

Dumfries and Galloway Fine Arts Society

Spring 2021



On the cover

Our digital design symbolises the society emerging strongly from a viral swamp



In this edition

The chairman writes.....	4
Jane Howe - a tribute.....	5
How some members found a way to cope with lockdown.....	6-13
More art from isolation.....	14
A challenge - the results.....	15
A group for printmakers.....	22
The Galloway Line.....	25
Remember, Remember - a story.....	26
Meet Beanie, a charitable cat.....	29
Annual meeting.....	30
Contacts and cartoon.....	31

From the editor

Fearing a lack of content for the magazine, without the usual events to report, we invited members to contribute "lockdown experiences, words of wisdom, pictures, poems even". To help get members' ideas flowing, we also issued a challenge: to create a still-life, a self-portrait, or a view from the window.

Your splendid responses have filled this edition with an inspiring variety of artwork (as well as an amusing reminiscence and illustration of a fiery occasion). The entries will also be included in a special Gallery show on the website.

Are you aware of For Enjoyment, a community group that has been helping some DAGFAS members stay afloat during the pandemic? You can read all about it in this edition.

For members with an interest in printmaking, there's an article about a new group, South West Scotland Printmakers, by founder member Colin Blanchard.

Many thanks to all those who have contributed and helped to make this an extra special edition of the magazine. Let's hope the next one will have a "real" gallery exhibition to report on.

Ian Irving
ian@dumfriesandgallowayfineartsociety.org.uk

Find us at:

web: www.dumfriesandgallowayfineartsociety.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/fineartssoc

Instagram: www.instagram.com/dagfas20/

The chairman writes:

I had thought that by now we would have some definite news about forthcoming events; unfortunately, despite vaccines, planning ahead has been difficult.



Kathleen Woods

We are unable to go ahead with our planned exhibition at the Harbour Cottage Gallery in Kirkcudbright in April but we hope to have a two-week show there in November - and there is a possibility of a summer exhibition at Gracefield, Dumfries. We will keep you informed.

It is unlikely we will be able to come together for our AGM in April so if you have a query or any matter you would want taken up and discussed on line please send it to the secretary, Brian Power, or myself by and it will go on the agenda.

Next year, 2022, will be the 100th anniversary of the founding of the society. We need to start planning special events to mark this important milestone in the society's history and we would welcome suggestions.

Sadly, we lost another valued council member, Jane Howe, in December. She was a great friend and asset to the society. Our president Patti Lean pays tribute to Jane opposite. We have co-opted Aileen McEwan to the council and are seeking a few more members who would be willing to help run the society with us. Please contact myself or Brian Power.

The latest wave of the pandemic has been very hard for everyone, especially through the darkest days of winter, but the appearance of snowdrops and spring flower shoots, and the lighter nights, gives us hope of more positive times ahead. So keep painting!

Kathleen

Jane Howe - a tribute

Patti Lean, the society's president, writes: I felt very sad to hear in December that Jane Howe had passed away. Our paths had crossed on many occasions over the years, often at CatStrand events or exhibition openings, and I used to enjoy our chats and conversations very much.

Jane was great company; she exuded energy, enthusiasm and good humour, as well as being tall, elegant and effortlessly stylish. Despite her busy family life - and her great hobby, dragon-boating - Jane was a serious, dedicated and extremely accomplished artist.

She managed to focus more on her art as the children grew up, attending Dumfries and Galloway College and Leith School of Art. Her art practice developed in exciting ways over the years, and I loved her open, experimental way of working, unafraid to tackle new ideas, methods and media - including decorating one of the council bins near Loch Ken with lovely bright sailing boats.



As programme organiser of DAGFAS, Jane brought her many skills and contacts to the role, arranging fascinating talks, workshops and demos.

She co-ordinated everything with calm efficiency and charm, and overall made a huge contribution to the artistic life of the area. She'll be greatly missed in these and many other ways. I'm only sorry I never accepted her typically-friendly invitation to go dragon-boating, but am proud to own some of her art work. Deepest sympathy goes to Jane's family on such a very sad loss.

