



ART ABOUT ABINGDON

Over the past eight years the Vale of White Horse District Council has encouraged the commissioning of public art as part of new buildings and developments, often referred to as 'Percent for Art'. Most of these commissions celebrate Abingdon's identity and heritage through contemporary works of art that are on display in public places.

This leaflet was commissioned by the Abingdon Joint Environmental Trust (a partnership between the Vale of White Horse District Council and Abingdon Town Council) to celebrate the wealth of contemporary artworks throughout Abingdon.

Public Art has been commissioned to enhance and beautify towns and cities for centuries and is often the mark of distinction that creates a unique sense of place and civic identity. Artworks range from iconic and traditional sculptures to integrated features such as paving, fences, street furniture, windows and lighting.

This leaflet celebrates some of the most recent art commissions and community art projects.



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WIDER ABINGDON TRAIL

COMMUNITY ARTWORKS



The process of commissioning each artwork aims to work with the local community as much as possible, both to be inspired by local people and to encourage the artists to share skills with local groups.

Some communities are inspired to commission their own works directly such as the Gainsborough Green Mosaic, the Stratton Way Mural (pictured right), the textile wall hanging in Abingdon Library and the Millennium Tapestry hanging in the Guildhall.

Oxfordshire County Council initiated a rejuvenation of the Saxton Road area of Abingdon, by re-paving and surfacing the road to create the area into a 'Home Zone' (a scheme that is designed to calm traffic in residential areas). Bhajan Hunjan was commissioned to work with community groups to create designs that were produced in two tone concrete for the paving.

Sustrans, the national cycle route network, have also commissioned artworks as part of their 'Art through the Travelling Landscape' project. The artworks provide stopping and resting places along the three Sustrans routes in the Vale. Such as Didcot and Upton Ridgeway Route (route 44) and Hanson Way through Kennington to Abingdon (route 5 and 51).

The inspirational collection of artwork ranges from waymarkers, cycle racks, drinking fountains, benches, large scale sculptures, viewing points, bridges, fences and stiles.

TOWN CENTRE TRAIL










**Discover contemporary
public art in and around
Abingdon**