



Lancaster Civic Vision

Celebrating our Heritage – Enhancing our Environment – Shaping our Future

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Unveiling of the first two fruit sculptures in the Tasting Garden at The Storey Gardens

On 24th of April two new fruit sculptures - **Czar Plum and the Swan's Egg Pear** - were unveiled in the Tasting Garden of The Storey, Lancaster as part of an ambitious plan by the Friends of Storey Gardens (FOSG) to recreate the concept designed by Mark Dion, an internationally renowned environmental artist.



*Czar Plum sculpture by Alan Ward in The Tasting of The Storey, Lancaster - photo David Morgan
Lancaster Civic Vision*

Robert Williams, PhD (Professor of Fine Art Research Lead for the University of Cumbria), unveiled the Czar Plum sculpture followed by City of Lancaster's Madam Mayor, Councillor Joyce Pritchard unveiling the Swan's Egg Pear before a gathering of some forty plus supporters and Friends.

These beautiful sculptures were designed by Robert Williams and crafted by local sculptor Alan Ward MRSS, who works in stone, clay and bronze from a studio/workshop in Lancaster Castle.



Swan's Egg Pear sculpture by Alan Ward in The Tasting of The Storey, Lancaster - photo David Morgan Lancaster Civic Vision

The placement of these first two sculptures is the start of a programme to replicate the full twenty-one that formed part of Mark Dion's design for the Tasting Garden. Paths were laid out in the form of branches of a tree and old varieties of fruit trees – apple, plum, cherry and pear – were planted on each of the four main branches and plinths, bearing a sculpture of its fruit, erected in front of each tree.

The cost of replacing the other nineteen sculptures will be around £55,000, and whilst the FOSG hope to receive £20,000 from Lancashire County Council's Sport and Culture Fund, they have initiated a Crowdfunding project via the Spacehive platform to realise the balance of £35,000. Once this target is reached it is anticipated that the sculpture project will be completed within one year.



View across the Tasting Garden, The Storey, Lancaster - photo David Morgan, Lancaster Civic Vision

This campaign launches and goes live in May for a twelve-week period and FOSG would welcome donations to the fund, as well as assistance with fundraising and the sharing of this information with other groups and media.

For further information about The Tasting Garden project particularly, The Storey Gardens generally, or if you would to join FOSG, donate to this campaign, help in any way, or just keep up to date with developments visit their web page at www.storeygardens.org

A video of the unveiling ceremony held on 24th April can be viewed seen by visiting <https://youtu.be/jFhShLJFzk4>

Access to The Tasting Gardens of The Storey is through the archway in Castle Park (opposite Lancaster Castle entrance) and entrance is free. They are open Monday to Saturday (excluding Bank Holidays) 9am to 5pm or dusk if earlier.

Friends of Storey Gardens and Lancaster Civic Vision – 2nd May 2023

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This is a joint Press release from The Friends of Storey Gardens and Lancaster Civic Vision

Lancaster Civic Vision is the operating name for Lancaster Civic Society – Registered Charity No 258434 – and its sub-groups Lancaster Vision and Planning Scrutiny Group

Lancaster Civic Society was founded in 1967 and in the over fifty years since that time has overseen the preservation of the heritage of the Lancaster and Morecambe district, its outstanding natural beauty, whilst assisting in its future development.

Lancaster Civic Vision is the premier non-partisan organisation in the Lancaster and Morecambe District representing all views and outlooks.

Officers are available if required to discuss or be interviewed regarding this press release, or about Civic Vision and its work in the Lancaster and Morecambe district.

Please contact in the first instance:

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The Friends of the Storey Gardens:

The overall purpose of the Friends of the Storey Gardens (FOSG) is to preserve and enhance the Storey Gardens for the benefit of the community.

FOSG are made up of volunteers from a variety of backgrounds with different interests and skills. The group relies on the work of its volunteers who contribute to the activities of the Friends in a number of ways:

- **Giving a financial donation to support ongoing, long-term maintenance of the gardens**
- **Spending time working in the gardens. We welcome anyone who is willing to give time and we have experienced gardeners who can direct those with little or no knowledge**
- **Co-ordinating the organisation of special events**
- **Photographing and documenting developments**
- **Raising awareness of the gardens by publicity through their website and social media, and staging special events in the garden**
- **Hosting educational visits by school children and other groups.**

For more information about FOSG or the contents of this press release please contact in the first instance: Diane Lamb – Secretary and Trustee

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