To keep mind, body and soul together while in lockdown during the pandemic, three DAFGAS members kept busy through their involvement with **For Enjoyment ***

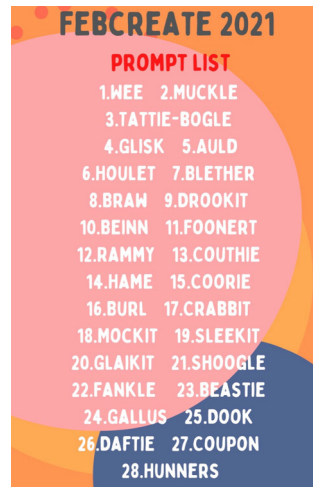
Christine Birtwistle first became involved in For Enjoyment through some workshops held at the Carers Centre and also through a printing workshop held at Gracefield Arts Centre in Dumfries.

"I thought I would try some of the drawing workshops held at The Usual Place but this proved impossible as I was a full time carer for my husband and later my father. When the pandemic hit, For Enjoyment moved its workshops online and this proved to be a godsend for me.

Throughout the lockdown I have been able to join a variety of workshops, meet like-minded creatives online, and take part in creative challenges such as Inktober and Febcreate.

Involvement in the group has proved to be a focus to keep me involved in the creative process and a relaxing way of spending some "me time".

I am always impressed and heartened by the inclusive nature of the group and its supportive ethos."



Scots words were used as prompts to inspire ideas for pictures

CHRISTINE'S PICTURES



Blether

*** See page 12**



Glisk



Rammy - Gunfight at Ok Corral.

Rammy



Tattie-Bogle



Foonert



Muckle

Irene Rodgers first got involved in For Enjoyment back in the summer of 2019 when she took part in a pop-up art workshop in the Loreburn Centre.

"I loved it and was delighted to be invited to participate in Inktober 2019 and produce a sketch a day for the whole month. I continued to attend some face-to-face workshops with other members of the group at the start of 2020 but sadly all workshops had to be cancelled due to lockdown.

Frank Hayes, the organiser, was determined to find a way to keep things going and came up with the idea of online workshops. These proved to be a huge success. I spent the spring of 2020 drawing and painting a variety of topics suggested by Frank and took part in another Inktober that autumn.

Frank also came up with Febcreate 2021, using a variety of Scottish words as prompts, which has been great fun!

Being involved in For Enjoyment has kept me motivated, encouraged and supported and I cannot thank the members enough for this, with special thanks to Frank for keeping it all going during some very stressful times"

IRENE'S PICTURES



Hame



Mockit



Crabbit



Blether



Shoogle



Glick

June Marchbank also became involved in For Enjoyment back in the summer of 2019 when she went along with Irene and took part in the same pop-up art workshop in the Loreburn Centre.

"My involvement in For Enjoyment has made me realise that art doesn't always need to be a masterpiece, it can be a scribbled drawing, a collage or indeed a rubbing of a dead leaf. At the beginning of lockdown last year when we all were wondering what hit us Frank would set us a challenge for the week ahead. These challenges kept me busy as I tried my best to get the creative juices flowing again. It was during this time that I ripped up many a magazine and started to enjoy world of collage again.

I have also been taking part in For Enjoyment's Thursday online Zoom workshops; each week we are given tutorials and worksheets which helps us create our finished piece. There are 10 to 12 people on these workshops, where lots of fun and support helps us through another week.

I have really enjoyed taking part in Inktober and For Enjoyment's very own Febcreate. Like Christine, I am always impressed and heartened by the inclusive nature of the group and its supportive ethos."

JUNE'S PICTURES



Glaikit



Burl

Drookit



Gallus



Coorie



Shoogle

For Enjoyment – a community of creatives

For those who don't know of it, For Enjoyment is a Community Interest Company described as "a group of people coming together to do a quintessentially human thing – be creative for the simple pleasure of it. "

Dumfries-based organiser **Frank Hayes** writes: For Enjoyment has been hugely impactful in the last five years in Dumfries and across the region and has changed the lives of countless people who have been involved with its events, workshops and one-to-one engagements.

During the last year online provision has been key, FE has continued to provide creative outlets through its online formats which have been hugely successful and the impact of these has been testament to

the passion and commitment of the For Enjoyment community. A large cross section of people from all walks of life, of all ages and abilities have come together to form a community of creatives.

Anybody can attend events and be welcomed into a warm supportive and nurturing environment. We aim to cut social isolation, working in partnership with many other organisations. With a focus on inclusion, equality and diversity, FE is a strong community where everybody is welcomed, supported and encouraged to discover themselves and their artistic strengths through the wonderful journey that is creative practice.

