

WORCESTER

A new 'Curiosity'?

High Street, opposite the Guildhall

In sharp contrast to the work of creative artists and architects of the past, here is a piece of contemporary work, work which also shows imagination and which, even now, seems to be viewed as unusual or 'curious'. These are the gates to the newly refurbished City Arcade opposite Worcester's Guildhall, (which itself has intricate 18th century cast iron gates of some importance). Our 21st century art, wrought out of galvanised steel, is the work of Herefordshire sculptor Laurence Walker. The design is made up of abstract organic shapes, but the effect is quite striking and although they have been in position for only a short time, people's reactions to them have been many and varied. A few find modern art difficult to appreciate, while others liken the abstract design to plough shares, Civil War pikes and shields, to flowers and even to squid! One



citizen declares that they represent 'a Biblical saying – it's turning spears into plough-shares ... making peace out of war'. But the sculptor, who recently graduated from the Herefordshire College of Art and Design, insists he had no particular theme in mind, and he comments that whatever point of view someone may have is a valid one. It is not certain yet whether the gates will be painted silver, but in any event, they make an interesting piece of art which may or may not be regarded as 'curious'. I like the gates, but you will have to decide for yourself.