

# BRUTON ART SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

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

## From the Chair

2025 is rattling past at an alarming rate. Thank you to those who attended the AGM in January, and especially to Will Vaughan for his fascinating talk on Drawing the Line. We were able to express our gratitude to retiring Secretary, Damaris Lee, for everything she has contributed to the society over the past ten years or so, and to welcome Jean Stevens as her successor. I am pleased to say Jeffy Salt and Jenny Maddern have also joined the committee.

The February lecture by Jenny Newman was a great success, as have been the first workshops of the year. Our visit to the Annual Exhibition of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters in London is scheduled for shortly after you receive this newsletter, followed at pace by a number of Painting Days. Preparations are already underway for our own Annual Exhibition.

I commend all the society's activities to you – and warmly thank everyone whose hard work enables them to take place.

**John Burrough**

## Bruton Art Society's 72nd Annual Art Exhibition



Our 72nd Annual Art Exhibition will again be held in the Memorial Hall, King's School, Bruton, open to the public from 16th to 23rd August, 10am - 4pm daily including both Saturdays and the one Sunday.

Artists, don't forget to submit your work online by midnight on 20th June. The OESS link is on the website and also in the 'Call to Artists' email which you will have received.

A little reminder to artists submitting their work: please make sure you read all the Terms and Conditions. If you have any questions or difficulties there is an email and telephone Helpline.

Please don't hesitate to contact us, we are more than happy to help.

Thank you and all the best.

**Exhibition Sub-Committee**

## Artist Profile of Cathy Ensor – Painter in Egg Tempera

Eleanor Milton

It isn't often one meets an artist who casually mentions, at the end of an interview, she has painted a copy of a Botticelli in egg tempera, just for the pleasure of doing so. Her painting (see right) is a detail from Madonna & Child with the young St John the Baptist. The original, in tempera and oil, is in the Louvre and this photo does not do justice to Cathy's use of skin tones and the soft reflected light. My meeting with Cathy Ensor was full of surprises and, knowing nothing about this ancient, and to me, mysterious medium, I listened while she told her story.

Says Cathy, *"I have always loved earth and pigments which is why I chose to specialise in ceramics at Hornsey School of Art in the late 1960's and now enjoy making my own paint from scratch using pure pigments and egg yolk."* Since leaving college various occupations have included making ceramic sculpture, printmaking, pub sign painting and grandfather clock face restoration, always with drawing as a basic starting point.

And she comes from a strong artistic background, *"My mother studied art at St Martin's and worked for a time at the Royal School of Needlework, in her later years she painted portraits of people's houses. My grandfather produced beautiful pictures of birds in marquetry, and my sister is a landscape textile artist, one of her daughters is a glass maker and the other is a jewellery maker."*

Picking up again with Cathy's story,

*"For many years I drew and painted various subjects in oils and watercolours until I discovered the beauty of egg tempera paintings. It was on a trip to Florence at the Uffizi Gallery where I first experienced the clarity of colour combined with the fabulous draughtsmanship of the early religious panel paintings of the Italian masters. I was struck by the way the colours had not changed over time compared with oils, which darken, yellow, and become transparent with age. Also on, at a separate museum, was an exhibition of inter-war artists, many of whom had revived the use of egg tempera in their paintings, and these inspired me to try the medium myself."*



*'Evie Rose'*



*Cathy beside her 'Botticelli'*

This proved more of a challenge for Cathy than initially anticipated, but with perseverance resulting in a trip to America, she met an inspirational enthusiast in Koo Schadler.