FE is a social enterprise; we engage a vast cross-section of the community from looked-after children to the retired, from people with additional support needs to full-time working adults. Everyone treats each other equally and supports each other through their creative endeavours.

It is a totally unique and nurturing environment that is a perfect setting for anyone who needs to

get back on their feet again or take time out of a busy week just to be creative. FE use drawing, printing and photography as creative outlets to engage people. No level of experience is needed and all equipment and support is provided, costs are kept low so as to keep the workshops and events truly accessible.

Numerous venues and locations across the region are used so as to give people new experiences and to highlight the many hidden gems that we have in D&G and taking full advantage of our beautiful coastline and countryside.

We are a force for good. We focus on the individual's strengths, and the strength of For Enjoyment is born from that.

<https://www.facebook.com/drawingforenjoyment/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Photography-For-Enjoyment-182143342557131/>

<https://www.voluntaryarts.org/for-enjoyment-cic>

A glossary of the Scots words used as prompts by our members for their artwork on the previous pages.

Blether - idle talk, gossip

Burl - turn, spin

Crabbit - bad tempered

Coorie - snuggled down

Drookit - soaked

Foonert - overcome by cold

Gallus - bold, confident

Glisk - a gleam

Glaikit - foolish

Hame - home

Mockit - dirty

Muckle - large

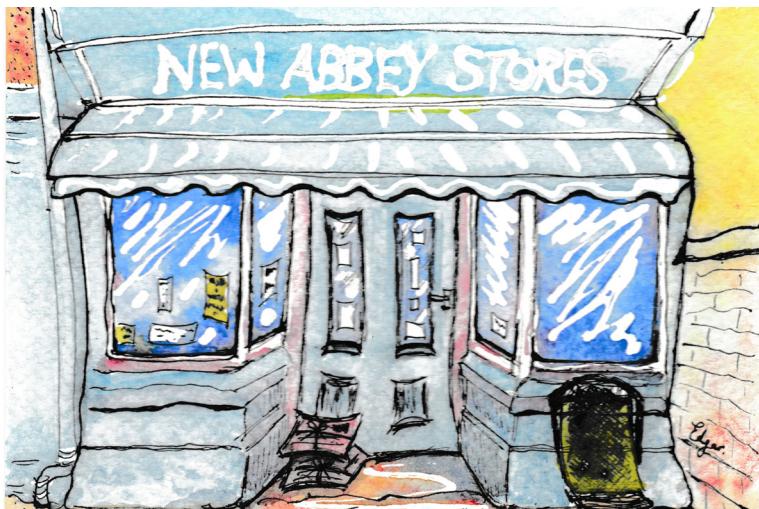
Rammy - a free for all

Shoogle - rock, sway, shake

Tattie-bogle - scarecrow

More art from lockdown

Members who responded to our request to let us know of their creative activities during the pandemic included **Maureen Edgar**. She produced 20 of these lively pen and watercolour sketches on watercolour postcards in the space of two weeks, all at her home in New Abbey, using photos taken on her mobile phone and tablet as references.



Village Shop



Castle Door



Abbey Cottage



Criffel Cottage



Shebburn

We set a challenge

To encourage creativity in lockdown, we posed a challenge on the website and by email:

Create, in any medium,

A STILL-LIFE incorporating a representation of a bird or animal (not living creatures)

or

THE VIEW from your window

or

A SELF-PORTRAIT

Many thanks to those who responded - your work is shown on the following pages. Some didn't quite follow the brief (and some tackled more than one topic) but the results were so interesting we are showing most of them anyway. Any that haven't got into the magazine will be included in a special Gallery feature on the website.

