



# BRUTON ART SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

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

## Chairman's Statement

We are now drawing to the end of another successful year for the Bruton Art Society. As was reported in the last Newsletter, we had a particularly fine annual exhibition this year, and our membership stands at an all-time high. It is also good to see that this is taking place in a 'Jubilee' year for us. It is seventy years since the Society was founded in 1953. This event was marked in the exhibition by a special award. We will conclude the Jubilee celebrations in a garden party this coming May. We are most grateful to our committee member Corinna Leigh Turner for enabling this party to take place on her premises at Knowle Rock.

As I announced in the last newsletter, I will be stepping down as chair at the AGM in January. So this is my last newsletter address, and time to bid you all farewell after nearly fourteen years. It has been a great experience being chair, particularly because I have enjoyed the support of an excellent, hard-working and enthusiastic committee. I am very glad to be able hand over to a safe pair of hands, our incoming chair, John Burrough.

**Will Vaughan  
Chair**

## Christmas Card Competition

For our second competition & from 37 entries, the winner chosen by the BAS Committee was  
*'Bruton Dovecot Snow'*  
by Caroline Tickner.



Thank you to everyone who took part!

## Annual Subscriptions for 2024 are due in January

**Renewals MUST be made by 31 January**

**£20 for single (or £30 for joint membership)**

Payment can be made online at:

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

**Any queries to [paybrutonart@gmail.com](mailto:paybrutonart@gmail.com)**

**ONLY 1 REMINDER WILL BE SENT**

**Do let us know if you will NOT be renewing**

**To put your News on the Bruton Art Society Website  
Contact Peb Burfoot, the Website Manager on [websitebrutonart@gmail.com](mailto:websitebrutonart@gmail.com)  
[www.brutonartsociety.co.uk](http://www.brutonartsociety.co.uk)**

## Judy Hall A Profile

To look into Judy Hall's series of *Slingers* paintings is to tumble into the elemental colours and gritty textures of the limestone landscape of Portland Bill. This is an area completely unknown to me and yet, when seen through Judy's eyes, I feel part of it. This period of her work is ethereal but with an edge to it - the colours, shapes and the compositions triggering a moment, a mood or a memory which draws one in. Abstract art can often confuse the viewer who relies on a visual pathway to navigate the image in front of them, and in Judy's work there are often clues to be found.

Judy was a mature student in Graphics at Bournemouth College but soon realised working in advertising or publishing was not where her interests lay and as she told me *"This design interest has carried over into my painting and given me an interest in typefaces which appear from time to time"*.



*Judy with her work*

During Covid Lockdown Judy worked in a completely different way using a large pad of paper and painting in a watercolour style and the results were vibrant and colourful. Judy enjoyed *"Just playing, and they developed as they wished"*. The most gorgeous clashing and sizzling coral and bursts of violet tempered with indigo and red seem to leap off the page and there amongst them is a self-portrait where she is wearing coral and black and holding a Marguerite, all framed by the window and garden behind (See next page).



*'Summer'*

Judy says *"I like space and the latest ones are about space. I always go back to space. And I like near tones, a picture with almost near tones, very spacey, tranquil"*, as her work **Summer** which she sold at BAS in 2023 perfectly encapsulates, giving the viewer a feeling of thoughtful stillness.

She uses acrylics as they dry quickly allowing a spontaneous change in direction when interspersed with glues, muslin, fillers, sandpaper as well as found objects, commenting *"The currency of Contemporary Art challenges what was before, and hints that there is more to come. It should confront prevailing notions and it might also be seen as interesting, exciting, significant and fresh"*.

Portland is an area Judy has known all her life. Her father had a fishing boat and she spent a lot of time exploring the island and still goes down there. *"It is a tiny place and only 5 by 2 miles long and there used to be a railway because of moving the stone, but the storms kept causing problems"*. Quarrying declined in the area and the sheer cliffs still have tunnels running underneath the top. Now the discarded worn rusty equipment is echoed in her colour palette of the Portland inspired paintings, particularly those entitled *Slingers*. Thomas Hardy immortalised the area as The Isle of The Slingers in his novel The Well-Beloved. Slingers was the name

given to the early inhabitants because of the specific method of defence they used against intruders, which was to fire stones and pebbles worn smooth by the sea, from their slings.

It is always interesting to hear which artist's work has been an inspiration or a trigger for our members. One of those who caught Judy's imagination early on is the English born Australian painter Russell Drysdale. His work *The Drover's Wife* depicts the lone figure of an Outback Settler in an inhospitable landscape under ominous skies.

