

19 'Angel of Peace' by Gerry Lynch, 1995, sandstone
Located at South Square, Almondvale Centre



COMMUNITY SCULPTURES IN WEST LOTHIAN

TITLE OF SCULPTURE	‘Angel of Peace’ 1995
ARTIST	Gerry Lynch
MATERIALS USED	Sandstone
LOCATION	South Square Almondvale Centre

This sculpture is situated at Almondvale Centre. It is one of five sandstone sculptures that were commissioned by the Livingston Development Council in 1995. The project was aimed at involving local people and school students in ‘hands on experience’ in the production of a work of art. There were workshops and ‘on site’ demonstrations as the sculptures were being made.

The other sculptures are ‘The Paraffin Harvester’ by David Moore, which can be seen at West Lothian House, ‘Transformer’ by James Ritchie, at Almondvale Centre, ‘Symbiosis’ by Madeleine Weiner, at Bubbles leisure pool, and ‘Leaf Lines’ by Mary Bourne, positioned at the Almondvale West business park.

‘Angel of Peace’ is a large figurative sculpture of an angel carved from sandstone. The surface of the stone sculpture has been ‘rough cut’ with an electric power saw to create texture. A smaller diamond saw has also been used to add more detailed markings.

The ‘Angel of Peace’ in the artist’s own words ‘represents the emergence of the town of Livingston. I chose this theme because I work figuratively. I chose the female form emerging, representing the development of the town of Livingston. You can see she is not fully there, like the town of Livingston which will still be growing into the future.’

The overall effect of the sculpture against the landscape is powerful and dramatic.

The symbol of a heroic figure in a dramatic position as in Lynch’s ‘Angel of Peace’ is a common theme used in public sculpture to suggest power, hope and optimism.

There are many examples of Greek and Roman sculptures used in public places to celebrate human creativity and achievement.

20. 'Standing Stones' by Denis Barnes, 1978, concrete
Located at Lammermuir House



COMMUNITY SCULPTURES IN WEST LOTHIAN

TITLE OF SCULPTURE	‘Standing Stones’ 1978
ARTIST	Denis Barnes
MATERIAL USED	Concrete
LOCATION	Lammermuir House

‘Standing Stones’ is one of the five sculptures positioned around Livingston by the Scottish artist Denis Barnes.

The sculptures were some of the first to be commissioned by the Livingston Development Corporation in the 1970’s to be incorporated into the developing landscape around the town of Livingston.

The other four sculptures by Denis Barnes are called ‘Abstract in Concrete’ 1977 positioned at Nelson Avenue, Howden, ‘Old Men of Hoy’ 1976 positioned at the River Almond, ‘Abstract in Stainless Steel’ 1977 positioned at the Dedridge Burn Greenway and ‘Three Sheep’ 1978 positioned at the Lanthorn Community Centre.

The sculpture called ‘Standing Stones’ positioned at Lammermuir House was also completed in 1978.

The sculpture ‘Standing Stones’ has been arranged in a similar way to ancient standing stones found on or near to where communities once lived, long ago.

The ‘Standing Stones’ have been made from concrete, which is a modern building material. Ancient standing stones would have been cut from natural rock. Stonehenge is a good example of ancient standing stones. The sculptures add an intensity to the landscape and, although made from concrete, the standing stones seem to fit in with the natural plant forms growing beside them.

21. 'Three Sheep' by Denis Barnes, 1978, concrete
Located at Lanthorn Community Centre



COMMUNITY SCULPTURES IN WEST LOTHIAN

TITLE OF SCULPTURE	‘Three Sheep’ 1978
ARTIST	Denis Barnes
MATERIALS USED	Concrete
LOCATION	Lanthorn Community Centre

Denis Barnes created five sculptures which were positioned in the landscape in and around Livingston in the 1970’s.

Four of the sculptures are abstract forms. They are called ‘Standing Stones’ built in concrete in 1978 at Lammermuir House, ‘Abstract’ built in steel in 1977 at Dedridge Burn Greenway, ‘Old Men of Hoy’ built in concrete in 1976 at the river Almond, and ‘Abstract’ built in concrete in 1977 at Nelson Avenue, Howden.