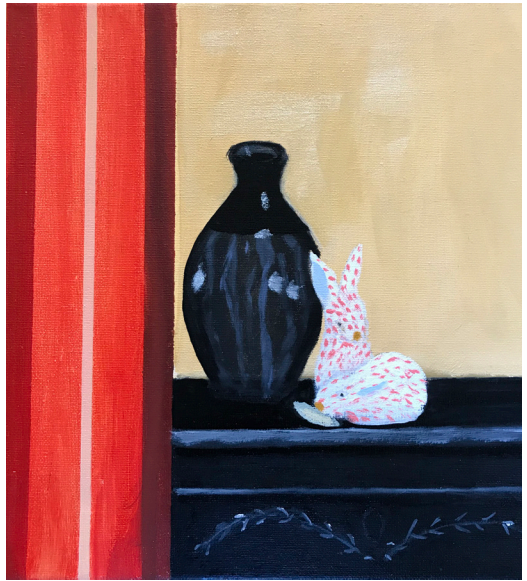
Still-lives



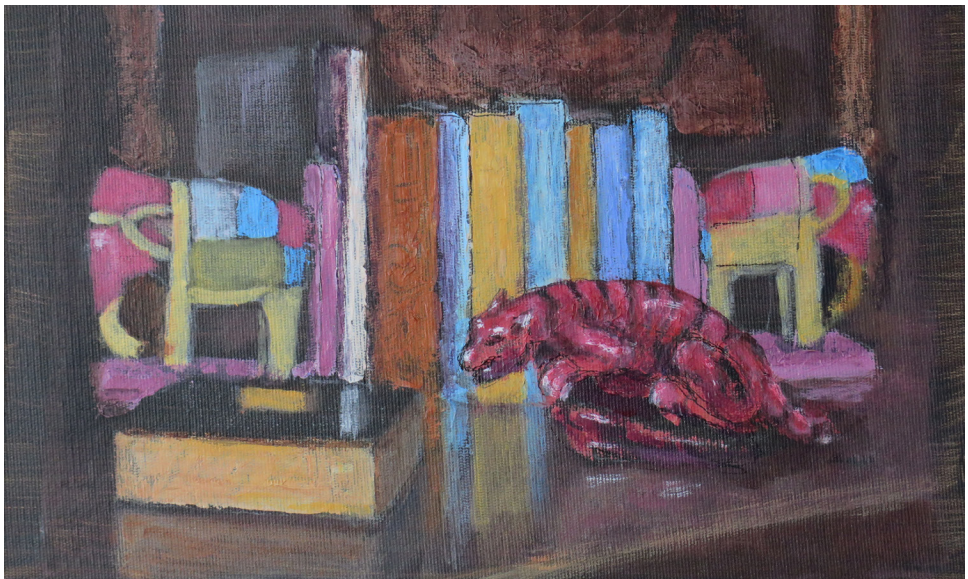
Bella Green - Sudden Sunlight - acrylic on paper - 49x39cm
(The picture incorporates a little donkey Bella made at the age of 12 for a Girl Guide badge. She found it among her mother's possessions)
<https://www.bellagreen.co.uk>



William Neal - The Story of a Sad Enamel Plate by Salt and Pepper - digital media. www.doodleloonz.com



Kathleen Woods - Still Life with Ornamental Hares - oil on canvas - 30x30cm



Anon - Still life With Elephants and a Tiger - acrylic - 18x26cm

Self portraits



Maureen Edgar - colour pencil - 12x17in



William Neal - Nocturnal Portrait in Black and White - digital media



Mary Carberry



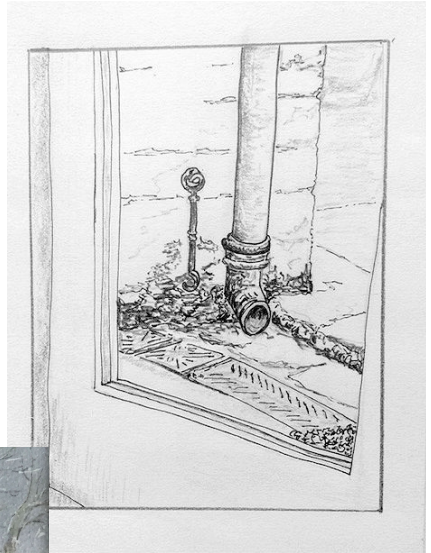
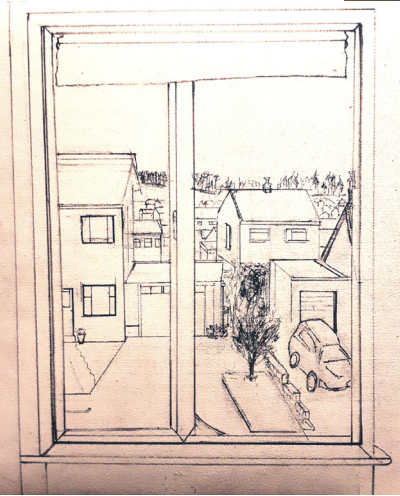
*Brian Power - in a Cubist style
- 'Only approximate likeness
but it was fun to try'*

