic designs, transmitters or even TV aerials.

The artist has made this sculpture resemble the sorts of structures we are used to seeing as TV aerials on roof tops or as fencing around houses or industrial units.

‘Angel’ by William Tucker was created in the mid 70’s for the new town of Livingston, representing the modern and the new in terms of the materials that were used to build the sculpture and the actual design, shape and form of the sculpture.

Other sculptors you may find interesting who worked in the 70’s in this way creating modern, abstract sculptures are:

David Smith, Richard Deacon, Anthony Caro, Bill Woodrow.

4. 'Pyramid Cairn' by Malcolm Robertson, 1996, g.r. concrete
Located at Lochshot Burn Greenway



COMMUNITY SCULPTURES IN WEST LOTHIAN

TITLE OF SCULPTURE	‘Pyramid Cairn’ 1996
ARTIST	Malcolm Robertson
MATERIALS USED	Glass - reinforced concrete
LOCATION	Lochshot Burn Greenway

‘Pyramid Cairn’ is an abstract sculpture by the artist Malcolm Robertson.

Despite being made from manufactured materials (glass and reinforced concrete) the sculpture has a natural appearance and fits into the landscape setting very well.

A landscape setting is ideal for viewing this type of sculpture as the shapes, materials and themes of the work complement the natural surroundings.

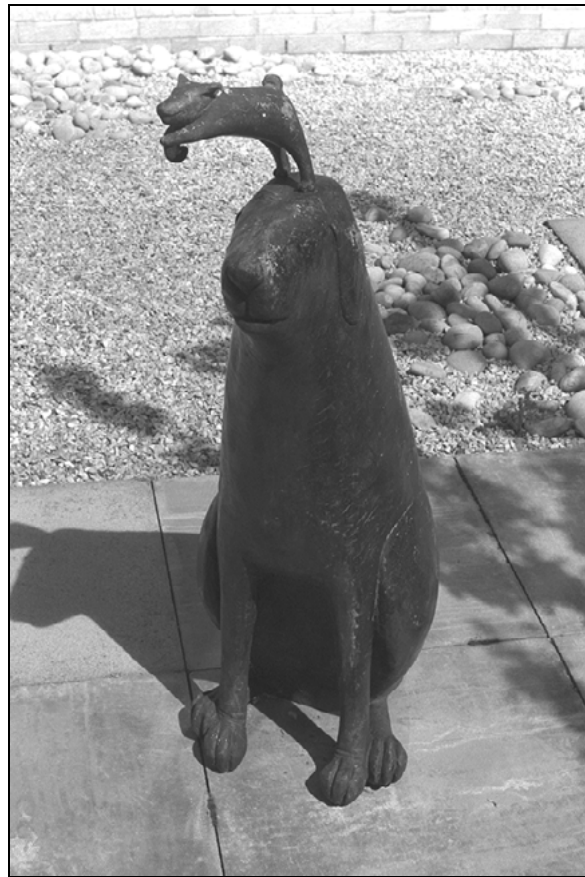
Pyramids and cairns are man-made constructions which we recognise as being almost part of the landscape but they also act as reminders of, and monuments to, civilisation.

Malcolm Robertson’s sculpture ‘Pyramid Cairn’ is similar to the cairns that have been built on the top of hills or mountains to remind the next visitor that ‘someone’ has been there, or lived there, before.

You may find it interesting to look at examples of Scottish cairns and Egyptian pyramids and observe the type of natural environment that they have been built in.

The artist and sculptor Andy Goldsworthy constructs and builds sculptures from natural materials to form cairns and pyramids and other interesting shapes in the landscape.

5. 'The Glasgow Dog' by Shona Kinloch, 1988, cement fondu
Located at St. John's Hospital, Livingston



COMMUNITY SCULPTURES IN WEST LOTHIAN

TITLE OF SCULPTURE	‘The Glasgow Dog’ 1988
ARTIST	Shona Kinloch
MATERIALS USED	Cement Fondu
LOCATION	St John’s Hospital

‘The Glasgow Dog’ positioned at St John’s Hospital by the artist Shona Kinloch is one of two sculptures obtained from the 1988 Glasgow Garden Festival. The other sculpture obtained from the Garden Festival is ‘Sheep’ by the artist Ronald Rae, and this can be seen at Almond Valley Heritage Centre.

‘The Glasgow Dog’ by Shona Kinloch is a realistic looking sculpture of, as the title describes, a dog. The full title of the sculpture, ‘The Glasgow Dog’ stems from the fact that the object was designed and made for The Glasgow Garden Festival. Perhaps the sculpture is now more commonly known by locals as the ‘Livingston Dog’?

The sculpture of the dog has been made from cement paste which was put into a mould shaped exactly like the final sculpture.

The dog looks quite realistic and sits outside the hospital, as if permanently waiting for someone to return and take him home, like the sculpture of ‘Grey Friar’s Bobby’ which sits on Candlemaker Row in Edinburgh.

Sculptures of animals are often used to symbolise and remind us of the value of loyalty and trust.

There are many statues and sculptures in cities around the world showing animals. In Princes Street in Edinburgh there are, for instance, statues of Sir Walter Scott with a dog at his feet, Wellington on his horse and a Scottish Soldier on a famous Scott’s Grey.

Another sculpture by Shona Kinloch is called ‘Pigeons’ and can be seen at Elm Row in Edinburgh.

6. 'Abstract' by Denis Barnes, 1977, concrete
Located at Nelson Avenue, Howden



COMMUNITY SCULPTURES IN WEST LOTHIAN

TITLE OF SCULPTURE	‘Abstract’ 1977
ARTIST	Denis Barnes
MATERIAL USED	Concrete
LOCATION	Nelson Avenue, Howden

Sculptor Denis Barnes was one of the first Scottish Artists to be commissioned to produce works of art for the town of Livingston. Barnes produced several sculptures and murals situated at different venues throughout Livingston. These works were completed between 1976 and 1978 at the time when Livingston was just beginning to develop as a New Town.

Denis Barnes’ sculpture called ‘Abstract’, which was completed in 1977, is a tall tower like structure made from concrete.

The structure has shapes and patterns moulded into the concrete. The sculpture looks like an Indian Totem Pole or even a brick chimney stack.

The sculpture looks man made and the title ‘Abstract’ describes the form as not representing life like or realistic images, but representing abstracted shapes, patterns and forms.

Denis Barnes has made this sculpture look interesting against the landscape. Some rock formation can look abstracted from the landscape it belongs to because of erosion by the weather or by water.

Although ‘Abstract’ is a man made concrete structure, because of the colour, and the textures on the surface of the column, the sculpture seems to fit into the landscape. It looks as though, like a standing stone, it has been there for hundreds of years.