

Drawn to the Valley

Newsletter December 2019



Farewell, Thanks & Good Luck from Iain Grant

As I reach the end of my three years as Chair of Drawn to the Valley, I am aware of what a privilege this has been. I know I am biased, but to me DttV is one of the strongest Arts organisations in the area, and this is solely due to the engagement of members.

Whenever something needs to be done, there is someone there to do it. Without this we could have no exhibitions, drawing days, workshops, coffee mornings and all the other things which bring artists together to network and support each other. Thank you all for your support and for allowing me to represent you all as Chair. I have enjoyed the last three years very much.

We all owe thanks to all the members of the committee, both those who have recently served, and those who have now taken on the role, for being willing to give some of their precious time to help keep DttV thriving and developing. In this they are supported enormously by our administration team of Sarah Jane and Vicky. Their approachability, enthusiasm and hard work make being a member of both the committee and DttV itself, a much easier task.

As I retire into the background I leave a fair bit of unfinished business to my successor and the "new" committee. I am certain that they will continue to help DttV to grow and to fulfil its aims and purposes. There are exciting developments in the pipeline. You are not getting rid of me completely I am afraid. I will continue to help as needed with the Summer Exhibition and I am keeping responsibility for our liaison with Derriford Hospital.



As you will have seen from the newsletter several of our members have loaned artwork to brighten the drab corridors, waiting areas, and other spaces in the hospital. We have had workshops for staff, and other activities to bring art into the hospital.

Research has shown that Art can ease anxiety, stress and depression for both patients and care staff; reduce the need for painkillers, shorten stay in hospital and improve communication. So this is a very worthwhile project.

I'll be pressurising the hospital to do more in the New Year and will no doubt be asking you all for more help!

Thank you all again for your support, and good luck in 2020 and beyond.

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MISSION STATEMENT

Drawn to the Valley provides a great network for artists, a way of keeping in touch and exhibiting work inspired by their passion for the beautiful Tamar Valley area and beyond.

OUR VISION

Drawn to the Valley group is an artist led initiative, membership is open to professional artists and craftspeople living and/or working in the Tamar Valley area. Drawn to the Valley was formed by the artists themselves over a decade ago, mainly as a support network, but also in order to promote the Tamar Valley area, bringing the area of natural beauty to life through art.

We encourage content for the newsletter, do email us your news. Please share your news and latest work on our social media pages:

[facebook.com/Drawn-to-the-Valley](https://www.facebook.com/Drawn-to-the-Valley)

Twitter - [Drawn 2Valley](https://twitter.com/Drawn2Valley)

Instagram - [#drawntothevalley](https://www.instagram.com/drawn-to-the-valley)



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Featured Artist: Gudrun Taresch

There are three things that are steady in my life: expressing my inner self with art, redefining my outer self through curiosity, openness and awareness, and last, but not least, I have never fitted in a box!

Already as a teenager, drawing and painting was so dear to me, so close to what I am in my innermost core, that I refused to have it directed in any way by a teacher. This made me leave an artist group I had joined to practise life painting, it made me struggle with my arts teachers at school and it made me decide against going for a degree in arts.

So my outer self studied Physics, made a PhD in Astronomy, became a Patent Attorney, a mediator, a facilitator and latest a teacher for my home schooled son. This path led me from a remote Bavarian village to traditional but also multicultural Munich, then to Prussian Berlin, filled with politics and history, from there to the loneliness and pure nature of arctic Norway and now to the, in many ways unique and inspiring, Cornish side of the Tamar Valley.

Through all these adventures art was my constant companion. As a child I created very fine and detailed pencil drawings, mainly of animals and the nature around me. Gradually, influenced by the street artists in Italy, whom I watched for hours when they sketched the sea, boats and buildings in coal, my drawings became a bit rougher and with this more alive. I was encouraged to show more of my work when I took part in an exhibition of local artists in my school town. When finally I could afford to buy oil paints, I started to add colour to my art. At the beginning, I used rather dark colours, because I started to express my worries and concerns about the, back then already, rather dark state of the environment, through my paintings. It was in the 1990s, after the "Global 2000 Report to the President" was published, that I became aware of the destruction of nature that goes along with our economy and started to question the ideal of economic growth. Those were the first pictures I sold. I became interested in politics and history and their impact on humans, and this influenced my paintings in content and technique. I started to use acrylic paint and included rougher materials like sand. I think my style was, back then, mainly influenced by Surrealists like Dali and de Chirico, whose paintings and ways of expressing dreams, as messages of their souls, resonate with me. And, working more with the human body, I also drew inspiration from modern dance in those years. I had my first exhibition in Munich.

