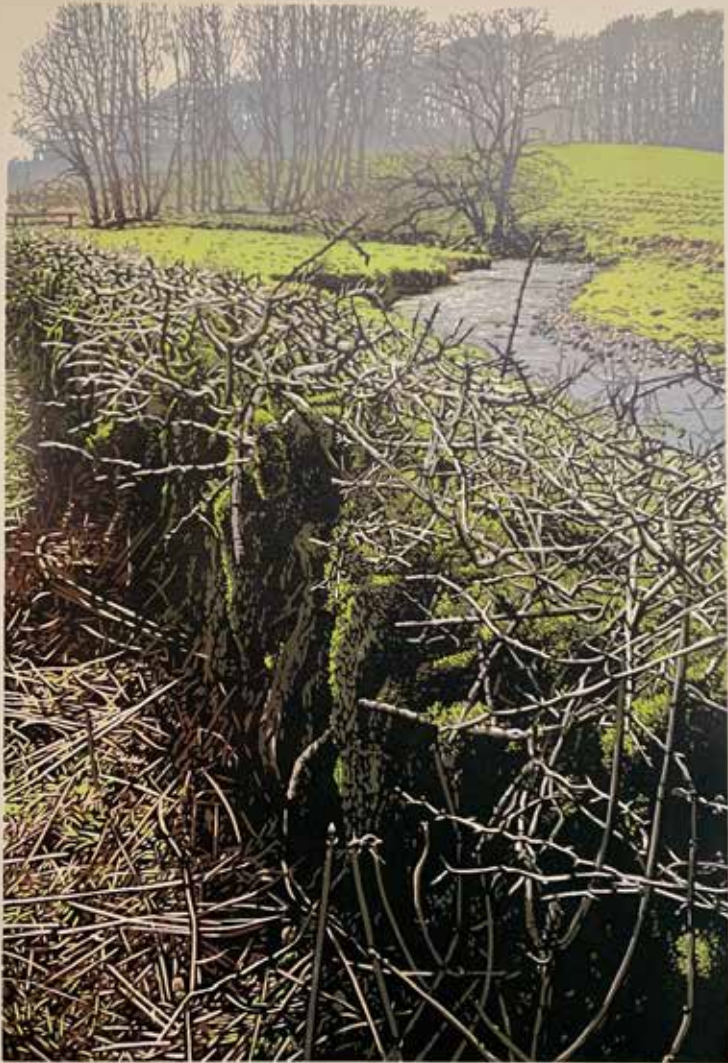




*Dumfries and Galloway
Fine Arts Society
Autumn 2023*



On the cover

***Winter Hedgerow* by Joshua Miles, one of his linocuts chosen for an exhibition called *The Secret Life of Hedgerows*, at Inspired By...Gallery in the North York Moors national park until November 4.**



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

The chairman writes:

Where does the time go? Once again we are at the start of the winter programme and we have some exciting new tutors to give talks/demos and workshops starting in October.

In November we are taking a chance with "Art on the High Street" for the next exhibition. This will be at 109 High Street, Dumfries, in the Midsteple Quarter area. It is a well-established retail unit in a prominent position which offers great potential for short-term use. This space will have to be manned and I hope members who are exhibiting will be able to give some of their time to sit in. St. John's Church in Dumfries is hosting another Festival of Christmas Trees in December - more opportunity to show some of our work and advertise DAGFAS.



Kathleen Woods

The Annual Summer Exhibition was again looking good. It was well presented and the subjects wide ranging. However, I feel more members could have participated. Maybe it is the thought of not being chosen by the selection committee, but please do not let that put you off. I had one of my entries refused this year (not for the first time) but in the few minutes the selectors get to look at the works I knew it was rightly rejected. I will be more careful in choosing what I take in future. We do have other exhibitions without selection, so please take part.

We have added a few members to the council plus some who are happy to help. Some of our long-time council members are retiring in the near future. Our magazine editor, Ian Irving, is moving away from Dumfries and Galloway and will be our biggest miss. Ian is in charge of putting the magazine together, the website and a lot of little jobs I usually pass on to him. Unless we can find a volunteer to take on some of Ian's remit I am afraid that this could be the last of our twice yearly magazines as we know them. If anyone out there can help, or knows someone who could, please contact us.

