

Public artworks mark five decades



“Sun Catcher”, by Halima Cassell, following installation at Jeffrey Hill. (s)

The trunk of a 150-year-old oak tree has been used to make one of four spectacular public artworks celebrating 50 years of the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

“Sun Catcher”, by Blackburn-based international sculptor Halima Cassell, has been installed at Jeffrey Hill as part of the Bowland Revealed project, along with works by Salina Somalya at Gisburn Forest, Philippe Handford at Langden Intake and Geraldine Pilgrim at Beacon Fell Country Park.

Bowland Revealed is a £62,000 project funded and

supported by Ribble Valley Borough Council, Lancashire County Council, the Forest of Bowland AONB and Arts Council England. It will run until the end of 2015 and involves three strands:

- 50 Years in the Making, a series of workshops involving local residents, visitors, schools and artists;

- Landmarks, a series of outdoor visual arts commissions inspired by the landscape of the Forest of Bowland;

- Explore and Engage, a programme of creative participation events targeted at communities liv-

ing in the Forest of Bowland.

Katherine Rodgers, Ribble Valley Council’s arts development officer, said: “Halima has used the trunk of a 150-year-old local oak tree to carve a strong geometric design into the heart of the wood, creating a compelling and thought-provoking work, where ever-changing light interacts with faceted surfaces to create its own unique drama.

“Bowland Revealed is a great opportunity to experience contemporary art in some beautiful locations, while encouraging people discover their own artistry.”