

The Arts Society, Blackwater - supports Stone Carving Workshop



In July 2017, The Arts Society Blackwater sponsored a stone carving workshop at Heybridge Alternative Provision School, now Heybridge Co-operative Academy. It is a school which provides short and long term provision for disaffected 11-16 young people from mid-Essex. Sculptor Mo Gardner worked with six Year 10 pupils for a full day and they created very individual heads out of oblong Celcon blocks. Each pupil started with an oblong block measuring 40 cms x 20 cms and Mo coaxed them to start with the nose and then progress to the eyes. There was a line on each block to show them where to begin. She told the pupils, "There is a face in the block just waiting to come out".

Art teacher, Victoria Phillips was delighted that all the pupils worked most industriously for the full day which was most unusual, as normally the pupils attend school for only half a day. The stone heads will contribute to the pupils' GCSE Art course work. The sculptures were also displayed at Maldon Heritage Centre in September and at Maldon Library in October and November. Eventually, they will be on display in the school's garden.

Stephanie Jones

Young Arts Representative

