



# BRUTON ART SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

[www.brutonartsociety.co.uk](http://www.brutonartsociety.co.uk)

Lectures \* Workshops \* Exhibitions \* Coach Trips \* Painting Days

## Chairman's Statement

Once again this has been a positive year for the Bruton Art Society, despite the effects of Covid-19. We have, unfortunately, had to postpone a large part of our programme, including our Annual Exhibition. But this has spurred us on to hold our first online exhibition, which has been much appreciated. Work submitted certainly sustained our reputation for showing art of high quality. In this Newsletter there is a report on the exhibition, and on the pictures which received most votes in our popular choice. Our membership has continued to grow and is now hovering around the 220 mark - higher than ever before, I believe, in the history of the society.

It is good to see that we have been able to partly resume our programme. Earlier this month there was a well-attended painting day at Knowle Rock, thanks to the generosity of Corinna Leigh-Turner. Some of the paintings resulting from the visit appear in this Newsletter. We have also resumed our workshop programme, with a nuno felting session run by Helen Baddeley.

As the situation caused by Covid-19 is still so volatile, we cannot at this point make further firm arrangements. But we are keeping the situation under observation and will do what we can when we can.

We are very sorry to have to announce that, owing to the current situation, we have had to cancel our Christmas Party and Lecture. I am pleased to let you know that the lecturer, James Russell (who gave us such an excellent talk on Ravilious a couple of years ago) has agreed to lecture to us for Christmas 2021.

Let us hope that by that time we will once more be running a full programme.

Will Vaughan

## Bruton Art Society 67th Annual Exhibition

Congratulations to everyone who submitted work for our Annual Exhibition Online.

From all the lovely comments that have come in by email & word of mouth, I think we can say it has been successful & really appreciated by many people, at a time when we all needed something positive to look forward to. It would have been so easy to cancel the whole thing as many other similar art organisations have done this year.

For myself, it was a steep learning curve - receiving digital pictures from artist members and working out how to put selected images in a viewable form on the website, but I'm pleased to say it works a treat & all done at minimal expense to the Society.

An overview of website statistics during the first 4 weeks of the exhibition were very encouraging with an estimated 15,000 page views! Most visitors were from UK but a smaller number from USA & elsewhere. Interestingly enough the statistics show visitor ages to be: 60% 18-34, 27% 35-54, & only 11% were over 54! The exhibition will stay in place for the autumn.

**Sue Hardy, Exhibition Curator & Website**

## Artist Profile - Will Vaughan

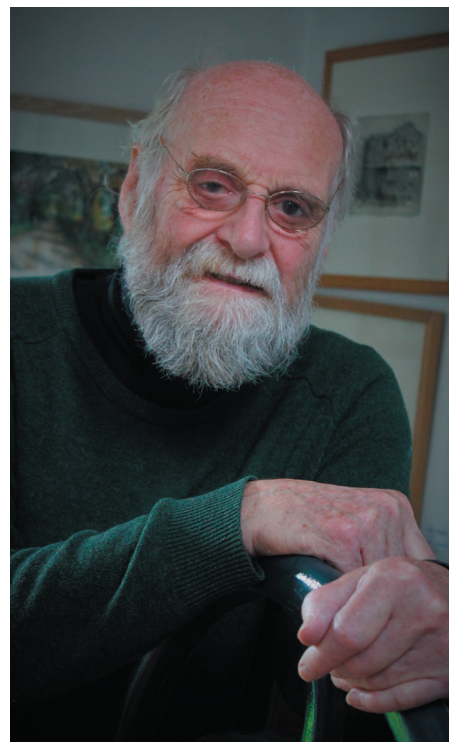
Will Vaughan our chairman since 2012 retired from his position as Professor of the History of Art at Birkbeck College, London, in 2006. It was then that he and his wife Pek Peppin came to leave their London home to live full-time in their ancient fifteenth-century farmhouse, Cockhill, outside Castle Cary. They had bought the property in a dilapidated state in 1982 and had been painstakingly restoring it in accordance with the guidance of English Heritage during their vacations.

