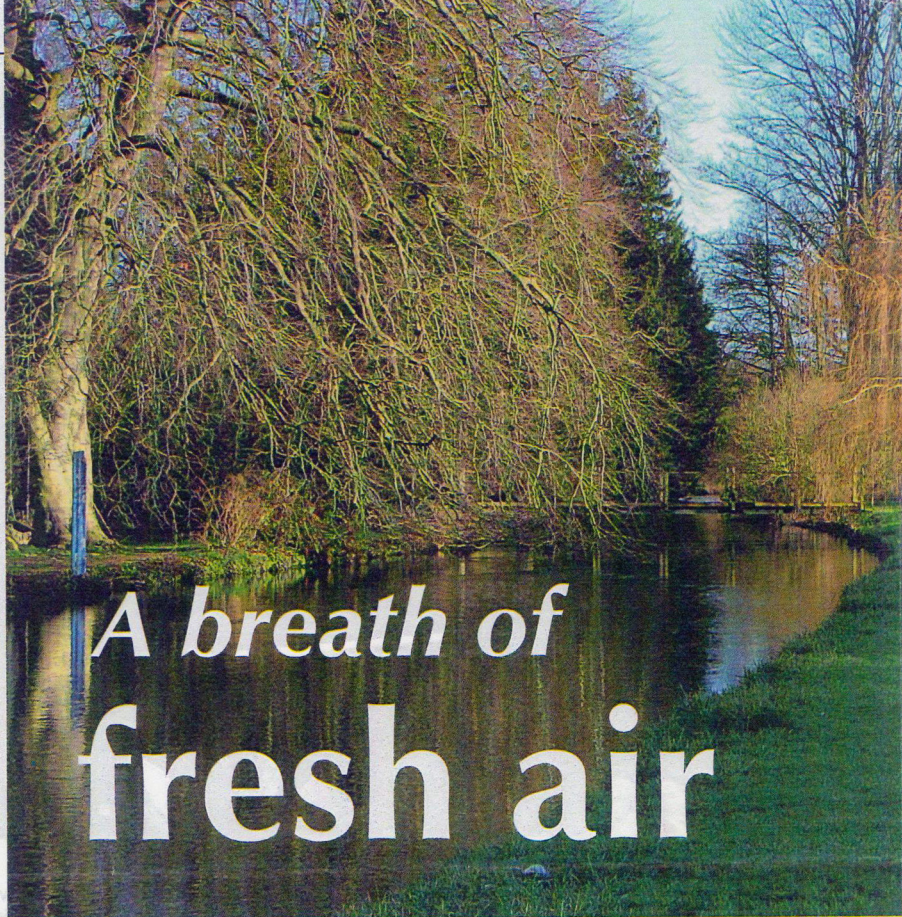


sculpture



Cockerel by mosaic artist Judy Francis, and below, Plantain by glass artist Colin Hawkins



A breath of fresh air

AT FIRST glance, a thousand pink jelly shoes scattered over the lawns of a Cotswold garden would look somewhat strange.

But a quick look around Quenington Old Rectory reveals a multitude of other incongruous installations looking quite at home among the flower beds, hedges and trees.

They are all part of this year's eagerly awaited Fresh Air 2013, a biennial sculpture exhibition set in the five-acre grounds of a former rectory near Cirencester.

Opening tomorrow, Fresh Air embraces a broad spectrum of sculptures, ranging from objects, film, photography, performance and sound.

Tom Hackett's pink rubber shoes are just one of the unusual sculptures on view and vie for attention with a tree trunk dotted with ceramic white thorns, a giant steel flower bud with colourful blooms within and trapeze artists swinging from one of the trees.

Set up by art collectors David and Lucy Abel Smith, the exhibition is now in its 11th year and runs until July 7.

"The purpose of this year's exhibition is to wash the dust from

What could be better than to wander round a stunning Cotswold garden full of quirky sculptures and art? This year's Fresh Air exhibition opens tomorrow and **HELEN BLOW** finds out what's on show

the soul of everyday life," said Lucy.

"We want people to celebrate the vitality and diversity of sculpture and its capacity to challenge.

The two curators Ana Bianchi and Miranda Leonard have used the natural backdrop of mature trees, water, lawns and flowers to display the pieces in an original and challenging setting.

"They have relished and encouraged pretty well every art form that functions outside in a garden," said Lucy.

Fresh Air will certainly do that. Appealing to adults and children alike, sculptures are created from lots of different materials, including glass, wood, stone, fabric, bronze and marble.

Not normally fans of art exhibitions, youngsters will love seeking out the more unusual exhibits, from a half-buried garden bench and

colourful cake moulds hanging from a tree to giant wood and steel colouring pencils and plenty of birds, beasts and bugs made from glass, bronze, steel and wire.

This year's line-up includes more than 90 international artists representing both established and new talent.

Children from local primary and secondary schools will be visiting during the month's display and taking part in workshops.

And for hungry visitors a new feature this year is a pop-up restaurant on the evening of June 22, with Allium of Fairford creating eight courses of interesting and unusual dishes for diners.

■ Fresh Air is open every day from 10am to 5pm and admission costs £2.50 for adults (free for children). Visit www.freshair2013.com for more information.



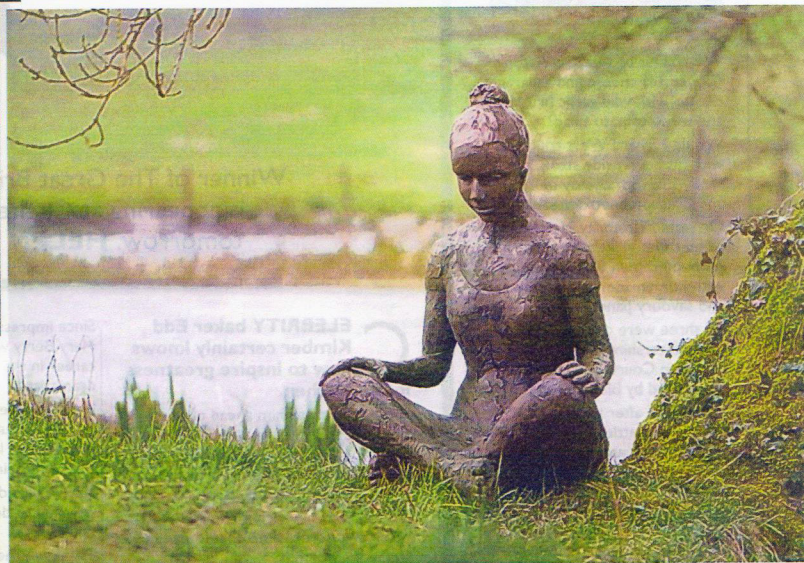
Swan by Adam Binder, who works in bronze



Couple by Terence Coventry, who works in bronze and is part of Gallery Pangolin in Stroud



Mali Flyby, by Giles Raynor, and below, Spinoza by Jennifer Norris, who works with leather and plastic



Sitting by Carole Peace, who works in bronze and below, Heather Jansch's horse sculpture is worked in driftwood

