



BRUTON ART SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

www.brutonartsociety.co.uk

Lectures * Workshops * Exhibitions * Coach Trips * Painting Days

From the Chair

I am writing this shortly after the Society's 72nd Annual Exhibition, which we can safely say was an enormous success. Once again, new members' work appeared alongside those longer-established. The standard was high, and many very positive comments were received. I am delighted to confirm that record sales were recorded. Many congratulations to everyone involved!

The show was a well-earned tribute to our retiring Exhibition Curator, Sally Ridout, who was sadly prevented by illness from direct involvement at the time of the exhibition itself, and to Jean Stevens who deputised, along with sterling work from Peb Burfoot, Corinna Leigh-Turner, Richard Cumming, Eleanor Milton, Dorrie Peat and many others.

I am pleased to acknowledge the wonderful support we receive from the sponsors of our awards: The Cockhill Press, Corinna Leigh Turner, CPRE Somerset, The Gardens Group, Moorwood Art, Old Barn Framing Gallery and Gillian Zanetti. And a special mention to The Big Red Bus, sponsors of the Public Vote Award, whom I omitted to mention at the prize-giving itself. Thank you all for your generosity!

Our programme of workshops and taster days in Hadspen Village Hall continues this autumn, there is the coach trip to the Royal West of England exhibition in Bristol and our pre-Christmas lecture on December 3rd. Details on our website and in the calendar card distributed earlier in the year.

With my best wishes

John Burrough

Bruton Art Society's 72nd Annual Exhibition

As we have come to the end of another enjoyable Annual Exhibition, based on the repeated comments of how well it was organised and displayed and how high the standard of work was this year, I think we can safely say it has been a real success. Some of the comments in the visitor's book say it all:

"Wonderful exhibition, we will be back next year." "Excellent exhibition – best one yet!" "Improves every year, splendid!" "A really interesting mix of media, meaning that there was something for everyone and it stimulated much discussion." "Great talent on show thanks to the organisers!" "I've seen a few exhibitions recently. This by far is the best, it's fantastic!" "Thank you! Wonderful selection and so uplifting." "What a great exhibition – lovely feel and a peaceful space to view such talent." "Probably the best exhibition I have seen by far in a very long time, excellent. Fabulous Work."

This year we were honoured to have two guest artists exhibiting with us; Anthony Connolly PRP and David Brayne Hon. RWS. Anthony is President of the Royal Society of Portrait painters and one of our Patrons and David who was one of our judges last year is an honorary member of the Royal Watercolour Society.

Thank you to our External Judges: Richard Pikesley PPNEAC RWS and John Walsom ROI.

A very big thank you to all our sponsors, who generously provide the prize money for the awards. Thank you to the headmaster of King's School for letting us use the beautiful Memorial Hall again and last but certainly not least, thank you to all our volunteer members who helped with hanging, stewarding and sorting. Their contribution to the success of the Exhibition is unquestionable and we would struggle without them.

Well done to all our artists who took part and a special thank you to our Secretary Jean Stevens who took over as curator at unbelievably short notice, when this particular curator fell ill.

Sally Ridout - BAS Exhibition Secretary (Curator) 2025



The hanging begins!



The Exhibition after all the work is done!

Bruton Art Society's 72nd Annual Exhibition Awards 2025

Joy Barnes Award

BAS £500

Gail Mason

'Sweep'

Joy Barnes Award - Runner-up

BAS £250

Susannah Phillips

'Graham'

Vittorio Zanetti Award for Drawing

G. Zanetti £200

Gary Cook

'Travels with Under the Greenwood Tree'

Abstract Award

BAS £100

Judy Hall

'Cornish Retreat'

Landscape Award

CPRE Somerset £100

Wendy Gregory

'The Quarry'

Mixed Media Award

Corinna Leigh-Turner £100

Imogen Bittner

'Still Life with Wooden Figure'

Original Print Award

Old Barn Framing Gallery £100 vouchers

Gail Mason

'Hilltops'

Portrait/Figure Award

The Cockhill Press £100

Jane Barnard

'Resolute'

Sculpture Award

Moorwood Art £100

Arabella Brooke

'Precipice'

Still Life & Floral Award

The Gardens Group £100

Jeffy Salt

'Where's the Plate'

Public Vote Award 2025

The Big Red Bus £100

Fiona Stevens

'On a Mission from Dog'

