

Drawn to the Valley

Newsletter

June 2025



Spring in all its beauty

Drawn to Spring at Royal William Yard in early April was a wonderful success, with a large number of members participating, a great range of artworks and with some very good sales, particularly during the Private View. The upstairs gallery was an amazing sight with the walls filled with paintings and the tables filled with craft pieces; whilst downstairs in the Café area, each of the 2D artists was able to have one painting, which made a lovely display. With sales of over £3k, it was also a financial success for Drawn to the Valley and for many members.

Thanks go to Exhibition Leader, Debra Parkinson, and everyone on the Working Group who did such a great job.



Announcing a Drawn to the Valley Social Day

Following the success of the 'Gelli Gang' last year we would like to offer a social day:

Monday 16 June from 10am until 4pm - Walkhampton Memorial Hall, PL20 6JN

Bring and share lunch – tea, coffee and cake provided.

There will be a small charge to cover the hall hire.

A day to share our expertise with collage, gelli plate printing, sketching –what you will!

To provisionally book your place, contact Anne Crozier: anne@leighfarm.co.uk

Drawn to the Valley is looking for someone to take on the role as 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. Please note that this is an unpaid role.

Anne Payne will be stepping down as Treasurer at the end of November. 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.

Are you ready for Open Studios?

Open Studios runs from 23 to 31 August. The Application Form is now out, with a closing date of 8 June. The brochure is due to be printed in time for distribution at the Summer Exhibition in mid-July.

The application fee has been reduced this year, from £85 to £60, which we hope will help those who were unsure about being involved in this difficult financial time. Last year, DttV was able to cover many of the costs thanks to advertising in the brochure. We hope to do well with adverts this year although we recognise that businesses too are finding things tough. If you are in contact with framers, galleries, suppliers or other businesses you think might be interested, please could you ask if they'd like to take out an advertisement, or get in touch with Lynne Saunders, lcsaunders@cargreen.myzen.co.uk, for details of costs or to suggest businesses which might be interested.

If you're wanting to find a shared studio space, Kathy Lovell will try to match you up with a suitable venue. You can email her at kathylovell37@gmail.com.

At the moment there is one possible place available at Cotehele. If you are interested in joining the team for Open Studios there, please contact Ali Fife Cook: art@alifefcook.co.uk.

Could you help with preparation of the brochure copy? It involves taking information electronically from the spreadsheet of entries, putting everything in appropriate order and ensuring all entries follow the correct format. If you use Word and like to create order, this would be ideal for you. And it would be greatly appreciated.



*Goldfinches and Teasels
by Katy Choroszezewska*



Last reflections by Daphne Leeworthy



*Connection
by Shari Arnott*



Ladybirds by Corrinne Wright

Tavistock Library Card Sales

This is just a reminder that Tavistock Library sell cards on behalf of Drawn to the Valley members. The cards are sold at £3 per card; Tavistock Library take 60 pence commission on each card. Periodically, the card sales are reported to us and we transfer the money to you. If you would like to sell some cards via this method, please drop in up to 20 cards to the library. Please note that cards need to be wrapped in cellophane.

Exhibitions and Events

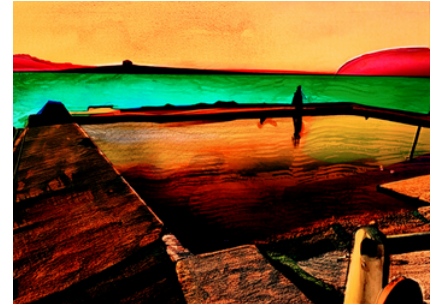
The many interpretations of Turner's influence

There are still a few days to catch our Inspired by Turner exhibition at Cotehele. With more than 30 members taking part, the exhibition is a lively mix of styles and mediums, reflecting many different interpretations of the techniques, locations and influences which Turner found so inspiring. Turner's use of colour and light, shines through many of the artworks, with some recognisable local scenes, and at the exhibition you can read about how each artist has interpreted the theme.

Open each day until Sunday 9 June, 12pm to 4pm.



Equinox by Carole Cox



*Dog Walking at the Tidal Pool
by Juliet Cornell*



Cotehele by Nuala Taylor

The Social Media Team has done a fantastic job promoting the Turner exhibition

Everyone who likes, comments on, or shares a post helps to boost the spread of our message; so, whenever you see a Facebook or Instagram post from or about DttV or any of our members, please share it.

Our Summer Exhibition will be in the Carnival spirit

We brought forward the date for the Summer Exhibition this year, mainly to space out our events, and give more time for Open Studios' publicity. This means that the exhibition will be taking place during Tavistock Carnival week; we are delighted that we'll be part of this great annual event.

Tavistock Lions, who organise the Carnival, have asked us to arrange a children's art session on Sunday 20 July (the day following the exhibition) in the Guildhall Car Park. Would you like to run, or be a part of, this session? Please get in touch with Adrian: contactdttv@gmail.com

There is a Working Group, but we'd like one or two more members to get involved. It's a great way to be a real part of one of our exhibitions and learn all about what goes on during the preparation period.

Members' News

Coast Pop-up Gallery

Drawn to the Valley member, Erika Ankers, has written in to let us know about an exhibition she is a part of in June in the Melville building, Royal William Yard in Plymouth, from 6-22 June.

