



# BRUTON ART SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

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

## Chairman's Statement

As normal at this time of year, we are now in the midst of plans to hold our Annual Exhibition. As in recent years prior to the pandemic, this is to take place in the Memorial Hall at Kings Bruton. We are most grateful to the Headmaster and Governors for permission for us to do so once more. At the time of writing, there is still a degree of uncertainty as to whether we will be able to go ahead with a physical exhibition. By the time you get this Newsletter the matter will have been decided one way or another. I can only say that I sincerely hope that this situation has been resolved in a positive manner. It will indeed be a great moment when we can show our work together again and catch up with each other in person.

Partly because of the current uncertainties we have decided to go ahead once again with an online submission of works. This is a method being used increasingly by Art Societies these days, and we have on this occasion engaged the services of OESS, the leading specialists in this process. We are most grateful to our exhibition curator, Sue Hardy for having initiated this venture and set it on its way.

It is good to see that we have been able to start our series of physical workshops and other events again. If the fine weather continues, we should have some splendid painting days to look forward to.

Wishing you all a successful and productive summer and good luck with your submission of work for the Exhibition.

**Will Vaughan, Chairman**

## Bruton Art Society 68th Annual Exhibition Awards list 2021 & sponsors

**Joy Barnes Award** BAS  
**Vittorio Zanetti Award for Drawing** G. Zanetti  
**Award to Kings Bruton Student** BAS  
**Landscape Award** CPRE Somerset  
**Portrait/Figure Award** Cockhill Press  
**Abstract Award** BAS  
**Still Life & Floral Award** The Gardens Group  
**Sculpture Award** BAS  
**£100 Framing Voucher** Old Barn Framing Gallery

MANY THANKS TO ALL OUR SPONSORS

## Local Art Businesses offering 10% discount to BAS Members



**Old Barn Framing  
Gallery**  
Sherborne

**Minerva Art Supplies**  
Bath

**Noble Art Supplies**  
Salisbury

*Proof of BAS membership  
required*



We advertise the exhibition widely in magazines. Banners will go up in Bruton. We will also be printing leaflets to place in pubs, shops etc. Please help spread news of the exhibition by sharing our posts on Social media:

**Facebook:** @brutonarts

**Instagram:** brutonart

**Twitter:** @brutonarts

## Gary Cook A Profile

After weeks of lock-down I had the pleasure of setting off to interview Gary Cook. He lives in a cottage deep in the Dorset countryside outside Shaftesbury. There, in his neat, specially built garden studio we settled down to talk and look at his work. It was fascinating for he exudes a passion both for the work he does and for the places he portrays in the six years he has been establishing himself as a professional “painter” as he likes to describe himself.

This has resulted in him being elected an Associate of the Society of Graphic Fine Artists and winning the “Best in Show” award at their annual exhibition in 2018. (He is now a full member of the SGFA). He has also exhibited with the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colour (RI), the RWA, the RBA, the Arborealists and is The Ecologist’s Arts Editor. A visit to his website ([www.cookthepainter.com](http://www.cookthepainter.com)) will amaze you at how widely and frequently his work has been shown and sold in different galleries. His work also makes clear how seriously he takes his second passion, the environment and what is happening to our beautiful world

So what lies behind Gary’s rise? After school in Bournemouth, Gary went to what was then known as the Bournemouth and Poole College of Art and Design where he spent four years studying illustration and technical drawing.

It was machines and complicated detail that attracted him at that time and in his final year a retired royal navy captain approached the college for an illustrator for a book he had written. The subject was HMS Warrior, the unbeatable though less recognised Victorian warship moored in Portsmouth next to HMS Victory. The ship is a technological marvel and Gary’s task involved an enormous amount of fine-detailed technical and artistic illustrations which he showed me. Surprisingly I learnt he was not paid for this work because he did it while still a student, but he did not seem to mind for he had loved doing it.