ASK THE ARTIST

What's the best work related thing you have done recently?

I visited Japan again and let myself be inspired by contemporary and ancient art likewise. What a culture! Almost everything feels like art there, from the food to the trees.

What irritates you?

That people still consider information from newspapers, Reuters and whatever mass media there are, as news, instead of seeing it as the propaganda that they are.

Who do you most admire?

I do not believe in heroes and I think I most admire people who struggle to make a living and still stay human and optimistic.

Wherever I travel, countries like Malta, Italy, Greece, Ireland, Scotland, New Zealand, USA, Japan, Norway, Iceland, I take water colours, pencils and charcoal with me and whenever I find time, I draw or paint. It feels to me like I have only really been to a place if I sit down and draw. While I was working for the photo company AGFA, I learned lots about the theory and practise of photography from the photographers and researchers, whom I worked with. Thus I started to take photos, which became a new passion, mainly because it saved time, which was scarce for me those days. And taking a photo has a bit the same effect of arriving at a place for me, as drawing or sketching has, it is another unique way of seeing the world and at the same time expressing yourself.



Above: **Trapped Within Me and Still Dancing**, acrylic on canvas

Below: **Conflict of Two Powerful Cultures**, silk paint on silk



My life, back then, was very intense, exciting, sometimes shrill and this became reflected in my arts through a change in colours and also techniques. I started to use brighter colours and silk and glass as materials. Painting on silk made my paintings more shiny, but it also opened the door to let part of the picture just happen and thereby I gave myself more freedom in expression.

Working with glass gave me finally the brilliance of the colours that nature sometimes gives us in very special moments, but it was also a long standing love that I finally fulfilled. As a little child I had several times been to Murano, watching those skilled glass artists forming those impressive glowing glass blobs into vases, horses, birds, whatsoever and I had been stunned by the beauty of their work. Now I finally use the same material as they do, even if I will never reach the skill of a 20 years educated glass master in shaping hot glass.

By befriending a jeweller I learned working with silver, which added another facet to my work. We also had an arts shop together in Munich for some years.



I do not really remember when, besides all this, I started to design my own clothes. I was knitting already when I went to school, mainly because I was bored, just sitting there and listening to what the teachers tried to tell me. And after all those years of knitting I wanted to knit more demanding patterns and so I started to draw my own design for jumpers. I quite liked the style of Kaffe Fassett and I had always liked the paintings of Franz Marc, a Bavarian Expressionist, his colours and shapes and I certainly also learned from Niki de Saint Phalle, whose art, especially the Tarot Garden in Tuscany is just fun to experience and Gaudi who immortalised himself in the Sagrada Familia.

These styles got along very well with knitting but also with creating Stained Glass pictures, so I used it in my way. In the Norwegian snow and ice, in the long dark winter, I did not just take amazing photos of Northern Lights, but I also started to make glass beads, learned how



Above left: **Tree of Life / Self Portrait**, stained glass

Above left: **The Blood of the Earth**, stained glass

Below right: **Safe Place for My Inner Child**, watercolour

What is your favourite place?

Depends on the time and mood.

Sometimes in my garden, sometimes in my workshop, sometimes on the sofa besides the fire and sometimes somewhere in Dartmoor or the Tamar Valley.

What's your favourite book and film?

That constantly changes, as I do.

Especially films come and go. But I like authors like Gabriel García Márquez, Isabell Allende, Gioconda Belli or José Saramago, Yaşar Kemal, George Orwell, Arthur Miller or Berthold Brecht and films like The Matrix, Harold and Maude, The Scent of Women or As Good As It Gets, some Anime and lots of documentaries.

What motivates and inspires you?

My subconsciousness, the nature and people around me, all kinds of arts.

Currently I guess a feeling that we repeat the dark history of a hundred years ago.

Who would you most like to meet?

My inner self before it was shaped by my parents and education.

to fuse glass, I intensified my skills in wet felting and I learned spinning and carding, so that I now can weave patterns of colours into my yarn, which gives unique effects in my skirts and dresses. The next skill I really want to learn is weaving, just time is still not on my side.

