



*Dumfries and Galloway
Fine Arts Society
Autumn 2022*

Centenary edition 2

On the cover

Easter Sun by Chris Fergusson, seen in a recent exhibition of her work and that of her daughter Nan in Kirkcudbright. See page 10



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(Exhibition and workshop details and forms will also be available on the website: www.dumfriesandgallowayfineartsociety.org.uk)

From the editor

There's a lot going on for DAGFAS members this autumn and winter and you'll find the details in these pages.

As well as our usual programme of talks, demonstrations and workshops we're gearing up for a long-running show at Kirkcudbright Galleries.

Then we have a special dinner to mark our society's centenary, with the premiere of a specially-commissioned film documenting our activities and a talk by the grandson of Scottish Colourist painter Samuel Peploe.

We hope you'll join us to help celebrate the society's 100 years of promoting the arts in the region - you'll be able to book your place via our website shop.

Of course, all this has involved a good deal of organising, of which our hard-pressed chairman has had to bear the brunt - hence her plea, overleaf, for more members to step forward to take an active role in running the society.

There are many areas in which assistance would be invaluable, such as arranging talks and workshops, keeping tabs on membership and subscriptions, publicity, social media, poster design...

Please let us know if you feel you can help - there are contact details on page 31.

Ian Irving
ian@dumfriesandgallowayfineartsociety.org.uk

The chairman writes:

With the summer exhibition behind us, as a council we still have a lot of work ahead in the second half of our centenary year.

The programme of talks/demos and workshops starts in October; then on to our exhibition at Kirkcudbright Galleries in November through to February. Also in November we have arranged a centenary dinner at Easterbrook Hall in Dumfries on the 18th. The information is in this magazine and will be on our website: www.dumfriesandgallowayfineartsociety.org.uk.



Kathleen Woods

Our first exhibition of the year, at Ottersburn Gallery in April, was not a great success in terms of footfall or sales so we will have to rethink what we do for a spring exhibition. The AGM, sad to say, was not much better with very few members attending for what should be a time to catch up with what your council are doing and to put forward ideas.

The burden of running the society is now unfortunately falling on very few shoulders for a number of reasons – including, sadly, the death of a valued organiser. The society has survived for a century and it would be unthinkable for it to collapse now for want of leaders and organisers - we need more active participants to help us advance into the next 100 years!

So I am appealing to all members for help. Just a little bit makes all the difference. Please, please have a thought of how you could make this happen. Look forward to seeing you at Kirkcudbright.

Kathleen

Diary dates 2022-23

October 14 Talk/demo by Pamela Grace 11am

October 28 Workshop with Pamela Grace 10am-4pm

November 5 Hand-in for Kirkcudbright Galleries exhibition
1pm-3pm

November 11 Talk by Ross Fulton 11am

November 12 DAGFAS exhibition starts at Kirkcudbright
Galleries. Private view 2pm-4pm

November 18 Centenary dinner at Easterbrook Hall,
Dumfries. 7pm for 7.30pm

November 25 Workshop with Tom Lindsay 10am-4pm

January 20 Talk/demo with Joshua Miles 11am

February 3 Workshop with Sandy Robb 10am-4pm

February 17 Talk/demo with Kate Bentley 11am

February 21 Collect unsold works from Kirkcudbright
Galleries 12noon-2pm

March 3 Workshop with Kate Bentley 10am-4pm

March 17 Talk/demo by Hazel Campbell 11am

March 31 Workshop with Hazel Campbell 10am-4pm



Centenary Year Show

Yes, the society is 100 years old this year, but this was not our 100th annual show. In fact it was the 95th because of a five-year pause during World War Two, writes Kathleen Woods.

was curated by artist, writer and broadcaster Lachlan Goudie. He was unable to attend on the night but arts officer Dawn Henderby and myself welcomed members and guests.

There was no selection this year and 62 members entered 197 pieces of work, making another very fine exhibition, at Gracefield, Dumfries. Twenty two pieces were sold during the show, which ran from July 2 to August 20. Congratulations to the successful artists.



