



# Coping with this new 'lifestyle'

I hope the arrangements you are making in your lifestyle to cope with Coronavirus times are straightforward to arrange and maintain. Just writing this makes me reflect that every time I leave the house for a purpose other than walking for exercise, is a means of reminding myself .... have I got my mask? .... what is 2m? .... keeping an eye out for behaviour which might alarm me; etc etc.

## Sculpture at the Barn

Work there is happening. Hooray!



John Souter is working on his own piece, and therefore available in the usual way on Mondays and Thursdays to advise and assist us with problems.

The booking system for slots on these two days, devised and managed by Jen Boardman seems to be working satisfactorily. I glanced at the booking sheets for the first three weeks of August, and calculated that the spaces offered during those weeks have a 70% occupancy. I have taken this to be a positive statistic and infer that we are getting it right for the moment.

There is no vaccine yet for Covid-19. The committee's thoughts have been on how to manage the next stage. Anticipating wetter and colder weather, we are trying to work out how to spend small amounts of money on temporary shelters.



Using the web to see sculptural things in a different way. If you find a site you think would be of interest to sculptors then do copy and paste the address of the site to an email and send it to [wessexsculptors@gmail.com](mailto:wessexsculptors@gmail.com) and I will send it on to members. In that spirit, I found that Medium.com (quite a big site, and a bit too American for my taste but contains lots of interesting corners to explore) has a page showing Roman Emperors (an exclusively male group....) faces made to look like photographs of real people. This is achieved by using machine learning together with photos of sculpture of Emperor's heads. It's a sort of backwards sculpting. That is, seeing the real person behind the known sculpture! The full address is: <https://medium.com/@voshart/photoreal-roman-emperor-project-236be7f06c8f>



# On The Plinth

## Manuela Clement

Mani has been a member of Wessex Sculptors since it began. She had been doing millinery for some time and was ready for a change. Although a sculptural art, millinery had restrictions on what she could produce for clients who had their own ideas. She had always been interested in sculpture and decided to join John Souter's sculpture class at the Tower Arts Centre in Winchester and, from there, joined with a group of other students to set up Wessex Sculptors.

Over the years, Mani has tried many techniques and has carved in wood and stone as well as producing work through modelling. Between modelling and carving, she doesn't have a preference, although she feels she doesn't have the strength any more for carving in stone. *"Because there are so many more things on offer, I've decided that stone is not for me. I just like to try things, and if they're successful I like to stick with it for a while and then move on to something new."*

Mani is interested in form and texture and is led by technique and materials. She has produced some amazing finishes to her work. Mani has had a bird form in her garden for many years that was finished with powdered slate. As it had deteriorated and was beginning to show the fiberglass, she *"re-resined it and sprinkled iron filings over it and it looks gorgeous and it goes well with the garden. The atmosphere and the rain has turned (the iron surface) into rust. Sometimes when it's raining it's quite dark and streaky and then when the sun shines it's all the same colour."*

Rather than having any particular artist who influences her work, she is interested in minimal shapes. *"I can't say I am influenced by anybody but my biggest love is wood because it has a life of its own. I'm not too prescriptive with wood – you can't be. You have to let it do its thing. When I am building something up I want to be in control and make it look exactly like I want ... but you can't do that with wood."*

Finding, these days, that chiseling wood is physically getting harder to do, Mani is looking for easier methods and is currently using blue polystyrene. It will, however, be given a finish that will make it look like a natural form. We can't wait to see the finished result!

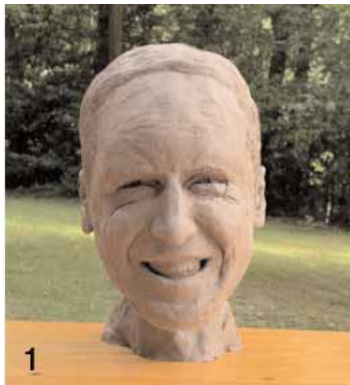




# Who are they?

## Results from top left to right

The results are Prince William, The Queen, Prince Charles, Self-portrait, Boris, Rishi Sunak, Sir David Attenborough, Greta Thunberg, Usain Bolt, Clint Eastwood, and Barack Obama.







# Work during Lockdown

## "The naming of ... work"

I finally finished this piece of work in August, after an eighteen month struggle, which several times survived the alternative of abandonment. Incidentally, I used Coloured Earth pigments from Celtic Sustainable, finished with a coat of PVA, for the smooth areas – which seems to have worked well.

But the naming of work is a difficult matter, as TS Eliot found it to be for cats. Along the way, my piece was variously referred to as "Durdle Door" and "Bessie Braddock". But inspiration came when I went back to this photo, sent by a friend directly from a museum in Crete, which gave me the loose form that set my piece going in the first place. The item shown is a bronze ingot, used as a Mediterranean currency around 1500 BCE; it weighs 30kgs. My piece is pretty heavy, so I weighed it and found that it comes in at only a little more than that. So, "30 kilos" it has to be!



