

DRAWN TO THE VALLEY



Celebrating our 20th Anniversary Year

Events and Exhibitions 2024 Coming Soon...

Summer Exhibition

**Tues 6 to Sat 10 Aug
Butchers Hall, Tavistock**

This bright and cheerful painting, 'Summer loops and things', is by member Neil Mawdsley, our featured artist, and will be used for the posters and other publicity for the Summer Exhibition.

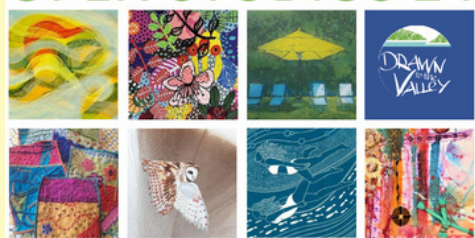


The application forms for both the Summer Exhibition and Open Studios have been made available to members via email.

Open Studios

Sat 24 Aug to Sun 1 Sept in venues across the Tamar Valley

OPEN STUDIOS 24



Some members have told us they will want help with finding spaces in shared studios, and some venues have spaces available, so we need to get all of these matched up and try to ensure everyone who wants to be a part of Open Studios has a venue.

We are in need of additional members on the Working Group; could you help?

The easiest way to achieve this is in a facebook discussion which we can do on the [DttV members facebook group](#). If you are not already a member, do please join.

Also coming up Drawing Days and Creative Tables and...

**Garden Sculpture & Art Exhibition, Tues 10th Sept to late Oct,
The Garden House, Buckland Monachorum.**

Drawn to Make Sat 23rd & Sun 24th Nov, Yelverton

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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 two decades 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.

contactdttv@gmail.com

Please share your news and latest work on our social media pages:



Notes from the Chair

Our 20th Anniversary Year is now well underway and we've had two successful exhibitions, Drawn to Print at Ocean Studios in Plymouth, and most recently the Spring Exhibition. This was in a new and striking venue for us, the Market Hall in Plymouth, the exhibition looked fantastic and with the added bonus of the dome where we were able to show some of the art as an immersive experience which was very exciting.

Writing this on a beautiful sunny day, it seems summer is here, and indeed the Application Form for our Summer Exhibition in Tavistock is now out. This year there will be demonstrations from several members, giving visitors an insight into lots of different art forms; we're planning to have two demonstrations each day throughout the five days, a lovely opportunity for artists and visitors to come together and give added interest to the exhibition.

The Application Form for Open Studios is also now out. I learnt recently that when Drawn to the Valley was founded 20 years ago the concept of artists opening their studios to visitors was the first thing planned, and it turned out to be a great success. Two decades on and the numbers for Open Studios have grown but the concept is the same. It's a wonderful way for visitors to engage with artists. I hope that all artists feel they gain at least as much as the visitors from this open exchange.

Ali Fife Cook
Chair, Drawn to the Valley



Spring Exhibition Report

Still Drawing, Twenty Years On A celebration of 20 years of Drawn to the Valley & Spring Exhibition 2024

At the start of the millennium the Tamar Valley was designated an 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty' and the AONB centre at Drakewalls was established. Artists in the Tamar Valley drew together to collaborate with AONB and in 2004 the Drawn to the Valley network of artists was born.

Twenty years on, we have over 120 artists from Plymouth to Bude exhibiting in our annual programme of events and a well-established website to showcase our work.

This year our Spring Exhibition was held over the bank holiday weekend in The Market Hall, Devonport from Friday 24th to Monday 27th May, a fabulous Victorian building that has been refurbished as a community centre, café and business hub.

Our Private View on the Saturday evening was also our 20th Anniversary celebration of Drawn to the Valley, to which all members were invited. Ali Fife Cook, our current Chair, gave a brief welcome and Mary Toon, Jillian Morris and Alan Dax, three artists exhibiting at the Spring Exhibition, kindly recalled their memories of earlier days when the network was in its infancy. The Market Hall houses an amazing 15m diameter domed screen and on this we screened a beautiful video of most of the artwork on display at the exhibition during the event, to a backdrop of birdsong, bringing our images to life, where soaring eagles, majestic tors, sea views and still life could be seen in superb detail.

As a new venue, we were delighted with the response of guests to this event. The incredible light airy backdrop and quality of art on display made for a highly professional exhibition. We would like to thank all the artists who took part for their support and Real Ideas who own the venue for their flexibility and vision in enabling us to showcase our artwork in their beautiful venue.