*"After a year of practising from the very few books available at the time I attended a workshop in the USA with Koo Schadler, the leading exponent of the medium in America, learning her method of building very thin layers of colour, sometimes using contemporary techniques such as sponging and spattering for the appearance of texture. Since returning I have continued to learn and enjoy practicing the medium, exploring the endless possibilities and qualities of its glowing jewel-like colours, and seeing the finished results which incorporate the transparency of watercolour with the permanent quality of oils."*



Cathy continued, “Egg tempera is a good medium for a methodically minded artist, one has to plan ahead. It is perfectly possible to correct mistakes, but is more successful with a definite plan in mind. Therefore I always start with a drawing, a colour sketch and often a rough collage. First of all you crack and separate an egg, then holding the yolk in one hand you pierce the sack and allow the liquid to drain into a container. This is then mixed with a little water and then added to some pigment, about half and half, and ground together with a muller. The paint strokes dry extremely quickly and they are so thin that you can paint many layers in one day. The unused paint has to be discarded at the end of the day, but there is very little waste because of the tiny amounts of pigment used. In that way it is much greener than oils or acrylics.”



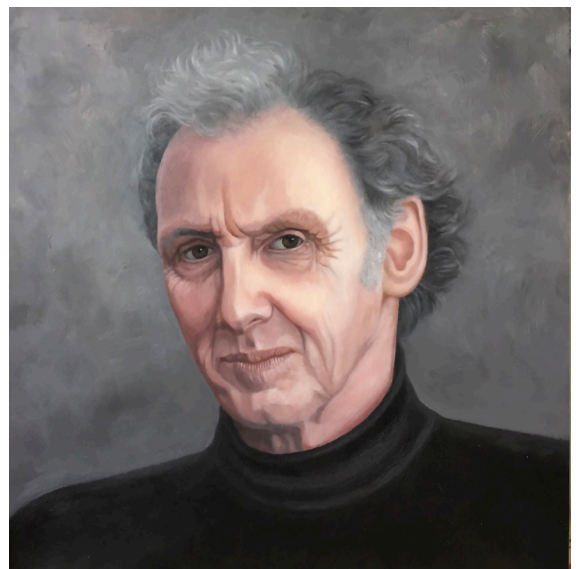
‘Andy B’

I also had the same experience while looking at a portrait in a temporary exhibition at the V&A ‘After Botticelli’, the beauty of which moved me to tears. Another time was at the Vatican where I saw the fragments of frescoes depicting angelic musicians by Melozzo da Forlì. Isn’t it wonderful that something that someone painted around 500 years ago can still create such an instantaneous emotional reaction? It’s one of the many things that I love about painting. During Lockdown I attended a portrait workshop, via Zoom, with Anthony Connolly, organised by Dorrie of BAS, which was very enjoyable and instructive and has led me to develop further my interest in portraiture using my favourite medium, mainly enlisting friends and relatives as my models, but occasionally taking commissions.”

It was such a pleasure to talk to Cathy Ensor and have the opportunity to learn so much about egg tempera. Her skill and infectious enthusiasm have encouraged me to dig deeper into the history and stories behind works by the Old Masters which I myself admire and I look forward to seeing new work from her as the year progresses.

Learning about the application process and the alchemy behind it was another moment of wonder. Egg tempera is brittle when it dries and needs to be applied to a flat, solid surface which isn’t flexible and which won’t expand or contract and Cathy uses waterproof MDF. I was intrigued to hear that with the transparency of the medium, one can mix a green by painting a fine layer of blue with a fine layer of yellow over it – rather than combining the colours and thus keeping each individual colour clear and bright. Then, as the chemical reaction in the drying process takes place and the egg yolk cures and evaporates, the strength of the colour as originally applied is reduced and the next day the work will glow with a beautiful translucence.

“It’s difficult to put into words the feeling one gets when observing an outstandingly beautiful work of art, but when I saw Fra Angelico’s fresco ‘Annunciation’ at San Marco it not only took my breath away, but all my thoughts too, so I was just in a state of euphoria! How wonderful it must have been for the monk who was allotted that cell in which to practise his meditation?”



‘BAS Patron Anthony Connolly RP’

### Thank You, Damaris!

After the AGM in January, John Burrough presented Damaris Lee with a bouquet to mark her retirement as Secretary, after ten years. Damaris will stay on the Committee and continue to support all the activities of Bruton Art Society.