Dawn Henderby

The private view was held a week after the opening to coincide with the start of **Centennial**, an exhibition looking back over 100 years of art from the Gracefield permanent collection. This

Our honorary president, Patti Lean, sent her good wishes in a video message from Finland.

Thanks are due to members who came to help on hand-in

day, Anne Laird, Joan Pollard, John Lethbridge and Alan Brockbank, and to Samantha Borrowes for assistance on hanging day. Special thanks to Dawn Henderby. Without her there would be no show and I greatly appreciate her support. Thanks also to the staff of Refresh, the Gracefield café, for their amazing catering for the private view. It's a pity there were not more guests there to enjoy it.

Around 2,500 people visited the exhibition and there were some very positive comments. Visitors' favourite painting was *Turner's Skies* by Kate Bentley. *Still Life with Leeks* by Alexander (Sandy) Robb was a close second. We have great



Show favourites by Kate Bentley (above) and Sandy Robb



artists in our society! I Look forward to seeing you all at Kirkcudbright Galleries in November.

Centenary Exhibition at Kirkcudbright Galleries

November 12 – February 19

It will be the society's second major show of the centenary year, in effect going back to its roots in Kirkcudbright, where many of the DAGFAS founding artists lived and worked.

There will be less space available than for the summer exhibition in Dumfries, so entries are limited to two per member (not per category). You will need to indicate which of the two is your first choice for display, in case there is not room for both. Works not hung will be kept in reserve to replace pictures that are sold.

Let Kathleen Woods know by Friday October 28 what you are intending to enter, so that a list can be drawn up in advance of handing-in.

Also let Kathleen know if you can help at the handing-in and the private view.



Kirkcudbright Galleries

All the usual rules and regulations are set out on pages 15-17 but the key dates are:

Hand-in: Nov 5, 1-3pm

**Private view: Nov 12,
2-4pm**

**Collection of unsold work:
February 21, 12-2pm**

Celebration dinner

November 18

Guy Peeploe, grandson of the famed Scottish Colourist painter Samuel Peploe will be guest speaker at a celebratory dinner we have arranged to mark the 100 years of Dumfries and Galloway Fine Arts Society.

The event will take place at Easterbrook Hall, Dumfries at 7pm for 7.30pm on Friday November 18. There will be a complimentary drink on arrival (with music from Wallace Hall accordion group) followed by a two-course dinner with tea/coffee and petit fours. After dinner we will be showing a short film by John Wallace depicting the life of the society during the year, followed by Guy Peeploe's talk. His grandfather, S J Peploe, exhibited with the society from its beginning and was a frequent visitor to Kirkcudbright. Tickets for members and friends are £35 per person and can be paid for online on the website, or contact Kathleen Woods - woods664@btinternet.com - or phone 07914722512.

They can also be bought at the Kirkcudbright Galleries hand-in on November 5.

Easterbrook Hall want to know four weeks before the event how many will attend, so please book your tickets - and choose from the menu - by October 18.

STARTERS

Goats cheese baby beets salad

Walnuts and balsamic dressing

Haggis bon bons

Apple puree whisky sauce

MAIN COURSE

Braised featherblade of beef

Red wine jus

Roast breast of chicken

Wholegrain mustard sauce

Roast vegetable pithivier

Spinach, pine nuts, tomato fond

Main dishes served with selection of locally sourced seasonal potatoes and vegetables

Teas and coffee with petit fours

Dress: smart casual

A feast of Fergussons

Mother's and daughter's art on show



Glasgow Girl and DAGFAS co-founder Christian (Chris) Jane Fergusson died in 1957 but only now have some of her paintings been shown for the first time.

They were to be seen at the Harbour Cottage Gallery, Kirkcudbright (above) from August 29 to September 10 along with paintings by her daughter Nan S Fergusson. They had been in the possession of Nan's son, Jim Henderson, who died recently. The exhibition was a rare opportunity to see and buy previously un-shown works by Chris and Nan - and there was no shortage of buyers. Chris, born in 1876 in Dumfries, was a co-founder of DAGFAS with E A Hornel, E A Taylor and R D Cairns in 1922. She was a graduate of Glasgow School of Art, and went on to teach there as well as Kirkcudbright Academy and Glasgow High School for Girls. Nan, born 1910, was educated in Dumfries and Edinburgh College of Art. She also taught

art, at George Watson's Ladies College in Edinburgh. She died in 1984.