*Muddy lane* Ink, watercolour and charcoal on paper



After time as a free-lance illustrator in Dorset he was taken on by the Sunday Times. There during the next twenty-six years he rose to become Senior Artist and Associate Editor in charge of graphics and leader of a team of nine illustrators. This meant travelling up to London four days a week and working to weekly deadlines to illustrate and supplement the photographs and stories that came in, including many on the environment. "You never knew what was coming in next and I worked with some very interesting journalists," he told me. This included Susan d'Arcy the travel writer who became his wife and with whom he later went on an expedition to Antarctica. This he found an unforgettable experience as they saw climate change in action and which he captured in a series of studies of wildlife and powerful landscapes.



*Antarctica. Deep water. An apology* Ink & watercolour on paper

In the end changes in technology made his press work less interesting and Gary decided to leave the newspaper world and concentrate full-time on his art. Here he has focused mainly on landscapes, producing paintings which capture the soft Dorset light, the haunting effects of mist and rain and the individual and various shapes of trees in strong and arresting compositions. Starting with subtle water-colour washes almost in monochrome, he builds up the works with ink, often splashed, and with a strong charcoal emphasis on tree trunks. The works vary greatly in size from the very small to the substantial, but whatever their size, he uses the same media, watercolour, ink and charcoal. To this he adds a particular graphic touch. He delicately writes in the names of the fauna portrayed so they only appear when the work is scrutinised. He then adds a careful and detailed description of the scene portrayed and places this in an envelope on the back of the picture frame. Yes, he really does take the sad plight of Ash die back and what is happening to oaks, other trees and the species dependent upon them seriously.



*Hilltop path* Ink, watercolour and charcoal on prepared canvas



*Painting Hilltop path*

After working throughout lockdown with visits to his Dorset woods, observing, sketching, photographing and painting, Gary has produced a significant body of new work. Recently he had four paintings selected for the Royal Institute of Painters In Water Colours exhibition at the Mall Galleries, in London from May 20-29. Next he has another four selected for the Society of Graphic Fine Art exhibition, also at The Mall Galleries from July 5-10, not to mention many more that I saw so we look forward with anticipation to see what he will bring to our exhibition.

**John Baxter**

**WORKSHOPS** (book through [paybrutonart@gmail.com](mailto:paybrutonart@gmail.com))**16-17th September: Life-drawing and Portraiture with Anthony Connolly**

This inspirational teacher returns for an intensive drawing from life workshop. [www.anthonycconnolly.co.uk](http://www.anthonycconnolly.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](http://www.jcurtisart.com)

**PAINTING DAYS**

**Wed 23 June** - Informal PAINTING DAY at White Sheet Hill carpark above Mere

**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

**Wed 22 Sept** - PAINTING DAY in Stoney Stratton Orchard (date to be confirmed)

**Workshop : “Wire and Mixed Media Sculpture”**

We were very pleased to hold a “real life” workshop : “Wire and Mixed Media Sculpture” on the 20th and 21st of May, at Hadspen Village Hall with Melanie Deegan, who is a well known sculptor based in the West Country. This workshop was rescheduled from April, due to the closure of Hadspen Village Hall during Lockdown.

As Melanie had suggested, members prepared drawings and reference images beforehand and then, using varied sorts of wire, aluminium wire mesh, silicon moulds and other incredibly named and versatile materials such as “Pavapol”, ( a kind of fast drying white glue which can be mixed with pigment inks to give colour to a piece ) “Crystacal”, ( an alpha grade plaster ) and “Scrim”, ( a sort of cotton bandage, well known to textile artists ) to name a few, created some very beautiful, and in some cases quite “quirky” pieces of sculpture, which could be taken home. This was after just two days!

Melanie brought many interesting and exciting materials to use during the workshop as well as some enchanting examples of her own work.

Her calm guidance, encouragement and expertise was very much appreciated throughout and she somehow managed to attend to everyone’s needs without fuss or flurry.