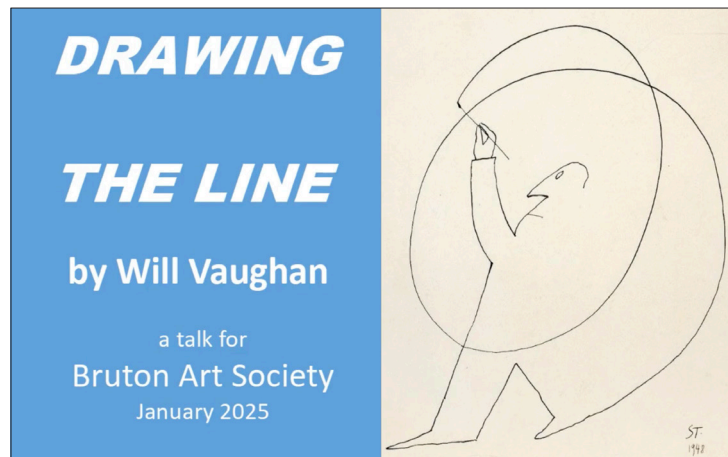


*Sally Ridout, John Burrough and Damaris Lee*

### Lecture and Workshop Reports by Sally Ridout

We have had a very busy few months so far this Winter, going through to Spring.

We began on 16th January after the AGM with a talk from Will Vaughan on **'Drawing the Line'**. Will is well known to the Society not just as our ex Chairman, but as one of this country's most highly regarded Professors in the History of Art, having lectured and written a number of books on the subject. Will told us that he is actually writing a book at the moment based on 'Drawing the Line', so we look forward with great enthusiasm to reading that.



On 7th February we were treated to a lecture by Jenny Newman on **'The Art of Snow and Ice'** at Caryford Community 'Small' Hall in Castle Cary, with approximately 45 members and guests attending. Jenny is well known in the community as an excellent 'Art' lecturer and she was happy to be our 'guinea pig' as the first of our speakers to present a talk in this newly built 'small' hall.

We were shown early examples of artists who made ice and snow a subject since at least the 15th century, when winter scenes began to appear in illuminated 'books of hours', right through to the Post Impressionist and early C20th works, ending with the contemporary artist Peter Doig and Andy Goldsworthy the sculptor.

The lecture was very comprehensive and much appreciated. There was a genuine feeling of intimacy in a smaller space, which Jenny herself agreed with. She is a naturally engaging speaker who loves imparting her knowledge of the subject and we look forward to more of her lectures in the future.