Views from the window

**Jane B Gibson -
Collared Doves - soft
pastel - 56x66cm**



**Below: June
Marchbank**



Sarah Steele

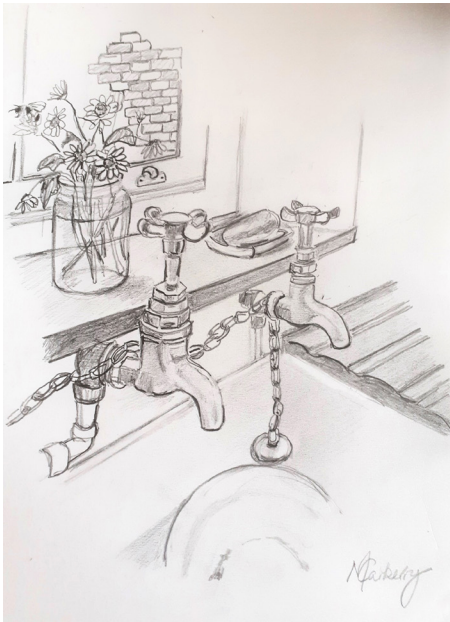


**Shirley Weatherup -
Innisfree Cabin with
Cat and Robin
- watercolour**



Your lockdown art Continued

Gill Glover - still-life



Brian Power - still life - oils

Mary Carberry - still life



William Neal - View from my studio at Ryan Bay - digital media



*Melanie Peacham
- Family Portrait -
soft pastels -16x12in*

Colin Blanchard, printmaker from Waterbeck, near Lockerbie, talks about a new group for artist printmakers in the region

South West Scotland Printmakers

Perhaps the collective noun for printmakers should be A Patience of Printmakers. Certainly, the very nature of the activity generally requires a deal of patient planning and preparation before the delights of a new image come to fruition!



Colin Blanchard in his studio

And that's probably just as well, as it's been over 18 months now since I first started to ask a few other artists working in print media if, like me, they felt it was time the area had its own printmakers group.

By the end of 2019 a number of us agreed that despite the fact that South West Scotland has both a long and honourable artistic tradition and many creative people working in a wide variety of ways with printmaking (or keen to try) it was one of the very few parts of the UK with no collective group for printmakers and had comparatively limited access to print workshop facilities. Secondly, in these days of digital colour printing in every home, and potential confusion

between giclée “limited editions” and truly “original” prints; we were keen to promote and educate about the processes and nature of this way of making original print art. And so the early process of developing such a group was coming together - just as the first disruption of the pandemic hit!

As for so many others, at first it threw us a little off track. But eventually, undeterred, and with the use of Zoom meetings and email, last November finally saw the official birth of SWSP - South West Scotland Printmakers! The chair of the new group is Sarah Keast, based in Moniaive; and as she said recently: “The group still

has some development work to do to be properly established, but we are sure there is an encouraging future for printmaking in the area. It is our intention to provide networking, information exchange and learning opportunities relating to printmaking. We will be able to create further exhibition and selling opportunities for members and aid their professional development.”

To help launch the group and to showcase the wide variety of printmaking going on in the region, the first SWSP members - all from Dumfries and Galloway, Ayrshire or South Lanarkshire - were given a last-minute exhibition slot at Gracefield Arts Centre, Dumfries. Unfortunately, this in turn became a victim of the second lockdown. But as I write we are hopeful that it may have an extended run as things return to normal.

So many things are still delayed and made difficult - but our ‘Patience of Printmakers’ - consisting of a Committee of six, and around 15 initial members, expect – hopefully by the end of next month to have a proper membership database and all important bank account up and running. We are to hold an open competition to create a



A print by Sarah Keast

logo; and we want to develop a proper website. In due course we will bring together plans for our other activities such as courses, workshops and demonstrations, plus an annual major exhibition of original printmaking. We are also very keen to support access to and development of professionally equipped print workshop facilities in South West Scotland.