- H Brian Baxter** - 'Study in Ochre & Blue'
I Phoebe Brittan - 'Tulips in the Morning Light'
G Arabella Brooke - 'Small Angel'
H Hayley Cove - 'The Boat'
L Fen d'Lucie - 'Life Model Number 8'
Y Gillian Flack - 'Brixham Fish Market'
C Sue Hardy - 'Peckin' Cockerel'
O Alex Howell - 'An Empty Beach'
M Caroline Moran - 'Just Before the Spring'
M Rachel Sargent - 'A Blackbird Sang'
E Fiona Stevens - 'On a Mission from Dog'
N Gillian Sylvester - 'Summer Light'
D Michael Tugby - 'Head'
D Melissa Wishart - 'Islay, Scotland Looking Out to Atlantic'



Public Vote Award
Fiona Stevens
'On a Mission from Dog'



• The Cockhill Press •



The Exhibition can be viewed online at www.brutonartsociety.co.uk

THE PRESIDENT'S TOUR OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF PORTRAIT PAINTERS ANNUAL EXHIBITION 2025

The Bruton Art Society is very fortunate to have Anthony Connolly, President of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters, as one of our patrons. Anthony has always enjoyed involving himself in our activities where and when he can, and recently gave us the honour of exhibiting alongside us at our 72nd Annual Exhibition in August.

In addition to this, in May Anthony invited our members to a President's Tour of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters Annual Exhibition at the Mall Galleries in London, which was a very special occasion.

About thirty of our members found their own way to London either by train or by Berry's bus and assembled free of charge at the reception desk of the Mall Galleries, where they were scooped up by Anthony and taken on his tour.

He showed us portraits by artists who had won awards already and work by artists who had been shortlisted for the most prestigious prize of the Exhibition: 'The William Lock Portrait prize'.

In fact Anthony told us that the winner of this award was going to be announced that evening during a special event. We later heard that Rogier Willems won it for his portrait of 'Elvan' which we had all seen and admired close up earlier on.

We were shown some portraits which Anthony talked about in detail, some which were done by well known artists and some by not so well known, and he encouraged us to look at the different approaches to making a portrait; some very detailed, some very traditional and some pressing the boundaries of what we expect. He was also happy to point out some influenced by styles from other cultures as well.

The tour ended with Anthony standing in front of his own self portrait and thanking us for coming. We couldn't help but compare it to his real life self, especially the positioning of his glasses on his head at the time, which created much amusement.

It was lovely having Anthony joining us for tea afterwards and we are very grateful to him for giving us the opportunity to be shown this world famous Exhibition with him as our guide.



Anthony talking about his self-portrait

Christmas Card Competition 2025

We invite you to send in your designs for this year's BAS Christmas Card Competition.

You are each allowed to enter up to 2 designs.

The size of the printed card will be either:

Square 125x125mm

Rectangle (landscape or portrait) 148x105mm

The entries will be judged in a 'blind judging' by the Committee, and the winning design will be printed and sent to all BAS Members in the December Mailshot.

The Winner will receive 25 blank cards of their design.

If you want to enter the competition, email a good quality photograph of your design
to

membersbrutonart@gmail.com by **1 November**.

The Subject of your email: **Christmas Card 2025**



Last year's winner: 'Winter stream'

by Gary Cook VPRI SGFA Arborealist

**To put your News and Events in the next Newsletter
contact Dorrie Peat the Editor on**

membersbrutonart@gmail.com

Workshops this autumn at Hadspen Village Hall

'Life Painting - The clothed Figure': Thursday & Friday 18th and 19th September - 2 Day workshop with James Budden £75 - book online

