



5<sup>th</sup> May 2015

## **Farewell to the Giant's Chair**

Magdalena Jetelova's 'Place', locally known as the Giant's Chair, one of the Forest of Dean Sculpture Trail's iconic artworks will be decommissioned by the end of 2015.

It has been monitored by structural surveyors over the last few years and has been gradually tilting. It has been identified that the sculpture will eventually collapse. There are also bats living in the sculpture and ecologists are currently monitoring them. The Sculpture Trust has been working closely with the Forestry Commission to ensure both the safety of the visiting public and the bats.

It was the artist Magdalena Jetelova's original intention that the sculpture would later be burnt, so it is possible that these wishes may be followed through and some of the sculpture may be made into charcoal.

Whilst the artwork will inevitably need to be removed for safety reasons, the trust has given great thought as to how they can commemorate its history and recycle the remains of the sculpture to create a lasting legacy. The Sculpture Trust needs to await the recommended outcomes of the bat survey before any further plans can be made.

*"The Giant's Chair is a much loved and popular viewpoint for people, but it has been a home to pipistrelle bats for some years. We are awaiting advice from ecologists before making decisions as to how to celebrate and recycle the sculpture."* Cathy Mager, Project Manager, Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust.

Once a secure and long-term home for the bats is found, some sections of the sculpture may be burnt to create charcoal and ochre. These materials will then be used to make new drawings and paintings by artists and local people that will be shared in a special exhibition.

No plans have been made to replace the Giant's Chair with another artwork, but four new artist commissions are being planned for 2016. These will be sited in different locations of the forest, and will reveal new pathways and hidden histories on the Sculpture Trail. The first in the new series will be led this year by [Henry Castle](#), further details can be found by visiting our news page.

The Trust has made a Frequently Asked Questions page to be available on the website: [www.forestofdean-sculpture.org.uk/images/stories/docs/faqmay2015.pdf](http://www.forestofdean-sculpture.org.uk/images/stories/docs/faqmay2015.pdf)



**Editors' notes:**

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**Magdalena Jetelova's Place**

The sculpture was commissioned in 1986 and is made from locally sweet chestnut. It stands 20ft high and has commanding views of the Cannop Valley.

**Visitor Information:** The Royal Forest of Dean is situated on the English and South Wales border, 120 miles west of London (via the M4), 65 miles from Birmingham (via the M5), and 35 from Bristol to the centre of the Forest.

The Sculpture Trail is 4.5 miles long and starts and ends at Beechenhurst Lodge, off the B4226. It is open dusk to dawn every day of the year and there is no admission charge.

The **Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust** in partnership with the Forestry Commission, aims to: create experiences and enjoyment of world-renowned contemporary sculpture that responds to the special context of this Forest; provide free and open access to all to contemporary sculpture; provide unique opportunities for artists to make sculptures which are informed by a sustained engagement with the Forest.

[www.forestofdean-sculpture.org.uk](http://www.forestofdean-sculpture.org.uk)

**Forestry Commission England** is recognised and respected as an international leader in sustainable forestry. Working with others we look after the country's trees, woods and forests for the good of everyone - today and for the future. Our reputation has been built on our expertise and our ability to achieve results that benefit people's lives. These benefits include the unique Public Forest Estate where millions of visitors enjoy a wide range of recreational activities every year.

[www.forestry.gov.uk/visit](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/visit)

We believe that **Forest Art Works**. Since 1968 England's Public Forest Estate has played host to artworks and initiatives across artforms. We believe that woodlands and forests are vital places for contemporary artists to engage with, to make and present new work. Forest Art Works is a new partnership between Arts Council England and Forestry Commission England to support achieving great art and culture for everyone in England's public forests.

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestartworks>