

# DRAWN TO THE VALLEY



## Seasons Greetings



Can you name the artists from the style of each Christmas Tree? Answers on page 8.

## DttV is looking for someone to take on the role of Treasurer

The role of Treasurer is central to the organisation of DttV. Ideally, we would like someone with an understanding of accounts and use of Excel, but many aspects of the finances are handled by the Administrator, including the main accounts package and invoicing, so the role is primarily concentrated around income and expenditure in connection with events.

Anne Payne will be stepping down as Treasurer at the end of February. If you think you might be interested in taking on this role, you could initially have a chat with Anne. You can email her on [treasurerdttv@gmail.com](mailto:treasurerdttv@gmail.com).

## Changes to the Membership Renewal Process

Good news: the annual subscription fee will remain at £60. And, in order to make it easier for members, the membership renewal date as from Jan 2026 will be amended to 1 Jan for all members.

In order to achieve this it will mean that when your renewal date arrives next year you will only pay up until 31 Dec 2025. Reminders will be sent out informing you of your subscription fee in advance of your renewal date.

## Have you created a work of art that depicts spring?

We're on the lookout for a great image to use for the poster for the Spring Exhibition. It doesn't need to fit any particular shape or size as we may want to blend to a plain background for at least part of the text, but it does need to stand out well and have colours or a subject that gives a feeling of spring. It would be ideal if it's a work you are intending to include in the Spring Exhibition. Please send your images (1Mb-2Mb) to Adrian Bower, [contactdttv@gmail.com](mailto:contactdttv@gmail.com).

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We encourage content for the newsletter; do email us your news.

[contactdttv@gmail.com](mailto:contactdttv@gmail.com)

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

<https://drawntothevalley.com>



# Drawn to Make 2024

## Drawn to Make 2024 - Event Report

Despite storm Bert, torrential rain and gale force winds, spirits remained high at this year's Drawn to Make event. Over 20 exhibitors, predominantly 3D Makers, but complemented by 2D artists, put on a really high quality show. Ceramicists, textile artists, jewellery makers, print makers, stained glass...the range of stands showcased the breadth and quality of Drawn to the Valley members.

Footfall was surprisingly good, lower than normal, but nevertheless most exhibitors were pleased with sales. As always, the atmosphere was very convivial; it's a great opportunity for members to meet each other, to network and to be inspired by members' work.

The Plymouth and Cornwall Cancer Fund provided a great cafe...delicious home made soup and rolls as well as a delicious selection of homemade cakes and refreshments.

This is such a positive addition, visitors stay longer, it adds to the social atmosphere and it raised over £500 for the charity.



A huge thank you goes to The Plymouth and Cornwall Cancer Fund and to Sally O'Neill, Anne Payne and Gilly Spottiswoode for making it happen.

Lyn Edwards

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## The Fruity Side of Drawn to Make

These images from Drawn to Make were inspired by Anne Crozier's 'Banana Art' display which was a humorous take on the news article about the artwork sold recently for 6.2 million dollars.



We thought it would be fun if we all did something similar (mainly as a way of driving traffic to our social media sites by picking up on hashtags, but also highlighting the skill that goes into our work. My feed was full of links to #bananaart posts all throughout the week after; and I didn't even do the post, just commented! Just trying something different.



Alison Freshney



# Notes from the AGM

The AGM took place on 8 December. We'd decided to hold the meeting in Yelverton to make it easier for members coming from Plymouth, as recent AGMs had been in the Tamar Valley Centre at Gunnislake which is convenient for some but not for others. We also held a sale of art materials in the hope of enticing members. Unfortunately, neither of these resulted in an increase in numbers attending and it's fair to say it was a very disappointing turnout. Of course AGMs can be seen as dull, but they are a necessary part of the functioning of any organisation.

One of the requirements of an AGM is to scrutinise and approve the accounts. The AGM was only a short time after the end of the financial year, which could have been fine but a problem came to light to do with the change-over of bank signatories, and a resultant period of time when details from the bank were not automatically feeding into the accounts program. This couldn't be sorted out in time to have the accounts ready for approval at the meeting, so the meeting was suspended and will be resumed in January, just for that one agenda item.

## **Constitution:**

The committee put forward a proposal for small changes to the Constitution. The main one was to allow members to serve longer on the committee should they want to, to enable greater continuity and handing on of knowledge and experience. The changes were approved by the meeting. The Constitution can be found in the members' section on the website.

## **Committee:**

Two committee members stood down at the AGM, Jess Maslen and Debra Parkinson, and we'd like to thank them for all they've done for DttV during their period on the committee. Three members had been co-opted onto the committee during the year and their full committee membership was ratified at the AGM. No new nominations had been received. If anyone is interested in joining the committee, please put your name forward; co-options can take place at any time of the year.

## **Treasurer:**

Anne Payne agreed to stay on as Treasurer for the short term, as no nominations for the post had been received. However, for personal reasons she needs to relinquish the post at the end of February at the latest.

## **Other matters discussed:**

It was noted that the annual subscription will not be increased for 2025. There was a proposal from the committee that the renewal date be altered from the date of joining to 1st January each year, and this was approved. The open discussion at the end of the meeting was mostly around pop-up exhibitions and showing art in shops prior to an exhibition. Iain Grant told the meeting that there was a proposal to renew a previous arrangement for art by members displayed around Derriford Hospital. He will follow this up in the new year.

## **AGM follow-on meeting and social gathering**

Tuesday 21 January, 11am, Studio 1, The Printworks, Tavistock

To receive and approve the accounts for the year to 31st October 2024. The official business will only take a few minutes, but we do need a quorum so please come along if you can, for coffee and nibbles and a chance for chatting with fellow members.

# Our Plans for 2025

## Exhibitions and Events:

Plans are well underway for 2025, so here's a summary with dates - more detailed information will be given early in the new year when we'll be asking for declarations of interest.

### Spring Exhibition

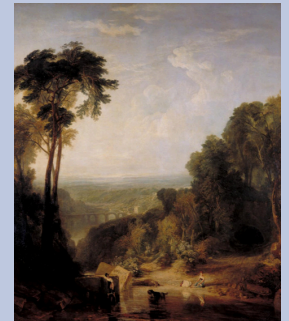
Wed 2 to Sun 6 Apr, Ocean Studios, Royal William Yard, Plymouth. Following several very successful Drawn to Print exhibitions at Ocean Studios, this year the concept will be expanded to include other 2D and 3D art and crafts, using an upstairs space as well as the Café area.



*Ocean Studios, Café and upstairs gallery*

### Turner Exhibition

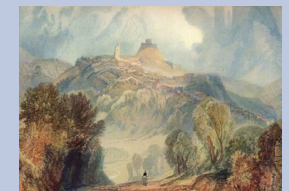
Sat 31 May to Sun 8 June, Cotehele, St. Dominick, Cornwall. In the year of the 250th anniversary of JMW Turner's birth, we will be holding an exhibition in this beautiful National Trust property featuring members' art and crafts on the theme of Turner. The theme can be interpreted in many ways, to do with style, influence or location, which should enable many members to take part in this special celebratory event.



*Crossing the Brook, JMW Turner*

### Summer Exhibition

Tues 15 to Sun 20 July, Butchers' Hall, Tavistock. Our annual Summer Exhibition is a little earlier this year, to give a better spread to the overall programme.



*Launceston Cornwall, JMW Turner*

### Open Studios

Sat 23 to Sun 31 Aug. Across our whole area.

### Drawn to Make

Nov, Memorial Hall, Yelverton. Dates to be arranged.

### Drawing Days and Creative Tables

To include a number of drawing days visiting locations where Turner sketched.

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## Preparing for Spring

Plans are already moving well ahead for the Spring Exhibition at Ocean Studios in Plymouth, but to make everything happen we need members to help. Would you like to join the Working Group or help in other ways, such as with publicity, artwork, preparing the forms, planning the layout, hanging the exhibition?

Being part of Drawn to the Valley should be more than just showing your work in Exhibitions, it's about being involved, being part of a group, all working towards a common objective.

Next month we'll be asking who'd like to join Working Groups for each of the other exhibitions and Open Studios, but we need to get things underway for the Spring Exhibition pretty quickly.

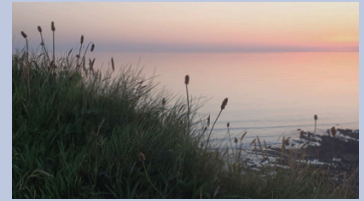
If you can help, please contact Debra Parkinson:

Tel 07891 473850 or email [parkyd@mac.com](mailto:parkyd@mac.com)

# Featured Artist - Gill Sargeant

**Gill Sargeant has recently joined Drawn to the Valley. Here she explains what inspires her and the process she uses to create her art.**

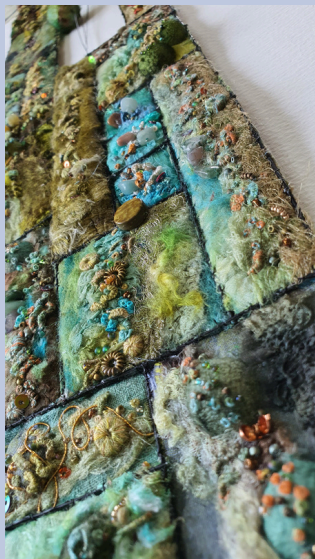
I am a self taught artist who turned to art, following early retirement from nursing, in 2009. It really was (and probably still is) a form of therapy. I started working with watercolour, but it was whilst attending a craft fair, I came across a stand that sold silk. This is where my passion for textile art started.



I have spent the last 14 years exploring this medium. Through hand dyeing the various silk textiles, threads and fibres, and using hand embroidery and beading, I create beautiful textural pieces, all inspired by my surroundings of Dartmoor and the South West coastline.



My process always starts with an image/photo that I have taken, developing a colour palette for each new project. My use of colour blending with the dyes is akin to the way a painter creates their palette. Each piece of work is unique. A large piece can take up to 4-6 weeks to complete...sometimes longer.

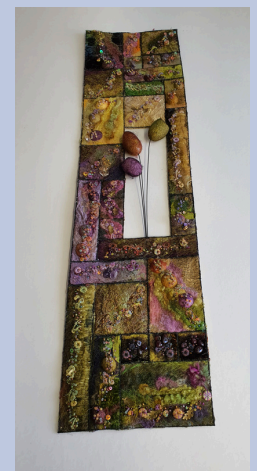


I continue to develop my craft. I'm always searching for new or different ways to express traditional techniques in a contemporary form. This is why I love what I do, the art never stands still. There is always something new to discover.

I am working, at present, on creating a body of work with the intention of doing my first solo exhibition. Hopefully, exciting times lie ahead.

I'd just like to end with saying thank you to the people I have met since joining DttV. I have been made to feel very welcome.

Gill.



# Members' News

## DttV member, Celia Over, writes...

DttV member Celia Over writes...At the moment, I have a range of jewellery -a pendant and pairs of earrings, engraved and etched silver with semi precious gemstones at St Ives Society of Artists Open Exhibition at:

Mariners Gallery, St Ives until 31 December 2024.



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## Dartmoor and Dark Skies: Drawn to the Valley member, Helen Kuumbi, writes about her experience working at a residency with a group of artists

In October I was offered a supported placement on an art residency with Mayes creative. I stayed and worked at Bellever Youth Hostel, Dartmoor, with a group of artists from a mix of disciplines. The residency was focused around prehistoric monuments on Dartmoor and their relationship with the sky. There were a number of visits to sites with archaeoastronomy expert, Carolyn Kennet, as well as time for self-directed research and facilitated group discussions.

I started the residency with a strong set of objectives; I wanted to dive deeper into the theory and concepts that related to a body of work I had already started. This work explored ancient archaeology in our 'natural' spaces.

It was apparent by day two, that the fog was set to stay all week and the planned observations of the night sky from the monuments would not happen. We were piskie led on our first night walk despite staying on hard tracks. The fogs and mist became a significant part of the residency; a forced but different experience of the environment.

From a visual perspective, the mist simplified the forms and heightened an awareness of the unique quality of shapes that the stones and the tors took: silhouetted they became guides, markers and took figure and animal like forms. The transition from first light into morning was a slow unveiling of the surrounding landscape, and the red and orange hues appeared startlingly vivid in contrast to the diffuse blue light. A small group of us did drawing sessions each night in which the soundscape became the focus of our attention and expression.

I took away some fascinating new ideas and perspectives about the sites we visited, which no doubt in future will feed into my painting practice - however, I feel this residency was more valuable in making me refocus on the foundations of colour and form. Here's some simple takeaways:

- I have revised my methodology and simplified how I approach a new site I intend to paint, that is – start without a preconceived idea: just walk in and ask what do I see?
- It has reinforced the importance of giving myself unrestrained time to draw when in the field; allowing a fuller visual processing of the scene and my thoughts in the space.
- I have been able to think about the subtler themes within my paintings that tie the work together beyond the broader subjects.

Since returning to the studio I have begun a new series of paintings from the sketches that I made when visiting Merrivale stone rows. Follow me on Instagram to see how these progress, or drop me a message.



<https://www.helenelizabethart.com/>



# Members' News, Announcements and Opportunities

## Drawn to the Valley member, Karen Austin, writes about a new challenge!

My first pet (kitten) portrait! It was a wonderful challenge considering the A3 size.

I was quite daunted to begin with: I know how important accuracy is, which is why I've never taken an animal commission before. Painting with watercolour is especially challenging as it's very hard to correct mistakes, but I decided to take the plunge and have a go. Luckily for me the owner is happy with the end result!



## Thoughts on five weeks' residency in Nova Scotia

Drawn to the Valley member, Adrian Edwards, writes about his experience as an Artist in Residence.

In September and October of this year I was given the opportunity of an Artist in Residence post in Nova Scotia, Canada.



Due to travel I had to carefully consider what materials to use, what opportunities were there and what the studio space would be like. No worries! The studio space was good (and right next door to a cafe) and my decision to take a process-driven approach and to use water-based materials on paper was a good one.

