History of Walton Hall

In 1201 Walton appears in records as an estate consisting of land that had been taken from the Bow Brickhill Parish. The earliest owners are believed to have been the Rixbauds. The earliest surviving part of Walton Hall was built in 1622 by the Beale family. The Hall was then owned by the Gilpins, followed by the Pinfold family. Thomas Pinfold (1638–1701) pulled down most of the Hall. The front white square part of the Hall was built by Thomas’ descendant, Captain Charles Pinfold, in 1830. The Hall was sold to Dr Vaughan Harley in 1907, a distinguished heart specialist of the family that gave its name to Harley Street in London. Dr Harley’s daughter and his son-in-law, Brigadier Eric Earle, were the last family to live at the Hall.

During the latter part of the Second World War the Hall was used to house forty WRNS who worked at Bletchley Park. The Earles moved into the nearby Walton Lodge Cottage during the war. The Brigadier died in 1965 and the Hall was briefly occupied by the Milton Keynes Development Corporation Planning and Architects’ Offices. The Open University officially moved in on 1 September 1969. The Walton Hall building is used today as an administration centre.

Aerial photograph of Walton Hall

Contact details

Events Office
The Open University
Walton Hall
Milton Keynes
MK7 6AA
Telephone: 01908 653006

How to get here

For details of how to get to Walton Hall please see www.open.ac.uk.

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All areas are fully accessible to view these pieces of artwork.
Bounding Bull
Dominic Benhura
A delightful springstone bull inset with crushed dolomite. The sculptor Dominic Benhura, born in 1968, began his career in sculpture at the age of ten, and sold his first piece professionally to architects at the age of twelve. He studied under his cousin, Tapfuma Gusta, a Master Sculptor. See his work at www.dominic-benhura.com.

Modern Misses
Dominic Benhura
Springstone serpentine, inset with acrylic. Dominic’s work is bold and daring and he captures balance and movement both physically and emotionally. His prime motivation is to explore new ideas, techniques and methods to express and communicate powerful simple ideas. Nature, family and the relationships with his children are the main inspiration for his sculptures.

Viper Sniper
Dominic Benhura
Springstone and opal stone. Dominic’s work has been included in many major exhibitions both in Zimbabwe and internationally. He has also been involved in workshops in Botswana, USA, Holland, Belgium, Germany and the UK. He now works out of his home and is passing his knowledge and skill to many international artists and local apprentices.

We walk our own path
Richard Harris
The sculptor's interventions in landscape are subtle and may be made from imported or local, natural materials. Crescent curves marking a change of level give an unexpected strength of impact, and the almost imperceptible slope of the curve requires close and quiet observation for the full glory to be revealed. See his work at www.richardharrissculpture.co.uk/home.html.

Learning Together
Ray Castell
This sculpture was commissioned by The Open University to celebrate 40 years of providing open and equal educational opportunities to thousands of people. It has two androgynous people with their heads joined to each other. They could be anybody, any colour, any ability. They are enquiring and interested about our links worldwide and our wonder of it. See his work at www.raycastell.co.uk.

A Kind of Infinity
Ray Castell
Most of Ray’s sculptures are based on natural shapes that are flowing and calming. He likes to try and strip away detail yet encapsulate the essence of the forms that evoke in him, and hopefully in others, a mostly pleasing emotion or reaction. The two parts of this sculpture mirror each other exactly. The plinth is green oak and the main sculpture is of Blue Purbeck Marble.

Contemplation
Tom Harvey
The Cedar Tree died due to an infestation by the Small Cedar Aphid. It was decided to make good use of what remained of this 250-year-old historic tree and in 2010 Tom Harvey designed and carved this magnificent sculpture. It depicts learning in its simplest form using observation of the world around us. See his work at www.carverharvey.co.uk.

The Bench
Tom Harvey
This bench was created from a huge log that formed part of the original tree. It gives an opportunity for anyone to sit and contemplate the beauty of the craft and skill of Tom Harvey’s work.

Star
Anthony Hayes
A simple shape of a six pointed star, an awkward form which never seems to stand up but always seems to have been cast aside or fallen at random, incongruous and surprising in the natural environment. Anthony is attracted to exploring the mass of large, abstract forms, which seem to exert a powerful presence, particularly as they approach human scale.

C in S
John Jaworski
This was designed in 1989 by the show's producer for a BBC TV programme. Cosets and Lagrange’s Theorem, for the OU course M203, Introduction to Pure Mathematics. It represents the 24 elements of the mathematical group S, each represented by one of the 24 corners. The central set of four elements [corners] represents a normal subgroup C of S with four elements, and each of the other sets of four elements [corners] is a coset of C.

