



News Release

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Golden Lulworth oak arrives at Dorset County Hospital

The creation of a unique sculpture at Dorset County Hospital has taken an exciting step forward.

A recent special delivery to the Trust saw the arrival of an oak tree with golden boughs. It joins a set of railway tracks that had earlier been placed in one of the hospital courtyards and has certainly caught the attention of staff, patients and visitors of the Trust.

The deliveries are part of an ongoing project by Dorchester-based artist Andy Kirkby to celebrate the gift of life through organ donation.

The golden tree was the final arrival for the project, with Mr Kirkby set to assemble the sculpture piece by piece in the New Year.

As a 'tree of life', the sculpture is also inspired by the Japanese art of Kintsugi where broken ceramics are lovingly restored with gold resin to highlight their wounds rather than to try to hide them.

In this way they are reused and become a thing of beauty instead of being thrown away.

Mr Kirkby sees this as a metaphor for the way in which organ donation is a gift of life that repairs the recipient. It is also why he is naming the sculpture 'Precious Scars'.

The oak tree has been donated to the hospital from the Lulworth Estate, where it died some time ago, and is now being re-born at the hospital.

The project has been the initiative of the Organ Donation team at Dorset County Hospital, led by Consultant Anaesthetist, Andy Ball, and Specialist Nurse, Helen Rose.

In planning the sculpture, Mr Kirkby has spent time at the hospital speaking to the team, as well as organ recipients.

The team hope that this sculpture will be seen as a way of thanking previous donors and their families for their gift, but also to encourage more people to consider signing up as donors, talking about it with their families and registering their choice at www.organdonation.nhs.uk

Mr Ball said: “As clinical lead for organ donation at DCH, I have wanted in some way to celebrate the fantastic gift that our donors and their families have made to help the lives of others.

“A restructuring of one of the hospital courtyards with essential new equipment for a laboratory has left a vacant space requiring enhancement and has provided the perfect place for this celebration of life.

“We were excited to choose Andy Kirkby for the commission from a national field of 100 applicants. Andy had a clear understanding of what organ donation means and his resulting sculpture refers to the new life that this allows.

“It is urgent for us to get this message across as every day in the UK three people die while waiting for a donor organ and every donor has the potential to help up to six people.”

“Precious Scars is due for completion in the Spring of 2019. The project has been organised and supported by Arts In Hospital, a charitable organisation which aims to make the hospital a better and more healing place for patients, visitors and staff.”

Discover more about Andy Kirkby’s work here: www.andykirkby.com
Contact Andy Kirkby for images or quotes: andrewkirkby2016@gmail.com

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PHOTOS: The golden oak tree arrives at Dorset County Hospital

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