We, as a committee, have been meeting to discuss a way forward but it always comes down to lack of enough people to take on a task. My thanks go to the new members who as always are doing their best and to Gracefield who welcome us every summer and support us during the exhibition, and last but not least to all members who take part in the talks/demos, workshops and exhibitions. Most of all to Ian Irving who has been my guide and mentor over the last number of years, my grateful thanks. You will be so missed. But wishing you and Pen good health and happiness in your new venture.

Kathleen

Diary dates 2023-24

October 13 Talk/demo by printmaker Laura Boswell

October 27 Workshop: expressive flowers, with Bella Green

November 9 Hand-in for Dumfries High St. exhibition
11am-2pm. (See page 10)

November 10 Talk/demo Lucy Lee and Edward Campbell on
handmade art materials

November 10 Pre-Christmas get-together at High St.
exhibition 6-8pm

November 20 Collection of unsold work from High St.
11am-2pm

November 24 Handmade art materials workshop

January 19 Talk/demo by jeweller Sarah Rogers

February 2 Painting workshop with Liz Gilbey

February 16 Talk/demo Joanna Shennan on mixed media on
paper and fabric

March 1 Mixed media workshop with Joanna Shennan

March 15 Talk/demo: Clay Work Studios

March 29 Workshop with Clay Work Studios

April 19 Annual General Meeting

See pages 12-19 for details of the talks/demonstrations and workshops, which usually take place at Gracefield Arts Centre, Dumfries.

Workshops cost £40 and are for members and may be booked at www.dumfriesandgallowayfineartsociety.org.uk/shop or by contacting Kathleen Woods. Talks are free and are for members and guests.

From the editor

After eight years in the privileged position of editor of the society's magazine (and the website for longer) I have more than exceeded my 'use-by' date!

And sadly I expect to be leaving Dumfries and Galloway in the near future.

So yes, it's time for someone else to take over the editorial chair - and for new actors to step into other roles, such as minding the online booking system, keeping the local media informed of the society's activities, designing posters...

The society survived the Covid lockdowns well and emerged into a successful centenary year, but we lost some of our organisers for one reason or another, putting an added burden on our overworked chairman, Kathleen.

The recent addition of some new and talented members gives grounds for hope that more people will step up to take a lead. When Bertram Aitchison relinquished the editorship in 2015 he said: "The future is very promising and I am pleased to have been involved." I am more than pleased to have been involved with DAGFAS and would like to be leaving with just as much optimism for its future.

If you like the idea of editing the magazine and/or the website, please get in touch with me at ian@dumfriesandgallowayfineartsociety.org.uk or with Kathleen: woods664@btinternet.com

Meanwhile, in this edition (slightly smaller than usual) a look forward to an intriguing programme of talks and workshops, and a venture onto the High Street, plus a look back at the summer's 96th annual exhibition.

Ian Irving

The 96th annual exhibition



Above: hon. president Patti Leino opens the show. Right: visitors' favourite 'Sunrise at Rockcliffe' by Grant Fitzhenry. Below: craft entries by Heather Armstrong and Alan Brockbank



Fifty eight members submitted works for our 96th annual summer exhibition from July 1 to August 5, at Gracefield Arts Centre, Dumfries.

A selection process was introduced for the first time since the Covid outbreak and the selectors were **Gwen Adair, Kate Bentley, Dawn**

with us for the first time gave added freshness to the show - and congratulations to **Grant Fitzhenry**, whose '*Sunrise at Rockcliffe*' was visitors' favourite painting. **Kat Wright** came a close second with '*Peaceful Rest*'.

More than 900 people visited the exhibition and many left appreciative comments.



Henderby, Alexander Robb and Tom Lindsay (l to r above). Thanks are due to them for doing a superb and fair job. Thanks too to Dawn Henderby for help with arranging and hanging - and to members who helped at the hand-in, selection day and collection. New members exhibiting

Fourteen works were sold - congratulations to the artists, and to all the exhibitors on a high standard of work.

