



BRUTON ART SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

www.brutonartsociety.co.uk

Lectures * Workshops * Exhibitions * Coach Trips * Painting Days

From the Chair

With the Covid-19 Vaccine now being rolled out so effectively, we can look with greater confidence towards resuming most of our normal activities. In this Newsletter you will find the list of workshops that we will be running over the summer. We will also be able to resume our painting days and, hopefully, our usual visits. Over the last few months we have been active organizing events via Zoom. One of these, a highly successful portrait workshop run by Anthony Connolly is the subject of a report in this Newsletter. We also ran a most enjoyable online clothed life study session.

We are now looking forward with growing confidence to holding our annual exhibition once again at Kings School Bruton in August. It should provide a great moment for us coming together once again and seeing what we have all been doing during lockdown. We also plan to have an online presence for the exhibition.

Sadly we have lost some long-standing members in the past few months. Two of these, Tessa McIntyre and Elizabeth Best are remembered in special notices in this Newsletter. Both were strong supporters of the Society and will be greatly missed.

We still have a few members who haven't paid their 2021 subscription but it's never too late!

Wishing you all a successful and productive Summer.

Will Vaughan

Tessa McIntyre



We were very saddened to hear of the death of Tessa McIntyre in early February. Tessa was a fine and highly respected painter and printmaker. Her work has been a key feature in many exhibitions in this region for many years. Tessa was a great supporter of the Bruton Art Society and had many friends there. She will be much missed by all who knew her.

We hear there will be an exhibition of her work in Shaftesbury this September and we will post details when we know more.

The Bruton Art Society will mount a special display of a selection of her work at the Annual Exhibition in August.

Tessa McIntyre, A Profile (BAS Newsletter January 2017)



A visit to Tessa's studio, with everything meticulously laid out and with its massive printing press in one corner, makes one aware that here is a really serious artist. She started by enthusiastically telling me about a visit to

Norfolk she had made a few days previously, showing me her sketchbook and the simple clean lines she had made in pencil to capture the mood of a wide-open windswept sky. This she had backed up in the studio with a series of studies using paint and stone-toned paper to capture the essence of her experience before taking this further into a large landscape painting which she had just completed.

Tessa has always loved Art and after accepting her mother's dictum that she needed a qualification that could "*earn her a living*" - which had then meant secretarial training - she finally prevailed on her parents to let her go off to Bournemouth Municipal College of Art in 1955 for three years. There she specialised in painting and pottery and was encouraged by the teaching of John Liddell. She then spent a further year at the college to obtain an Art Teaching Degree and embarked on a career as an Art teacher in maintained secondary schools. This is no easy option and dealing with those who think Art is not for them can be, as they say, challenging. John Liddell however kept in touch with his former students and organised an annual one week course for them which Tessa found inspiring.



Finally she ended her teaching career at Barton Peveril Sixth Form College where she loved being a member of a large department, teaching students who had chosen Art A level, and acting as a Senior Tutor. Again John Liddell was an influence for he founded the Poole Printmakers, which Tessa told me remains a place of inspiration and a centre with excellent equipment for young artists who do not have their own press.

At 55, Tessa was able to retire from full-time teaching and while living with her husband on the Isle of Wight she spent time teaching adults such as at the Key Art Centre and at Poole Printmakers. She also ran a life drawing class. On the death of her husband she moved to West Stour nine years ago and has become a pillar of Bruton Art Society where her work is much appreciated. Tessa paints in oils, continues with life drawing and specialises in producing large often multi-coloured lino-cuts of amazing subtlety and precision as I hope these illustrations show.



Tessa has previously exhibited at the following locations: Bankside Gallery - London, West of England Royal Academy - Bristol, Poole Printmakers - Poole, Guggleton Gallery - Stalbridge, Shaftesbury Arts Centre - Shaftesbury, Laurence Mitchell Gallery - Isle Of Wight, Dorset Art Weeks (DAWS) - and of course at the exhibitions of Bruton Art Society.

John Baxter

Elizabeth Best *We were very sad to hear of the death of Elizabeth Best in December.*

Elizabeth went to school at Cranborne Chase where she studied and became lifelong friends with the landscape artist and sculptor Anthony Brown, who also taught at Bryanston. She went on to train in Theatre Design at Central School of Arts and Crafts under Jeanetta Cochrane.

Marriage and children put a hold on a professional life in art, but with an unceasing hunger to improve, she continued to paint and draw from her studio at home in Barnes, London – mainly life and still life.

A significant impact on her work was meeting the British mystical artist Cecil Collins whom she studied intensely with, remaining close friends with him until his death in 1989.

