



Back in 2004 a new lady took up residence at Port Gaverne; she spent all her time reclining in her garden just above the beach.

The May issue of Trio reported, "She's a giant of a lady! Her name is Massive Matilda and she is the product of the wild imaginations of children from Port Isaac Primary School working with sculptor Robert Bradford and artist Penny MacBeth, with the assistance of writer Victoria Field and teacher Nancy March.

The children have invented a whole life story behind the existence of their giant, and her rather appalling habits! To start the process, the whole school visited the Port Gaverne site suggested by the National Trust for the sculpture, where they examined every detail of its flora and fauna, listened intently to its smells and sounds, gathered leaves and flotsam from the beach, and photographed, measured and mapped the plot.

The children then worked with writer Victoria Field to create poems about the place and their experiences of it, and made panels based on the

plant life with textile artist Penny MacBeth. Finally they posed in their suggested attitudes for the sculpture and then made life drawings, paintings and maquettes (small versions of the sculpture) towards the finished form.

Armed with all this information, Robert Bradford went back to his St Jidgey studio and began work on his understanding of their invention. Says Robert, "Massive Matilda is 6m long, pleasantly rounded and draped in a sunbathing pose. Her steel frame is clothed with tree bark and her flesh consists of a few hundred plastic toys. Her hair is made from nylon filaments of the type used to make brooms, and her eyes are plastic torches. All in all she's a bit of a girl!"

The creation of Matilda is part of the Creative Partnerships works to give school children throughout England the opportunity to develop their potential, their ambition, their creativity and imagination through sustainable partnerships with creative and cultural organisations, businesses and individuals. This project, called 'On the Shoulders of Giants', is run with the National Trust.

## Massive Matilda