If you are interested in Melanie’s work her website is [www.melaniedeegan.com](http://www.melaniedeegan.com)

**Sally Ridout** - BAS Workshop Organiser



Some examples of member’s sculptures from the workshop on the table in front of the materials table, which also includes examples of Melanie’s work for demonstration purposes.



More examples of member’s sculptures on the right hand table, with Melanie’s work on the left hand table behind.



### Workshop : “iPad Art with Diana Seidl”

Last year, the Society, thanks to Alexandra Drysdale our previous Workshop Organiser, set up an “Art of the iPad” workshop with Diana Seidl - a well known author and tutor in this medium. However, due to Covid 19 it was postponed.

We rescheduled and I am happy to report that it went ahead at the Hadspen Village Hall the weekend of the 12th and 13th June, with great intrepidation, expectation and success.

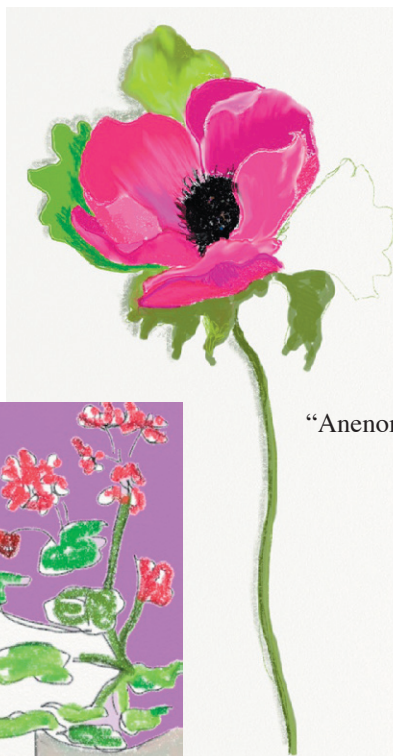
Diana is an enthusiastic ambassador in this medium, has written a book “Drawing and Painting on the iPad” and had prepared a very good programme over the two days, taking into account the varying levels of technical know how, which was to be expected.

She encouraged each one of us to find our own level of skill and to fly with it accordingly.

In Diana’s words “the technology is more simple than you think and students will be drawing and painting within 15 minutes of starting the course!” Well - - we were!

This was a “first” for the society and hopefully not the last!

Sally Ridout - BAS Workshop Organiser



“Anemone” by Hilary McFarland



“Still Life” by Mary Rolfe



“Frida” by Jane Onslow

Continued



“Still Life” by Sally Ridout



“Playful” by Lesley Cruickshank



With Diana (centre) outside the hall



**Painting day in Stoney Stratton Orchard on 19th May**

18 members were lucky to have a lovely sunny day in Lesley Beazer's cider orchard. As the first outing of the year, everyone worked enthusiastically, and enjoyed catching up after the long lockdown. Lesley was kind enough to invite us again in the Autumn when the apples are on the trees. A date will be arranged in due course.

