

Dulverton Weir - where art meets history

With the renewed focus on the historic Weir and Leat by the Dulverton Weir & Leat Conservation Group (DWLCG), comes a unique art initiative - an annual kinetic sculpture exhibition to raise awareness of their cause. This year, you may have already seen the first ever exhibit standing in the leat behind the Guildhall car park. A fascinating array of moving parts, fittingly driven by the water and slowly, very slowly opening and closing an open-framed flower atop the piece. Artist Luke Tupper said: "My sculpture, titled 'Transforming Movement', is an amalgamation of my interests in renewable energy, industrial heritage and a childhood love of old machines. My aim was to capture the essence of the Leat, both historically and atmospherically. Using the raw hydrokinetic energy of the water to power an abstract mechanism - it references the mills that once used the Leat and mimics the nature that powers it."

The DWLCG are quick to point out that Dulverton would not have grown to be the town it is today without the waterpower provided by the weir and leat for industry and commerce and it still has potential today as an attraction for the town if correctly preserved. With the backing of Historic England, Leicester University, The Environment



Agency, Westcountry Rivers Trust and the Wild Trout Trust, the DWLCG have embarked on a journey to save this historic 'Urban Watermill Landscape' for the benefit of the town. The message from the Weir and Leat Conservation Group is clear. 'We see the weir and leat as being a dynamic focal point for talented artists to show their work, as well as a source of inspiration. To have artists creating site specific pieces of art for the weir and leat will add a new dimension to the town and help the weir and leat come to life. We shall shortly be sending out invitations for the 2017 exhibition to arts schools and other interested parties. We would welcome enquiries from anybody interested in participating next year.'



Above: Luke Tupper in Dulverton Leat

Left: Philip Hull with the Sculptor Luke Tupper at Bath University
Dulverton Leat Kinetic Sculpture YouTube Link:

<<https://youtu.be/wx4pgllfGxo>>



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Our partners

