



We've been incredibly touched by the interest shown for the future of Magdalena Jetelova's Place (also known as the Giant's Chair) over the past week. It's wonderful for our volunteers and staff to know how loved and important the Trail is to the local community and those further afield.

We've put together some answers to some of the frequently asked questions we have been receiving:

What is Place?

Magdalena Jetelova's Place was a temporary sculpture installed in 1986 on the Forest of Dean Sculpture Trail, and coincided with an exhibition by the artist at the Arnolfini Gallery in Bristol. It was the artist's original intention for the artwork to be set on fire soon after it was installed. Instead, it has stood for 29 years and become a roost to local bats as well as a popular viewing point for visitors to the Trail.

Is Place (the Giant's chair) unsafe?

The Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust and the Forestry Commission work together to ensure that the Sculpture Trail is a safe environment for visitors. Structural surveyors have been measuring movement of the sculpture over several years. The sculpture is sturdy for the time being but they have identified that it will eventually collapse and recommended it be decommissioned for safety reasons.

Are there bats living in the sculpture?

Yes. Over the years the sculpture has developed large cracks and crevices which bats have begun roosting in. Professional ecologists have been monitoring the bats and will be discussing a variety of ways to ensure they have a permanent home on the hilltop, for example by installing additional bat roosts in nearby trees.

How and why is Place (the Giant's Chair) being decommissioned?

The chair is being decommissioned as it becoming structurally unsound to the point at remedial work is not sufficient to make it safe.

The Trust is awaiting the recommendations of the bat survey before any fixed plans are made over the sculpture's future, but it is likely the sculpture will have to be safely removed by the end of 2015.

We are hoping it may be possible to honour the artist's original wishes and to burn sections of the sculpture and turn them into charcoal and ochre. The charcoal and ochre could then be used to make new drawings and paintings by artists and local people in a special commemorative project.

Over the years many sculptures on the trail have been decommissioned or reclaimed by the Forest. It was always intended that the artworks on the Trail would evolve and change, just as the Forest changes around them. The Trust also wants the Trail to continue to be an environment that inspires and welcomes new artists and artworks over the years to come.

Is the Giant's Chair being replaced?

The Trust has secured investment for a series of FOUR new artworks both temporary and permanent for the Trail. The artworks are to be installed over the course of 2016. These new artworks will be positioned in different sites in the Forest. Further details of the artworks will be revealed soon.

Until the outcome of the bat survey, no fixed plans have been made for the actual location where Place is sited. But we will aim to ensure it will always remain a safe place for the bats to live and a place for people to visit and enjoy views of the Forest.

How can I support the Trust's work?

The Trail is managed by a small charity led by volunteers and one part-time project manager, so we value the support of the public. We're really keen to hear from people who may be interested in helping commemorate and celebrate the Giant's Chair and our 30th anniversary. More details as to how you can get involved will be made available soon. Any further enquiries can be sent to Cathy Mager cathy@forestofdean-sculpture.org.uk