The colour palette Russell used is tonally intense with the colours flowing powerfully but seamlessly across the canvas, which says as much as the scene depicted. Much of Judy's current work echoes this very effectively and I hope that from her small box room studio Judy continues to paint her ethereal and wide tonal spaces which reference ancient times and, as in *Fish and Chips*, may include a dab of gentle humour.

**Eleanor Milton**



*'Drifting'*



*'Outcrop III'*



*'Fish and Chips'*

**Painting days and outings for next year****Allan Howles**

A new programme of painting days has been arranged for 2024. All the visits will take place on a Wednesday, the exception being a visit to the East Somerset Railway at Cranmore on Tuesday 6th August. No trains will be running that day so members will be able to wander around the railway at will, mindful of health and safety!

Other venues include a return to the fascinating Lovington Mill in May, and the lovely former farmhouse and garden of Merida Drysdale at Pitcombe in June. The owner of Wyke Manor at Wyke Champflower has agreed to host her garden and historic house with its unique attached church in June, and the owners of Yarlington House will host their fine Georgian house, garden (notably the kitchen garden), and parkland in July. An unusual venue for the year will be a visit to the Jacobean Sexeys Hospital in Bruton in July, and open visits include Batcombe, also in July, and to end the painting day year, Sherborne in August.

The year's visits will finish with our usual trip to the RWA in Bristol, always a popular day out. So we look forward to seeing you all out and about at any or all of these venues next year.

**Workshops for next year****Sally Ridout**

We look forward to seeing you at Hadspen Village Hall in 2024 for our next Programme of Workshops.

We have 'Paper Art' with Naomi Kendall, 'Natural History Illustration' with award winning illustrator Sarah Morrish. Amanda Bee will be looking at 'Landscape painting using Earth Pigments' which she has been researching recently and Alex Cree will help you brush up your 'Oil painting skills'. Melanie Deegan returns for 'Sculpture with wire and resin' and Sarah Ball who won the landscape prize at our 70th Exhibition will be helping you with your acrylics. There are two Taster 'days - 'Gouache' and 'Pastel painting' and we are very excited to have James Lynch offering a two day workshop on 'Egg Tempera'.

Hopefully you will find something that interests you, as we try to vary the activities and I look forward to joining in with you again next year.



Hadspen Village Hall



### **Bruton Art Society Visit to the RWA 170th Open Exhibition 3rd November 2023**

I have been visiting the RWA almost every year for the past thirty-five years with greater or lesser appreciation and enjoyment, but this year I thought was a game changer. This hit me almost from the moment I walked into the main gallery and was confirmed by what I felt when I reached the end. What was more I found my excitement was shared by other BAS members. Still, this is simply my own personal opinion.

The first thing that struck me was the riot of colour on the walls of the main gallery coming from the variously sized and framed pictures. The second was the huge amount of extremely varied three dimensional works – “sculpture” on display in every gallery.

For me the low point for the RWA has been those years when one large gallery was given over to huge abstract works, often the work of academicians. These I felt took up a quite disproportionate amount of space in a way that I found arrogant. This year such works were noticeable in their comparative absence. There were however quite a few abstract compositions, but these were very different exploring minute variations of pattern and colour executed with mathematical precision in different media. These attracted my admiration for the careful thought and skill they exhibited. They made me look hard.

What else amounted to a game change? It was so clearly the end of the attitude that to draw and paint figuratively or work with a variety of different media in ways that showed real skill was to be dismissed as impeding creativity.

By contrast what this exhibition showed again and again was that the artists and modellers handled their media with quite exceptional skill, be it oil on canvas, photography, video, fine wire, plaster-caste, water-colour, etching, printing, folded coloured paper or discarded machine parts. The result was brightness, beauty, colour and symbolism both obvious and obscure together with deeply felt emotions and often a wry sense of humour. So many works had what I would call the wow factor.

This year over 2,000 artists submitted works and 665 works were selected with 637 on display. This emphasises the key role of the selection panel whose judgements are crucial. This year's panel I think are to be congratulated for having enabled something really special to emerge.

Twenty three of us BAS members made it in our (comfortable and beautifully driven) coach. If you missed that it is well worth going to Bristol. (Not on Mondays) until 14th January 2024.

**John Baxter**



## Workshops in September, October and November

We have had three workshops since our last Newsletter. First, a workshop with:

### **Imogen Bittner: 'Still life in Fabric and Mixed media'**

Imogen always exhibits her unique work in fabric during our Annual Exhibition and we were so pleased that she was able to give us her time for two days. She brought piles of wonderful textured and colourful fabrics for us to use and we brought some ourselves. Those of us with sewing machines brought and used them expertly, the rest of us used glue and hand stitching and Imogen demonstrated some excellent ideas. We made 'Still Life' compositions using objects brought in and it has to be said that a lot of thought was required matching suitable colours and materials.