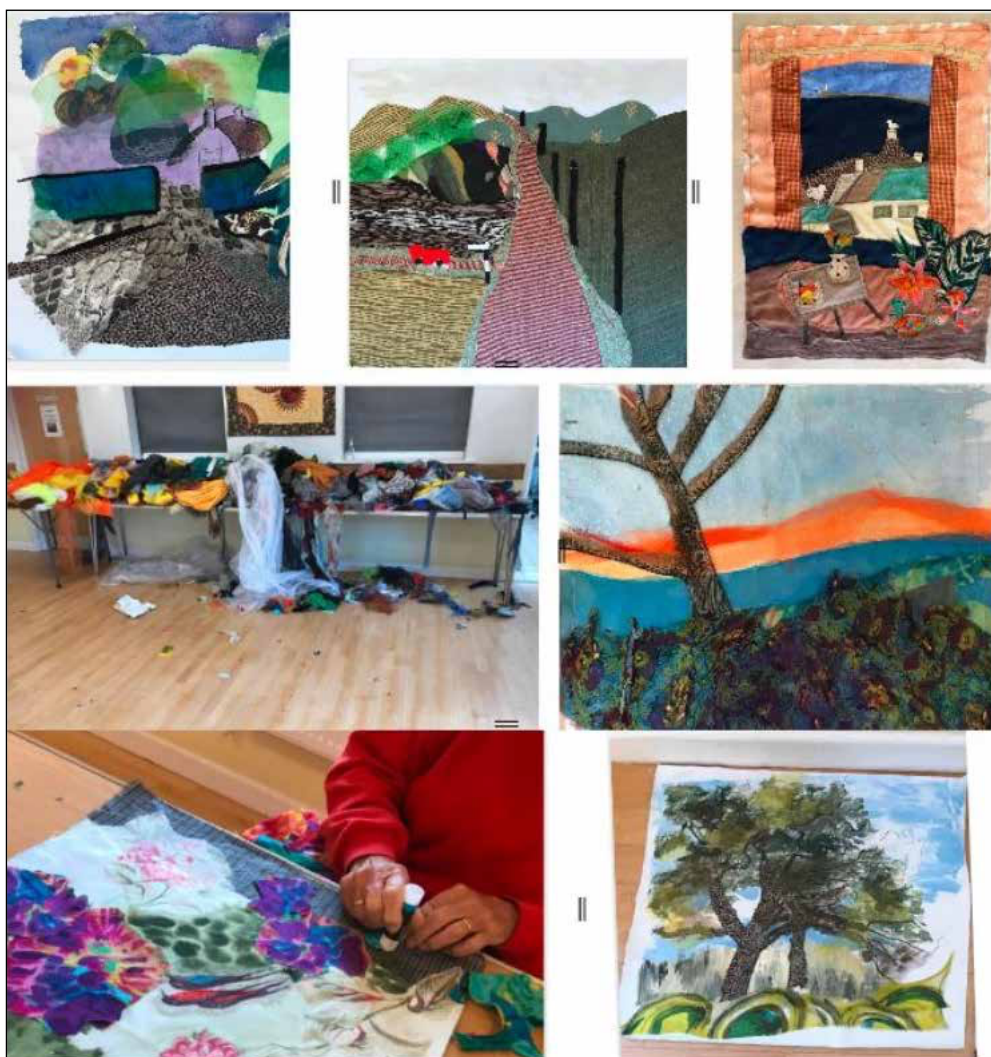
'Botanical Illustration in watercolour': Thursday & Friday 25th and 26th September - 2 day workshop with Sarah Sherrington £75 - book online

'Adventure, Travel and sculpting': Friday 17th October - Lecture/ Demonstration with Mark Coreth £10 - book online

'Gelli Printing': Saturday 18th October - 1 day workshop with Jenni Richards
£40 - book online

'Autumn Printmaking': Thursday 13th & Friday 14th November - 2 day workshop with Jackie Curtis £75 - book online

To book, the Bruton Art Society website has all the information you need

WORKSHOP REPORTS**Sally Ridout****2 DAY WORKSHOP Tutor: Imogen Bittner
'Cut, paste and sew Fabric Landscapes'**

Something completely different and magical happened when Imogen brought her Aladdin's cave of fabric scraps and offcuts to Hadspen village hall for this workshop. Her signature fabric landscape and still-life collages are works of art like no other, transforming left-over cuts of material with their colours, patterns and textures into compositions which inspire and surprise. Those of us who took part in this two-day workshop on 8th and 9th May found ourselves excitedly delving into her table of treasures, sorting and cutting, stitching, ironing and pasting the gems we needed to create our own masterpieces, guided by Imogen's encouragement and experience. A whole new world of resources opened up for us in the process and we are very grateful for it.

