

## Purbeck Sculptor meets Princess Anne

Purbeck Sculptor Jonathan Sells, known for his quirky figurative stone sculptures in the region, such as the Tregonwell/Creeke Sculpture outside the BIC and the sculpture in Christchurch Priory Gardens, recently had the pleasure of meeting HRH Princess Anne. It was at an unveiling of his work on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2015, in Plymouth.



*Shaking hands: Photo by Amy Stanford*

The work, a collaboration with Plymouth Artist, Richard Fisher, involved the design and creation of 4 stone panels for the new Genesis building in the Stonehouse area of Plymouth. Stonehouse Genesis was part of an overall community regeneration project. The building represents a new beginning for the area which has suffered massive unemployment and social deprivation. It now houses affordable offices and work units to encourage business development in the area.

Was Jonathan nervous meeting HRH? “Well I'd prepared well and practised protocol to ensure I didn't repeat the antics of Mr Bean when he met the Queen!”



*Close-up of me with Princess Anne: Photo by John Allen/The Plymouth Herald.*

laughed Jonathan, and added, “Seriously, I was more stressed the day before when I travelled down, as the clutch went on my car. At least I was travelling in good time, I eventually arrived in a lovely, plush hire car. The Princess was a lovely lady, very warm and approachable, it was an honour to meet her.”

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