Entitled Coast, it will feature a range of artists, 2D and 3D, whose work focuses on their relationship with and exploration of the coast.

www.ericankers.co.uk / @coast.artgallery on instagram



Plymouth Colour Collective Annual Exhibition

DttV member, Gill Sargeant writes, "I have been invited by the Plymouth Colour Collective group, as a guest artist, to exhibit alongside them at their annual exhibition." The image opposite shows part of a piece entitled "Veins of Silk, Veins of Ore". Gill describes it thus: "Dyed silk panels are layered and stitched to reflect Cornwall and Devon's tin and copper mines. The surface bears traces of patina and verdigris - those unmistakable green hues of weathered copper and tin, showing beauty in decay."

The exhibition is being held at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth from 24th June-19th July.



Gill Mannings Cox undertakes an exciting new project

As light relief (maybe) from river charts and maritime subjects, I've taken on my first murals. They're murals with a difference: the pristine white walls of the newly-restored village bus shelter! My only similar experience is a few theatre scenery backdrops and these five walls - interior three and two sides - are much smaller, so What Can Go Wrong? It'll be fun, with undoubtedly lots of advice and comments from the residents: teeth-sucking and 'I'd never have done it like that...', or 'That's nice, dear, you should take art up as a hobby'.

The photo shows the design for one end wall; the intention is hard to describe, but if you're standing looking at that wall, and mentally remove the wall itself and a few trees and a couple of houses and half a hill, this is what you'd see. The other end eventually faces a bit of Kingsmill Lake and the Tamar at Saltash with bridges, so I'm looking forward to that. Please keep your fingers crossed that the preliminary grids work out and that the whole thing comes good. If it does, maybe pictures later!



Featured Artist - Nicky May

Nicky May has painted since she was a small child. She started her career in the voluntary sector, including Voluntary Service Overseas in Papua New Guinea and Kenya. She worked in senior management for Oxfam, and then a series of voluntary organisations, as well as doing freelance work evaluating the effectiveness of development projects in Africa and Asia. Painting was, throughout all this time, her refuge, and a way of looking more closely at the world around her.



Dark Waves



Long Peak Beach

She turned seriously to painting in 1994. Her only formal art training was through the Open College of the Arts. She spent many years under the tutelage of Norman Rechter, a renowned European watercolourist, and more recently has been fired up by a series of workshops by the abstract landscape painter and teacher, Louise Fletcher.

In 2002 she gained a Diploma in Studio Ceramics, and worked mainly as a potter for 10 years or so, making sculptural pots. In 2012 she was “called” back to the easel by a strong need for colour and since then has concentrated on painting.

She is a member of The Cornwall Watercolour Society and East Cornwall Society of Artists. She has shown work in galleries and exhibitions throughout the South West and in Oxford and London.

To find out more, visit Nicky's website: www.nickymayart.co.uk

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DttV areas and Area Reps

Members can, if they want to, join more than one ‘area’. Some might want to be involved with an area where they work as well as a different area where they live. If you would like to do that please get in touch with Adrian, contactdttv@gmail.com.

Peter Ursem has recently relinquished the role of Area Rep for Calstock and Gunnislake, our thanks to him for all he has done to help artists in the area for the past few years. The Committee decided to join that area with Callington and Liskeard. Area Rep Jackie Lowman is now covering that area.

A while ago Geoff Dodd joined the West Devon Villages area as a third Area Rep to ensure coverage during absences on the team, and he will be continuing in that role for the current time. Thanks Geoff.

Can you help with this request from Jane Butcher about a painting bought from a DttV exhibition?

I don't know whether you would be able to help us. We purchased an oil painting from a Drawn to the Valley exhibition which was held in The Barrow Centre in Mount Edgcumbe some years ago. We have sadly suffered a house fire recently and lost the picture and all paper work. I wondered whether it would be at all possible to supply us with a list of artists from your group who have exhibited at this venue to aid our research and eventually replace the picture.

I do hope you can help us.

If you have any clue about the painting and/or artist, please contact Adrian, contactdttv@gmail.com.

News about the Newsletter

You might notice that we have adopted a simpler layout for this newsletter; the plan being that this will enable us to publish newsletters more frequently in future. What makes a newsletter interesting is your stories, so please send through news about any projects or exhibitions you are involved in, any awards you have won, or just more general news stories about your art, along with a few photos. It's helpful if you can pass information through about a month before the start of anything that is date critical, such as an exhibition.

COMMITTEE - WHO'S WHO



Ali Fife Cook
Chair



Anne Payne
Treasurer



Anne Crozier



Lucy Griffiths



Sonia Hicks



Michael Jenkins



Stuart Morrissey



Adrian Bower
Administrator

Area Reps

Area Rep Coordinator: Kathy Lovell
kathylovell37@gmail.com

Callington/Liskeard, Gunnislake/Calstock: Jackie Lowman - jlowmanartist@gmail.com

Launceston/Lifton: VACANT

Plymouth: Jane Athron - jathron@yahoo.co.uk, Clare Rogers - clare@thejollyrogers.co.uk

Rame Peninsula/Saltash: VACANT

Tavistock: Anne Wood - mrs.anne.wood@btinternet.com

West Devon Villages: Geoff Dodd - geoffdodd99@yahoo.co.uk,
Angela Smith - angelamoritzsmith@hotmail.com

Yelverton: Anne Crozier - anne@leighfarm.co.uk

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

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

contactdttv@gmail.com



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