**1 DAY TALK/WORKSHOP Tutor: Sally Ridout
'Franz Marc and Der Blaue Reiter'**



On 24 May at Hadspen, Sally Ridout led an enjoyable and informative workshop on Der Blaue Reiter. She opened with a talk and slides of this colourful and stimulating group active in Germany, all too briefly, roughly 1911 to 1914, when the outbreak of World War I forced its dissolution. Principal members dispersed from Munich; Kandinsky went back to his native Russia. We learnt of the rejection of 19th century classical formal painting and its replacement with the freedom of expression pioneered first by Impressionists, Van Gogh, Monet and company and later by the Fauves, Derain and Matisse. The Blaue Reiter members such as Franz Marc, Wassily Kandinsky, Gabrielle Muntet and August Macke concentrated on movement with powerful use of primary colours that they believed would signify emotions: blue for purity and/or masculinity; red for brutality, weight, matter; yellow for femininity. Nature, principally animals and vegetation, influenced design often with flat surfaces and black outlines. Several now famous names briefly joined or influenced Blaue Reiter. So we saw bits of Cubism, Picasso, Klee et al. Sally encouraged us to listen to The Lark Ascending and some Schoenberg while generating spontaneous marks on A5 paper. We discussed synaesthesia and colour. Which colour do you assign to which day of the week? Is your Monday red? Is Sunday blue? Some surprising coincidences cropped up. Next, Sally issued a plain coloured card apiece, inviting each one of us to cut out our own choice of interesting shape. One by one we added and built a group collage on the floor. Kandinsky would have been as delighted by the result as we were. The afternoon session was couple of hours individually emulating Blaue Reiter style inspired by images that Sally provided. Our collected results made a most satisfying show of bright colour and interesting forms. I found this another of Sally's well prepared and successful workshops, evidently much appreciated by us all. Thank you, Sally.

Michael Riggs 26 May 2025

Plein-air Painting Days

After the success of last year's painting days, we were looking forward to another successful year of these days with the generous help of some of our member hosts.

Unfortunately, this year, the painting days have not proved as popular with our members. Some have been affected by the weather but, as Alfred Wainwright wrote in his 1973 book *A Coast-to-Coast Walk*, "There's no such thing as bad weather, only unsuitable clothing".

We started the year with a paint out at Redwood Rare Breeds in Wanstrow. A superb location which gave us a choice of landscapes and animals. This was followed in May at Pitcombe Village and Farmhouse, the home of Merida Drysdale which, due to the rain, did not have any attendees. A beautiful house and garden. In June, we had painting days at Sexey's Hospital by kind permission of the Trustees, and Wells Market, and Zeals Green House, kindly hosted by Lyndi d'Ambrunmenil.

July was our last month of paint outs for this year, and we had the privilege of a return visit to Parsonage Farm, kindly hosted by Juliet Chilston. Our final paint out was at Sturminster Mill.

* We'd like to extend these days out to ensure that all members who sketch, paint or draw are able to attend so we're changing the name of these days to Sketch and Paint Days.

We are grateful to all our members who offer to host these days and if you are willing to host a group of painters and sketchers for a day, please email secretarybrutonart@gmail.com. We are in the process of organising next year's itinerary so let us know by 30th September.

Jean Stevens

* Editors note: Any change of name to be decided by the BAS Committee



Some images from this summer's plein air days



Jean Stevens's easel by the lake at Redwood Rare Breeds



Trish Frowd - Zeals Green House



Gillian Flack - Wells Market





Laurence Belbin - Wells Market



Mike Mason - Wells Market

Sturminster Mill



Sally Ridout



Imogen Bittner



Laurence Belbin



Juliet Chilston - Parsonage Farm



Henrietta De Ritter - Parsonage Farm

**BAS Members are reminded to inform the Society of any
change of address, telephone number
or email address by contacting

the Membership Secretary at
membersbrutonart@gmail.com**

'Fast, fun and free: the growth of Zoom portrait

One of the good things to come out of the pandemic was the development of internet-based art opportunities. I have tried quite a few. The one that's become a firm favourite with me is speedy portrait drawing. It seems it also works for quite a lot of other people, as the number of sessions available every week continues to grow, as does the number of people attending.

What happens is that people - artists of all levels of experience, from all over the world - log into a Zoom session. The host has a soundtrack of usually very convivial music, and she chooses a different artist to pose for each track. Quite simply, everyone else gets to draw the portrait of the artist who is posing until the track of music ends. No-one must pose - anyone can say no - and the chance of getting chosen is quite low when sometimes there are hundreds of people in the session.



Sketches of Christine when she was the model

With Zoom life drawing, the model is quite small on your screen, but this is not true of the portrait sessions. Your model's head can be virtually life size and just a few feet away from you. People can be quite imaginative with their poses, so when you get on average 13 -14 poses in an hour, these will usually include profiles, 3/4 views, quite a lot of hands, some interesting specs, and sometimes the odd hat, friend or relative, or some other prop. One very flexible model even managed to squeeze her foot in front of her camera.

Drawing roughly 14 portraits in an hour is a lot. With an average of about 4 minutes per drawing, there is no time to be too precious about what you're producing. It's fun, you capture a likeness or you don't, then it's over, the next person is on your screen, and it's time to have another go. I find it addictive and exhilarating because it's quick and it's playful. And it's all absolutely free, no booking, just click the link to join.