**Jane Barnard**



Sally Ridout



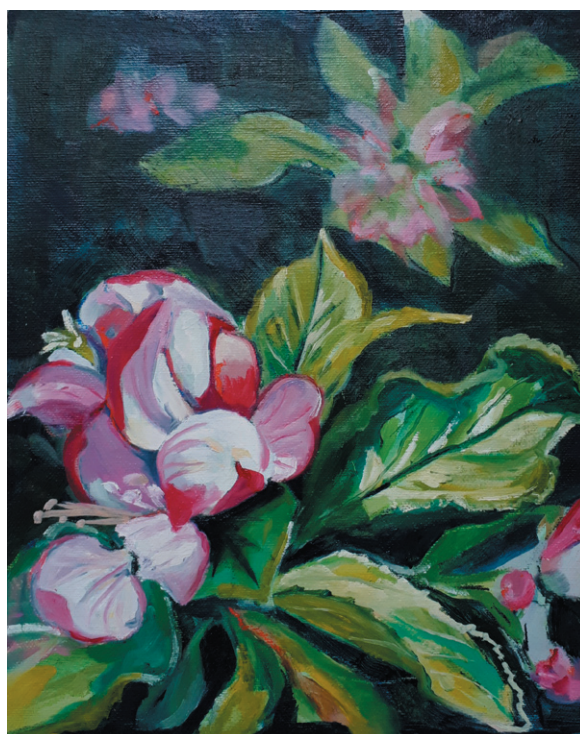
Mary Rolfe



Alexandra Drysdale



Kathy Clarke



Gabrielle Bill



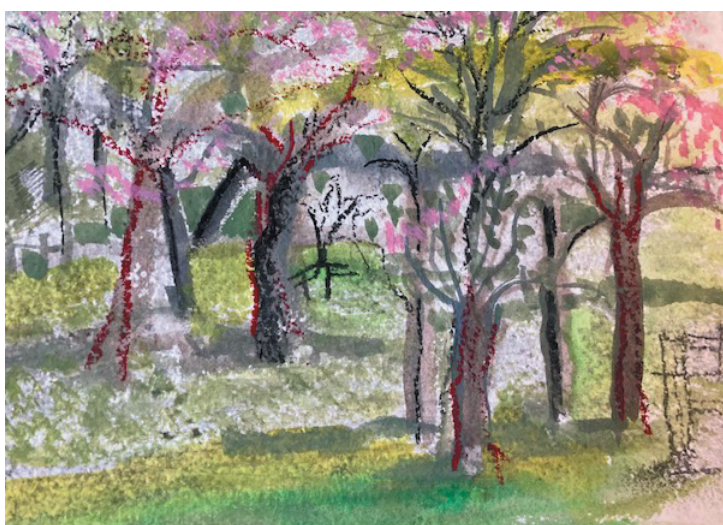
Continued



Jane Barnard



Gabrielle Bill



Ann Good





**Painting day at Pythouse Kitchen Garden on 9th June**

There was another good turnout for a beautiful painting day in Pythouse Kitchen Garden on Wednesday 9th June. After a slightly delayed start, everyone seemed to settle to draw or paint very quickly. The strong sunshine gave us dramatic light and shade, and lovely combinations of flower colours.

Next painting day at White Sheet Hill, Mere on 23rd June.

