

Philip Jackson, Sculptor

Monday 24 June 2024



Members of The Arts Society Arun gathered at Philip Jackson's Studio in Cocking on this sunny morning, looking forward to a talk by the man himself. Some of us had visited before but could not resist a second outing. No one was disappointed. Thank goodness for the chairs in the Studio. This was a brilliant talk about his work, what inspired him and explanations of the special touches added to his sculptures. 1.40 hrs! Looming over us at the back the covered-up commission he is working on. Strictly confidential. Then we trotted off to the pub The Blue Bell for a nice buffet with tea and coffee ('it's proper coffee' exclaimed someone), after which a wander round the garden finished off this perfect outing.



Philip visited Venice in his younger years and was intrigued by the masked figures. By taking the face away body language had to convey feelings of sadness, joy or aggression. We can see this reflected in many of his stylised sculptures. These show an abstract element but are still very recognisable. It is important to Philip to add some movement (often the hands) and humour to his work. Philip uses various materials for his sculptures, and often wax for the hands to get the finish right. The final figures are cast in bronze.

And then there are his statues. Many of you will have seen the Queen Mother in the Mall. Philip entered a competition and won. The tassels added some light movement and extra interest.



His military statues like the Bomber Command in Green Park have to be 100% correct from the way the shoelaces are done up to the number of buttons and the length of the straps.

His sculptures are placed in an ideal setting in his garden.