Report from Anne Payne and photos by Michael Jenkins, Joint Leaders of the Working Group for the Spring Exhibition



Drawing Days & Creative Tables

Drawing Days

Five members had a memorable day at The Monkey Sanctuary, Looe, on 5th June. We were met with coffee and an in-depth tour of the rescued monkeys, many of which had a traumatic time before being taken on by the Sanctuary. Some come with mental health issues and many develop diabetes from a poor diet. The Sanctuary rely solely on supporters to fund staff, feed, medication and campaign to end the primate pet trade. We were provided with a set of colour photos of the various residents – as the cages are so big and they won't stay still very long!

The afternoon was taken up with sketching and enjoying the coastal view back towards Rame Head.

Kim Hall very kindly left a lovely landscape in pastel for the Sanctuary to use in their fundraising and others are forwarding pictures as we finish them.

Hopefully we have made a small contribution towards caring for Lily, Banjo, Pablo, Alfie and all the other residents.



The next Drawing Day at Cotehele is Sunday 16th June

Make sure you are on the Drawn to the Valley Members Only Facebook group for up to the minute information.

Please email anne@leighfarm.co.uk, if you've interested.

Creative Tables

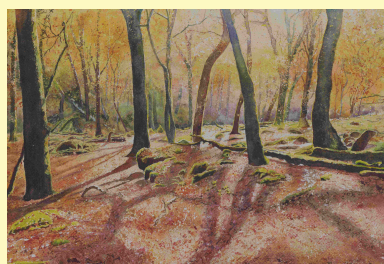
Creative Tables offer an opportunity for members to get together and work on their own piece of art or craft in a social setting. During the year there will be Creative Tables taking place in several special venues as well as the monthly events.

Plymouth: 2nd Thursday of the month, 10am, Ocean Studios, Royal William Yard.

Tavistock: 1st Monday of the month, 10am, Church Lane Café, Tavistock. Sometimes there's just a general chat over coffee, sometimes people bring work to do and sometimes there is a theme or subject for the sessions.

LOOKING FOR LOCAL ART BY TAMAR VALLEY ARTISTS?

Why not visit our [ONLINE GALLERY](#)



D-day Memorial Bench

On the 8th of June at 2 pm my bench at Mount Edgcombe was unveiled in the American Gardens.

This is the 80th Anniversary of the D-day landings and is probably be the last time survivors will be present.

Stuart Morrissey



Member Stuart Morrissey who has been studying at Arts University Plymouth has his final year art show at AUP on 21st June, 5pm to 8pm.

Mark Fielding Exhibition



Drawn to the Valley member Mark Fielding has an exhibition at National Trust Cotehele, in the Victorian Drawing Room, from 15th to 30th June.

Mark lives only a few miles from Cotehele and has been visiting the house and gardens for 30 years.

Mark's paintings record his response and observation of the River Tamar at different times of day, with the ever-changing colours and moods of this fascinating area between Halton Quay and Calstock. In addition, Mark is also exhibiting his pond reflection paintings, inspired by the Upper Pond at Cotehele.

Entry to the exhibition is free but normal admission applies.

Your Exhibition opportunity in Exeter

DttV member Geoff Dodd has been following the progress of an exhibition opportunity at a former art gallery in Princesshay, Exeter, which is now open again with the chance for individual DttV members to put forward proposals for exhibiting. Each exhibition will be for a period of two weeks.

The gallery will be managed by Monika Przerwa-Tetmajer of Art plus Frames in Crediton, initially for three months, mid-June to mid-September; she hopes it will continue beyond that. She would like to include a range of arts, paintings, ceramics, sculpture and jewellery. To put forward a proposal you need to submit works or give a link to a website where your work can be seen.

There is no stewarding required and the cost is commission of 40%, no other fees.

You can contact Monika at info@artplusframes.co.uk.

Introducing The Makers Gallery, Tavistock

Drawn to the Valley has many facets, not least of which is bringing like minded creatives together. The Making Together Collective was formed towards the end of last year by 6 members who had taken part in Open Studio on several occasions. The initial idea was, as a group, we could access events that, as individuals, were unaffordable. A pipe dream maybe but 6 months later we have opened The Makers Gallery in Paddons Row, Tavistock where we have received such a warm welcome; and we, a small but perfectly formed group, are delighted with the result.



We have an exciting programme of workshops planned for September and are soon to launch Make Mondays, a community based get-together still in the planning.



We also have a showcase for 4 visiting exhibitors and currently Sally O'Neill, Maggie Lintell, Anne Payne and Kathy Lovell are exhibiting with us.

If you are in Tavi, please call in for a warm welcome. We are open Tues-Sat 10am-4pm. We are: Gilly Spottiswoode, Stef d'Amico, Bryony Upton, Jane Deane, Shelagh Brown and Lyn Edwards.