**‘The Art of Snow and Ice’**



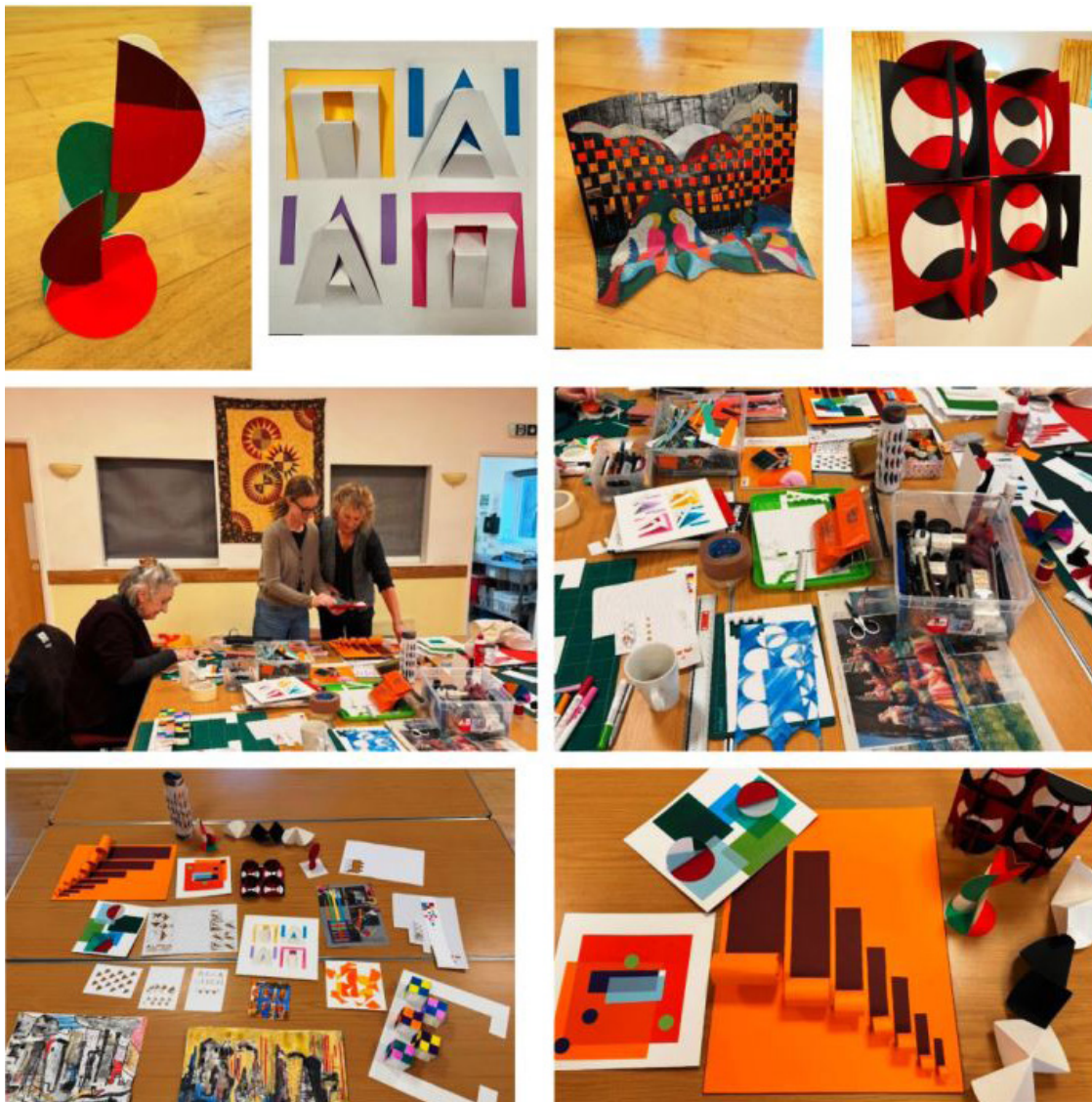
*‘The Art of Snow and Ice’*

### Naomi Kendall's 'Paper Art'

On 20th and 21st February we had a rescheduled workshop with **Naomi Kendall on 'Paper Art'** which was postponed from last October due to illness.

Naomi is a Somerset-based artist, a member of the Paper Artist Collective and features as a master artisan in the Michelangelo Foundation's Homo Faber Guide. In 2022 she was the Evolver Magazine Prize winner and has exhibited her work both here in the UK and abroad, most recently in the RWA's Exhibition 'Paper Works' with a beautiful piece called 'River'.

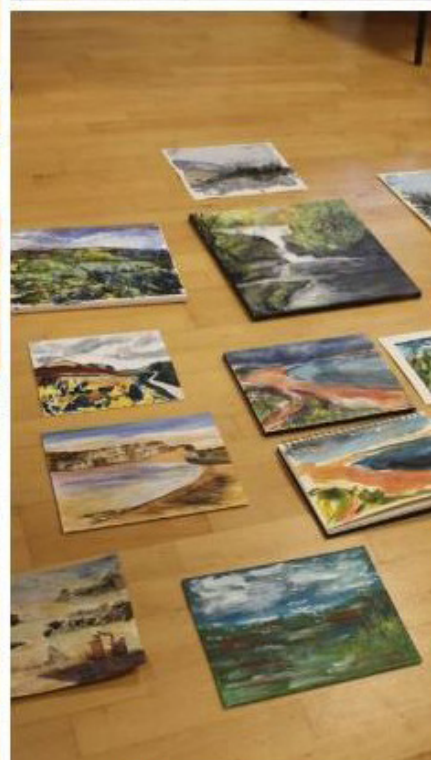
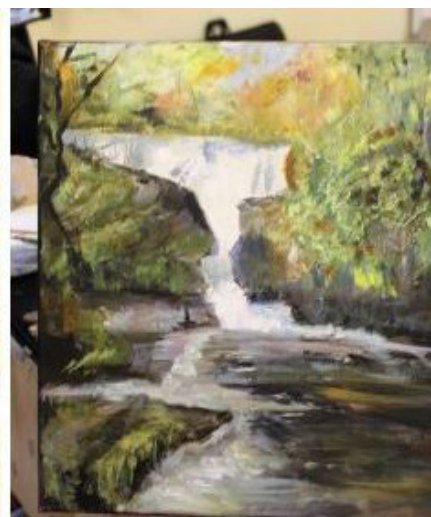
Those of us who took part had a very enriching experience led by Naomi, experimenting with cutting, folding and scoring, finding different ways of turning paper into relief sculptures, collages and stand alone pieces. We discovered with great pleasure what Naomi's words meant : *"although it's such an every-day material, paper can be transformed in so many ways."*