In his wide-ranging career as an Art Historian Will came to specialise in German Romanticism (Caspar David Friedrich) and the work of the English Romantic and friend of William Blake, Samuel Palmer. In fact William's fascination with the work of Palmer did not end with his retirement. The year before, in 2005 he had curated a major exhibition on Palmer, Vision and Landscape for the British Museum, but on retirement his commitment continued as he worked on what remains the most complete and definitive study of Palmer, *Shadows on the Wall*, published in 2015.

Will's interest in Palmer goes back a long way. His physician father died when he was only seven and his mother, who had trained at Chelsea School of Art, settled in Oxford where he went to Magdalen College School. There he showed a talent for drawing and art history and on visiting the Ashmolean came across Palmer's sepia prints which he remembers made a great impression on him. He then started an Art course at the Ruskin School of Art at Oxford, but decided to move to the Courtauld Institute in London to specialise in Art History, a move that launched him on his academic career.

Being an artist and being an art historian do not easily go together, but in Will's case they have once the pressures of academic life were over when he and Pek settled in Castle Cary. It was then that he decided to take up etching seriously. To do this he felt he needed proper training from someone who really knew how to do it and on joining Bruton Art Society he was introduced to the techniques and skills needed by Bridget Moreton. Since then he has been producing fine sets of etchings and has exhibited regularly at The Bath Society of Artists, The Royal West of England Academy (Bristol), The New English Art Club (London) and the Royal Society of British Artists (London).

Will feels his work has been both inspired and influenced by Samuel Palmer. It is not that he is in any sense copying Palmer's work, but more that he feels an affinity of mood and an appreciation of sunset, low light, silhouettes and the end of the day and the emotions that they give rise to. At times he feels, when an etching is going well, it is almost as if Palmer were watching him.



Moonlight over the Tracks



At the same time Will is happy to explore new ways of producing etchings, in particular the use of special dry point plastic sheets which are both much cheaper and easier to use than conventional metal plates, This is a new technology which might attract others of us to follow the etching path.



Old Chicken Shed



Sunlight



Penselwood



Clouds over Carymoor

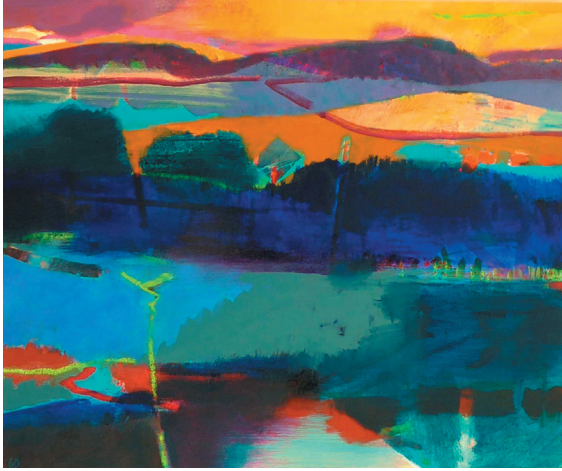
To enjoy more of Will's work visit: [www.willvaughan.com/etchings](http://www.willvaughan.com/etchings)

**John Baxter**



## BAS Online Exhibition 2020 - The Popular Vote

The top five paintings are pictured below, with comments from the Artist about each.



