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EAST CUMBRIAN
Gazette

THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 2010

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ABC 35,834 EVERY WEEK - FROM JUNE 2009 TO JANUARY 2010

Hannah has got designs on city's £840,000 new look

AN ARTIST has been appointed to provide the finishing touches to a £840,000 revamp of the city's Historic Quarter.

Hannah Stewart, of Armathwaite, beat off stiff competition to win the commission to design artwork for nine stone benches.

These will be installed as part of the Castle Street improvement scheme, which started in June.

The black granite benches will be in place in the autumn.

Hannah Stewart, of Freerange Artists, said: "Carlisle City Council and I are confident that the work will strongly contribute to the Historic Quarter - mapping the lines and telling the stories at the heart of the city's unique cultural heritage.

"And since art is about leaving an impression on the world, we're keen that members of the public - who will ultimately be the ones to enjoy the artwork - have a chance to work with me to influence the mark we make."

The bench designs will be based on defining lines that have influenced Carlisle as a city and shaped its community.

The line of Hadrian's Wall will be used, as will the River Eden and the railways, capturing Carlisle's unique history and border location as well as its landscape.

Hannah will work with the public over the coming weeks to explore responses to these themes.

She will be holding two open workshops on Saturday at Carlisle railway station, between 10am and 1pm, followed by Tullie



Setting the benchmark: Artist Hannah Stewart, from Armathwaite, has been commissioned to design nine stone benches for Castle Street

House, between 2pm and 4pm.

The sessions will be open to all ages and no advance booking is needed.

Hannah said: "The bench designs will be based on defining lines that have influenced Carlisle as a city and shaped its community.

"At these sessions people will be use objects relevant to the themes to make marks in plasticine, working with repeated patterns and unusual shapes. They'll be fun workshops that draw people into the process of creating art - please come along if you can."

The city council, in partnership with Cumbria County Council, is funding the Castle Street scheme.

Councillor Ray Bloxham, who has responsibility for the local environment, said: "I'm delighted that local people will be involved in shaping this public artwork, which will be enjoyed by thousands.

"As well as the creative new seating, the scheme incorporates wider Lazonby-sandstone pavements and illuminated trees.

"Once complete, Castle Street will be much more pedestrian-friendly and attractive.

"Importantly, it will be an important part of a package of measures to boost tourism and attract investment to Carlisle."

The council believes the scheme, which was given the go-ahead in January, will help attract increased investment into the city as part of a package of projects for the area.

But it has attracted criticism from retailers who are concerned that people will no longer be able to park outside their shops.

The council says the street will become much more pedestrian-friendly.

The southern half of Castle Street will still allow through-traffic.

It will be one-way southbound and Fisher Street becomes two-way between Market Street and Spinner's Yard. Existing granite kerbs will be refurbished and the road repaved with whinstone blocks.

The scheme is expected to be completed in October.

Residents can also send postcards with experiences, anecdotes and sketches to: Hannah Stewart, Westwalls Studios, Carlisle Enterprise Centre, James Street, Carlisle, CA2 5BB.

It's fun all the way at Dalston



Animal magic: Kimberley Bell, 12, from Near Water, Salkeld, with her six-month-old-calf, Torchie, at Dalston Show



Here we go! Former England rugby star Matt Dawson at Dalston Show during the filming for the sausage and mash challenge

THOUSANDS of people flocked to the village of Dalston on Saturday to enjoy the village's annual show - the traditional climax to the week-long festival there.

World Cup rugby union star and *A Question of Sport* host Matt Dawson was there to film a sausage and mash cook-off challenge as part of a show for Good Food TV.

More pictures and full report on page 7.