## Jenny Cuffe

The pipe player

Ciment fondu finished with aluminium filler

I embarked on this sculpture with huge enthusiasm and no experience. Several months later my enthusiasm is undiminished but I hope I am wiser, thanks to the tutelage of John Souter and the encouragement of my wonderful fellow sculptors at the Bramdean barn. Next time round, I will set out with a clearer idea of what I want to achieve and the technical problems that will need to be overcome.

## Jenny Wilmott.

Pisces is two fish, probably related, in Polyphant.



## Marie

Poor old Sisyphus, punished for self aggrandisement and craftiness, condemned to push a boulder up an immense hill, only for it to roll down every time he reached the top.

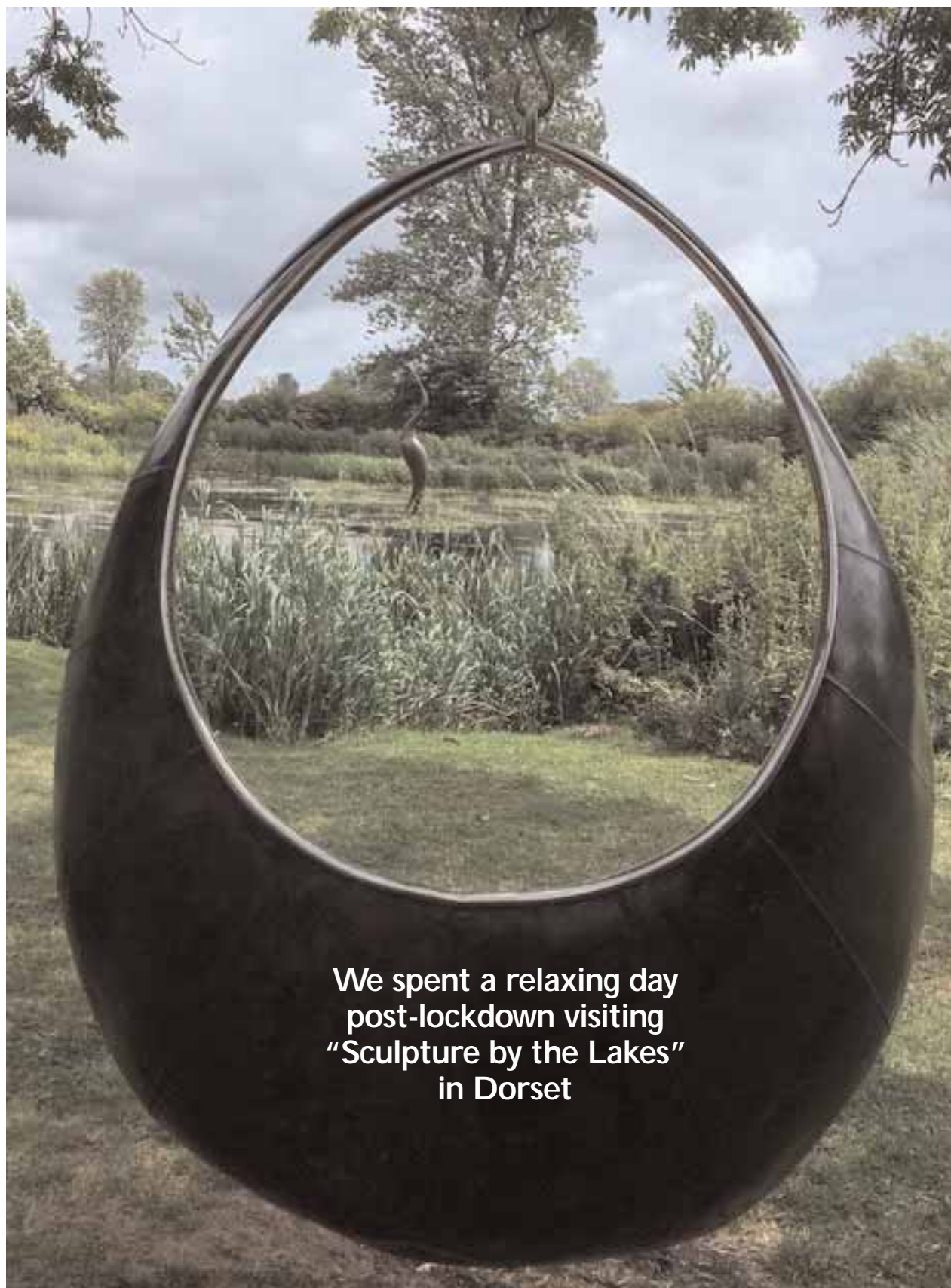


This garden piece beyond itself eventually and is blushing in shame!





# Sculpture by the lakes



We spent a relaxing day  
post-lockdown visiting  
"Sculpture by the Lakes"  
in Dorset





## Stella Grace Lyons

I can thoroughly recommend online lectures by Stella Grace Lyons on various art topics (no vested interest).

They are not particularly sculpture related, but are still highly enjoyable and informative. <https://stellagracylions.co.uk/>

Giles