A drawing by Nan, aged 15, shown in the schools section of a DAGFAS exhibition around 1925



***Spring at Shambellie Grange* - one of the Chris Fergusson oils on show**



Chris Fergusson at a DAGFAS exhibition with Hornel on the right. Robert Cairns (see the following page) is on the left; an unidentified man in the background.



Chris Fergusson with baby Nan



The 'forgotten' founder

The name **Robert Dickie Cairns** is not the first that comes to mind when recalling the illustrious founders of Dumfries and Galloway Fine Arts Society.

Artistic fame was achieved by the likes of Chris Fergusson, E A Hornel and Charles Oppenheimer, but Robert Cairns is relatively unknown and there are no works by him in Dumfries and Galloway's permanent collection. And yet he was an accomplished artist and a stalwart of the society from its inception in 1922.

He was born in 1866 and became art teacher at Dumfries Academy in 1889, at the age of 23. It was a post he held until 1927 - a span of 38 years. Perhaps it was retirement, to Bearsden, in Glasgow, that allowed him to shine

his light a little brighter, for he exhibited several times in Glasgow and at the Royal Scottish Academy. In 1940 he was showing "three delightfully executed landscapes" with Milngavie Art Club - where his daughter Hildegard also exhibited. He died in 1944 at the age of 78. Forty of his watercolours and oils were

**A DAGFAS hanging committee:
Cairns standing beside Chris
Fergusson. Hornel (left) and E A
Taylor in front**





This painting by Robert Cairns, *Gathering Hay*, sold for \$1,386 at auction in Edinburgh in 2011

auctioned in Glasgow in 1993, fetching £10,000. The auctioneers' contemporary art specialist commented:

"They came in bundles, wrapped in newspaper. Some were on the back of jotters, so I know he had something to do with school. They were in a rather sorry state...some of the oils had stuck to each other...but when I started to go through them it became apparent he was a very talented man."

Another posthumous exhibition of Robert Cairns watercolours was held at a gallery near Forres in 1994. The Aberdeen



Cairns' watercolour of *Lincluden Mill House*, 1903

Press and Journal quoted the gallery owner as saying the paintings had "a very fresh look, considering some are over 100 years old", They were priced between £300 and £700.

A memorial exhibition of the art of **Jane Howe**

was mounted in the Cafe Gallery at Gracefield from August 23 to September 17.

Jane, who died in December 2020, was an active and much-valued

member of the society. and was our programme organiser for a time. She also took part in Spring Fling open studio weekends and was

involved in life drawing and children's club classes at Gracefield for many years, Family and friends held a reception and sale of work on the evening of the exhibition's closing day. As well as the cafe works, some of them shown here, a selection of other work was available to buy. Profits were donated to Marie Curie cancer care.



Centenary Exhibition

at Kirkcudbright Galleries

Sat November 12 to Sun February 19 2023

**HANDING-IN DAY at the Galleries, St Mary Street, Kirkcudbright:
Saturday November 5 from 1pm to 3pm.**

Work should be unwrapped and framed to a high standard, with strings and D-rings. Please make sure your DAGFAS labels are attached to the back.

Please notify Kathleen Woods of your entries, by Friday, October 28, to enable listing prior to handing in.

Official labels and schedules must be applied for from the exhibition co-ordinator, Kathleen Woods, 10 Davie Gill Park, Thornhill, DG3 5AH, stating number required and enclosing a stamped addressed A5 envelope. Telephone enquiries to Kathleen on 07914722512 or email woods664@btinternet.com

You can also obtain schedules and labels from

Ottersburn Gallery, Dumfries

Gracefield Art Centre, Dumfries

Kirkcudbright Galleries

They can also be downloaded and printed from the website:

www.dumfriesandgallowayfineartsociety.org.uk

Labels must show in BLOCK CAPITALS:

1. Exhibiting name of artist, address and contact number
2. Title of work
3. Medium **and size**
4. Price (mark NFS if not for sale)

Schedules should be signed by the artist confirming that all works submitted are original works. Information on the schedule must tally with that on the labels and completed schedules must accompany works submitted.

