

# Drawn to the Valley Newsletter

January 2019

## Howard du Ross

Most of you will be aware that Howard sadly died on 4th January after a short illness.

He was quite a character, widely known locally, and his family are keen to receive reminiscences about Howard, his sayings, where he touched your lives, and so on.

Howard had been an active member of DttV for a lot of years, having moved to Tavistock about 18 years ago. He has been instrumental in designing and supervising the layout for the summer exhibitions, and providing 3D 'enhancements' when needed. He was always aware that many of his installations were 'Marmite' pieces which divided opinion, but always provided a talking point.

Howard worked hard for us behind the scenes, looking after the boards and other kit, and lending his trailer and himself to move things about quite regularly. This always done willingly.

Many of you will know that he had recently battled with cancer and won the fight. He was free of that disease when he became unwell just before Christmas. He had in the last year raised significant amounts of money for Macmillan. So sad that something else was waiting to claim him.

He would not want us to be sad however, but to remember him with affection. So if you have any stories, or reminiscences about Howard which I can pass on to his family please let me know.

Iain Grant, Chairman

## Working Day: Cruise on the Tamar

The River Tamar is what unites all our members and this years Spring Exhibition (details on page 5) has the theme of 'Journeys of the River'. We have the opportunity to charter a boat on the Tamar from Plymouth Sound to Calstock, and back, to allow our members a unique view of the river and the landscape it flows through. The cruise passes under the Tamar Bridge past Cotehele and Pentillie Castle. Members will have the opportunity to sketch, take photos etc. from the comfort of the boat. You are welcome to bring your own packed lunch to enjoy on the journey.

The trip is five hours long and departure times are tide dependant. The boat has a covered lower deck with seating, air-conditioning/heating, toilets and a bar. The upper deck is open air. Do have a look at the following link to see more info on the boat '[The Spirit of Plymouth](#)'

Capacity is approx. 100 and costs will depend on how many people attend e.g. 100 = £9 per person or 50 = £18 per person. Priority will be given to members, however if capacity allows we can also invite non members e.g. partners, family etc.

At this point we need to know if we have enough interest to look into possible dates. Please contact Vicky on [info@drawntothevalley.co.uk](mailto:info@drawntothevalley.co.uk) if this is something you are interested in doing.



Howard pictured at the charity auction he organized last year.



The Spirit of Plymouth

# Drawn to the Valley

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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

#drawntothevalley



**Arts Administrator:**

Sarah-Jane Lincoln

Tel: 0780 8813492

[admin@drawntothevalley.co.uk](mailto:admin@drawntothevalley.co.uk)

**Secretary:** Vicky Allum

[info@drawntothevalley.co.uk](mailto:info@drawntothevalley.co.uk)