But at last I have reached the point in life where I bring my inner and outer self together and just be me, as an artist. I was lucky enough to, just by chance, settle here, besides a magnificent wood artist, John Rowe, who became a very inspiring and supportive partner in arts for me. I currently combine wood and glass to create art that raises awareness to the fact that we humans are all one with nature and we all have the same needs, for example of love and peace, in this world. I am surrounded by such a rich variety of artists: painters, printers, sculptors, photographers, film makers, textile artist, writers, actors, dancers.....I experience them all as very inspiring, cooperative and supportive. I do feel at home here. Supporting my son, whose passion is drama, has opened my eyes further to the world of theatre, which again is a fascinating field and I am sure will have an impact on my work. I am really lucky with my neighbourhood. Having been asked for it at the Open Studios, I started to give workshops, which some of my neighbours attend and I do really enjoy helping them to express themselves in arts. Thus I am looking forward to all the ideas and techniques that my art will still travel to, over the coming years.

Website: <http://www.taresch.com>

Events Overview

Events 2020

Spring Exhibition Tamar Valley Centre, Cemetery Road, Drakewalls, Cornwall PL18 9FE

Saturday 28th March to Sunday 5th April

Hand in: Thursday 26th March Set up: Thursday 26th & Friday 27th March

Theme: Heralds of Spring

Harbour House Exhibition The Promenade, Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 1JD

Tuesday 12th to Sunday 17th May

Set up: Monday 11th May

Theme: None

Annual Summer Exhibition Butchers Hall, 32 Market Road, Tavistock PL19 0AL

Wednesday 5th to Sunday 9th August

Set up: Monday 3rd & Tuesday 4th August

Private View: Tuesday 4th August

Theme: None

Open Studios

Saturday 29th August to Sunday 6th September

Artist Working Days

All members are welcome to take part in our working days. Come along, meet fellow artists, draw, paint, take photographs and be inspired by the surroundings.

2020 Dates

The Garden House Buckland Monachorum, Yelverton, Devon PL20 7LQ

Ten acres of inspiring, ever-changing gardens.

Artist Working Days: **Wednesday 22nd April, Tuesday 16th June & Thursday 24th September**

Pentillie Castle St Mellion, Saltash PL12 6QD

Pentillie is in the centre of a 2,000 acre estate set on the Cornish bank of the River Tamar.

Artist Working Days: **Wednesday 13th May & Wednesday 22nd July**

Kelly House Kelly, Lifton PL16 0HH

Country house situated on the Devon Cornwall border.

Artist Working Days: **Thursday 26th March, Thursday 9th April, Monday 18th May & Thursday 9th July**

Other events will be notified to members



Above: The Harbour House



Above: The Garden House

Members News & Opportunities

Ocean Artists Designers Maker Spring Market 2020

This is our first year trading and our first two markets have surpassed all expectations - due in no small part to the contribution of some of Drawn to the Valley's fantastic makers and artists. We're looking for as many talented artists, designers and makers across the region as possible to take part in our Spring Market on Saturday April 4th and Sunday April 5th 2020.

Applications are now open for Ocean Artists Designers Makers Spring Market at Ocean Studios, Royal William Yard, Plymouth.

Come and be part of it! Follow the link; <https://www.ocean-markets.co.uk/howtoapply> for more information and to apply!



Opportunities at Plymouth College of Art

If you feel like you could do with a new year's creative resolution there are a range of short course options at Plymouth College of Art. The college run evening courses that span over a ten week period that start from Monday 6 January. The classes run from 5.45pm to 8.45pm and cost approx £220 for ten evenings. Classes include Modern Calligraphy, Ceramics, Glass, Jewellery, Printed Textiles, Printing, Upholstery, Hat Making and lots more.



If you are interested go to <https://www.plymouthart.ac.uk/courses/short-courses/>

Stoke Climsland Old School

Stoke Climsland Old School is now owned by a Trust and operated as a community centre and arts venue. There is also a cafe.

The trust is keen to offer the school as a possible Open Studios site. There are various options in terms of room, some old classrooms (48 , 20, and 33 feet of wall space) on the ground floor and adjacent to the cafe, but also part of the schoolhouse which is more like a home environment (albeit upstairs). Tables and some display boards can be provided.

Costs are to be negotiated but will include a small up front 'nominal' fee and low commission (probably 10%) on sales. Teas, coffees and/or lunches can be provided to help attract visitors. Plus potential catering for a private view.

The venue is in the centre of the somewhat out of the way village, but has had good footfall for previous events / shows.

If any member(s) want more details or wish to visit please contact carolinevulliamy@hotmail.com



West Dartmoor Villages Get Together

The West Dartmoor Villages members met for a drink and a chat at the Castle Inn at the end of November. Below left to right; **Nicky Beaumont, William Newman, Sally O'Neill, Warin Kelly, Paul Jeffries, Andy Morton, Mary Harold, Angela Smith, Karen Nicol** and **Anita Townsend**.