As well as myself and Sarah Keast, the committee of SWSP consists of Sarah Stewart from Wigtown, Pamela Grace from Kirkpatrick Durham and Emma Varley from



Examples of work by founding members of South West Scotland Printmakers: above by Pamela Grace; below, Emma Varley; opposite, Sarah Stewart (top) and Colin Blanchard

Dumfries, as well as Dawn Henderby of Gracefield Arts Centre.

If you are interested in this new group and its activities or indeed have questions, suggestions or information about printmaking in the region, I'll be happy to hear from you at colin@colinblanchard.com. Or phone 07714123227

Watch this space – but in the meantime....be patient!





You Ticket To: **The Galloway Line**

To: **HND Art and Design
Online Exhibition**

Date: **June 2021**

From: **Dumfries and Galloway College**

Find us at:
Website Coming Soon



Crichton Trust

Archie Sutter Watt Trust



The Galloway Line

The Galloway Line is the title of this year's graduation exhibition of work by eight HND Art and Design students from Dumfries and Galloway College.

It charts the students' individual journeys through art to the future. Each student has been exploring a different theme throughout the year and the exhibition will showcase this through a range of techniques and use of materials including ceramics, painting, printmaking, digital media and textiles. The exhibition will be online during the month of June. Follow us on Instagram @ [the_galloway_line_2021](#) for both our progress on the lead up to the exhibition and for details where to find the exhibition itself.

Caitlyn MacLeod

Remember, remember...

William Neal recalls an explosive occasion, in words and a picture

It was November the 5th 1954 - yes, Firework Night. I was just one of dozens of excitable little kids gathered together for a much anticipated super bonfire night. The venue was our local policeman's large garden at Station Road in the village of Bramley, Surrey.

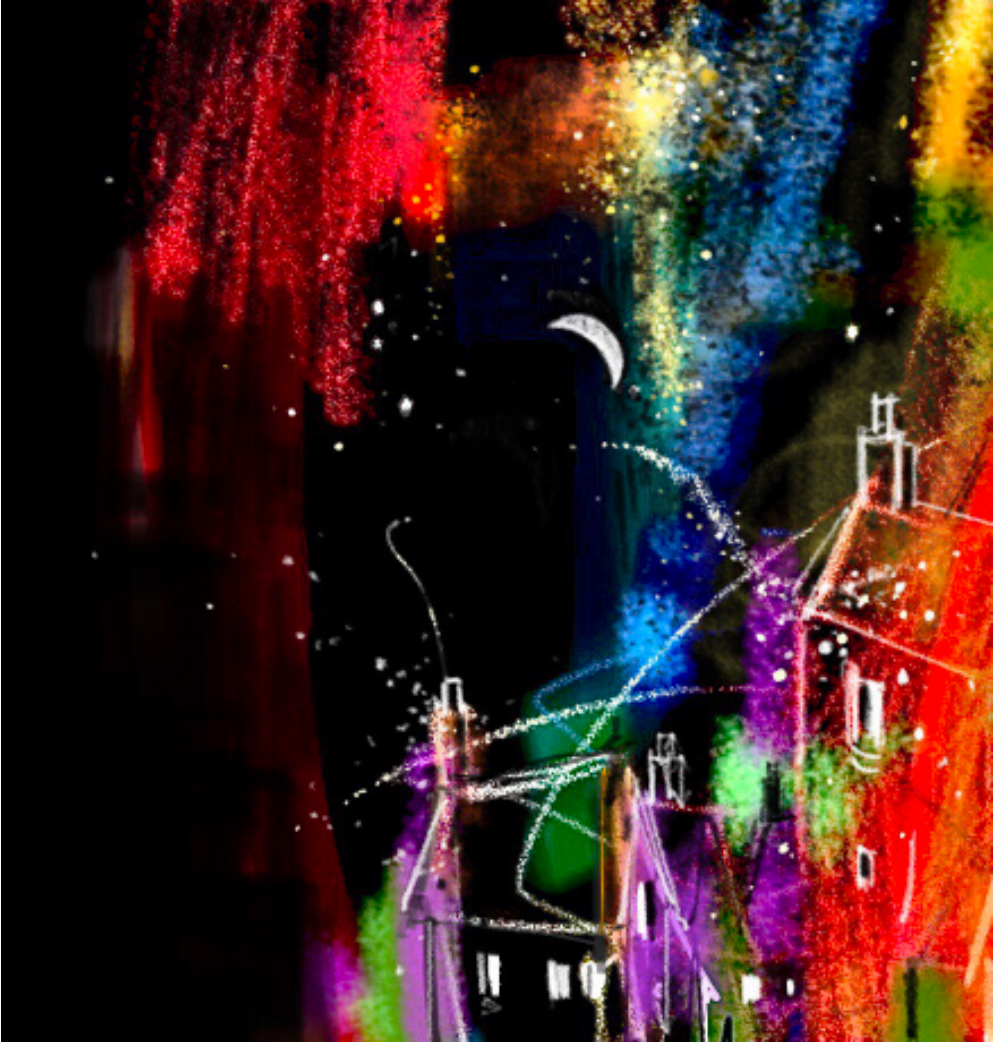
This highly expectant mood was heightened by every bang and crackle from other folks' fireworks in the surrounding neighbourhood. We all felt our firework display would be the most spectacular of all. Appropriately, we were accompanied by dozens of fussing mums and dads, taking forever to get things underway.