On 7th of March **Lynn Keddie** gave us a day of **'Expressive Acrylics - Land and Sky'**.

Lynn is a very inspiring tutor and artist, who gave the group an opportunity to free up their work using acrylics, a medium often misunderstood. I heard nothing but praise for her encouraging style of teaching and I know folks were determined to continue to work with acrylics undaunted when they went back home.





**Toby Wiggins RP: 'Portraiture, a route to character and likeness'.**

On 13th and 14th March we had the privilege of working with the portrait painter **Toby Wiggins**, who is a member of the Royal Portrait Society. Toby took us through the process of building up a portrait on a **'route to character and likeness'** over two days and we are very grateful to him for agreeing to come and do this. The course was completely booked out and even had 5 people on a waiting list.

Toby is a patient and thoughtful tutor and the results of his teaching are spectacular. Thanks must also go to our two models who sat still for us for two consecutive days! - they were given breaks though - Phew!

Because this workshop was so popular, Toby has agreed to do another one in the future, so folks need to look out for that one.



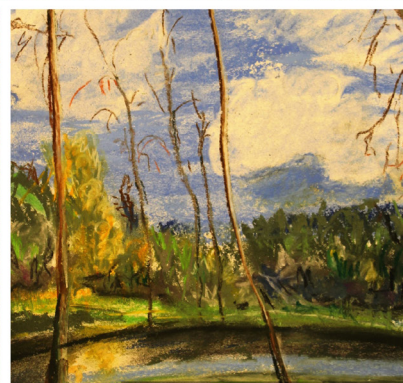


**Kate Lynch : 2 days workshop on : 'Expressive Drawing in charcoal and soft pastels'**

Most recently on 10th and 11th April, members were given the pleasure of working with **Kate Lynch** for two consecutive days of '**Expressive drawing**' - one day with charcoal and the next with soft pastels.

Kate is well known for her interest in our West Country rural crafts and skills, and has illustrated books on the subject. Those of us on the course were lucky to be given one of these books as a gift from Kate herself, which was very generous and an utter delight for each of us. The book is called 'CRAFT' 'Somerset portraits and voices' and is filled with Kate's illustrations of the craftsmen and women who she drew and who "maintain Somerset's craft tradition or who are reviving or reinventing it for the modern world" - Tom Mayberry of the South West Heritage Trust, and who have written about themselves and their skills in the book.

We will remember the collaborative drawings which Kate set for us and in particular her enthusiasm and joy at imparting and developing our expressive drawing skills.



## Future Workshops

Sally Ridout

**Thurs-Fri 8 & 9 May: 'Cut, paste and sew Fabric Landscapes' IMOGEN BITTNER**

**Sat 24 May: TALK WORKSHOP 'Franz Marc and Der Blaue Reiter' SALLY RIDOUT**

**Thur-Fri 18 & 19 Sept: 'Life painting - the clothed Figure' JAMES BUDDEN**

**Thurs-Fri 25 & 26 Sept: 'Botanical Illustration in watercolour - Autumn' SARAH SHERRINGTON**

**Fri 17 Oct: LECTURE DEMO 'Adventure, travel and sculpting' with MARK CORETH**

**Sat 18 Oct: TASTER DAY 'Gelli printing' JENNI RICHARDS**

**Thurs-Fri 6 & 7 Nov: 'Autumn' Printmaking using a variety of techniques' JACKIE CURTIS**

## Painting Days

Jean Stevens

Painting Days are very popular with our membership - no need to book, bring lunch and usual materials.