Scrap Copper Appeal

Andy Cairns is seeking copper pipes and copper objects to be incorporated into an assemblage for Tavistock Guildhall, celebrating Tavistock's mining heritage. If you can help, please call Andy on 07724 153381 or email andycairns67@gmail.com.



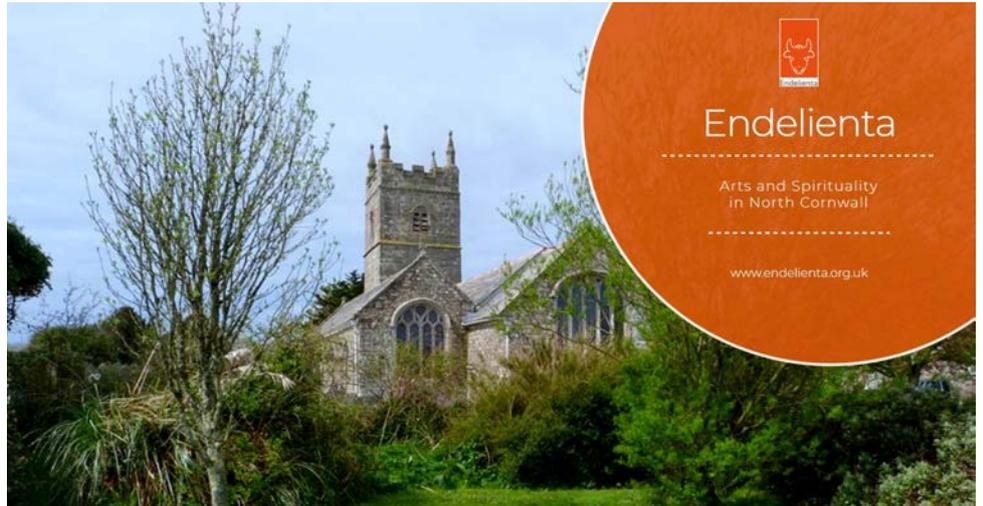
St Endellion Annual Open Exhibition

As you may know, the new hall at St Endellion is now open for business. It offers a much better space and atmosphere for showing quality exhibitions than the old hall could...

I'm delighted therefore to let you know that our annual Open Exhibition in 2020 will take place in the new hall from 29 February until 29 March. I hope you may be interested to submit a selection of your best works and by doing so, support Endelienta as an arts promoting organisation in North Cornwall. The preview will be on Friday 28 February, when the exhibition winners will be announced.

The deadline for submitting your application form (by email or post) is Friday 21 February, with the handing in of your works to take place on Monday 24th February.

All the details are now announced on the Endelienta website <https://endelienta.org.uk/> (See the Open Exhibition details on our What's On page).



Art Supplies Discount at The Art Side

The Art Side has been providing artists supplies and printing for over 40 years. Located in Plymouth City Centre, we provide over 7,000 lines of premium art supplies from all the industry leading names such as Daler Rowney, Winsor & Newton, Senneiler, Pilot, POSCA, Pentel, Faber Castell, Staedtler etc. all at budget prices.

We would like to offer a 20% discount to DttV members on our art supplies just pop in and ask at the till. If you need artwork reproduced as cards or prints then pop in and we can do that for you too... printed on a variety of surfaces at sizes up to A0.

Our website www.theartside.co.uk

For a free and quick copy and print quote please email theartside@btconnect.com

Plymouth City Centre - 42 Mayflower Street PL1 1QX Tel: 01752 269499 Find us on Facebook: The-Art-Side



Premium Brands
at
Budget Prices

Mad Hatters Workshops

Handmade Tag Book by Lyn Edwards

31st Jan 2020

A concertina book with a difference! Using your garden or allotment as a source of inspiration, you will create a memory of the seasons in this 3D book that will include an envelope of seeds!



Vintage Cottage Garden with Anne Kelly

8th March 2020, £65 Includes homemade cake, teas and coffee

Using nature and gardens as inspiration, the aim is to produce a central image and a border of small block printed fabrics in the beginning of the session. These will then be collaged and added to with lace, ribbon and stitch.

Hunt through your collections to find nature inspired fabrics, old embroidered snippets of tea cloths or handkerchiefs – also any images that inspire you.



Also already booked for next year is **Ellen Deckers** the face behind Pollevie. Keep your eyes out for other big names coming soon too on <https://www.madhattersstudio.com/>

Drawn to the Valley Contacts for 2019/2020

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