There will be NO selection for this exhibition so we would wish you to enter a high standard of work as usual. The hanging committee reserves the right to reject work that does not meet the entry criteria.

Paid-up members may submit up to two works, but space is limited and we can accept individual works no larger than 100 x 100cm - larger work to be notified and negotiated. Please note it is up to two works in total, not in each category. Please indicate your 1st and 2nd choice in case only one piece can be shown. All 1st choice will be hung and 2nd if there is room but will otherwise be kept in reserve.

Works purchased may be taken away and replaced by whatever reserves are available. Artists may be contacted when necessary.

Categories:-

1. Paintings – watercolour, oil, acrylic, pastel and mixed media
2. Drawings, original fine art prints and digital prints*
3. Sculpture
4. Crafts

*An artist's digital print is not a reproduction but a limited edition work of art that does not exist in any other form.

Submission fees of £3 per item will be payable. Kirkcudbright Galleries will charge the society commission on sales at 30%, On each £100 sale the exhibitor will receive £70.

The following rules will be applied:

1. No direct copies of another artist's work or commercial work will be included.
2. Work shown in previous DAGFAS exhibitions is not eligible.
3. Not more than one item marked 'Not for Sale'.
4. Works must have rings and cords, with rings not more than one-third from the top of the painting. Large rings on large pictures. Long strings on tie-on labels attached to the back of paintings.
5. The details on the tie-on label will be those on which information will be based.

6. Works in unusual frames (eg metal frames) or those which would be awkward to hang or display may have to be rejected, regardless of artistic merit.
7. Photo prints or colour laser copies will not be accepted and all fine art prints must be clearly indicated as such by the artist, on the print, in the customary manner.
8. Rejected works cannot be collected on preview night.
9. Only deep box canvases (minimum 3-5cm deep) will be accepted unframed.
10. The council reserve the right to reject works seen as inappropriate for this exhibition.

PRIVATE VIEW:

**FOR KIRKCUDBRIGHT GALLERIES FRIENDS: FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 11, FROM 6PM TO 7.30PM**

**FOR DAGFAS MEMBERS AND FRIENDS: SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 12, FROM 2PM TO 4PM (Refreshments 2 – 3pm)**

Works hung but **unsold** on closing day must be collected by the artist or agent on **Tuesday February 21** between 12 noon and 2pm. Thereafter the society accepts no further responsibility

Assistance please!

**Help is needed for handing-in and private view
Please contact Kathleen Woods if you are available**

2022-2023 programme

A varied programme of talks and workshops has been arranged, running from October to April.

All take place at Gracefield Arts Centre, Dumfries, on Fridays.

Talks/demonstrations are from 11am to 1.30pm, workshops from 10am to 4pm.

Talks are free to members and guests. Workshops are for members and cost £35 and may be booked online on our website: www.dumfriesandgallowayfineartsociety.org.uk/shop

The Tutors

Pamela Grace is an artist and printmaker based in Galloway. Pamela regularly uses the Gracefield Print Studio for her own work and teaches workshops there. She has focused on various forms of printmaking including recent experimentations with monoprinting in its many forms.

Ross Fulton Born in Inverness, studied at Grays School of art in Aberdeen and University of Exeter. Lives and works in Kirkcudbright and has spent time in Shetland.

Tom Lindsay Ex teacher, now practising artist. Graduated from Edinburgh College of Art in 1971 and has exhibited widely. Says his paintings are about love of paint and surface, not illusion.

Joshua Miles Born in South Africa in 1967. Studied fine arts at the University of Cape Town. Interested in printmaking from a young age when he watched his aunt doing woodcuts. He is inspired by the Impressionists and the Japanese tradition of printmaking with selective rolling.

