# Locals outraged as Oor Wullie statue in Dundee vandalised with pink paint and obscene graffiti



Locals in Dundee have expressed their outrage following a vandalism incident involving an Oor Wullie statue, renowned for celebrating one of Scotland’s most beloved comic characters. The statue, which features Oor Wullie aiming a pea shooter at a nearby statue of Robbie Burns, was recently discovered covered in pink paint, accompanied by a crude drawing and an obscene message.

Witnesses, stunned by the defacement, denounced the vandal's actions as “mindless” and a “complete disgrace.” The palpable frustration among the community reflects a broader sentiment against such acts, particularly given the statue's significance. Installed in Albert Square outside The McManus Galleries in 2016 to commemorate the 80th anniversary of Oor Wullie's debut in The Sunday Post, it stands as a cultural touchstone for Dundee. Alongside the statue, a poem entitled "Tae Rabbie Burns" pays homage to Scotland's literary heritage. Sculpted by Malcolm Robertson, the statue incorporates playful elements including a satchel with Wullie's pet mouse, Jeemy, and a bag of peas, emblematic of the character's adventurous spirit.

Dundee City Council has also condemned the incident, labelling the graffiti as “completely unacceptable.” A council spokesperson confirmed that their rapid response team was promptly alerted and worked swiftly to remove the paint on the day of the vandalism. Such rapid action underscores the community’s commitment to preserving its public art and cultural landmarks.

Sadly, this recent instance is not an isolated case. The Oor Wullie statues, part of a wider initiative that celebrates Scotland's comic culture, have faced acts of vandalism before. For example, another figure named Lifesaver Oor Wullie was damaged shortly after installation on Broughty Ferry pier, necessitating repairs funded by the local RNLI community. Furthermore, instances of Oor Wullie sculptures being removed from their bases or forcibly damaged reflect an ongoing struggle to protect these cherished artworks. One statue, Dreamland Wullie, was discovered discarded on a road, while another was found detached and lying on the ground after a reported disturbance.

Such vandalism not only disrespects artistic expression but also robs the community of shared cultural experiences. Local sentiments have surged against these mindless acts, revealing a strong desire among citizens to actively preserve and honour their unique heritage. As discussions around community responsibility and the need for vigilance continue, the hope remains that these beloved statues will endure, serving as reminders of both joy and the challenges faced in safeguarding public art.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/5255630/oor-wullie-statue-dundee-city-centre-targeted-vandalism/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/5255630/oor-wullie-statue-dundee-city-centre-targeted-vandalism/), [[2]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/dundee/455008/oor-wullie-removed-broughty-ferry-pier-vandals-attack/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/5255630/oor-wullie-statue-dundee-city-centre-targeted-vandalism/), [[4]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/dundee/215972/outrage-oor-wullie-bucket-trail-vandalism/), [[5]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/dundee/272664/frustration-after-ferrys-wullie-vandalised-and-dumped-on-road/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/5255630/oor-wullie-statue-dundee-city-centre-targeted-vandalism/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/dundee/455008/oor-wullie-removed-broughty-ferry-pier-vandals-attack/> - Vandals have damaged an Oor Wullie statue bought for the Broughty Ferry community for £10,000. The statue, named Lifesaver Oor Wullie, was placed on display at the pier next to the lifeboat shed but had to be removed for repairs after being damaged. Broughty Ferry RNLI had helped raise £10,000 to purchase the statue at auction last year.
3. <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/dundee/225494/wasnt-oor-wullie-statue-vaulter-says-hes-wrongly-accused-causing-damage/> - A man photographed balancing on top of an Oor Wullie Bucket Trail statue has stated he was wrongly accused of causing damage to the sculpture. Ryan Wood, 32, was seen vaulting over the Yarnbombed statue outside the Ardler Complex. The statue was later found damaged, with Oor Wullie detached from his bucket and lying on the grass. Wood denies causing the damage and has received death threats in connection with the incident.
4. <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/dundee/215972/outrage-oor-wullie-bucket-trail-vandalism/> - Locals have expressed their disgust after one of Dundee’s newest tourist attractions, an Oor Wullie statue, was vandalised within 48 hours of being launched. The statue, located in Magdalen Green, was defaced with black paint shortly after its unveiling. Dundee City Council responded by sending workers to clean the figure. Residents have reacted with dismay to the incident.
5. <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/dundee/272664/frustration-after-ferrys-wullie-vandalised-and-dumped-on-road/> - The man in charge of Dundee’s popular Oor Wullie Bucket Trail has expressed his disappointment after one of the statues was removed from its base and dumped on the road. Police were called in the early hours of Sunday morning after Barnhill Rock Garden’s Wullie was discovered lying on the ground. The statue, dubbed “Dreamland Wullie,” had been ripped from its base and left abandoned in the middle of the road.
6. <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/dundee/225026/bucket-trail-oor-wullie-vandalised-in-overnight-attack/> - One of the Oor Wullie statues on the city’s Bucket Trail has been vandalised. An Ardler man reported waking around 3.45am on Wednesday to people shouting near the sculpture outside the Ardler Complex. He later realised Oor Wullie had been forced from his bucket and was left lying on the ground. The statue in question is Yarnbombed, created by local artist Pam Kelly.