

## Press release - July 23 - 2015



### A sculpture symbolising the aftermath of war is to be unveiled as the memorial to Edna Read on July 30<sup>th</sup> at 4.30pm

- Issued by The Public Arts Trust, Milton Keynes on July 23<sup>rd</sup> >> <http://publicartstrust.org/> <<

**PHOTO OPPORTUNITY:** > The unveiling ceremony commences at 4.30

**OPPORTUNITY FOR INTERVIEWS:**

> from 5pm at Milton Keynes (MK) Parks Trust Pavilion – MK9 4AD

Images of “Animals at War Memorial” and the moving of the sculpture/s are available to download from >

> [https://picasaweb.google.com/103741742568068057916/SculptureMoveJuly2015?authkey=Gv1sRgCLbJz8XAnJ\\_8SQ](https://picasaweb.google.com/103741742568068057916/SculptureMoveJuly2015?authkey=Gv1sRgCLbJz8XAnJ_8SQ)

A sculpture by the internationally recognised Scottish artist Ronald Rae is set to be unveiled as the memorial to Edna Read (1929-2012) at Campbell Park, Milton Keynes MK94AD.

**“Animals in War Memorial” will be unveiled by Dr Charles Robert Saumarez Smith CBE - the Secretary and Chief Executive of the Royal Academy of Arts in London.**

Ronald donated this sculpture to Milton Keynes Council as the permanent memorial to Edna Read.

The sculpture “Animals in War Memorial”, in Kemnay granite, by Ronald Rae was previously on loan to Bletchley Park in Milton Keynes. The Public Arts Trust, Milton Keynes working with partners Bletchley Park, The Parks Trust and MK Council moved this large (6 ton) sculpture across Milton Keynes. Ronald donated the sculpture to the people of Milton Keynes as the memorial to Edna Read who tragically died in 2012. He worked with Edna on a number of occasions and had a large exhibition of his work in MK in the 90’s organised by Edna. This poignant memorial is a requiem for all the animals that have died in wars, in particular horses that died in their millions in World War 1. The soldier in the sculpture with half an arm missing and wearing a gas mask is also a reference to the horrors of chemical warfare. Edna was a well known pacifist and purchased one of Ronald Rae’s other war related sculptures “After Hiroshima” which she then donated to the Buddhist temple at Willen in Milton Keynes .

> <http://www.ronaldrae.co.uk/sculptures/animals-in-war-memorial>

Edna loved visiting the Royal Academy of Arts in London and went there as often as she could. Ian Michie, Chairman of the Public Arts Trust, Milton Keynes said *“I met Charles there on my first visit to the RA when he hosted a meeting with Edna. We visited the RA on a number of occasions and enjoyed the time spent in London - especially in and around the galleries and auction houses near the RA.”*

**MK Gallery said:**

*“Since the beginning of Milton Keynes, Edna worked with the Development Agencies to integrate the work of artists into its buildings and landscape and to promote its image as The City of Sculpture. Edna was instrumental in so many of the city’s cultural organisations, including the Milton Keynes Gallery and Theatre Company, Aim Gallery, the Public Arts Trust and the Sculpture Walk for Emigre Artists at Bletchley Park.*

Paying tribute, MK Gallery Director, Anthony Spira, said:

*“Edna was an irrepressible force determined that Milton Keynes should have the highest standards of arts and culture possible. Her formidable energy, enthusiasm and skills of persuasion have given her a legendary status within the history of art in Milton Keynes, from the 1970s when she personally picked up paintings by Modern Masters including Wassily Kandinsky from galleries in Cork Street for display at Milton Keynes Library. We are all indebted to her visionary and pioneering work and will continue to build on the foundations that she laid.”*

Will Cousins, Chairman, MK Gallery said:

*“Anyone who came into contact with Edna was left in no doubt about her passion for the arts and Milton Keynes. Her belief in the power of art to transform place and people was inextinguishable. The fire burned bright within Edna. There will never be another like her and I urge all those who knew her to carry forward her legacy and carry on fighting for what she so passionately believed in. She will be greatly missed and our thoughts are with her family and close friends.”*

David Foster, Chief Executive, The Parks Trust said: *“ Campbell Park is starting to fulfil the vision that Edna Read and others had for it to be a sculpture park and we’re grateful to the Public Arts Trust for bringing us these two additional pieces by Ronald Rae.*

*In the last few years we’ve been able to add to the sculpture collection with the fabulous ‘Light Pyramid’ on the Belvedere, the totem ‘Onwards and Upwards’, the quirky ‘Cave’ and the magnificent ‘MK Rose’. We hope other works will follow in the years to come as well as temporary exhibitions and installations.”*

<http://www.theparkstrust.com/main/home>

For location details of the ceremony > <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B2xyti99TYXqdlnckd5NTJDbTA/view?usp=sharing>

For further information about Edna Read see > <http://www.rudi.net/books/18734> (dated mid 2000’s).

The eulogy by Reverend David Moore on the occasion of her funeral service - 13th November 2012 >

> <http://cornerstonemk.blogspot.co.uk/2012/11/thanksgiving-for-life-edna-read-frsa.html>

Obituary written By Bob Chaundy for the Times - Nov 2012.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B2xyti99TYXqbEQzMFdQMkNYSUE/view?usp=sharing>Obituary by Bob Chaundy - The Times Nov 2012 >>

Ian Michie, Chairman of the Public Arts Trust, Milton Keynes - who facilitated this memorial to Edna Read - added:

***“We are delighted to be able to pay homage to this irrepressible force and champion of public art in Milton Keynes.”***

Contact > Ian Michie, Chairman Public Arts Trust, Milton Keynes – 07877541627 & email - [ianmichie@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ianmichie@yahoo.co.uk)

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