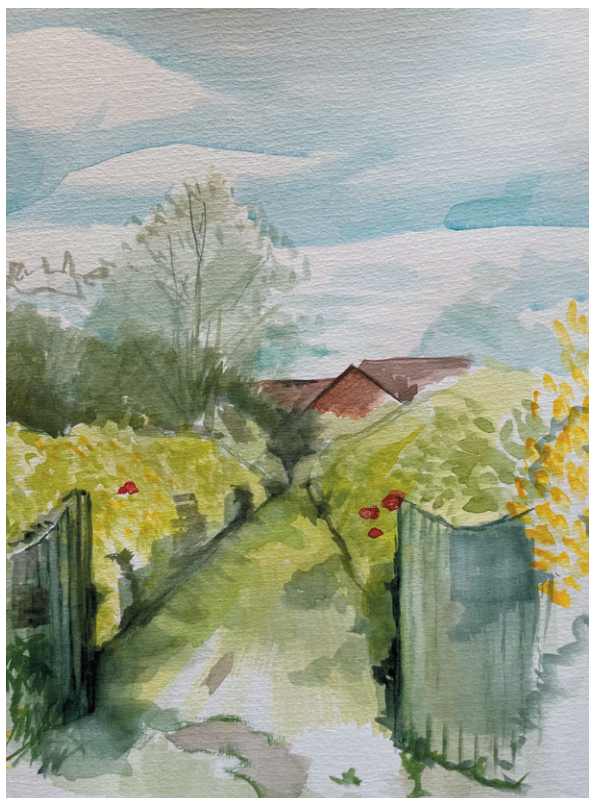
**Jane Barnard**



Carolyne Moran



Joanna Snow



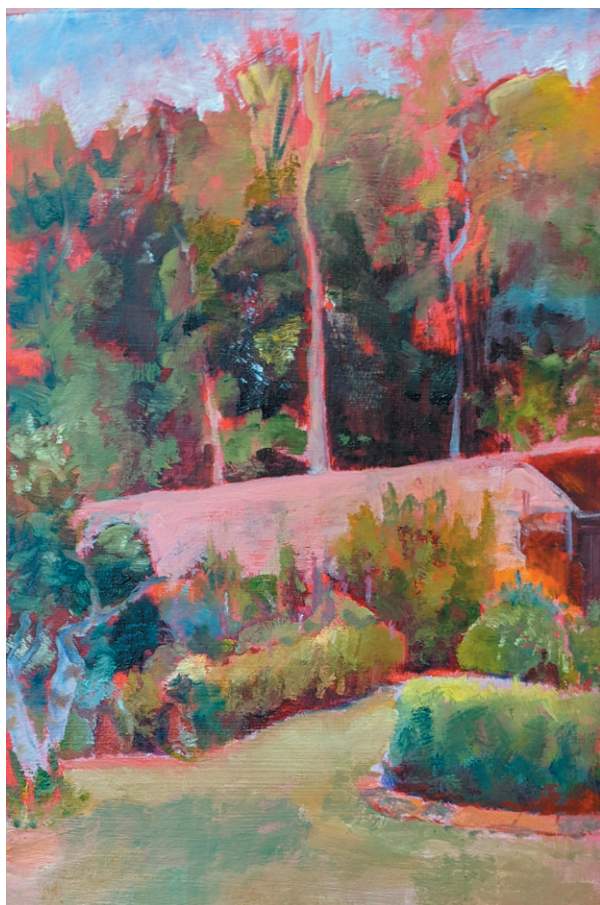
Dorrie Peat



Mary Rolfe



Continued



Kate Cochrane



Gabrielle Bill



Alexandra Drysdalee



Pam Cartwright



Penny Lowndes



## News from BAS Members

**Society of Graphic Fine Art's 100th Annual Open Exhibition**

Two of our members, **Gary Cook & Sue Hardy**, both recently elected as full SGFA members, have work in the **Society of Graphic Fine Art's "Centenary Exhibition Unlocked"** from **Tuesday 6 to Sunday 11 July** at The Mall Galleries in London.

<https://www.sgfa.org.uk/>



ANNUAL OPEN EXHIBITION AT MALL GALLERIES

**The Frome Open Art Trail**  
3rd - 11th July  
Open daily 11am-5pm

**BAS Members will be exhibiting their work**

Venues 1, 4, 5, & 18

[www.frome-open-art-trail.co.uk](http://www.frome-open-art-trail.co.uk)

The Art Trail takes place during the Frome Festival, so there are other things going on in the town too!

**Workshops, Theatre and Music**

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

**Exhibition - Bee Grant Peterkin**

"Dorset and other Places"

From 5 June until end of August

At Chetnole Mill DT96PL

Coffee, tea, wine

Please ring 01935 872255 for a viewing  
[beegrantpeterkin.co.uk](http://beegrantpeterkin.co.uk)

**Call for Entries**

**ILMINSTER  
OPEN  
EXHIBITION  
2021**

JULY 20 - AUGUST 13

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES JULY 6**

Artists are invited to submit work for this years Open Exhibition.