Sandy Robb Graduate of Glasgow School of Art (1968-1972). Has lived in Dumfries for 40 years. Initially an art teacher, and latterly a professional artist. Has exhibited widely throughout Britain. Work, mainly in oils, characterised by a strong sense of design and the use of rich colour. DAGFAS past president.

Kate Bentley A multi award-winning professional painter. Originally from the Lake District she is now based on the Solway coast. An elected member of the Society of Women Artists, her work is in private and public collections.

Hazel Campbell Didn't go to art school but studied with Archie Sutter Watt for 30 years - "he taught me everything." Tries to be bold and adventurous in her work. Teaches painting at summer schools and some weekends in winter. Past president of DAGFAS.



October 14

Pamela Grace

Monoprints: demonstration

Monoprints are often described as “painterly prints” but there are few restrictions on what you can do with monoprint and how you can approach it.

I will demonstrate two or three of the more accessible ways in which monoprints can be made without specialist equipment, as well as some more advanced approaches that use a press.



***Caithness Coast* - a monoprint by Pamela Grace**

October 28 Workshop

The follow-up workshop at the Gracefield print studio will encourage students to develop ideas from a range of source material - this can be sketches or photographs.

Old clothes will be required as we'll use oil-based inks. Over the course of the day we will cover a range of approaches and techniques that will hopefully give a new insight into making images in print.

November 11

Ross Fulton

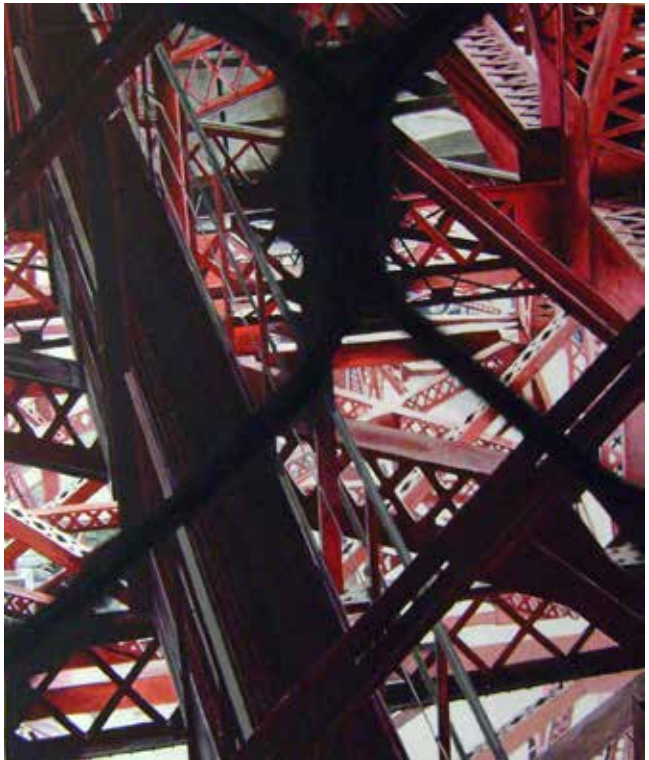
Illustrated talk

Ross says: "My work is concerned with drawing attention to things not usually considered typical art subjects.

"In particular I am drawn to objects or places that have pattern or beauty because of functional design as opposed to any deliberate aesthetic choice.

"In this talk I will use examples of my own work and work I find inspiring to explain my working process."

Ross has also said: "I want to make images that have a quietness and stillness to them that many of the images competing for our attention in daily life lack.



Heart - an acrylic painting by Ross Fulton

"My influences include the painters Edward Hopper, Charles Oppenheimer and George Shaw and photographers Edward Burtynsky and Thomas Demand. I also consider amateur and documentary photography to be extremely influential on my work."

November 25

Tom Lindsay

Workshop

The Primacy of Drawing in the Creative Process



Tom says: "The aims of the workshop will be discussed on the day. Please be early as we will start work at 10am.

"Bring a large object to draw (plant, furniture, instrument, clothing, soft furnishings, object d'art, etc)

"Drawing materials including paper will be supplied.