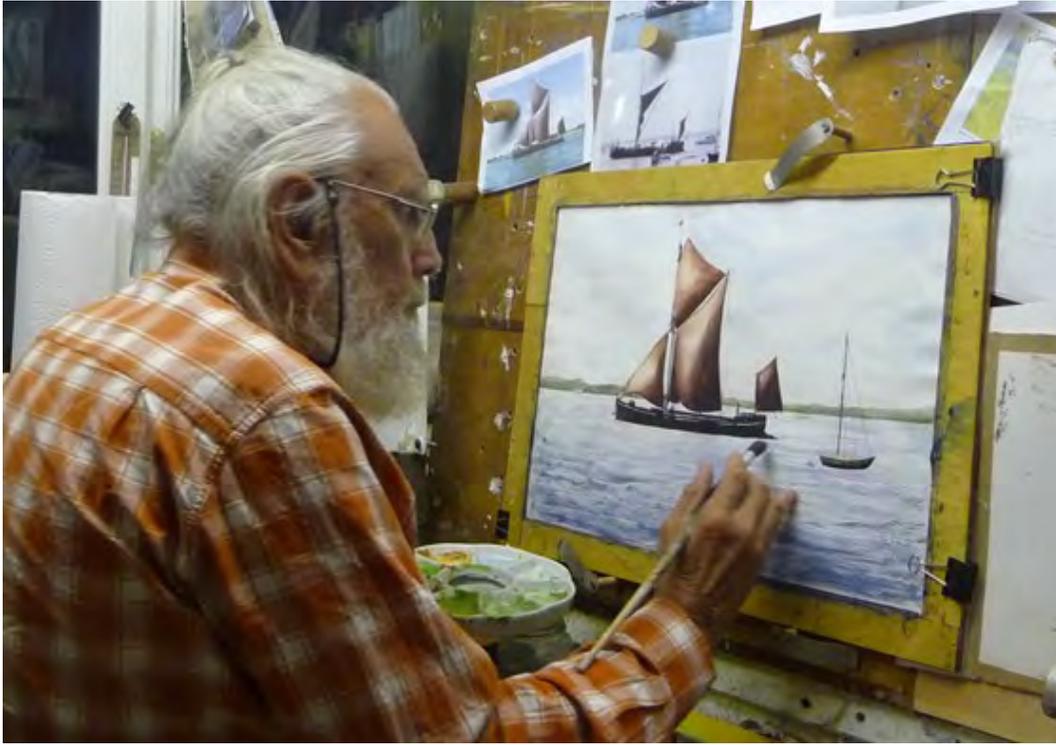
Address: Drawn to the Valley

The Tamar Valley Centre,

Cemetery Rd, Drakewalls,

Gunnislake PL18 9FE

## FEATURED ARTIST: HOWARD DU ROSS



When I retired from a career in engineering, emanating from my love of inventing and experimenting, I expanded my hobby of woodwork and furniture restoration into woodturning where I began to appreciate artistic possibilities. This led me to discover a new life in painting, firstly with abstract art using the unusual and very colourful epoxy resin to create wildly abstract paintings out of my sub consciousness, and later with acrylics.

A series on the cosmos followed together with a further abstract range on asymmetrically shaped canvasses which added a sculptural twist to the work.

I then ventured into the world of watercolours which I find uplifting and captivating. I now paint an inspirationally evolving range of subjects: seascapes, sunsets, townscapes, and landscapes. The web site demonstrates the enormously varied style and content of my work from over the last few years. I hope you enjoy it <http://www.howsart.co.uk/>

I am actively involved in Tavistock Group of Artists, (<http://www.tgartists.co.uk>), Buckland Art Group, and

Drawn to the Valley and participate in Open Studios. For several years I have designed and set up the exhibition layouts for these groups. I also have varied work continuously on show at Cafe Liaison (Church Lane) and Donellas (Paddon's Row, *as pictured below*), Tavistock.





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

The painting of Stowe Park (bottom right).

**Where is your favourite place?**

My workshop/evolution room; its here that all my creations come to life and where, on a nice armchair, I am known to take the odd nap (or two!).

**What irritates you?**

Lots!! I don't suffer fools gladly, or, as my wife tells people, "Howard doesn't take prisoners!"

People who stand in doorways, people gassing at the checkout, people who amble round supermarkets whilst their trolley is ambling around on its own, ditherers, negative thinkers, non-thinkers, emotional time wasting.

Recently it has been my loss of memory, especially mid-sentence, it is really annoying. I haven't even started on television programmes and politicians...Or maybe I'm just "a grumpy old man"!

## ASK THE ARTIST

**What would you take with you to a desert island?**

Female company, but if that is not allowed then a full set of tools and trad Jazz music.

**Who would be your top two dinner party guests?**

I don't do dinner parties.

**What is your hidden talent?**

I'm still trying to find it! But maybe 'thinking outside the box'.

**What is your favourite motto?**

"Actions speak louder than words", "just do it" and "the more you put into something, the more you get out" (usually).



# Events Overview

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## Events 2019

**PLEASE NOTE: THE DATES FOR THE SPRING EXHIBITION HAVE CHANGED. REVISED DATES ARE BELOW.**

**Tamar Valley Spring Exhibition** Tamar Valley Centre, Drakewalls, Near Gunnislake PL18 9FE

Theme: 'Journeys of the River' - encouraging smaller works

Set up: Thursday 28th and Friday 29th March

Exhibition: **Saturday 30th March to Sunday 7th April, 10.00am to 4.00pm** (to 2.00pm Sunday 7th April)

### Do you have a story to tell?

We are currently looking to put together some PR for our Spring Exhibition. If you are planning to enter artwork and have an interesting link to our theme 'Journeys of the River' please get in touch with Sarah on [admin@drawntothevalley.co.uk](mailto:admin@drawntothevalley.co.uk)

**Summer Exhibition** venue tbc  
Wednesday 31st July to Sunday 4th August

**Open Studios 2019**  
Saturday 24th August to Sunday 1st 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 enjoy the surroundings. Watch this space for more working day dates and locations for 2019.

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

Ten acres of inspiring, ever-changing gardens.

Artist Working Days: **Tuesday 16th April, Wednesday 12th June,  
Thursday 8th August and Tuesday 8th October**



Pentillie Castle

**Pentillie Castle & Estate** 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: **Tuesday 21st May and Wednesday 24th July**

*Other events will be notified to members*

## Saltash Station Commission Opportunity

Some of you may be aware that there are plans to renovate the dilapidated station buildings at Saltash. Funding has been obtained to enable work on the buildings to start soon. This is likely to include an exhibition space within the old station.