**Redwood Rare Breeds - Wednesday 7 May** - Parking and refreshments.

**Pitcombe Village - Wednesday 21 May** Parking at Pitcombe Farmhouse.

**Sexey's Hospital, Bruton - Wednesday 4 June**

Listed grade II manor house in a lovely garden with the grade I listed chapel of The Holy Trinity (1623) attached to the house.

**Wells Market - Wednesday 18 June**

**Zeals Green House - Wednesday 25 June** Kindly hosted by Lyndi d'Ambrumenil (NB date change)

**Parsonage Farm at Swallowcliffe - Wednesday 2 July** Kindly hosted by Juliet Chilston (NB date change)

**Sturminster Mill - Thursday 17 July** - Parking and refreshments. Entry to Mill £5





## Charlton Musgrove Life Drawing Group

Charlton Musgrove Life Drawing Group is now open for new members. We are a welcoming group with a wide range of models, who meet at Charlton Musgrove Village Hall on Tuesday mornings. Examples of our work can be found on Instagram @charltonmusgrovelifedrawing

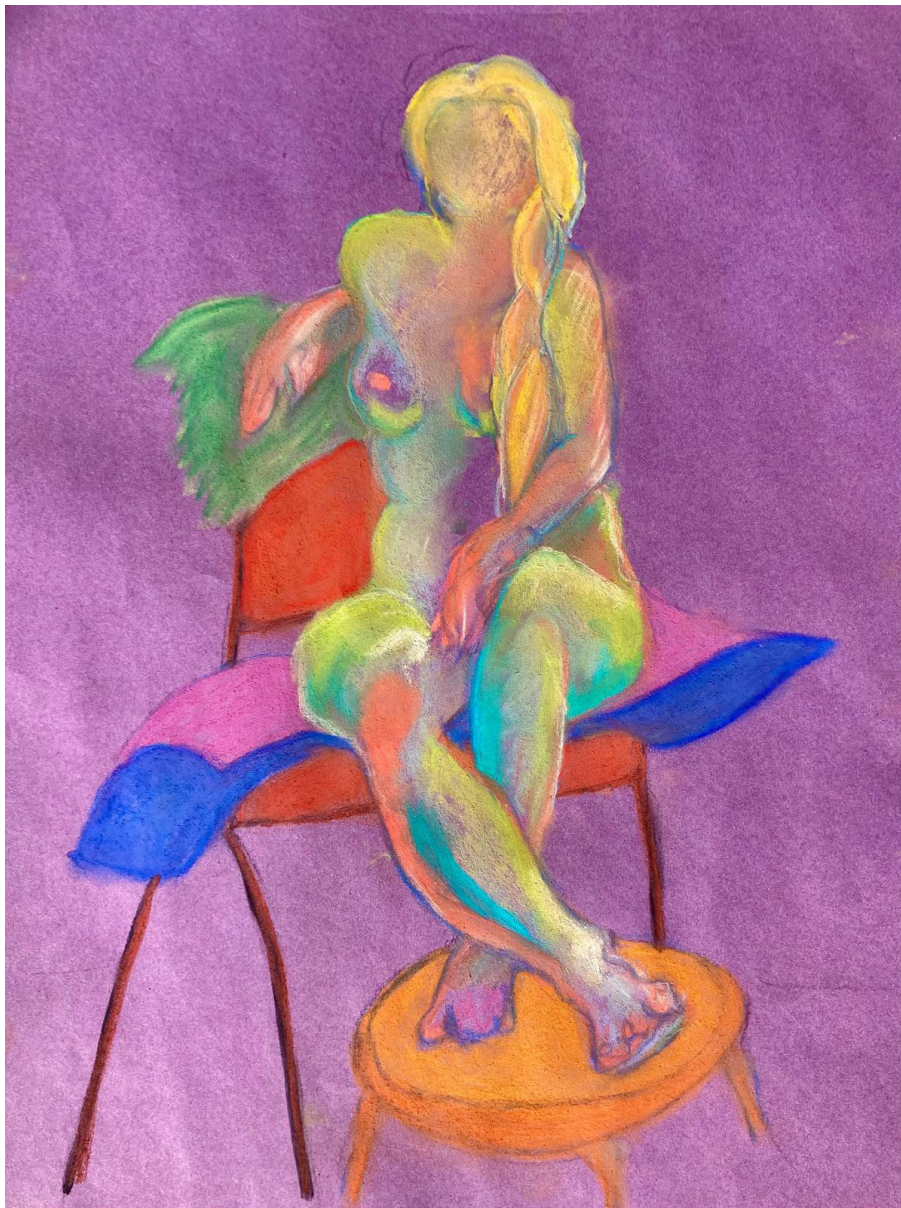
Next term: 29th April to 24th June (Half term 27th May), 8 untutored sessions for £88.

