

# The DUNDEE WEAVER

BY MALCOLM ROBERTSON

Lochee High Street, installed 2014  
Commissioned by the Dundee West Communities Association and funded by Asda Stores Ltd.

The Dundee Weaver was the aspiration of Lochee resident Stella Carrington, (herself once a weaver) who tirelessly pursued her idea for a sculpture for many years, to have the role of women and children in Dundee's jute industry properly recognized. The jute industry was once highly profitable yet the workers were poorly paid and expected to work in poor conditions. The workers were mainly women simply because they could be paid less than men. In the sculpture is a child who clings on to the weaver. Children were used as cheap labour, often given difficult and sometimes dangerous tasks such as having to crawl under the looms while they were still running, and clean them from the continuous build up of fibrous dust.

The artwork is made from corten steel representing an industrial loom with a sail of flying jute. In the sail is verse from the song 'Oh Dear Me' by Mary Brooksbank and lines from the poem 'Toast to Weaver Crafts' by Ron Hutcheson. The two figures were modelled on Stella Carrington and local lass 7 year old Sophia Capon whose grandmother was a weaver.

Malcolm Robertson studied sculpture in Glasgow School of Art. He worked as Town Artist for the Glenrothes Development Corporation and carried out many works throughout the UK and abroad.

Special thanks to Asda Stores Ltd., who funded the work.

Dundee West Communities Association with Malcolm



Stella

