

# BRONZE BEAUTIES

Moira Purver's sculptures are just some of the treasures on show for Purbeck Art Weeks Festival, reports Emma Joseph

These stunning sculptures are just some of the beautiful exhibits on show at this year's Purbeck Art Weeks Festival.

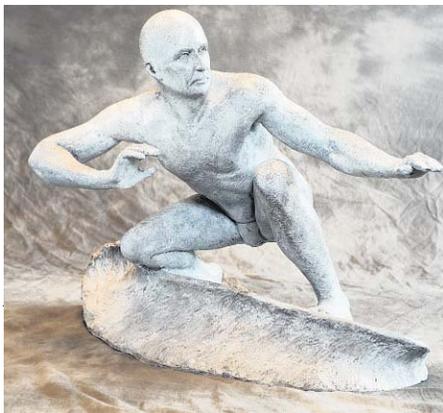
Award-winning artist Moira Purver, from Langton Matravers, is an elected full member of the Society of Women Artists (SWA) and has had three sculptures accepted for the SWA Open Exhibition at the Mall Galleries in London from June 5 to 13.

Her work can be seen at Steppes Hill House in Coombe Hill, Langton Matravers until June 7 as part of Purbeck Art Weeks, the event which enables visitors to meet artists in a wide range of amazing venues and talk to them about their work.

A huge variety of creativity will be on show, from paintings, printmaking, sculpture and photography to furniture making, jewellery, glass and more.

Evenings during the event feature a range of illustrated talks, events showcasing local talent and concerts by world class musicians.

The theme of this year's festival is Out of the Depths, tapping into the richness of the Jurassic rocks which influence the Purbeck landscape and the creativity of Purbeck's artists. It's a topic which fits perfectly with



Moira's work. "My original sculptures are modelled in either clay (a smooth stoneware clay which retains moisture really well while I work) or a waxy substance called plastilene," explains Moira, who is also a trustee of Purbeck Art Weeks Festival.

"Clay is always my favourite to work with though, I love the texture and the flexibility of the material. The resulting sculptures are then cast in bronze resin and sometimes in bronze.

"All my sculptures are initially cast in bronze resin and then I select a few pieces to be cast in bronze (as this is a much more expensive process I have to be selective).

"I used to think bronzes were very expensive but once you have visited the foundry and seen the amount of work and skill involved in the creation of each individual bronze it suddenly seems a lot more reasonable."

Moira, who received an award for her Male Torso sculpture at the SWA Open Exhibition in 2010, says the length of time it takes to produce a sculpture can vary depending on the length of time a model is able to sit for her.

"Working directly from the model will always be quicker because I'm not having to translate back from a 2D image – all the information I require is in front of me."

More of Moira's work is on show at The Gallery at 41 in Corfe Castle and at The Minster Gallery in Winchester.