Body Weave
Linda Johns
Linda’s work combines an interest in drawing, and how line can depict form, with the spatial presence and materiality of sculpture. The starting point of her work is the natural world – both seen and unseen – what can be observed, but also what science and ancient beliefs/mythology can reveal – parsing down the detail to find the principal form. See her work at www.lindajohns.com.

For and Against
Jane Muir
A mosaic relief mural for which Jane sourced the mosaic pieces in Italy and worked on this piece in situ in the late 1970s. Over the years Jane has concentrated on easel mosaics with a high artistic content, using the highest quality small, golds, own handmade glass fusions, plus found objects.
1. Bounding Bull
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   A delightful springstone bull
   Inset with crushed dolomite.
   The sculptor Dominic
   Benhura, born in 1968,
   began his career in sculpture
   at the age of ten, and sold
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   for his sculptures.

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   works out of his home and is passing his knowledge and
   skill to many international artists and local apprentices.

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   They are enquiring and interested about our links worldwide
   and our wonder of it.
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   Most of Ray’s sculptures are
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   are flowing and calming.
   He likes to try and strip away
   all the detail to find the principal form.
   Bounding down the detail to find the principal form.
   Inset with crushed dolomite. The sculptor Dominic
   Benhura, born in 1968, began his career in sculpture
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   a huge log that formed part
   of the original tree. It gives an
   opportunity for anyone to sit
   and contemplate the beauty
   of the craft and skill of
   Tom Harvey’s work.

9. e = mc²
   Scott Forrest
   Scott is fascinated with
   contrasts between finished
   surface texture and raw quarried stone.
   This sculpture represents the Einstein theory 1905 AD
   carved into Jurassic limestone
   150–200,000,000 BC.
   It encapsulates an intellectual energy releasing from the
   unrefined mass. On the back it reads: ‘The mass of an
   object warps the geometry of space time surrounding it.’
   See his work at www.scottforrest.co.uk.

10. C_i in S_4
    John Jaworski
    This was designed in 1989 by the show’s producer for a BBC
    TV programme. Cosets and
    Lagrange’s Theorem, for the
    OU course M203, Introduction to Pure Mathematics.
    It represents the 24 elements
    of the mathematical group S_4, each represented by one of the
    24 corners. The central set of four elements [corners] represents
    a normal subgroup C_i of S_4 with four elements, and
    each of the other sets of four elements [corners] is a coset of C_i.

11. Body Weave
    Linda Johns
    Linda’s work combines an
    interest in drawing, and how
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    The starting point of her
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12. For and Against
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    A mosaic relief mural for
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    concentrated on easel
    mosaics with a high artistic content, using the highest
    quality small, golds, own handmade glass fusions,
    plus found objects.

13. Squishy and Squashy
    Scott Forrest
    Scott enjoys working in local limestone and in the salty
    tropical waters of the Jurassic
    period, long before thought.
    He uses machines and tools that cut, slice, hammer and abrade to explore his
    fascination with contrasts. Between finished surface texture
    and raw quarried stone, between hard materials and soft
    concepts, between text and context.

14. This land is our land
    Graham Mills
    This work in slate represents the pioneering spirit of all
    settlers who inhabit the most unlikely of spaces.
    This echoes our collective Milton Keynes experience in the early days. Graham’s
    journey from a distant northern art college to these pieces
    has been a long one. He says ‘Greet these brave little
    people with a smile and it will be returned.’

15. Star
    Anthony Hayes
    A simple shape of a six
    pointed star, an awkward
    form which never seems to stand up but always
    seems to have been cast
    aside or fallen at random,
    incongruous and surprising
    in the natural environment. Anthony is attracted to
    exploring the mass of large, abstract forms, which seem to
    exert a powerful presence, particularly as they
    approach human scale.

16. Gort, Klaatu
    Barada Nikto
    Simon Patterson
    The title of this lighting
    installation refers to the
    1951 sci-fi film ‘The day the Earth stood still’. The artwork uses sound
    and light to animate the
    approach to the Robert Hooke building using a series
    of aircraft runway landing lights. Simon Patterson was
    born in the UK in 1967, and nominated for the Turner Prize in 1996.

17. The Millennium Knot Garden
    Gardener at The Open University. It is lovingly cared for
    by The Open University’s groundsmen. The topiary
    hedges depict the OU logo and are best seen from the
    upper floors of the surrounding buildings.

Visiting sculptors
Local sculptors often make requests to display their work for a short period of time on campus
at The Open University. We are happy to accommodate these works and they are situated along the walk as shown on this leaflet.
At the time of printing the visiting sculptors include Alta Kwami, Pam Foley and Roland Lawar.
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Numbers placed on the map refer to the artwork listed inside.