Separate funding is being raised for artworks for the station area. The hope is to create themed work inspired by Daphne Du Maurier's first journey by train to Cornwall, her anticipation of the 'magical land' and disappointment with the initial reality.

The people who are planning this are looking for artists to produce the original works from which large scale waterproof prints can be made to use in the station. This will be commissioned, and the details of the works are for discussion with the artist(s) but as a guide:

- The first may be a train in GWR livery of the period, in, or leaving Plymouth Station
- The second looking out of the train as it crosses the Royal Albert (Brunel) Bridge
- The third arrival in Saltash Station as it was then
- Possible others further into Cornwall depending on funding, space etc.

At this stage the whole idea remains quite vague, and there is scope for discussion. The leader of the project, Barry West, has taken our OS brochure from last year, and website details. He will look to see if there are artists whose work inspires them.

What I need at this stage is for any of you who may (even vaguely) be interested in producing work to let us know. At some stage in the not too distant future, Barry will arrange a meeting to discuss the project further. Please contact [info@drawntothevalley.co.uk](mailto:info@drawntothevalley.co.uk) to show your interest.

## New Area Representatives

Welcome to our new Area Reps **Faith Chevannes**, who will be covering the Launceston area, and **Kate Williams** who will be covering the Torpoint/Rame Head region.

Kate is a weaver and her studio and shop is upstairs at the Barrow Centre near Mount Edgcumbe House. She says, "I will do my best [as area rep]. Also my studio is open all the year round at Mount Edgcumbe which makes me quite accessible". Faith works in mixed media, painting and printmaking and hopes to recruit some more artists from her area. "There are loads of artists here who are not members and I was hoping some might join DTTV".

Our Area Reps are volunteers who aim to support and provide a mentoring environment to local members artists in their area in accordance with the groups aims and objectives. They also help to promote Drawn to the Valley event activities within their assigned area.

If you are not sure who your area rep is see the full list below.



Left: 'Our Special Little Lamb', drypoint print with ink by **Faith Chevannes** Right: Weaving work by **Kate Williams**

### Drawn to the Valley Contacts for 2019

|                              |   |                                 |              |
|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Administrator                | <b>Sarah-Jane Lincoln</b>   | admin@drawntothevalley.co.uk    | 07808 813492 |
| Secretary                    | <b>Vicky Allum</b>  | Info@drawntothevalley.co.uk     | 07786 735354 |
| PR                           | <b>Laura Joint</b>  | laura@laurajoint.co.uk          | 07765 621412 |
| Chair                        | <b>Iain Grant</b>   | basnudoc@gmail.com              | 07971 534996 |
| Vice Chair                   | <b>Janet Brady</b>  | janet@bramblesartretreat.com    | 01566 784359 |
| Treasurer                    | <b>Sally O'Neill</b>  | nielsally83@hotmail.com         | 01822 860263 |
| Committee:                   | <b>Adrian Edwards, Clare Law, Tessa Jane, Alan Dax, Nicholas Palmer &amp; Melanie Guy</b> |                                 |              |
| <b>Area Representatives:</b> |   |                                 |              |
| Tavistock                    | <b>Pippa Howes</b>  | pippahowes@yahoo.co.uk          | 07719 799248 |
| Tavistock                    | <b>Abbie Gardiner</b>   | abigail.gardiner@googlemail.com | 07766 446025 |
| Yelverton                    | <b>Tessa Jane</b>   | tessajanedesigns@gmail.com      | 07866 660840 |
| Gunnislake & Calstock        | <b>Ian Pethers</b>  | glenrockstudio@yahoo.co.uk      | 01822 834289 |
| Plymouth                     | <b>Gay Kent</b>   | gaykent@hotmail.com             | 01752 666670 |
| Plymouth                     | <b>Sylvia Hofflund</b>  | shofflund@gmail.com             | 01752 941312 |
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| Callington                   | <b>Clare Law</b>  | clare.e.law@gmail.com           | 07939 040956 |
| Saltash                      | <b>Simon Young</b>  | simondyoung@btinternet.com      | 07581 842409 |
| Torpoint/Rame Head           | <b>Kate Williams</b>  | williamska@talk21.com           | 07798 828620 |
| West Dartmoor Villages       | <b>Anita Townsend</b>   | mongoosemoondaisy12@gmail.com   | 01822 860123 |
| Launceston                   | <b>Faith Chevannes</b>  | faithchevannes@hotmail.com      | 07941 021012 |

# Members News

## Solo Show for Jill Coughman

**Jill Coughman** is exhibiting at the Artmill Gallery in Plymouth, Artmill Gallery & Framing Centre, 83 Hyde Park Road, Plymouth, PL3 4JN from 18th January until 15th February. Jill says of the show "The exhibition is my first gallery solo show since 2004, and explores the effects of feeling unable to say how one feels". There is a wide range of drawings, watercolours, prints and paintings on canvas included in the exhibition.