For more information contact

Jane Barnard [janebarnard@talktalk.net](mailto:janebarnard@talktalk.net)

or

Jules Horn [juleshorn@rocketmail.com](mailto:juleshorn@rocketmail.com).



Pastel drawing by Trish Frowd

## News from BAS Members

### Miranda Pender

*BAS Member Miranda Pender was delighted that her painting in coloured pencil and ink 'Anatomy 2' was Highly Commended at the recent St Barbe Open Exhibition in Lymington.*



## Wylie Valley Art Trail

### **Lyndi d'Ambrumenil & Phillipa Hicks** 3 - 11 May 2025

Our last weekend showing artworks and more, Venue 81 on the Wylie Valley Art Trail 2025. Download the app to find us. All welcome and we look forward to seeing you!  
Philippa and Lyndi

## Gary Cook

### **FROZEN**

New tree works along with paintings recording an incredible trip I had to Antarctica will be exhibiting at The Old Dairy, Milton on Stour as part of the Wylie Valley Art Trail which runs from 3 to 11 May.

I will also have my South Pole sketchbooks (produced with frozen hands) on show.

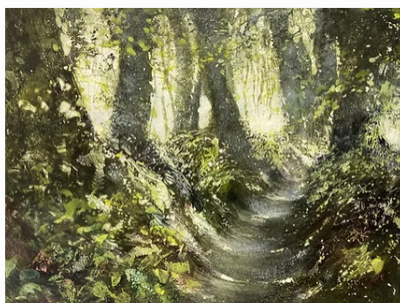
Gary Cook RI SGFA Arborealists





**Rachel Sargent****BIOPHILIA**

15th April - 14th July



Dorset County Hospital  
Dorchester, DT12JY  
In collaboration with Dorset Visual  
Arts and The Arborealists.

Biophilia - the love of nature.  
An exhibition highlighting why  
images of nature are so important  
during recovery



[www.rachelsargent.co.uk](http://www.rachelsargent.co.uk) 07957 452 853

**Rachel Sargent**

Exhibition of  
Painting and Printmaking  
May 3rd - 11th

Semley Village Hall  
Semley SP7 9AP  
Open daily 11am - 4pm

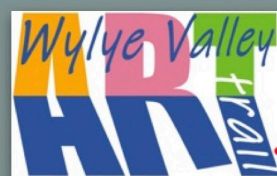
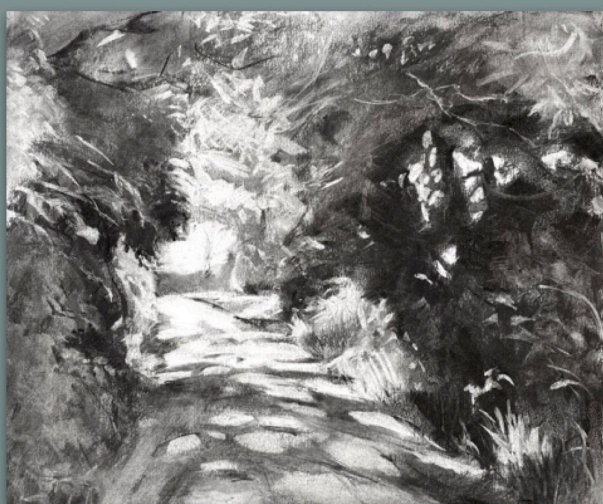
Last lights, first shadows,  
midsummer dawns and winter roosts