Kathleen Woods

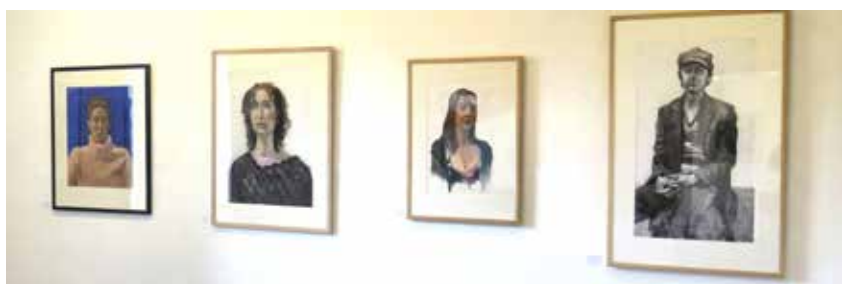
Visitors also had a chance to see the film commissioned to mark the society's 100 year history



Above: gallery 1 at the 96th annual exhibition at Gracefield. Right: outstanding in more ways than one, this three-dimensional work in mixed media by Tom Lindsay



Left and below: portraits by the late Margaret Robb, an honorary life president of the society, were shown in a memorial tribute section.



Printmakers feel the pull of the region's landscapes

Dumfries and Galloway is proving a magnet for printmakers.

Long the home of such notable printmakers as **Lisa Hooper** of Hoopoe Prints, based at Port William, the region has drawn the likes of **Joshua Miles**, our cover artist this month, and **Laura Boswell**, both of whom have recently set up studios in Kirkcudbright.

Laura, an associate member of the Royal Society of Painter Printmakers, had been 'commuting' to Scotland to draw for the last few years.

"My prints were increasingly about wild spaces and the kind of landscape really only available up here," she said.

"Kirkcudbright is positioned to give me lots of options for inspiration for my prints and the town has the Artist Town pull for people interested in all aspects of art."

Laura will be talking to members about her lino and woodcut techniques at Gracefield on October 13 (see page 13).



A Solway Coast print by Laura Boswell

Both Miles and Boswell have exhibited with the recently established group **South West Scotland Printmakers**, whose **Sarah Keast** led a collagraph workshop for DAGFAS members in August.

Also drawn to the region: collagraph printmaker **Sarah Ross-Thompson**, who has moved from Argyll to Portpatrick.

High Street venue for our pre-Christmas show

Friday November 10 to Sunday November 19

We're taking to the High Street in Dumfries for the society's pre-Christmas exhibition this year.

To be exact, the venue is No. 109 High Street, near Midsteepie, in premises currently without a long-term occupier.

Society members are invited to

submit up to **four** artworks, of which at least two will be shown. Let Kathleen Woods know what you intend to enter by **Monday November 6** so that a list of exhibitors and work can be prepared. Send details to woods664@btinternet.com or to 10 Davie Gill Park, Thornhill, DG3 5AH



109 High Street, Dumfries, venue for our 'Christmas on the High Street' show (probably without the balloons)

The artwork must be labelled with title, medium, name and address of the artist and the price. Please use your own labels and fix to the back of paintings. Paintings must be framed, with rings and cord fixed to the frame, ready for hanging. A deep box canvas may be unframed. Unframed works

suitably protected for the browser, are accepted, as are up to 20 cards priced at £3 each.

The artwork along with a fee of £3 per entry must be handed in to the hanging committee at 109 High Street on **Thursday November 9**, from 11am to 2pm.

Sales commission will be 30%. The exhibition will be open from 10.30am – 4.30pm daily. Artworks not sold must be collected from the exhibition on **Monday November 20** from 11am to 2pm.

We need help with manning the exhibition, either for a full day or for half-day sessions. Please let Kathleen know what dates suit. **See page 22**

Manning times will be 10.30am to 1.30pm and 1.30pm to 4pm or full day 10.30am to 4pm.

There will be a Pre-Christmas get together on **Friday November 10** at 109 High Street from 6pm to 8pm. Hope you will join us!