**Amanda Bee: 'Mixed Media Landscapes'**

This was a one day workshop where Amanda, who is a well known semi-abstract landscape painter in mixed media, gave the group a very structured day encouraging them to combine mixed media for good effect in their landscapes.

She demonstrated some exciting approaches using mono printing, collagraphs, charcoal and acrylics, which resulted in some excellent and brave landscapes from the group.





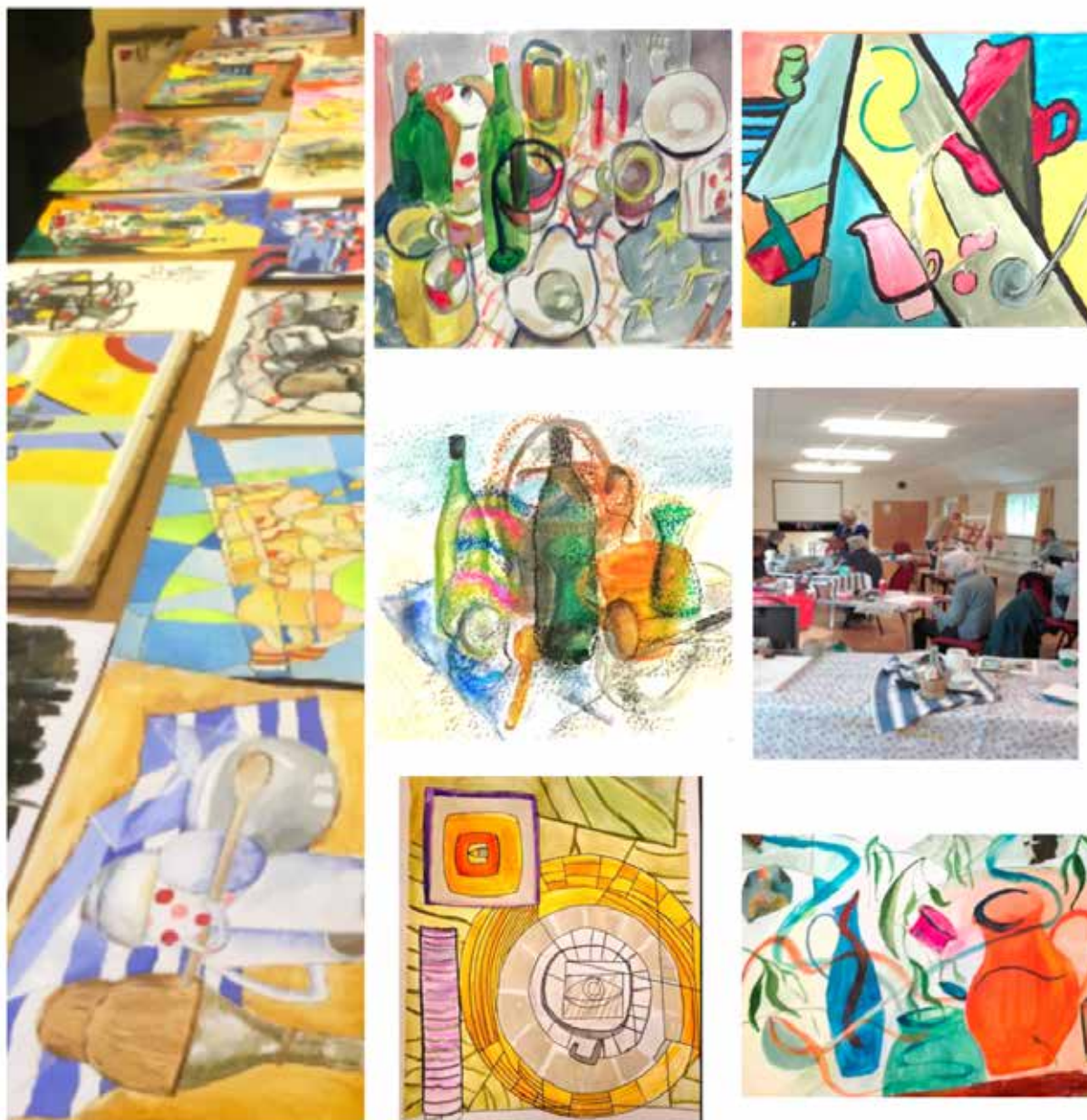


**Sally Ridout: 'Paint like a Cubist' Talk/Workshop**

'Paint like a Cubist' was the last workshop of 2023, which included a PowerPoint presentation to start with. This was basically an outline of the Cubist movement and the main protagonists. Then followed a few exercises which turned out to be good fun. In the afternoon, when it came to painting in the 'Synthetic' Cubist style, the group responded brilliantly and produced some wonderful 'still life' paintings from objects they had been asked to bring in, based on the theme of 'Kitchenware'.