Latterly she took up stone carving and sculpture, learning with Dorset sculptor Mike Chapman. This was probably the medium she loved most, consuming her as a perfect way to explore her love of geometry and pattern in nature. Sadly the hammer and chisel so late in life were perhaps one step too much for her increasingly frail body, so she had to stop. She painted and drew right up until the end of her life.

Dominic and Sebastian Best



Workshop Dates **Hadspen Hall is closed due to Covid until 17 May**

15-16th April: Wire and Mixed Media sculpture with Melanie Deegan (Hope to reschedule)

Melanie is a Langport based artist who sculpts in clay, plaster, jesmonite and bronze. www.melaniedeegan.com

13-14th May: An Abstract approach to Landscape using acrylics with Gerry Dudgeon (Hope to reschedule)

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

12-13 June: 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. www.dianaseidl.co.uk

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

This inspirational teacher returns for an intensive drawing from life workshop. www.anthonyconnolly.co.uk

11-12th November: Collagraph Printing with Jackie Curtis

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

Painting Days

Wed 9 June - PAINTING DAY at Pythouse Kitchen Garden

Wed 23 June - Informal PAINTING DAY at White Sheet Hill

Wed 7 July - PAINTING DAY in Stourton Village

Wed 21 July - Informal PAINTING DAY in Bruton

Wed 4 August - PAINTING DAY at Pitcombe Farmhouse

Wed 18 August - Informal PAINTING DAY in Hadspen Village

Wed 1 Sept - PAINTING DAY at Cheriton House Farm, South Cheriton

Life drawing on Zoom

A Zoom Life Drawing session was arranged for Tuesday 2nd February with Katya as our lovely model. It was enjoyed by over 30 members, with excellent results. Drawings will be circulated. Another session, with a new model, has been organised for 30th March, 10 - 12am.

Jane Barnard

Anthony Connolly RP - ZOOM Portrait Workshop

This February twelve BAS Members signed up for Anthony Connolly's first specially designed Zoom Portrait Painting workshop. We started either by choosing a photo of our own, or one from ten photographs taken especially by him for us. These were of a model showing different poses and expressions which were emailed to us to work from. He then hosted an introductory Zoom meeting giving us ideas about how to set about our portrait.

At the end of week one after sending him shots of our 'work in progress', we each had an individual half hour Zoom tutorial. We then emailed him shots of our finished work during week two before a final Zoom meeting where all our works were displayed and discussed by him and each other. This session went extremely well as we discovered that Anthony was able to show us work by established artists 'on screen' to illustrate points he wanted to make. This was fascinating and added another dimension that would not be possible at a normal face to face workshop. Lockdown has surprising benefits and here you can see the work we produced.

Dorrie Peat and John Baxter



Cathy Ensor - Oil on linen board



John Baxter - Artisan water mixable oil colour



Dorrie Peat - Watercolour



Shelagh Leakey - Water based oils



Sharon Bielby - Water based oils



Hilary McFarland - Oils

Anthony Connolly RP - ZOOM Portrait Workshop continued

Sally Ridout - Acrylics over gouache



Faye Gillam - Oils



Jo Casey - Pastel



Christine Winer - Oils

Catherine Beale - ZOOM Watercolour Workshop

Due to Government “Corona virus” restrictions, the Society was not able to hold Catherine Beale’s workshop “Atmospheric Seascapes in Watercolour” as advertised in the Programme. However, we were lucky that Catherine was willing to host the workshop online via “Zoom” on the same day, Saturday the 13th March. There were 11 of us altogether and we all managed the format extremely well, some of us now quite well rehearsed with Zoom over Lockdown.

We were given a seascape photograph of “Mawgan Porth” in Cornwall alongside a painting of it which Catherine had done previously as source material. We were then guided through each step of the composition, using her wonderful technique of flowing and dripping paint to create effects, often in vibrant and unexpected colour. Although we were emulating her work as we went, we were also encouraged to use our own response to it.

Catherine was very confident in her handling of the day. Being a Professional artist, she told us that she often hosts 3 “Zoom” workshops a week, so she knew how to get the timing just right and showed great patience and understanding of our “virtual” needs while we worked.