Bring a large drawing board (A1 or bigger)

Board clips

Masking tape

Blu Tack

Decent scissors

Craft knife

Hard rubber

Cloths, rags, newspapers

Paintbrushes

Water pots

Fixative (hairspray)

A spare pair of shoes

An open mind"



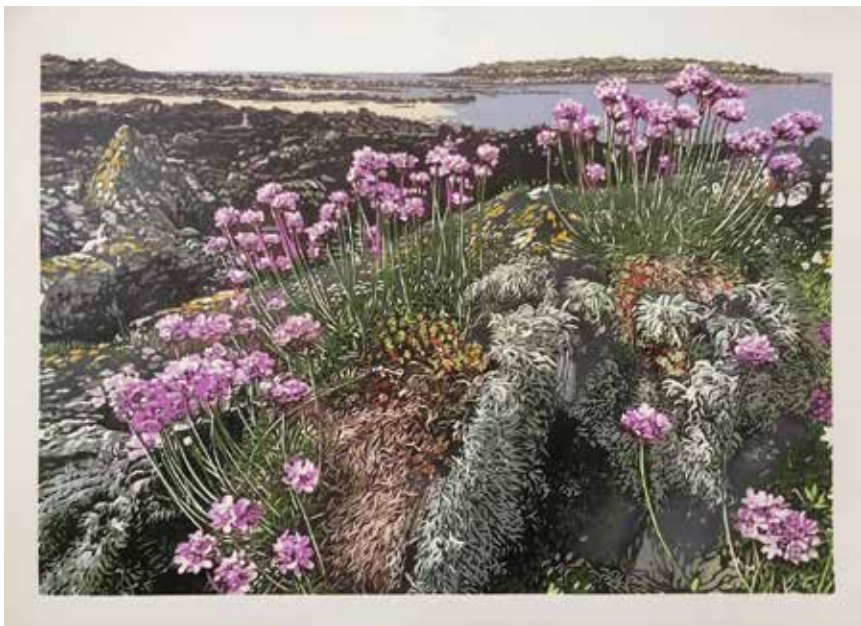
January 20

Joshua Miles

on reduction linocuts

Joshua, South African born, says he will “start off by giving a bit of history of myself and how I came to be here in Dumfries and Galloway. Also what it is like to live and work as an artist in Kirkcudbright.”

Joshua in his Kirkcudbright studio and, below, one of his Solway coast inspired prints



He will describe in depth each stage of his printmaking process: “Finding the image that I work from, what I look for, what my passions are, how I plan and do my initial sketch. I will then talk about the tools that I use, the paper, the chisels and the inks and how I do my registration and selective rolling. There will be props to show each stage of my process to the final print.”

