



# The Masons' Company

e-Bulletin

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## THE MASONS' CHARITABLE TRUST SUPPORTS NEW LANDMARK PROJECT IN DORSET

By Past Master Bill Gloyn

The support of the Masons' Company Charitable Trust was publicly and warmly acknowledged when the Memory Stones project was formally opened on Wednesday 21st June.

An interpretation of Portland's history and unique contribution to the built environment, the project is the brainchild of Freemen Hannah Sofaer and Paul Crabtree, directors of the Portland Sculpture and Quarry Trust. Consisting of a series of large stones, placed in an arc to form an amphitheatre, the site may be found at the entrance to the Tout Quarry at the top of the hill when approaching the Isle of Portland. Disused for many decades, the quarry is now a sculpture park containing work by many distinguished artists, including Sir Antony Gormley and other Royal Academicians.

The Masons' Charitable Trust was one of several supporters of the first phase, alongside Arts Council England and Dorset Wildlife Trust, together with a number of local firms, including Albion Stone - whose Managing Director is Liveryman Michael Poultney.

The erected stones, a landmark in themselves, will be gradually worked on with letter carving and relief sculptures to tell the history of Portland and those who worked its quarries for the stone that largely rebuilt many public buildings and churches after the Great Fire of 1666. They are placed to relate to the passage of the sun and the earth's orbit, aligned to the solstices and equinox so that the sun creates time-specific shadows around the stones and through specially drilled bore holes.

After the formal opening by the Mayor of Portland, the several hundred people present were treated to a dance presentation of the history of the island performed by around 90 students from the local Portland Atlantic Academy School. They ranged from reception age to sixth-formers. The dance included a scene showing Sir Christopher Wren rebuilding churches in the City after the Fire.

More information can be found on the website - [www.learningstone.org](http://www.learningstone.org) - which also has a link to a YouTube video about the installation of the project.



The Opening of the Memory Stones Project

Encouraging the use of natural stone in the built environment