

## **Paul Bainbridge's 'Gurner' Sculpture, Egremont: Design and Access Statement.**

Paul Bainbridge's 'Gurner' sculpture depicts a man's head through a horse 'braffin' pulling an ugly face, a sport known as gurning. Egremont has a long tradition of this, and is home to the world gurning championships, held annually at the Crab Fair. The idea of a sculpture to mark this event and to help to depict the story of Egremont for both local people and for visitors to the town has built up over three years.

The project began with the commissioning of Paul Bainbridge, an Egremont born sculptor of national renown, to create a maquette of the sculpture. This was exhibited at Lowes Court Gallery for a period of time, during which comments were sought. These were positive.

Several sites were considered for the siting of the sculpture. The remodelled area at the small 'pocket park' on South Street, a location at the northern end of the Main Street and the area rear of 15 Market Place. The area to the rear of 15 Market Place was selected because of the location there of the new De Lucy Resource Centre, to which the land will be licenced. As part of this work, the surrounding area, including the community designed mosaic and street furniture. The sculpture will be a feature on a new town centre walk which passes this area en route to the castle. The sculpture will contribute to the understanding of the town's heritage and culture by visitors and local people.

The Gurner sculpture will be located in a publicly accessible area behind a community resource centre building (De Lucy Centre). The area will be maintained by the De Lucy Centre. The area adjoins a public footway alongside a minor road (Bookwell). The artwork is a 600mm high by 500mm wide high relief sculpture in bronze set into a red sandstone plinth and the total height is 1800mm. The area in which the sculpture will stand is 25 sqm and within it there is a 2.5m diameter circular mosaic which is going to be restored as part of town centre regeneration works. Complementary planting and restoration and rearrangement of the street furniture will also contribute to the overall appearance.

There is no vehicular access to the site and this is prevented by three pre-existing bollards.