I usually use the experience to practice drawing on my iPad. Other artists use just about every other material you can imagine. It's a great opportunity to experiment. Many of us post our drawings (or paintings, collages or prints) on Instagram afterwards. Quite a community of artists has developed around this, and I regularly swap appreciative comments with other artists who have been on the session in other parts of the UK, USA, mainland Europe, and India.

Credits for sketches of Christine: @sketches_everyday, @way2c, @myartspace48, @walliseates, @bingesketchning, @uli_kiki, @annedrawn24, @myartspace48, @kirsty.a.lockhart

The sessions I attend regularly are those held by Chloe Briggs, who runs @DrawingisFree at 17.00 on Mondays, and Kirsty Lockhart, who's @Pencils4Tea happens at 18.00 on Thursdays. You'll notice that there's an 'at' symbol before both session names, and that's because both use Instagram as a primary organising tool. You don't have to use Instagram to join in - sessions are run on Zoom - but communication about the sessions and the fun in sharing afterwards happens on Instagram. There are other sessions too though: an early morning one on Mondays, some with longer (15 minute) poses, and there are also real-life portrait drawing clubs springing up around the country too.



Some of Christine's speedy portraits done on the iPad

Having grown up with the message that it's wrong to 'stare at' (study?) people, I can't help thinking what an honour and privilege it is to be able to look at and draw so many different faces. And if you ever had any preconception of what an artist looks like, you can forget it. These sessions prove that anyone you see could be an artist.

Christine Kaltoft

The life drawing group at Charlton Musgrove - Jules Horn

The life drawing group at Charlton Musgrove will be welcoming artists, old members and new, from September 9th for the Autumn term. Set up by our own Biddy Morton 40 years ago, it is independent of BAS, although BAS members have always been the mainstay of this inspiring and friendly group. Join us on Tuesday mornings 10am until 1pm (with a lively coffee break). Contact Jules Horn juleshorn@rocketmail.com or text 07452 972994 for more information.



Art Equipment and materials for sale

BAS Member Shelagh Leakey has Portland stone pieces for sale

"Having looked up prices commercially, a piece 7 x 7 x 7 may cost around £50 I would sell each piece for half price. Or take an offer for all or some of them! And to be collected."

Anyone who is interested should contact Shelagh direct
shelaghleakey@aol.com
or phone 07769697943

Very approximate sizes in inches:-

7 off 9 x 6 x 6

4 off 11 x 6 x 6

2 off 7 x 7 x 6

2 off 24 x 6 x 6

1 off 9 x 6 x 5

"Portland Stone, particularly the Basebed, is a fine-grained, durable Limestone that is relatively easily worked, and this has therefore encouraged its use for Sculptures and other ornate uses."



BAS Member John Robinson has frames & mounts for sale

"I have a number of Watercolour picture frames together with their glass and some with mounts, which I wish to pass on, ideally for a modest fee. The frames are of a variety of sizes and styles measuring from around 21" x 23" to 23" x 27" as examples shown. The paintings would not be included and those shown are just examples and not necessarily available."



Please contact John Robinson to arrange to view or discuss by email or phone on:
crobin4416@aol.com or phone / message on **07747173345**

News from BAS Members

Sharon Bielby and Poppy Body are at The Old Tannery Studio in September

Poppy who comes from a family of artists and has lived and exhibited in France for over 10 years will be showing some of her works alongside Sharon Bielby who paints from her studio at Old Tannery when she's not coordinating the next building project on one of the new studios at an ever growing community of artists found at the Old Tannery.

An eclectic mix of landscape and abstract paintings in oils, pastels and mixed media will be on display in the gallery 13th, 17-20th and 24-28th September. Open 11-3:30 and until 5pm on Wednesdays and Fridays.

The address is Old Tannery, Victoria Road, Yeovil. BA21 5AZ. There is a large free car park and cafe on site.