**Gerry Dudgeon Across the Water** (Equal 1st)

*This painting uses acrylic glazes to depict the wide expanse of water on the Dart Estuary near Dittisham. There are vertical accents which mark the channel for boating and the blues and yellows evoke the glow of evening.*

**Yolanda Moreno Iris** (Equal 1st)

*I have been painting in watercolour for ten years now. I fell in love with its freshness, spontaneity and its "unpredictability"*

*I try to paint in an impressionistic way trying to capture light and the fragility and beauty of flowers. In order to do this I use the white of the paper and mainly transparent colours and almost always mix my colours directly on the paper. For me painting flowers is just pure joy.*



**Laurence Belbin Afternoon Hill Shadows**(Equal 2nd)

*I painted this oil on location between Shaftesbury and Wilton. The ridge of the hills is where the old drovers track runs between these two towns.*

*I particularly liked the blue shadows and the hazy light. The sky also had a wonderful quality of light to it. The vibrant green was such a contrast the whole scene was irresistible.*



**Gerry Dudgeon Sailing the Dart** (Equal 2nd)

*An abstract interpretation of the Dart Estuary in Devon with the suggestion of a pink-sailed boat to the left of centre. Banks of trees come down to the water's edge, and acrylic glazing in blue and blue-green conveys the element of water.*

**Sue Hardy ASGFA**

**My Friend the Goatherd** (Equal 2nd)

*The surprising armful of kids are off to the field with the entourage; a disappointed dog must wait behind. This was a lovely subject for a narrative drawing in earth colours & my own experience of keeping goats really helped.*





### Painting Day at Knowle Rock Wed 2nd September

A good number of about 15 BAS members turned up for the Painting Day at Knowle Rock, a large farm in the country. There we were welcomed enthusiastically by the owner Corinna Leigh-Turner who pointed out the variety of countryside views, from the stables, buildings, the main house and the Jurassic high rock with its views of the distant hills.

Seated under the rock, I had a go at the distant hills. Sadly the weather turned rather cold but it is a beautiful setting to explore the Somerset countryside. My first landscape for years. John Baxter



John Baxter



May Rossiter



View looking towards Cuttlesham from Knowle Rock Farm. Hester Greenstock



Sarah Phillips



### Hadspen Village Hall is open for workshops again; safe for all with procedures in place.

#### Fantastic day for our first workshop since March!

I was privileged to be able to run a socially distanced nuno felting 1 day workshop at Hadspen Village Hall on Friday 18th September. We started the workshop with a demonstration on the basics of wet felting and followed this with a short have a go session to make a layered flower.

After coffee we then went through a further demonstration where I was able to show people some of the felting pieces I had brought as inspiration. I then explained how to go about laying out a design and the various aspects of the process of felting through fabric to create a nuno Felted picture. We each created a completely different piece, each person taking inspiration from the colours and fabrics available. The day went by really quickly as we were also able to sit outside to enjoy our lunch in the sunshine and the beautiful orchard at Hadspen.

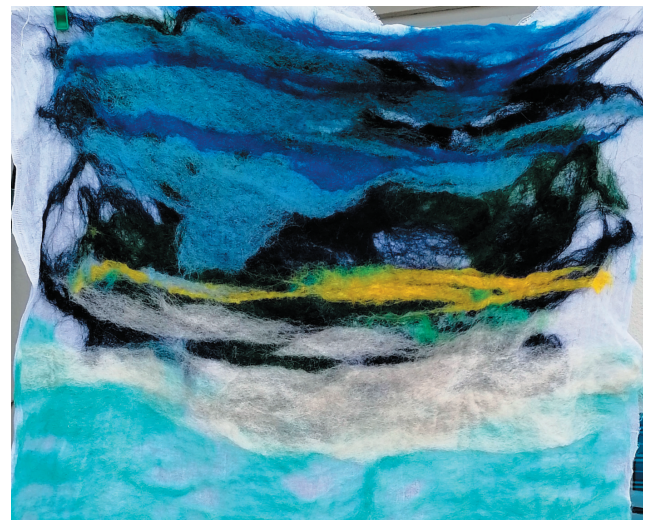
Thank you to all who came for making it such a lovely day. Looking forward to more workshops in the future. I run regular one to one and small group felting workshops that can be booked directly through me.