It was a very pleasant day, losing ourselves in creativity, punctuated with coffee breaks, lunch and chat. Catherine’s calm manner and her attention to detail was really appreciated and I feel we have offered up some pleasing results. (continued on next page)

Sally Ridout (BAS Workshop Organiser)



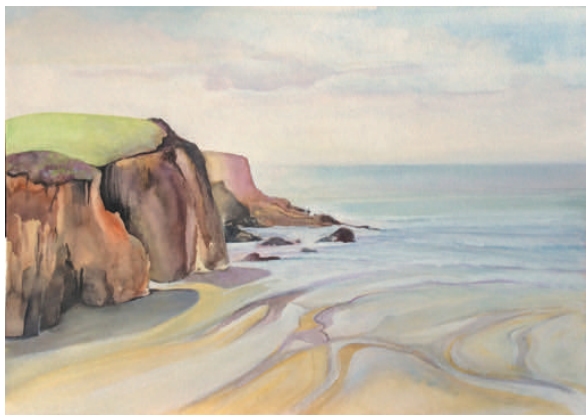
Catherine Beale - ZOOM Watercolour Workshop Paintings



Maureen Bond



May Rossiter



Sally Ridout



Catherine Fox



Jenny Bowen



Heather Beadles



Lucy Barnett

News from BAS Members

Gary Cook

Going for my daily exercise walk to have a break from thinking about work has resulted in...some more work. The narrow winding lanes around me have provided the stimulus for a series of watercolours I've called the Lockdown lane walks. It's been really enjoyable painting a series of views of places that are so familiar to me. We've been lucky too with some snow and frequent misty mornings which add another interest. There are ten paintings in the series, so far. I don't know where it will lead.

I am pleased to be exhibiting with The Arborealists in their Being with Trees show at the Gustavo Bacarissas Gallery in Gibraltar until 30th April and at Bermondsey Project Space, London from April 20 - May 8. A series of works are also on show at Sea Pictures Gallery, Suffolk until May 1



Lockdown lane walks: Icy puddles



Lockdown lane walks: Poor oak

Gary Cook continued

Lockdown lane walks: Steep bit down to the mill



Lockdown lane walks: Warming through the mist

Laura Lees

I spent lockdown painting horses.

This painting is in oil on board. The beautiful 7 yr old gelding we bred here in Dorset and is based at a racing yard in Okeford Fitzpaine and trained by a lovely Dorset racing family. When he raced at our local course Wincanton this season he came first twice!

**Tony Wills**

This was a preliminary sketch, painted in water colours and acrylic, for a series that is no longer in my possession.

I was intrigued by the swirling effect birds created at roosting time seeking their nightly refuge, creating a cloud effect....

The series was considerable and varied.



Sandra Meech

As a fine art trained illustrator and graphic designer for magazines, I also exhibit as a textile artist both for Somerset Art Weeks, local exhibitions and in galleries further afield. I do appreciate that my art takes me in a slightly different direction than with paints on canvas.

My focus over the years has been on climate change in Polar regions and in the past have shown my work in a solo exhibition at ACE Arts in Somerton and also a gallery in 2019 at the Festival of Quilts - NEC in Birmingham.

The whole body of work I call Polar Expressions is now being featured at the Visions Art Museum in San Diego, but because of closure it is a virtual exhibition. I have been part of their lecture and artist interview series on zoom (which for me has been an interesting experience).

I have attached some images from that exhibition.

My work as a textile artist has also focused on my local Wiltshire and Somerset landscape and I currently have a piece in an exhibition by a group called 'Art Textiles Made in Britain' at Farfield Mill Gallery in Sedburgh, Yorkshire. It is there now but the gallery expects to open in April so it will be seen, hopefully.

All my work is based on paintings or photo collage on paper or in sketchbooks, then it is transferred onto cloth and finished with machine stitch. The pieces here are part of the Polar Expressions work based on climate change - the melt is suggested by the use of orange or red thread.



Sandra Meech continued**Angelina Palmer - Stretchers and Silk Sceens**

I have quite a few stretchers which members might like and I also have some very old silk screens, free to good homes!

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Living in Colour

Helen Baddeley and **Jane Barnard** (both BAS Committee Members) and **Brady Turner** are having an exhibition at **Shaftesbury Arts Centre, 8th - 15th June**. They all have colour at the heart of their practice to express their feelings about landscape and the world around them. Although varied in media and styles, they have a delight in making work that is expressive and powerful. This exhibition is the first time they have shown together. They look forward to seeing you there.



‘Relative Values’ at Shaftesbury Arts Centre

In ‘forthcoming events’ in the last newsletter three members namely **Mary Rolfe**, **Corinna Leigh-Turner** and **Debs Aldridge** announced they were holding a joint exhibition entitled **‘Relative Values’** during the Easter week at **Shaftesbury Arts Centre**. It goes without saying that COVID-19 has put a stop to our exhibition along with all the other scheduled events. SAC are posting some of our work online and we will have a small display in the gallery window during the Easter week. We are, COVID permitting, going to be rescheduling for later in the year.



Society of Graphic Fine Art members’ Spring Exhibition

Two of our members, **Gary Cook & Sue Hardy**, have work in the **Society of Graphic Fine Art members’ Spring exhibition** “Drawing Together” which is online now at <https://www.sgfa.org.uk/>

They will also be exhibiting in the SGFA Annual Open Exhibition at the Mall Galleries, London, in July this year.