February 3

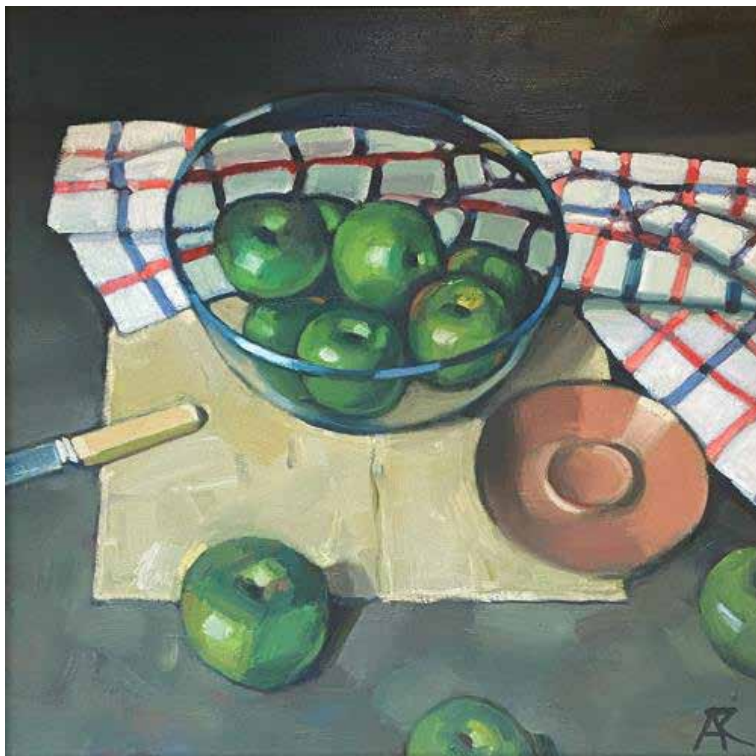
Sandy Robb

Workshop: Still Life Painting in Oils

Sandy says: "I will cover such aspects of still life painting as drawing, composition, and the use of colour both to describe and evoke the objects depicted.

"I will also take the opportunity to demonstrate the techniques and processes of painting in oils, from the initial sketch to the finished piece.

"I will provide a selection of items to form the basis of a still life painting, but should anyone like to bring in a favourite dish or bowl or any other object that would be most welcome."



***Still Life with Green Apples - oil on canvas,
by Alexander (Sandy) Robb***

February 17

Kate Bentley

Talk/demonstration

Kate will be talking about her practice as an artist and how it has developed, with some demonstration of her techniques.



March 3

Workshop



Four Seasons in One Day - A Kate Bentley watercolour

The theme of Kate's workshop is "Contemporary watercolours - moving away from convention and loosening up!"

"Pushing the boundaries of conventional watercolours, this workshop isn't for the faint-hearted or illustrative types but is for those who are willing to try something different!"

"We will be looking at landscapes/seascapes as our subject. I will provide reference material but you are welcome to bring any reference material of your own. Your aim for the end of the workshop: less on the lines of finished paintings, more on the lines of a scrap book full of ideas, studies and experiments."

A materials list will be available later. Some materials will be available to buy at the workshop.



March 17

Hazel Campbell

Talk/demo'

'Take some ink and gouache and see what happens!' Hazel will be showing how she arrives at her flowing, expressive style

March 31

Workshop

Hazel says: "This workshop will explore the use of loose watercolour, ink and possibly drawing on top with pencil, pastel etc. I will demonstrate first and talk my way through it, explaining how things evolve.

"The chances of the painting being a success aren't high, but it should let participants see the possibilities of adventure!

"People should bring watercolour paper, gouache or watercolour paint, ink if they have it and I can bring bamboo sticks for everyone to try. Drawing materials also. Pencils, crayons and soft pastels can be fun. Big brushes too. Subject matter should be landscape and participants can bring sketches and photographs. I will bring lots of books, brochures etc. for inspiration."



Reports from the summer workshops

Still-life in acrylics, with Jenny Finch

May 20

Jenny, painter and potter, brought a challenging selection of objects, including a toucan, for members to paint. Foliage, fabrics, ornaments - and a teddy bear - were among the items captured in paint during the day under Jenny's expert guidance.



Monoprint techniques with Emma Varley

June 17

Emma (left) introduced her class to the many effects that can be achieved with layers of acrylic ink rolled onto Gelli - gelatin - printing plates with found objects such as leaves, or other kinds of marks. Later, students tried printing designs incised on Japanese style wooden plates instead.



No shortage of creative ideas as class members experiment with printing from Gelli plates and wooden blocks



Mixed media with Joanna Shennan

July 15

Joanna's workshop, like Emma's, involved printing from Gelli plates, but on a range of different papers and fabrics, using leaves as stencils. The resulting prints or parts of them were then collaged to create abstract patchworks, in some cases using embroidery to enrich the surface decoration.



Above, Joanna assists with a fabric collage. Left: hand stitching in progress. Below: some of the printed effects achieved by one member of the class



‘Colourist’ painting with William Spurway

August 5



The studio was packed for William’s workshop on painting in oils in the style of the Scottish Colourists, Peploe, Cadell, Hunter and Fergusson. He demonstrated the use of bold dark outlines as the basis for a composition

William Spurway (top) who is a teacher at Dumfries and Galloway College. Right: his students for the day, and (below) their day’s work displayed



then working into it with a limited range of colours. An impressive collection of ‘Colourist’ works resulted.

— Your council —

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