- Cash prizes to be won
- Prizewinners Exhibition

Details & entry forms from IAC or at [themeetinghouse.org.uk](http://themeetinghouse.org.uk)



Ilminster Arts Centre at the Meeting House, East Street, Ilminster, Somerset TA19 0AN  
[themeetinghouse.org.uk](http://themeetinghouse.org.uk) • 01460 54973

**Lynn Keddie**

The Silk Mill Collectives Summer fair  
10 am - 4 pm on the 10th July

The Gallery, The Silk Mill, Merchants Barton,  
Saxonvale, Frome, BA11 1PT

The Silk Mill Collective work in the studios at the Mill. A group of 15 artists and designer makers will be exhibiting. There will be paintings, charcoal sketches, drone photography, prints, jewellery, pottery, stained glass, slow fashion and an animator.

**Workshops** - Painting expressively in acrylics with Lynn Keddie. Details at [www.Lynnkeddie.com](http://www.Lynnkeddie.com)

**Jennie Loader**

Feltmaking workshops in Glastonbury with **Jennie Loader**

**Sumptuous Neck Cowl/Head Warmer**

Sunday 25 July 2021

10am - 4pm £60

**Felt Art**

Saturday 21 & Sunday 22 August 2021

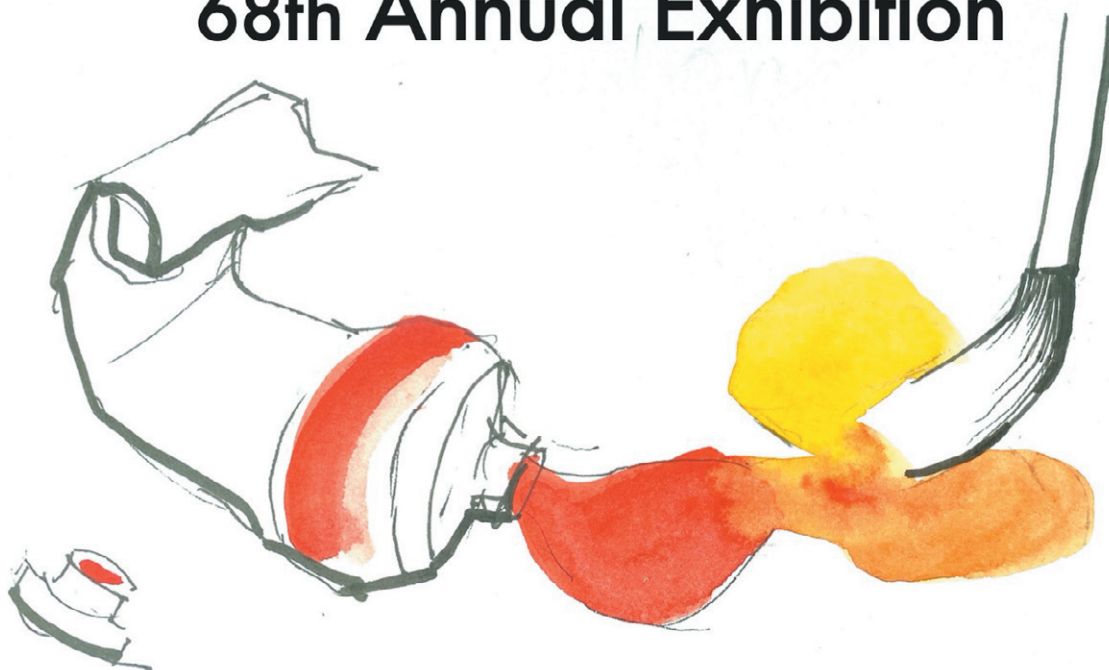
10am - 4pm each day £110

Full details at [www.jennieloader.co.uk](http://www.jennieloader.co.uk)



# BRUTON ART SOCIETY

## 68th Annual Exhibition



*Affordable Art from Regional Artists*

*some of the best amateurs and professionals in  
Somerset, Wilts, Dorset & beyond*

**21 - 28 Aug 2021**

**Kings Bruton Memorial Hall**

**Bruton BA10 0ED**

*11 - 5 daily Free entry*

# Exhibition



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