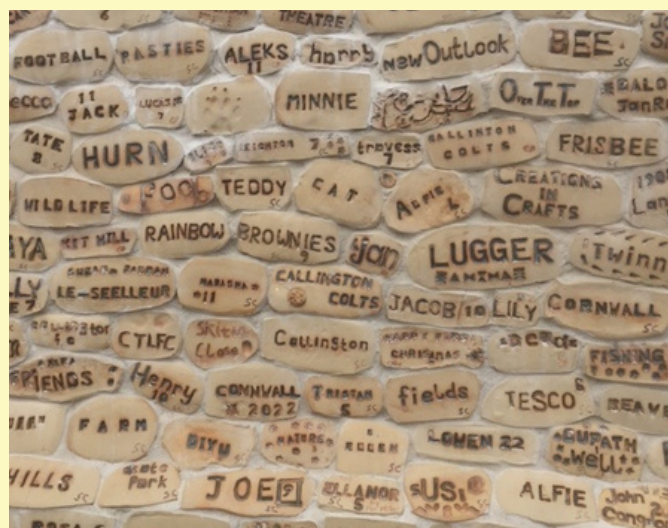
...And Swan's Nest will be stocking art materials

New member Lou Mills-Watts, a textile artist, will shortly be stocking art materials in her shop Swan's Nest which is also in Paddons Row, PL19 0HF, next to The Makers Gallery.

Contact 07940 490465.

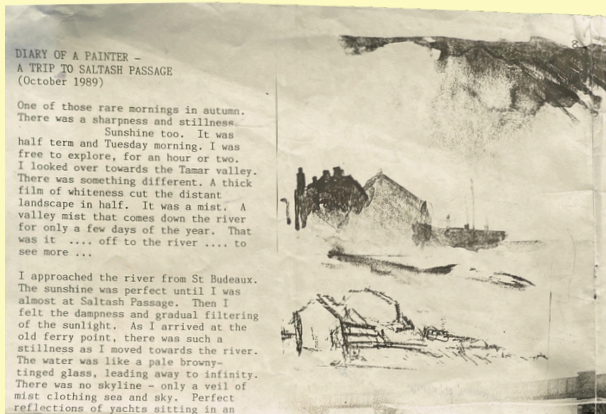
DttV member **Rosie Fierek** will be starting a new ceramic project at Derriford Hospital in mid-July. She has been commissioned to create something for the wall of the community garden because the commissioners were impressed with the community involvement of the Kit Hill section of the her 'Kelliwik Notes' mural on the front of Callington Town Hall.

It is planned to hold workshops in the hospital, and there will be an opportunity for all Derriford workers to press out words, into clay, that they associate with their work and environment. These tiles will be fired to stoneware and assembled on the wall in the shape of a 'Wishing Well'.

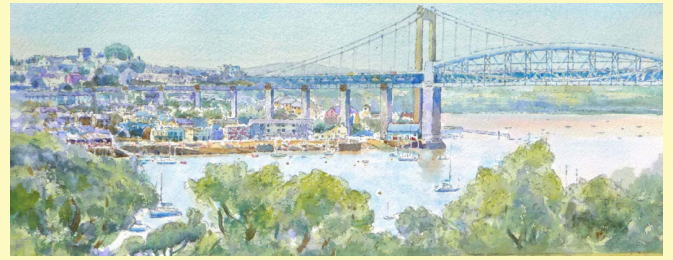


Featured Artist – Neil Mawdsley

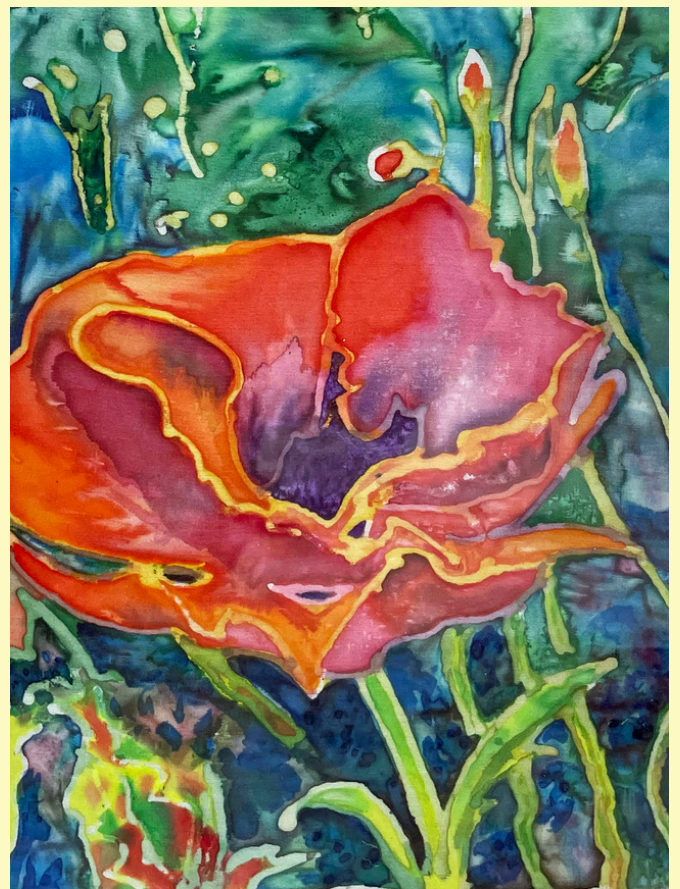
Neil Mawdsley is an artist who is inspired by the beautiful landscape of the Tamar Valley. His love of this area, particularly around Saltash, goes back many years. In fact he wrote a poetic piece of prose about this inspiring landscape many years ago; it is entitled *Diary of a Painter: A Trip to Saltash Passage* (October 1989). This short extract provides a flavour of the piece:



“I approached the river from St. Budeaux. The sunshine was perfect until I was almost at Saltash Passage. Then I felt the dampness and gradual filtering of the sunlight. As I arrived at the old ferry point, there was such a stillness as I moved towards the river. The water was like a pale brown-tinged glass leading away to infinity. There was no skyline - only a veil of mist clothing sea and sky.”

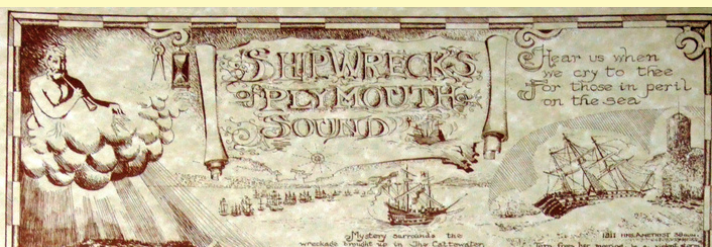


Neil in his own words: “I paint in all mediums and dabble in the odd sculpture. Plymouth is my home town and many of my paintings involve the sea and the Devon and Cornwall coasts.



Recently with Lockdown I completed a series of related paintings. Much of my work can be found on my website at www.mawdsley.co.uk. Also on Facebook.

For many years I taught children with learning difficulties and later I ran watercolour classes for adults. My shipwreck posters of Plymouth Sound has sold internationally and somewhere it is listed in the city archives. There is much more about me that is more interesting on my website.”



COMMITTEE - WHO'S WHO



Ali Fife Cook
Chair



Jess Maslen
Vice Chair



Anne Payne
Treasurer



Anne Crozier
Committee
Member



Lucy Griffiths
Committee
Member



Sonia Hicks
Committee
Member



Michael Jenkins
Committee
Member



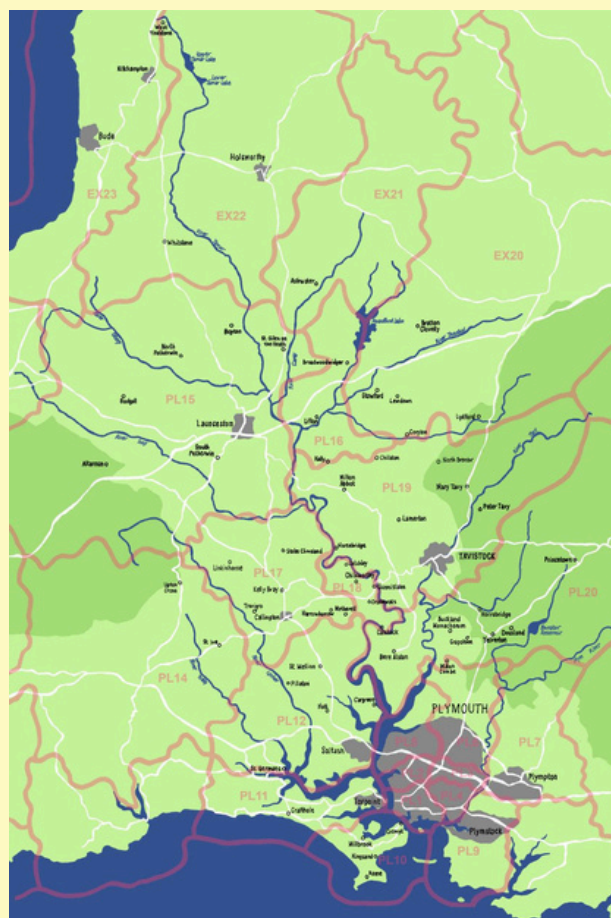
Debra Parkinson
Committee
Member



Stuart Morrissey
Committee
Member



Adrian Bower
Administrator



WHO IS YOUR AREA REP?

BUDE/LAUCESTON/LIFTON
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RAME PENINSULA PLO & PL11
CURRENTLY VACANT