ART EXHIBITION

sharon bielby
& poppy body

OLD TANNERY

YEovil

13+ 17-20 &
24-28 sept

open 11-3:30
& 11-5pm weds & fri



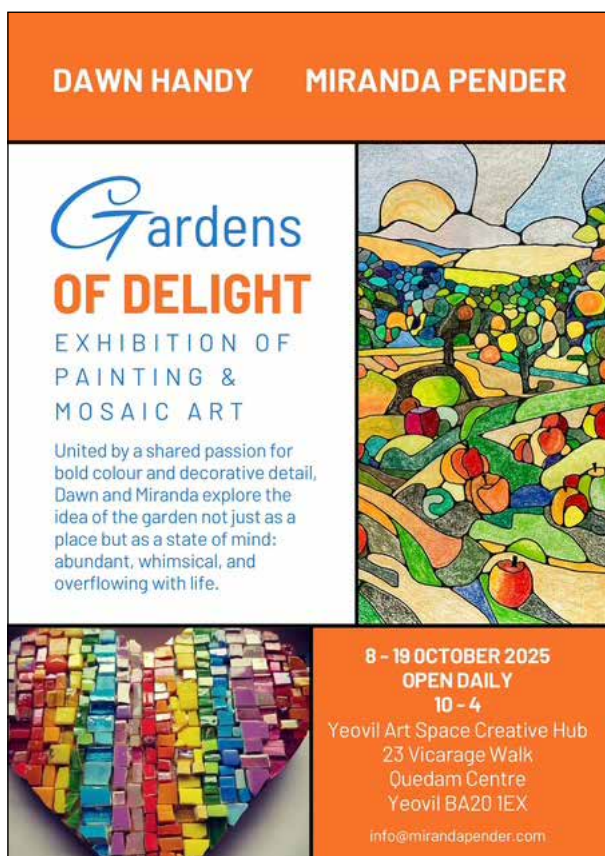
DAWN HANDY MIRANDA PENDER

Gardens OF DELIGHT

EXHIBITION OF
PAINTING &
MOSAIC ART

United by a shared passion for bold colour and decorative detail, Dawn and Miranda explore the idea of the garden not just as a place but as a state of mind: abundant, whimsical, and overflowing with life.

8 - 19 OCTOBER 2025
OPEN DAILY
10 - 4
Yeovil Art Space Creative Hub
23 Vicarage Walk
Quedam Centre
Yeovil BA20 1EX
info@mirandapender.com



Miranda Pender will be putting on an exhibition in Yeovil with mosaic artist Dawn Handy in October

Rachel Sargent and Kim Pragnell are part of the Dorset Romantics and they have an exhibition at Shaftesbury Art Centre in September.

Dorset Romantics

10th - 23rd September. 10am - 4pm daily
SHAFTESBURY ART CENTRE,
13 Bell Street. SP7 8AR



Rob Adams
Sue Fawthrop
Kim Pragnell
Roger Seddon

Stephen Bithell
Kevin Moore
Rachel Sargent

Seven Dorset artists paying homage to the spectacular, the mystical and the beautiful geography of the surrounding landscape

Bruton Art Society member Barry Marsden has a drawing in the upcoming Trinity Buoy Wharf Drawing Prize '25 exhibition showing in London from 9th October until 21 October. The exhibition will then tour to a number of venues until the summer of 2026.

The drawing is of local life model Steph, and was done at a session of the Durslade life drawing group at Hauser & Wirth.



Kristen Lindop - New exhibition from the Hatch collective

New exhibition from the Hatch collective

Including performance work from BAS member Kristen Lindop

Hatch is excited to present **JOURNEYS**, the next immersive exhibition from Hatch artists. In this new show, our artists explore themes around movement, memory, time, and transformation. Reflecting on the journeys that shape our lives, from the monumental to the everyday. Featuring large-scale sculpture and installation, immersive sound works, and experimental painting, **JOURNEYS** brings together our diverse voices in a unique and atmospheric setting.



Secret location near Langport



Open SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS: 08.11.25 'till 23.11.25



1am – 4pm

FREE bookings open soon



visit the Hatch Somerset website <https://hatch-art.weebly.com/> or follow @hatch_somerset on social media for updates... let the journey begin!

Rachel Sargent - Sgraffito Workshop at Summerleaze

Tuesday 2 December

SGRAFFITO

Italian sgraffiare meaning to scratch

Tuesday December 2nd

SUMMERLEAZE, EAST KNOYLE. WILTSHIRE

SP3 6BY



Run by Rachel Sargent

A day's workshop including lunch.

The Summerleaze Gallery is set in a beautiful corner of rural Wiltshire on the edge of the village of East Knoyle, the birthplace of Christopher Wren. Our workshops provide excellent tuition, good food and the time and space to immerse yourself in the joy of making.

More information here

<https://www.josephinec.co.uk>

To put your News and Events on the Bruton Art Society website
contact Peb Burfoot the Website Manager on

websitebrutonart@gmail.com