Helen Baddeley



*Just to say what a lovely day it was yesterday, learning how to felt!! It was a packed day, with a combination of demonstrations, information sharing, and practical hands on 'felting'. We were able to see some lovely examples of Helen's work as well. Thanks Helen for your hard work! It was great to be back to 'normal' too!! Many thanks*

Kathy Clark



1 Day Felting Workshop.

*A most enjoyable and instructive day, extremely well organised by Helen. So worthwhile and a joy to be working with others again. The facilities at the hall are very good and we had plenty of space.*

Tessa McIntyre



*My efforts from the wonderful workshop on Friday with Helen. Am delighted with my scarf and flower.*

Veronica Giles





## Bruton Art Society Workshop News - Alexandra Drysdale

**November 5-6 2020:** The Art of the iPad with Diana Seidl

Diana is an expert at using the iPad to make art. She will teach us how to paint and draw on the iPad and also show us how it can be a valuable tool to improve our traditional painting techniques. Download the app ArtRage onto your iPad and bring a stylus. For 25 years Diana was Head of the Arts Faculty at Pangbourne College, but since retiring she is concentrating on her own art practice and running workshops.

[www.dianaseidl.co.uk/about/](http://www.dianaseidl.co.uk/about/)

### Planned Workshops 2021

**13 March:** Seascapes in watercolour with Catherine Beale

Catherine is an award-winning watercolourist and popular tutor from Bath. She will teach us her unique technique to create luminous flowing watercolours. She is a member of the Society of Women Artists and has exhibited with the Royal Watercolour Society.

[www.catherinebeale.com/art-societies/](http://www.catherinebeale.com/art-societies/)

**15-16 April:** Sculpture in Wire and Mixed Media with Melanie Deegan

Melanie is a Langport-based artist who sculpts in clay, plaster, jesmonite and bronze. Her work explores the relationship between animals and humans, using movement to express emotion. She will teach us how to build an armature in wire and then the application of plaster and mixed media.

[www.melaniedeegan.com/](http://www.melaniedeegan.com/)

**13-14th May:** An Abstract approach to Landscape with Gerry Dudgeon

Using acrylics, we will follow Gerry's process of creating an abstract landscape from our own source material. Gerry is a highly regarded artist and teacher.

[www.gerrydudgeon.com/](http://www.gerrydudgeon.com/)

**16-17th September:** Life-drawing and Portraiture with Anthony Connolly

This inspirational teacher returns for an intensive drawing from life workshop. Anthony is a Member of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters and has twice been awarded the Prince of Wales Prize for Portrait Drawing.

[www.anthonycconnolly.co.uk](http://www.anthonycconnolly.co.uk)

**11-12th November:** Collagraph Printing with Jackie Curtis

A Collagraph is a relief print made from a collage of materials. The blocks will be built up from a variety of materials. Jackie is an innovative artist printmaker inspired by the natural world, particularly birds. Her workshops are fun and inspirational, so be sure to book early.

[www.jcurtisart.com/](http://www.jcurtisart.com/)

**'A Time Away'** Paintings by Mother & son **Helen and Jonathon Baddeley**  
Shaftesbury Arts Centre,  
**30 September - 6 October**, 10-4pm  
[gallery@shaftesburyartscentre.org.uk](mailto:gallery@shaftesburyartscentre.org.uk)

**'20/20 Vision'** *Jane Eaton Jane Onslow*  
*Tessa McIntyre Jenny de Sausmarez*  
Shaftesbury Arts Centre from **7-13 Oct**  
10-4pm [gallery@shaftesburyartscentre.org.uk](mailto:gallery@shaftesburyartscentre.org.uk)

### BAS Members' Exhibition dates for your diary

**'Lockdown: drawings and artefacts'**  
**Alexandra Drysdale and Allan Howles** will be having an exhibition of work made during the Lockdown  
**21 November - 5 December**, 10-5pm  
Closed Mondays & Tuesdays  
Pitcombe Studio, Pitcombe Farmhouse, Bruton, BA10 0PE  
[alex@alexandradrysdale.com](mailto:alex@alexandradrysdale.com)