All we wanted to see was our own huge bonfire cheerily shining upon all our faces as we jumped at thunderous bangs from air bombs, flying saucers and whooshing rockets! Please recall this was the local policeman's house and garden. Chosen by the residents of Station

Road for the decorum and above all, safety of this potentially dangerous event. Of worthy mention also, is the fact that it had rained non-stop for several days. Consequently, this lovely dry and clear frosty night, had no positive influence upon the bonfire. It stubbornly refused to blaze away. Rather than dampen spirits still further, it was decided to implant rags soaked in paraffin deep inside this huge wooden pile of rubbish. It was of course topped in the traditional manner by a splendid Guy who had already won prizes and accrued much-needed cash for loads of fireworks.

All was not well

Also of note, the hundreds of fireworks had been neatly stacked into several huge boxes on a table. Beside them stood several large buckets of water, befitting the ever-watchful safety-first attention from our local policeman. Sadly, all was not well with our bonfire, despite numerous attempts to get a good blaze going. Therefore, our trusty policeman summoned more paraffin, which was by then soaking the entire miserably stubborn



I was six, maybe six and a half....the odd half is important when you're a kid! So, too, is the spontaneous boldness kids have when they're let loose with a box of paints. No inhibitions, wallop !... on it all goes. Therefore, my endeavour to capture the feel of this momentous night is portrayed in part, by the use of swift gestural strokes of strident colours. I feel the imagery and emotion is helped no end by the instant sketch-like notes that an iPad and Apple Pencil can help convey.

non-bonfire. The bonfire itself was situated away from the house towards the bottom of the garden some distance from a tall brick wall. The other side of this wall was the local bus stop. I mention the bus stop since the locality of Station Road, Bramley, had recently been upgraded with the added attraction of a new double-decker bus route.

If you are only five or six in the early 1950s, believe me, double-deckers were a pretty big deal. Lest we forget, these were the days when we used to write down car registration numbers or play ‘guess the car coming’ by the sound of the engine. (Yes, it was fun! We could tell the difference between a Humber Super Snipe or an Austin A35 long before they came into view). Anyhow, it must have been nearly 8.30pm with very few cars

A burst of flame

about, when the bonfire stubbornly refused to render us all with a cheery glow, so us kids had to content ourselves with hand-held sparklers....hardly worth all the effort, as glum little faces did their level best not to cry. Enter jolly mums along with the policeman’s wife and others handing out even

more mugs of cocoa and ginger nuts to keep us all warm.

They needn’t have bothered...in one explosive instant, this dull damp experience was cataclysmically changed. A sudden massive burst of flame like a giant blow torch seared into the frosty night. It lit up the entire neighbourhood as sparks shot heavenwards with stunning speed.

Yells of glee

Every kid yelled with glee and raucous applause as the blaze became a code red inferno. Within seconds we all realised something was about to go terribly wrong... Sparks and red hot embers were falling all around us. Frantic yells of ‘stand back’ changed to, ‘everyone back inside!’ Yet it fell on deaf little ears as every kid’s dream spectacular had finally arrived. At that moment, came the last 8.30pm double-decker bus to Guildford, stopping as usual behind the garden wall.

I recall all the upstairs steamy windows had faces of passengers transfixed or bemused with horror as the blazing guy toppled, leaving his lofty hot spot in raging sparks - to fall with pin-point accuracy onto

the table holding all the fireworks. Like many of the other kids, I just stood there wide-eyed at the flaming fiasco, oblivious of the danger. Rockets pinged off the side of the bus and exploding fireworks lit up all the windows in the street.