The sculpture by Denis Barnes called ‘Three Sheep’ is also made from concrete. It was positioned in 1978 outside the Lanthorn Community Centre.

The sculptures of the sheep are realistic in scale and appearance. They represent the type of farming that exists in West Lothian today. They also remind the viewer that Livingston was once farm land.

Other artists to use animals as a theme in their sculptures are:

Shona Kinloch, and Bill Woodrow.

22. 'Compass' by David Wilson, 1996, stonework and copper
Located at Lizzie Brice's roundabout



COMMUNITY SCULPTURES IN WEST LOTHIAN

TITLE OF SCULPTURE	‘Compass’ 1996
ARTIST	David Wilson
MATERIALS USED	Stonework and copper
LOCATION	Lizzie Brice’s roundabout

‘Compass’ by David Wilson is a stone and copper abstract sculpture which has been installed on the Lizzie Brice roundabout in Livingston.

It is one of four large stone and copper sculptures by David Wilson which have, since 1996 been prominent features on the four main roundabouts in Livingston.

Like the other three ‘Chrysalis’ on the Elburn North roundabout, ‘NORgate’ on the Livingston .East roundabout and ‘Dyke Swarm’ on the Newpark roundabout, the sculpture called ‘Compass’ is made of natural, stone and machined copper to form a large sculpture which both enhances the area and provides an interesting landmark to the location.

The sculpture has been aptly named ‘Compass’. It looks as though a huge copper arrow is pointing upwards to the sky.

The base of the structure is made up of a wide platform of stone, tapering up gradually to a thin spike of copper.

It is a striking image and, like the other three sculptures by David Wilson provides an interesting landmark on the roundabout.

The artist Richard Deacon also worked in this way, using stone and metal to make abstract forms.

23. 'Dyke-Swarm' by David Wilson, 1996, stonework and copper
Located at Newpark roundabout



COMMUNITY SCULPTURES IN WEST LOTHIAN

TITLE OF SCULPTURE	‘Dyke - Swarm’ 1996
ARTIST	David Wilson
MATERIALS USED	Stonework and copper
LOCATION	Newpark roundabout

‘Dyke-Swarm’ is one of the four prominent abstract sculptures positioned on the roundabouts in Livingston to provide interesting landmarks to an otherwise repetitious landscape.

‘Dyke-Swarm’ has been built from natural stone and machined copper. The curves on the sculpture make up arch shaped forms. The sculpture fits into the landscape while providing a focal point for passers by. The sculpture is prominent without being incongruous. It almost resembles a ‘dry stane dyke’ or stone wall. The other three sculptures are equally striking and also compliment the surrounding landscape.

‘NORgate’ at Livingston East roundabout, ‘Chrysalis’ at Eliburn North roundabout, and ‘Compass’ at Lizzie Brice’s roundabout as well as ‘Dyke Swarm’ at Newpark roundabout all provide Livingston with original features to enhance the townscape and make the landscape more interesting.

The sculptors Anthony Caro, Richard Deacon, and Andy Goldsworthy have also used stone and metal in this way to make abstract sculptures for landscape settings.

24. 'Totem Dell' by Diane Mylchreest, 1992, wood
Located at Cambridge Park



COMMUNITY SCULPTURES IN WEST LOTHIAN

TITLE OF SCULPTURE	‘Totem Dell’ 1992
ARTIST	Diane Mylchreest
MATERIALS USED	Wood
LOCATION	Cambridge Park

The sculpture called ‘Totem Dell’ by the artist Diane Mylchreest was done in 1992 and is positioned in a landscape setting. It is made of wood, and so the sculpture compliments the surrounding greenery and woodland.

‘Totem Dell’ is a tall sculpture, resembling the totem poles of the American Indians. It has carved sections which give the pole a decorative appearance.

For centuries wood has traditionally been used for carvings and sculptures. It can be carved and decorated easily by using sharp tools and chisels. Burning, sanding and filing is also used on wood to achieve different decorative effects such as line, shape, pattern, and texture.

Other artists who used natural materials this way to make sculptures for landscape settings are the artist and photographer Andy Goldsworthy, and the sculptor and furniture maker Tim Stead.