## Collage and Paint

A One Day Workshop With Colin Pethick

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March



Working with found materials to create textures to paint upon. This abstract workshop gives plenty of opportunity to expand and develop your painting technique.

This workshop will run from 10-3pm for just £22.

Bring lunch, tea and coffee provided.

For a full materials list and to book contact Framin' Crafty on 01822 833467.

**Framin' Crafty**  
www.framincrafty.com

## South Hams Express - Art Courier

Dave Allen runs a courier business, South Hams Express, often doing runs from the South West to London, and specialising in moving artwork around the country. Drawn to the Valley used Dave for the London exhibition and would strongly recommend his service to all members and artists. He was reasonably priced, professional and helpful and went above and beyond what was expected of him. Dave does not have a website but his contact details are below;

Email: [dave.allen500@btinternet.com](mailto:dave.allen500@btinternet.com)

Tel: 01803 863205 or 075020 41139

*Life drawing  
& painting  
group*



*Every Thursday 19.30 - 21.30  
Kingdon House, Tavistock*

*Beginners and improvers welcome (no tuition),  
Bring your own materials.*

*We are a self-run and non-profit group*

**Kingdon House, Pym Street, Tavistock**

Thursday 7.30-9.30pm, most weeks but 6.30pm-9.30pm once a month.

It is non profit making and costs on average £25 per month or £8 per drop in session.

There is a different model every week mostly unclothed but occasionally clothed.

Contact: [patbates@outlook.com](mailto:patbates@outlook.com) or 07760280782

# Creative Watercolours 6

A 6 session course on 3rd Friday of the Month

(except April - 2nd Friday due to Good Friday)

18th Jan, 15th Feb, 15th March, 12th April, 17th May, 21st June

10am to 3pm £120 for course



Over six sessions we will explore wet in wet techniques, pen & wash, collage and creating abstract patterns.

Please bring along your own basic materials: watercolour paints, palette, brushes and paper.

To book:

Tel: 01822 833467

e-mail: [info@framincrafty.com](mailto:info@framincrafty.com)

**Framin' Crafty**  
St Ann's Chapel, Gunnislake, PL189HL

# Creative Watercolours

On-going classes throughout the year

Mondays 10.00-12.30

Kingdon House, Tavistock

£12 per session



Exploring loose wet in wet techniques, pen & wash.

For beginners and improvers.

You will need to bring along your own basic materials:  
watercolour paper, brushes, and watercolour paints.

For more information or to book a place:

phone 01822 258351 e-mail [gillcairns21@gmail.com](mailto:gillcairns21@gmail.com)

You and your guests are warmly invited to the **Opening Party** of

# Get Fresh

Fresh and innovative work by emerging makers from across the South West

Friday 18 January 6 – 8pm

Opened by Tim Bolton, Vice Principal, Plymouth College of Art

The Terrace café is open for a buffet meal (last orders 8pm)  
Advance booking on 01626 831959

Exhibition runs Saturday 19 January – Sunday 10 March



**E** Recycled paper badge workshop with *Get Fresh* exhibitor Alysa Freeman  
Thursday 14 February  
10am – 1pm & 2 – 4pm  
Free, drop-in event. We welcome donations towards the cost of materials.  
Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Devon Guild of Craftsmen, Riverside Mill, Bovey Tracey, Devon TQ13 9AF 01626 832223  
[devonguild@crafts.org.uk](mailto:devonguild@crafts.org.uk) [www.crafts.org.uk](http://www.crafts.org.uk) Open 7 days a week 10am – 5.30pm Free admission

Front: Barbara Roll  
Above: Alysa Freeman

Registered charity no.296568

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## Devon Guild of Craftsmen Biennial Show

Members **Fi Smart** and **Abbie Gardiner** are both taking part in the Devon Guild of Craftsmen biennial exhibition 'Get Fresh' which runs from 19th January to 10th March. The exhibition showcases the work of designer makers from across the South West. Fi has made a large jug specifically for the exhibition showing the tools used by the artists who exhibit at the Guild - pictured right.



## Spring Shows for Abbie Gardiner

Along with the 'Get Fresh' exhibition **Abbie Gardiner** is also showing work in 'StartUp' at Made By Hand Cheltenham from 8th - 10th March and The Contemporary Craft Festival in Bovey Tracey from 7th - 9th June the latter of which won an Tourism Excellence Award in 2018.

Abbie is also collaborating with Parmesan and Pumpkin, who make hand carved serving and chopping boards in Devon, to create some ceramic pieces to go with their work.