## Sue Hardy

*With a huge move from the top of Dorset to the lovely hamlet of Sedgemoor near Shaftesbury, it's taken two years to sort my new workspace. Now with a newly renovated studio area handily adjoining the kitchen I'm rebooted!*

*Also in the last 2 years, with Biddy Moreton's generous guidance, I'm discovering exciting ways to translate drawings into etchings. One of the resulting prints was in last year's BAS exhibition & also the SGFA exhibition at the Mall Galleries. I'm learning slowly but really loving the process and it feels like a natural addition to my art practice.*

*From May 3-11 my studio will be open for the first time as part of the Wyle Valley Art Trail 2025. If any members are in this area drop in and say hello. (Just a short distance off the A303 beyond Mere)*



### VENUE 63

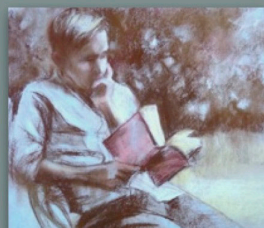
Sue Hardy SGFA

1, Street Lane,  
Sedgemoor, SP7 9JP

3-11 MAY 2025  
10.30-5.30

Thursday 8 May open  
late until 8pm

07766 600187



[www.suehardy.co.uk](http://www.suehardy.co.uk)  
[instagram.com/suehardyartist](https://www.instagram.com/suehardyartist)  
[facebook.com/suehardyart](https://www.facebook.com/suehardyart) [www.wvat.co.uk](http://www.wvat.co.uk)

**Artists303: 60th Anniversary Exhibition at:****Tuesday 6th May 2025 - Friday 30th May 2025**

**Artists303** celebrate their 60th Anniversary with this Exhibition of current members:

Kate Cochrane, Sandra Meech, Cath Bloomfield, Judy Hall,  
Sally Ridout, Pauline Pearce, Vera Sheaf, Heather Stone

Tuesday - Saturday 9.30am - 3.00pm

Free Entry

Meet the Artists on Saturday 17th May 10am - 12pm





**Karen George**

**'Journey'**

**Karen George & Gaynor Leverett-Jaques**

**Spring Cheltenham (see flyer below for the address)**

**15th - 20th May**

**10am - 4pm daily**

**PV Thursday 15th May 4-8pm - all welcome.**

# Journey

**An exhibition of original paintings by  
Karen George & Gaynor Leverett-Jaques**

**Open 15th - 20th May 2025**

**10am - 4pm daily**

**Private View Thursday 15th May 4 - 8pm**

**Spring Cheltenham**

**14 Rotunda Terrace, Montpellier Street, Cheltenham, GL50 1SW**

**Carmen Belle White - 'Vision of a New Earth'**



**ART EXHIBITION  
JUNE 4-10TH  
2025**

**SHAFTESBURY ARTS  
CENTRE**

*Vision of a  
New Earth*

*Visionary painter & Sound  
Artist*  
[www.carmenbellewhite.com](http://www.carmenbellewhite.com)  
07966720007



**Trisha Mason**

Shepton Artists will be exhibiting at Wells Museum Art Gallery from 1st—5th July. They will be open from 10.00-4.00 every day with a special launch event on Tuesday 2nd from 6.00-8.00. Entry is free.

You will be able to see the work of some of our members, Phoebe Brittain, Amanda Fowler, Trisha Mason and Jean Stevens amongst others. Hoping you can come along and enjoy Shepton Artists move into Wells.



**To put your News and Events 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)**

**Change of Address**

**BAS Members should let the Society know of any changes of address,  
email or telephone, for our records.**