What I found so exciting was that although they had all been asked to paint in the same style, on the same theme, their final pieces were all so different. Everyone made a real effort to paint 'out of their comfort zone' which I found very encouraging. It was a very enjoyable day all round.





**Sally Ridout**

**November 2023**



## News from BAS Members

### Amanda Fowler

*I'd like to tell everyone that I had two paintings accepted for The Arts Quarter Winter Open exhibition in Cheddar One of which is on their poster attached.*

The Lippiatt, Cheddar, Somerset BS27 3QP



# WINTER OPEN

Cheddar Arts Quarter CIC  
21st Nov-14th Jan  
**EXHIBITION  
2023**



**10AM-3PM**

**Tuesday- Sunday**

Closed between 25th Dec - 2nd Jan

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

We are delighted to bring you our third Winter Open Exhibition. Showcasing an array of stunning artworks from up to 30 talented artists. Get ready to be impressed!

[@theartsquartercheddar](https://www.instagram.com/theartsquartercheddar)



**Maggie Wyman**

*I have been trying to clear a large ammount of art stuff from my studio, here are some pics of some of it.  
Lots more not shown, over 200 large mounts*

*Please ring **01747229651***

*or email to see. **maggie.wyman09@gmail.com***



**Delphi Barney**

*I would like to tell you, for the newsletter, that I have new and large paintings now hanging at Strode Theatre in Street. They will be available for viewing in the foyer and bar/cafe throughout the winter.*



**Strode Theatre, Strode College, Church Road, Street, Somerset BA16 0AB**



**Jenny Monds** will be showing her work at the Christmas Fair/Winter Exhibition in Salisbury Library from **1 December until 6 January**.

# Christmas Fair & Winter Exhibition

Salisbury Library

## Christmas Fair

Saturday 25th November 2023 - 10am - 4pm  
Held in the Main Library Downstairs

## Winter Exhibition

1st December 2023 - 6th January 2024  
Gallery 4 Upstairs

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arts  
salisbury**

**Plain Arts Salisbury**  
Email: [info@plainartssalisbury.co.uk](mailto:info@plainartssalisbury.co.uk)  
[www.plainartssalisbury.co.uk](http://www.plainartssalisbury.co.uk)



**Marilyn Wedgwood-Johnson**

In mid September, Marilyn completed the one year Art Mentoring course at the Newlyn School of Art in Cornwall under the leadership of Jesse Le Roy Smith. As part of the course the students have opportunities to exhibit their work in two exhibitions. The photo shows Marilyn in front of some of her exhibited paintings at Tremenhoe Sculpture Park, Penzance.

Marilyn's painting entitled 'Waiting' won the Brownston Award at the recent SWAC open exhibition in Sidmouth.

The award includes a chance to exhibit some paintings in the Brownston Gallery in Plymouth in their Spring Show, alongside SWAC academicians, and £200. Marilyn is absolutely delighted to be chosen to receive the Award by the Brownston Gallery.

*"The high calibre of paintings at the SWAC Open Exhibition never ceases to impress me and this year was no exception. For me Marilyn's painting "Waiting" really stood out. It seemed to capture a very poignant moment in time. I love both the composition and the bright colours she has used. We are very much looking forward to exhibiting her award winning painting as part of our annual South West Academy Spring Exhibition next March." Catherine Gillen*



**Kristen Lindop - Black Swan Arts Winter Market** at The Long Gallery, Black Swan Arts, Bridge St, Frome BA11 1BB Saturday 4 November – Sunday 31 December

Local artists, including BAS member Kristen Lindop, are taking part in the Winter Market event at Black Swan Arts - showcasing local talent and bringing much-needed funds to the Art Centre.

Carefully selected vendors are each offering original artworks, ceramics, prints and other festive goodies. People will be able to tick everything off their shopping list in one easy convenient location, with a café downstairs!

The work is displayed in the beautiful Long Gallery, with its wooden floors and beams and huge windows. With a festive atmosphere in the historic building, transforming it into a picturesque and magical space to shop.



**WINTER** 04.11.23 - 31.12.23  
 **BLACKSWANARTS MARKET.**