

Student's sculpture will stand test of time

by Katie Southwell, Coventry University's Communications Officer.

Coventry University's Fine Art graduate, Bruce Fletcher, has been selected as the winner of the first ever Lanchester Trust Student Prize, for his commemorative sculpture of Frederick Lanchester. Bruce (23) from Bracknell in Berkshire, was presented with a cash prize of £500 and a certificate in honour of the achievement. He will also work on creating the Lanchester Sculpture, which will be cast in bronze and displayed on University Square for several hundred years.

The brief was set by the Trustees, Chris Clark, Malcolm Whitehouse and Eric Baptiste, and they wanted students from Coventry University's School of Art and Design to come up with a design which encompassed the Lanchester legacy and the spectrum of work that Frederick Lanchester contributed to society. The Sculpture was required to be 2m x 2m x 4m high and include the bust of Frederick Lanchester.

Bruce explained: 'I was very excited by the project. It's amazing how many inventions, patents and designs the Lanchester family are responsible for'. Bruce put together a proposal and a budget and worked on his designs for a number of months. He submitted his final plans in May and found out a few months later that his design had been selected and would be created in University Square. 'When I found out I had been chosen I was ecstatic. I'd put so much work into researching the family, researching the materials, creating the design and pulling everything together that this was the ultimate reward.'

Bruce's design incorporates a range of textures and contours, including Braille, so that people can engage with the Sculpture not just admire it. Bruce sees the sculpture as a meeting point and talking point. The design has been modelled using 3-d software and it will be milled at the University. The bronze will be set in Gloucester and then the completed work will be positioned in University Square facing the Cathedral. "The Sculpture aims to educate, by portraying all elements of Frederick Lanchester's amazing work; automotive, aeronautics and many other inventions will be incorporated on its four sides. It features a dome and grids which are design elements I researched through the Lanchester Trust.'

The Trustees commented: 'We are delighted that Bruce Fletcher has won the Lanchester Trust Student Prize. His design for the Lanchester Sculpture celebrates well the life and works of Frederick Lanchester, one of the world's geniuses. Lanchester laid down the fundamentals of flight some 10 years before the Wright brothers' inaugural flight. He designed and built the 1st all-British motor boat as well as the 1st all-British 4-wheel petrol car. His motor car interest was profound, with disc brakes, turbo-charging and power steering amongst his many inventions. He was the 1st to invent a process for colour photography, he was commended by the Poet Laureate and his hundreds of patents covered most aspects of life.

Bruce has depicted many of these inventions on his Sculpture design, to create an inspiring and educational public work of art, as demanded by the Trustees. We are confident that the design will be shown in design magazines worldwide and that the Sculpture will be firmly on the tourist trail of Coventry and the Midlands. The Trustees are raising funds for its creation and Her Majesty the Queen will be invited to unveil the Lanchester Sculpture when complete'.

With regards from the,

Lanchester Trustees: Chris Clark, Eric Baptiste, Malcolm Whitehouse.



Chris Clark, Bruce Fletcher, Malcolm Whitehouse



This is representation of the sculpture in its location outside the university