The landscape was interesting and varied and I was able to draw and manipulate materials freely. Visitors were encouraged and varied from smiling children eager to question, prod and poke, to adults including a Professor of Architecture keen to discuss the representation of three dimensional forms on a two dimensional surface and a common interest in the work of Norman Ackroyd.

Attitudes to original art work seemed very different there, and I met avid local collectors who invited me to their homes where wonderful collections were in place.

It was an encouraging, responsive period of hard work, endeavour and soul searching. I was happy to produce an interesting range of visual outcomes, which were beautifully displayed in the gallery next door.



## Sculpture Opportunity

I am organising a Sculpture Garden in Calstock for the Summer from May to September of 2025. I am interested in contacting local sculptors. Are any of DttV members sculptors or would be interested in producing work for the show. Thanks, Barry for Calstock or Tamar Valley Sculpture Garden.

Barry Kirkman: 01822 832619



## New Creative Studios in Saltash

Cornwall's newest creative hub will be opening very soon in Saltash with private studios and shared workspace available from £156pm (min term 3 months). Situated in the centre of Fore Street, just 5 minutes walk from the station, Saltash Studios also features hot desks, meeting space, community cinema facilities, storage, and space for creative workshops and pop-up shops. For further info and studios viewing, please call 07881784709 or email Lindsay: [lindsay@saltarts.org](mailto:lindsay@saltarts.org)

# COMMITTEE - WHO'S WHO



**Ali Fife Cook**  
Chair



**Anne Payne**  
Treasurer



**Anne Crozier**  
Committee  
Member



**Lucy Griffiths**  
Committee  
Member



**Sonia Hicks**  
Committee  
Member



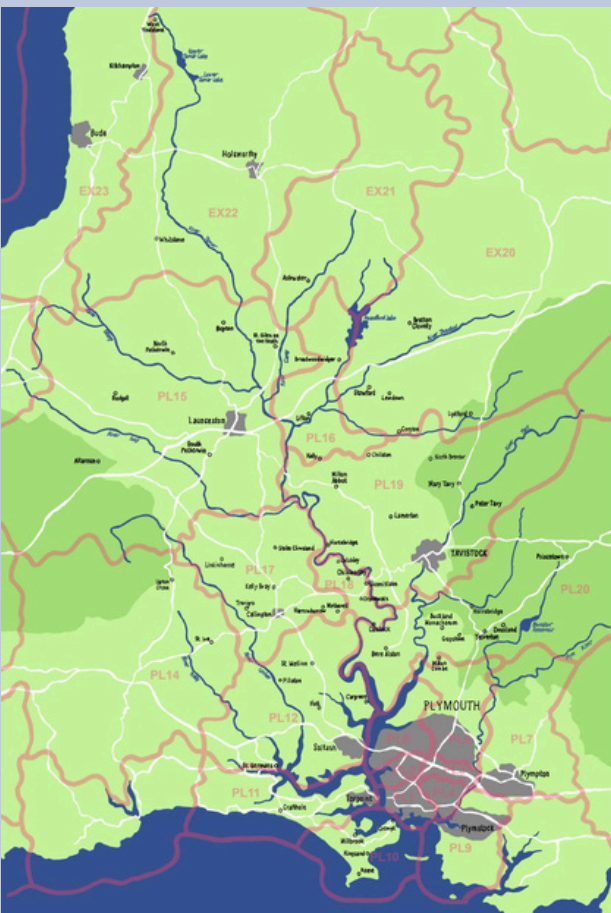
**Michael Jenkins**  
Committee  
Member



**Stuart Morrissey**  
Committee  
Member



**Adrian Bower**  
Administrator



## WHO IS YOUR AREA REP?

**BUDE/LAUCESTON/LIFTON**  
PL15, PL16, EX22 & EX23  
CURRENTLY VACANT

**TAVISTOCK PL19**  
Anne Wood  
mrs.annewood@btinternet.com  
01822 615587

**CALSTOCK/GUNNISLAKE PL18**  
Peter Ursem  
peter@peterursem.co.uk  
07786 558624 or 01822 833668

**WEST DEVON VILLAGES**  
Angela Smith  
moritzsmith@hotmail.com  
01822 810154  
Jen Bradley  
jenbradleydesigns@gmail.com  
01822 618957

**CALLINGTON PL14 & PL17**  
CURRENTLY VACANT

**PLYMOUTH PL1-PL7 & PL9**  
Jane Athron  
07758 950095  
jathron@yahoo.co.uk  
Clare Rogers  
Clare@thejollyrogers.co.uk  
07974 500910

**YELVERTON PL20**  
Anne Crozier  
anne@leighfarm.co.uk  
01822 840270

**RAME PENINSULA/SALTASH**  
PL10, PL11 & PL12  
CURRENTLY VACANT

**AREA REP COORDINATOR**  
Kathy Lovell  
kathylovell37@gmail.com