

## Press Release – For Immediate Release

2 May 2017

### The Heartstone Fund Launch



The Heartstone Fund has been set up in memory of Lendon Scantlebury, sculptor and painter, to encourage young people to make the transition to professional artist, through mentoring, teaching and funding materials and studio space.

Before his untimely death in January 2017, Lendon had already taken five artists, Jenny, Kira, Molly, Ollie and Tom, on a journey from their first expressions of talent to becoming confident artists with bright futures.

Lendon's partner in life and art, Dawn Benson, has now taken on the responsibility to fund future developments through continuing the exhibitions that she and Lendon started, and by the sales of handicrafts, cards ... and cake!

The Heartstone Fund will be officially launched at the private viewing of our first exhibition at West Ox Art Gallery in Bampton on 2 June 2017.

The exhibition will comprise indoor and outdoor sculpture, paintings, drawings and prints featuring a variety of artists, materials and styles.

The exhibition will run from Saturday 3 – Sunday 25 June at West Ox Arts Gallery, Old Town Hall, Market Square, Bampton, OX18 2JH ([www.westoxarts.com](http://www.westoxarts.com)) and Cobbles Garden, Bridge Street, Bampton.

The final day of the exhibition has been timed to coincide with Bampton Hidden Gardens when more than 25 of the most beautiful gardens in Oxfordshire will open their doors to the public. The gardens will be open from 2 – 6pm with refreshments available. Maps and more information from the Market Square.

Exhibition Opening Times:

11.30am – 4.30pm Tuesdays – Saturdays, 2 – 4pm Sundays

As part of Wantage Festival, there will be a weekend exhibition at The Greyhouse, Letcombe Regis on 30 June and 1 & 2 July from 12 noon until 7pm each day.

Heartstone Arts will be holding a second exhibition in July at Maddle Farm, Lambourn which will also support Riding for the Disabled. This will be a large exhibition taking over several acres of garden and the indoor riding school featuring art to suit all tastes from massive metal sculptures outdoors to tiny felted animals and laser crafted gold rings.

15th – 23rd July, Maddle Farm, Upper Lambourn RG17 8RA

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Notes for Editors:

Lendon Scantlebury, sculptor, painter, curator

Born in Barbados, Lendon was a dynamic and colourful character with a deep enthusiasm for art. He moved to the UK in 1971 bringing with him the memories of his early life in Barbados - the sights, sounds and smells of which recalled deep meanings for him and formed the basis for his art.

He described his sculptures as "mainly contemporary, looking at the human psychological and spiritual journey in life, using materials such as wood, leather and cloth to eventually be made into bronze, giving a representation of the subject rather than detail. Sculpture means shape form and simplicity".

Lendon worked for over 30 years in the bronze foundry and sculpture casting business, having owned and run his own art foundry for some years. This gave him the knowledge and understanding of working in bronze as well as the wide range of patinas - restoring as well as creating new work. He was a passionate professional artist who exhibited widely and curated successful exhibitions to showcase not only his own art but also that of his fellow artists carefully chosen to complement the venues - Ardington, Turn End, Bothy Vineyard and many more.

Lendon also encouraged young aspiring artists to explore new media and methods and had planned to endow a foundation to enable more young people to discover the art within them. The Heartstone Fund has been created by his friends and fellow artists so that his name will continue to inspire and motivate.

Lendon Scantlebury: 23 October 1960 - 11 January 2017

Founding members of The Heartstone Fund are Dawn Benson, Jeanette Howse and Meriel Lewis

Dawn Benson, sculptor, painter, curator produces stylised, figurative sculptures in bronze and bronze resin. Most of her sculptures are based on families and relationships. Being a mother, much of her inspiration is drawn from experience. In the intimacy groups the figurative sculptures are sensitive and loving. Dawn brings tension, humour and sensitivity to her work.

She also captures the deep bond between children and horses, incorporating a myriad of feelings and emotions both dependant and interdependent. These sculptures are much sought after.

Dawn also produces work to commission, both private and corporate, either on a small scale or for outdoor or monumental sculptures.

Jeanette Howse BEM, Chairman of Didcot Events including the Christmas Street Fair for nearly 25 years, Business Development Executive for Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxford for Tourism South East. Jeanette has led the team that organises Didcot Christmas Street Fair for the last 21 years. She worked for 25 years at Didcot Railway Centre and is now encouraging tourism to the area as part of the Tourism South East team. She is passionate about community spirit and has helped many businesses expand and refine through her encouragement and professionalism.

Meriel Lewis, administrator. Meriel worked with Lendon on his successful exhibitions at Bothy Vineyard, Frilford Heath; Turn End Garden, Haddenham; Old Brick Farm, Stewkley; The Mole Inn, Toot Baldon; Farmer Gows, Faringdon and Upper Maddle Farm, Lambourn. She provided the administration support to ensure the art was delivered on time, to the right place and even to give names to some of the sculptures! She is now working with Dawn and Jeanette to curate new exhibitions for Heartstone Arts, the exhibition side of The Heartstone Fund.

For more information about

**The Heartstone Fund and Heartstone Arts contact:**

Meriel Lewis 078900 32725 [www.heartstone-fund.uk](http://www.heartstone-fund.uk) [info@heartstone-fund.uk](mailto:info@heartstone-fund.uk)

**Bampton Hidden Gardens**

Angie Bell 07904 066339 [bell@clanfield.myzen.co.uk](mailto:bell@clanfield.myzen.co.uk)

**WestOx Arts Gallery**

Augusta Maclean 01993 850137 [gallery@westoxarts.com](mailto:gallery@westoxarts.com)

(Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 11.30 – 4.30pm)

**The Greyhound, Letcombe Regis**

[www.thegreyhoundletcombe.co.uk](http://www.thegreyhoundletcombe.co.uk)

**Wantage Festival**

[www.wantagesummerfestival.com](http://www.wantagesummerfestival.com)

The Heartstone Fund - a selection of art which will be exhibited at Bampton

For high resolution images for print, please contact  
Meriel Lewis 078900 32725 [info@heartstone-fund.uk](mailto:info@heartstone-fund.uk)



**Square Pear -  
Richard Cresswell**



**Tatsu - Angie Doy**



**Winged Figure - Simon Probyn**



**Helping Hand - Dawn Benson**



**Remote Island -  
Melissa Orrom Swan**



**Cucina Siciliana -  
Neil Butterfield**