

Wokingham Society Open Meeting 19th July 2022

Discovering The Art of the Possible

On one of the hottest days of the year Robin Cops (Society member and Vice-Chairman of Arts4Wokingham) spoke about the work of Arts4Wokingham to bring public art to Wokingham. He spoke particularly about the appointment of an artist to design a sculpture for the Carnival Hub Leisure and Sports Centre.

In talking about public art in Wokingham Robin reminded us of the "Water Babies" at the library, the plaques around the town and the shoals of fish on the Bradbury Centre. Of particular interest to the Society is the statue in Elms Field (opposite the Carnival Pool) celebrating the bequest made by Isobel Elliston Clifton.

When looking for an artist 50 international artists expressed an interest with 5 being shortlisted against 13 judging criteria by the selection committee. The winner was Nicola Anthony who has an impressive portfolio, and now works from studios in Hertfordshire and Dublin. In speaking of her plans for the Arc she spoke of previous work where she had used public life stories carved into the sculpture and this would give people the chance to make a mark in Wokingham Borough. She has already held workshops and this has been reported in Wokingham Today.

The aim is to start crowd funding in September to work towards the £200 000 overall cost.