

EARTHLY MESSENGER

Designed and Sculpted By Andrew Sinclair for Friars Aylesbury Community Projects Directed by Sue and David Stopps.

Bronze casting by Paul O'Boyle

Unveiled 25 March 2018

Following the untimely death of David Bowie on 10 January 2016, a groundswell of opinion surfaced in Aylesbury to celebrate his art in a permanent way, in recognition of the strong connection he had with music club Friars Aylesbury.

Bowie performed the world debuts of two of the most iconic albums of the 20th century 'Hunky Dory' and 'The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars' at Friars Aylesbury on 25 September 1971 and 29 January 1972 respectively.

He formed The Spiders from Mars with Mick Ronson, Woody Woodmansey and Trevor Bolder in the tiny Friars dressing room at the Borough Assembly Hall in Aylesbury's Market Square. The full history of David Bowie and Friars Aylesbury has been chronicled in The Thin White Book by Kris Needs.

The first track on the Ziggy Stardust album 'Five Years' references Aylesbury Market Square. "Pushing through the Market Square - so many mothers sighing".

On 16 January 2016, the Saturday following Bowie leaving us, a special event was organised on this site to celebrate his music and his legacy, with thousands of people attending.

A petition was started to create a Bowie statue in Aylesbury, which quickly reached over 2000 signatures. Subsequently Aylesbury Town Council, Aylesbury Vale District Council and Buckinghamshire County Council all debated and voted to support the David Bowie statue project in Aylesbury Market Square, with the proviso that no council tax payer's money would be available to fund the project.

With all the permissions in place, a Kickstarter crowd-funding scheme was instigated in October 2016 which was successful. This was followed by further fund raising initiatives.

Internationally renowned Buckinghamshire sculptor Andrew Sinclair, who is in the vanguard of the new Contemporary Realist sculpture movement, was appointed to create the work.

The statue features two main figures. Bowie as Ziggy Stardust circa 1973 and again in his 2002 'Heathen' period. Behind these two main figures can be seen many of the characters that David portrayed in his long career including references to Space Oddity, Hunky Dory, Ashes to Ashes, Aladdin Sane, Labyrinth, The Man Who Fell to Earth, Life on Mars, Young Americans, The Next Day and Blackstar.

Funding is still needed for this project. Please contact sue@fmimusic.com

The sculpture is augmented by an audio system which plays a David Bowie track at random on the hour every hour between 9.00am and 9.00pm and a webcam so that the sculpture can be seen online 24 hours per day.