

ERASMUS DARWIN STATUE

FUNDRAISING APPEAL

The project to erect a permanent statue of Erasmus Darwin was initially developed from discussion between Alison Wallis, curator of Darwin House and sculptor Peter Walker *arbs arbsa* during 2009. The project will see the creation of a life and a quarter size (8ft) statue of the great polymath which is to be located in the newly redeveloped Beacon Park. This perfect location with the museum gardens will be a fitting permanent site for the statue. Erasmus was the grandfather of Charles Darwin, and it was Erasmus's own exploration into the theory behind evolution that enabled Charles to undertake practical experimentation, which inspired *The Origins of the Species*. It is remarkable that a figure such as Erasmus, known at the UK's Leonardo Da Vinci has yet to be immortalized in statuary. It is intended that the sculpture will be unveiled in 2011 or early 2012 to coincide with the reopening of the Museum Gardens. Lichfield District Council have provided funding towards the development of the sculpture, however further funding is still required to achieve this aim.



The model is the first of a number of sketches, models and maquettes of different scales and sizes the artist produces in the development of a permanent statue. It is produced as the first 3 dimensional realization of the final pose for the sculpture prior to the commitment to the development of the final full sized statue in clay, and is concerned with pose primarily over detail. The final full-scale statue will be cast into bronze prior to placement in Beacon Park. The design of the statue was arrived at after public consultation and a workshop project with local people to help come up with concepts and ideas for the final design. 14 local people worked with Peter Walker and other artists on what they thought the sculpture should convey and what it should look like. Each developed their own design and drawings to allude to this. The model has been designed directly from the ideas from these workshops, and the designs and concepts that participants arrived at. The design depicts Erasmus seated, and holding his commonplace book under his right arm. He is surrounded by nature with plants and foliage around his feet and around the seat of the sculpture. It is intended that text will be included in the final design alluding to his many interests and achievements, as Doctor, Evolutionist, Inventor and founder of the Lunar Society.

Sponsorship

In addition to funding provided to date further funding is required to enable the statue to be created. We would be happy to hear from anyone interested in supporting the project. Furthermore as a part of the project a limited edition of 12 bronze cast of the model for the sculpture are being made available. The profits from the sale of each sculpture will go to the fundraising for the statue. Furthermore – anyone purchasing a bronze will also have their name immortalized on the statue itself – on a plaque cast in bronze. This is a unique opportunity to support the creation of a monument of one of the most important figures in this countries history and have your name forever linked to his legacy. The numbered edition bronzes are available for £2,800.00.

For more information on the project and information on supporting funding please contact Darwin House or sculptor Peter Walker directly.

Email – info@sculptorandartist.com
PATRONS OF THE PROJECT: Desmond King-Hele and Adam Hart Davis