

About the sculptor

Wesley W. Harland is a professional sculptor based in Woking, Surrey, specialising in figurative sculpture. He is a keen H.G. Wells fan and member of the H.G. Wells Society.

With over 18 years' experience, Wesley has worked on everything from art commissions to film props and scenery for TV shows. Working for Madame Tussauds, Wesley has covered a range of subjects including Mozart, Prince William and a 15ft sculpture of the Incredible Hulk.

Wesley takes inspiration from great masters of public sculpture, from Alfred Gilbert to Brancusi, to produce portrait and figurative sculpture with added layers of detail and interest.

What does Wesley have to say on his latest achievement?

"As a fan of Herbert George Wells, it was an honour to be chosen to create this public statue of the great man. As well as improving our surroundings, I believe that public sculpture should inspire and engage people. I hope that this statue not only provides a fitting tribute to the author but also stimulates the interest of people passing by to pick up a novel by Wells."

A message from Stephen Baxter, President of the British Science Fiction Association and Vice President of the H.G. Wells Society

"H.G. Wells was in this very small town for a very brief period, but in that time he produced a novel that changed forever mankind's view of our infinite future in infinite space. Wesley Harland's fine statue is a fitting memorial to that pivotal place and time."

Further information

H.G. Wells statue

For more information about the creation of the H.G. Wells statue, visit www.hgwellsstatue.com or search [@sculptorwes](#)

Wells in Woking

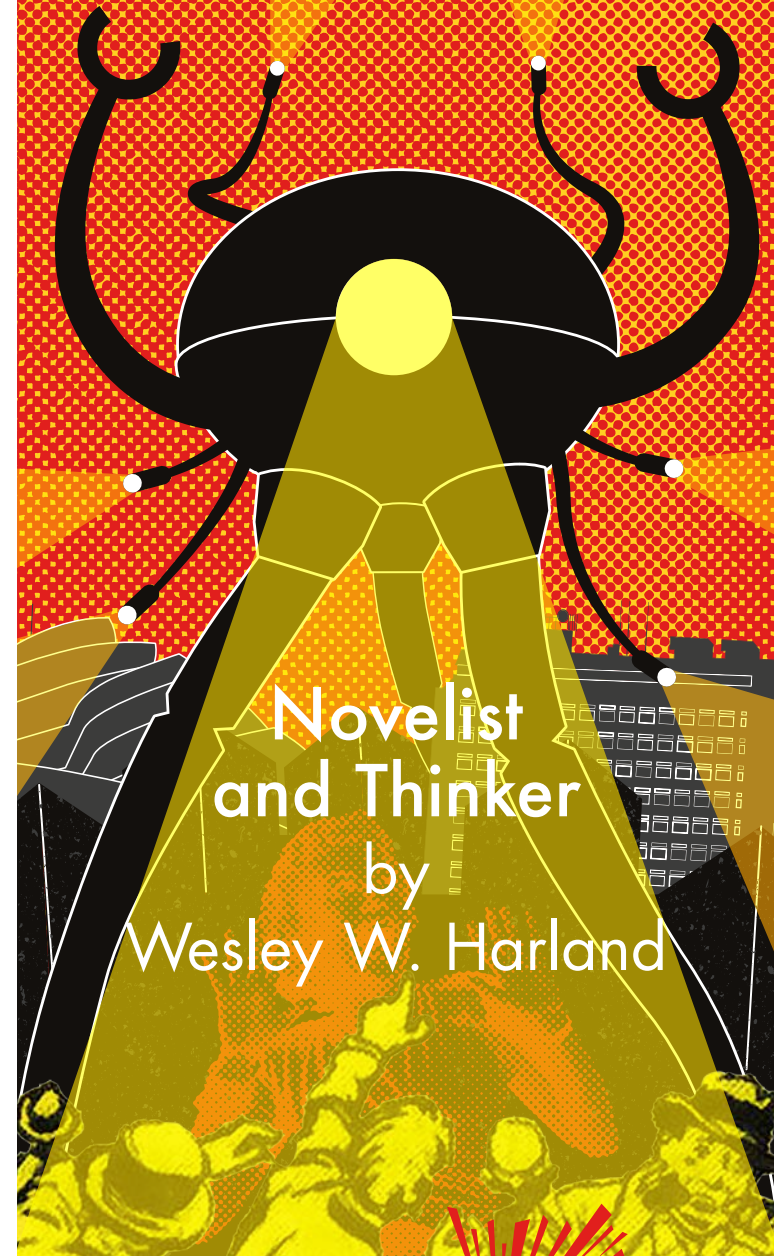
For information about H.G. Wells and his time in Woking and the Wells in Woking Heritage Trail, visit www.wellsinwoking.org.uk or search [@wellsinwoking](#)

H.G. Wells Society

Woking Borough Council would like to extend its gratitude to the H.G. Wells Society for its contributions towards the statue, in honour of Jeff Myers, member and benefactor of the Society. More information about the Society can be found by visiting www.hgwellsociety.com



WELLSINWOKING.ORG.UK [@WELLSINWOKING](#)



WELLS IN WOKING

Celebrating the 150th anniversary
of H.G. Wells' birth
1866 – 2016



H.G. Wells, one of the nation's greatest literary talents and public intellectuals, was born on 21 September 1866.

Wells made Woking famous in the late 19th Century by choosing Horsell Common in Woking as the location for his Martian invasion in the hugely popular science-fiction novel, *The War of the Worlds*.

As part of the 150th anniversary of his birth, Woking Borough Council commissioned a public figurative statue to honour the life of the author and the period of his life in Woking (1895-1896). This is the only public memorial of Wells in the world, and the statue is a permanent reminder of his contribution to literature and science fiction.

Novelist and Thinker was designed by the sculptor **Wesley W. Harland**. The statue presents a young H.G. Wells in his late 20s in a thoughtful, seated pose. It reflects the author as both a famous novelist and important political thinker, quietly considering the world around him.

The bronze statue includes elements from some of his bestselling novels. Creeping across the base is the alien red weed from *The War of the Worlds*; on the back of his chair is the date 802,701AD, the year the time traveller meets the Morlocks and Eloi in Earth's future in *The Time Machine*. Whilst closely studied in the hand of the author himself is the favorite sphere spaceship used to travel to the moon in *The First Men in the Moon*.

Soaring over seven feet tall, the statue is a grand tribute to one of the nation's greatest literary talents.

Novelist and Thinker is of national and international significance and forms part of the Wells in Woking Heritage Trail. Walk in Wells' footsteps as the trail takes you past his home in Maybury, the scene of the Martian invasion on Horsell Common and other locations with a Wells connection.

Novelist and Thinker can be found at Wells Plaza, off Christchurch Way (GU21 6JG), where he has a permanent view of one of his most famous creations, the *War of the Worlds* Martian, situated in Crown Square.