

History in Bronze



As part of the Festival of Chichester 2018, the associations of The Three Cities of Chartres, Ravenna and Valletta jointly organised an event. This was internationally renowned sculptor Philip Jackson, in conversation with John Coldstream, who was formerly "Peterborough" and also Arts and Literary Editor of the Daily Telegraph. In front of a full house John very skilfully interviewed Philip about his career, how he came to become a sculptor and the many wonderful creations which we can see all over the country. In particular he told of the creation of Bomber Command in Green Park, and explained some of the touching and poignant expressions of pride and of grief which this has made among so very many people who come to see it. He had been helped greatly in this creation by knowing of the tremendous bravery of the men who served in Bomber Command, and who went into battle knowing that the great majority of them would probably not come home.

Philip had brought a few maquettes of his creations, including a very large head of Bobby Moore, who had led England to the World Cup football championship of 1966, and whose image stands outside Wembley Stadium. He talked about the making of his marvellous image of Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, which stands in The Mall (*pictured above*), and that of Mahatma Gandhi in Parliament Square. He spoke of refugees, and also of The Few, showing his maquette of Douglas Bader leaning against a damaged Spitfire propeller.

Their audience of more than 160 attendees were most appreciative of the evening, and who, after very speedily clearing away the chairs, were pleased to partake in wine and nibbles from France, Italy and Malta – skilfully produced by members of the associations – and chatting together, with the opportunity to speak to Philip and John.

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