

## Upturned tree 'art' mad



Barking ... tree on its head

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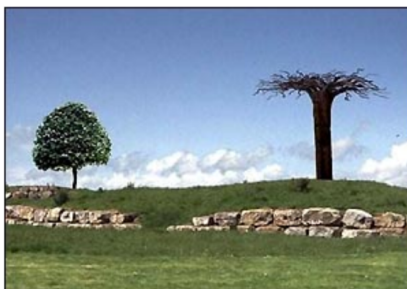
By **HARRIET ARKELL**

AN ARTIST given £30,000 of taxpayers' cash to brighten up a health centre tore up an oak tree and replanted it **UPSIDE DOWN**.

Furious locals living near the Knowle West Health Park in Bristol have branded the work a complete waste of money.

One said: "All that money to turn a tree upside down? It would have been better spent funding a nurse for a year."

Retired carpenter Wilson Moore-Murray, 66, added: "I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw it. What a waste."



Design ... how it should look

Artist Elpida Hadzi-Vasileva, 33, was paid by the Arts England Council, which receives taxpayers' and lottery cash.

The sum forked out is equal to a matron's annual salary.

A member of staff at the health centre, said: "No one seems to know who authorised this. It's a waste of money and does nothing for the place. I find it quite sad-looking and not at all uplifting."



Artist ... Elpida Hadzi-Vasileva

But Macedonian-born Elpida, 33, said: "I don't think it is a waste. The living oak will continue to grow old and the dead one will eventually be cut down. It represents life and death."