

Brew event raised £200

A Big Brew event in aid of Bradford Cancer Support, organised by Christine Kaur, at The Thornbury Centre, Leeds Old Road, Bradford, in memory of her late mother raised £200. All proceeds from the event will go to support cancer patients, families, carers and the bereaved living in the Bradford district.

Book boost

The chairman of North Yorkshire County Council, Coun John Savage, will officially re-open Cross Hills' newly-extended and refurbished library on Thursday, April 15.

The Main Street facility has been given a £345,000 facelift, which includes an improved children's area, an interview room, a new collection of DVDs, improved access for people with disabilities and computers with internet access.

The official ceremony will take place at 11am.

Marcus nails it in art at-tack!



... and now he's on lookout for a model to pose with a python

by Emma Clayton
 Leisure and Lifestyle Editor

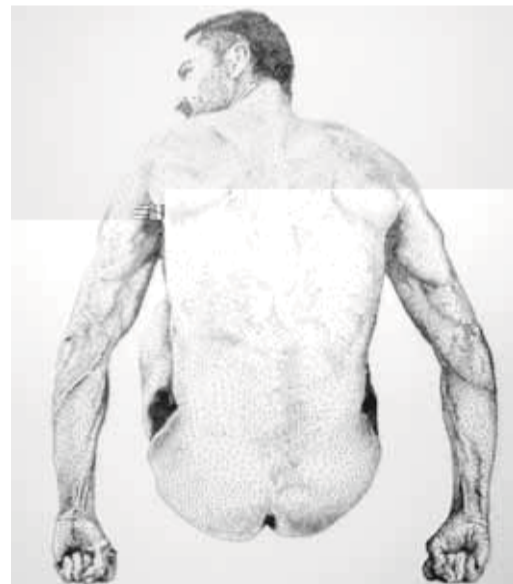
Marcus Levine got through more than 150,000 nails last year – in the name of art.

The Bingley artist, who went to art college with Damian Hirst, creates sculptures made of nails and recently held a major London exhibition of his work.

A former pupil at Fulneck Boys School, Pudsey, Marcus worked as a graphic designer in television, then for his family business, before becoming a professional artist.

The success of Turner Prize-winner Damian Hirst, a fellow student at Jacob Kramer College in Leeds, inspired him. "Damian didn't really stand out from the rest of us but his interest lay in macabre subjects. Later, when he created the infamous shark in formaldehyde and the pickled cow and calf, I thought 'it's not just having ideas – what's special is having ideas and making them happen'," said Marcus. "I enjoyed working for the business, selling printing machines, but I needed to break free into art. Friends thought I was mad giving up my job and nice car."

The risk paid off; Marcus started experimenting with nail sculpture, creating extraordinary representations of the human form. Now he has regular commissions and is in talks with



PIN SHARP: Artist Marcus Levine with one of his nail portraits (above) and (left) another of his works that uses thousands of nails to complete the picture

Rolling Stone Ronnie Wood's son, Tyrone, who owns a London art gallery.

"I had the idea for nail sculpture as a student, I liked the idea of a metal form undulating," he said. "I was in my apartment in Budapest – my wife is Hungarian – which I wanted to furnish with art. It occurred to me that a sharp little nail could create something as soft as the human torso. My wife modelled for me, the first one took about three months to complete."

Levine drives 20mm cabinet nails into wooden panels at various heights and distances, creating the effect of shading, in 3D. Natural light plays a role, with shadows changing across the sculptures, and by altering artificial lighting, they can appear as light as a pencil sketch or as dark as a charcoal drawing.

Marcus sculpts life studies and abstracts, and aims to create public art. With sculptures made of up to 50,000 nails, he gets through a huge number.

"It's a laborious process because I work very close-up so I can only see a small section of what I'm working on. I have to keep stepping back to see how it's forming."

Now he's looking for a model for his latest commission, a nail sculpture of Greek mythological figure Hydra, a serpent-like creature. "I'm interested in working with different poses. I'm looking for a model who would be happy posing with a python," he said.

● Anyone interested is asked to ring Marcus on 07711 671686. For more about his work visit levine-art.co.uk

email: emma.clayton@telegraphandargus.co.uk

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