I'm not sure how long this lasted, certainly not very long. Suddenly it was all over apart from the thickest layer of smoke I've ever seen, flickering lazy shadows from a now much smaller but safer blazing bonfire. We seemed to have shared a moment of 'what might have been', becoming a subdued little bunch of 'rag tags' with noses to the windows, craning necks to watch other folks' rockets. It just wasn't the same.

A telling off

Back at school, we had a regular news book. We could write about all the favourite times of our lives at the close of each week. I do recall writing about the fireworks; I'm bound to have done a small picture as well, but again it just wasn't the same. To crown it all, we had a severe telling off for not going inside when told to do so. Yes, we all did well not to have come to serious harm. Having said that,

back then, our toys had sharp points and lead in most of them, we rode bikes and soap-box carts with no brakes or helmets - and we had to eat our greens before we could get down from the table and play..... now that was *really* serious.



Mary Carberry writes: During the first lockdown I wrote some poems and then illustrations to go with them. I wrote them initially for my grandson but then had them printed into a book and started selling them in November, with all proceeds going to The Usual Place, Dumfries. My son, who has Down's Syndrome, is a trainee there and it was my way of saying thank you to them for all they do. I have sold over 150 books to date at £7 each and will continue to sell them in The Usual Place shop once it is opened again, or will post if you email me at mimicarb@hotmail.co.uk.

Annual Meeting 2021

The society's 2021 meeting is likely to be an EGM - extraordinary general meeting held on line by council members on April 16. If there is any question or topic you wish to be discussed, please notify the secretary, Brian Power.

Report from 2020

In response to the coronavirus pandemic UK lockdown was imposed on March 23, 2020. It was therefore necessary to cancel indefinitely the DAGFAS AGM, scheduled for April 17. DAGFAS council held an EGM by social media and agreed the following message, which was sent to the membership by email by the secretary, Brian Power:-

On April 18, 2020: As you know, because of the Coronavirus pandemic, we have had to postpone the AGM on 17th April. The Honorary President's three-year term of office comes to an end at the AGM; the Council, therefore, held an Extraordinary General Meeting, by social media, to make the decision to appoint Patti Lean to succeed Davy Brown in the position of Honorary President of the Society for the next three years from

17th April 2020. At the same meeting we co-opted Emma Varley onto the Council with immediate effect. Emma is going to work on social media to enhance the profile of the Society. The AGM requires a quorum of 12 members, not including the Council, to ratify any decisions, so we hope that at least that many members will respond when asked. We invite members to respond to the above proposals as follows:

1. Propose Patti Lean be elected Hon. President: agree/disagree
2. Propose Emma Varley be co-opted to the Council: agree/disagree

(Replies to secretary.dagfas@gmail.com)

Kathleen Woods (Chairman)

The following 18 members responded by email. All were in favour of both proposals; there were no votes against either: Suneeta Rathore, Samantha Borrows, Lisa Hooper, Aileen MacEwan, Carol Reece, Andrew Madeley, Linda Walker, Alan Bowman, Glenda Bowman, Ami Robb, Andi Alexander, Jean Rodger, Bill Milven, Colin Marr, Olivia Richardson, David Rose, David Alexander, Heather Armstrong

Your council

President: Patti Lean

Chairman and Exhibitions Co-ordinator: Kathleen Woods

10 Davie Gill Park, Thornhill, DG3 5AH

01848 331 403 woods664@btinternet.com

Secretary: Brian Power

38 High Street, Gatehouse of Fleet, DG7 2HP

07969 504685 secretary.dagfas@gmail.com

Treasurer: Audrey Grierson

Lochview, Bruce Street, Lochmaben, DG11 1PD

07739010129 treasurer@dumfriesandgallowayfineartsociety.org.uk

Membership Secretary: Martine Berlemont

Kilravoch, Closeburn, Thornhill, DG3 5JD

membership@dumfriesandgallowayfineartsociety.org.uk

Website and magazine editor: Ian Irving

Woodlea, Corsock, DG7 3DN

01644 440 276 ian@dumfriesandgallowayfineartsociety.org.uk

Members: Muriel Collins, Emma Varley

Last-page laugh With thanks to Richard Whiting