A Forest of Christmas Trees

The society has again agreed to sponsor and decorate a Christmas tree as part of a Forest of Christmas Trees festival at St John's Church, Dumfries, from December 7 to 10.

Dumfries and Galloway Fine Arts Society is adopting a 4ft Nordmann fir tree to decorate for the event.

Our tree is called *The Tree of Fine Art* and we are looking for inventive and thought-provoking designs to promote DAGFAS.

If you wish to take part please contact Kathleen Woods for further information

Talks and workshops 2023-2024: the line-up



October 13 Talk/demonstration

Laura Boswell Linocut and woodblock printmaking

October 27 Workshop

Bella Green Expressive flowers in acrylics and mixed media

November 10 Talk/demonstration

Lucy Lee and Edward Campbell Handmade art materials from natural sources **November 24** Workshop

January 19 Talk/demonstration

Sarah Rogers Stone setting in jewellery and metalwork

February 2 Workshop

Liz Gilbey Expressive painting of everyday things in oils

February 16 Talk/demonstration

Joanna Shennan Mixed media on paper and fabric

March 1 Workshop

March 15 Talk/demonstration

Clay Works Studios **March 29** Workshop*

***This workshop will take place at Clay Works Studios at the Crichton, Dumfries. All other events are at Gracefield Arts Centre. Talks/demos are from 11am to 1pm; workshops from 10am to 4pm.**

October 13

Laura Boswell

Talk and demonstration: Laura's Japanese approach to linocut and woodblock printmaking

Laura's training in Japan and delight in drawing form the basis of her lino and woodblock prints.

Her Scottish landscape prints are focused on weather, light and ideas of space and scale, printed in multiple transparent layers.

She will be printing up some blocks and revealing how her prints develop from initial sketch to finished piece.



***Carrick*, by Laura Boswell.**

<https://lauraboswell.co.uk>

Bella Green

Workshop: Expressive flowers in acrylics and mixed media

We will explore making direct expressive marks, using mainly brushes and knives in acrylics, with a bit of collage and line work in chalk or oil pastel.

Our subject matter will be all sorts of flowers. There will be some on display, or bring your own posy and/or artificial flowers.

We will work from direct observation, not photo references, with the emphasis on colour and form and creating a lively surface quality.

Bella has exhibited widely and is an experienced teacher - including 20 years as tutor of colour and drawing at the Royal College of Art. She lives in Lockerbie and devotes most of her time to painting "apart from a few weeks each



***Perfect Posy* - a mixed media painting by Bella. She describes it as 'a little fantasy of two birds having a conversation in front of a spotty jug'.**

year when I enjoy leading painting and colour workshops with local groups and in Italy."

November 10

Lucy Lee & Edward Campbell

Talk and demonstration: Handmade art materials
from natural sources

Lucy and Edward will talk about making and using handmade art materials from natural sources, from paper to paint to brushes and everything in between.



November 24

Workshop

How to use earth pigments to make a variety of paints (oil, watercolour and plant-based acrylic). Participants will learn how to make a basic pigment from found soft stones such as yellow ochre, and learn where to source ethical and non-toxic earth pigments. We will be bringing along our range of handmade pigments foraged in Dumfries and Galloway, as well as earth pigments from further afield. Participants will go home with some handmade paints as well as the knowledge and experience of making paints and what basic equipment is needed. These paints can be used alongside any paints you already use. Participants need to bring some paintbrushes and paper/sketchbook.

Lucy and Edward run a studio and gallery in Palnackie.

Website: www.theoldmillpalnackie.com. Facebook at /oldmillpalnackie

January 19

Sarah Rogers

Talk and demonstration: Stone setting in jewellery and metal



Sarah Rogers produces handmade, contemporary jewellery pieces in small collections and as one off, bespoke pieces.

Her work is strongly influenced by nature, drawing much of her inspiration from Dumfries and Galloway's beautiful scenery.

Sarah specialises in Plique à Jour enamelling and complex stone setting. She recently spent three months in America developing new, specialist setting skills at the Jewelry Institute of America.



Flower drop earrings - an example of Sarah's work. "I like playing with the fragility and delicacy of my work, and how parts can be layered and connected, adding intricate levels of detail," she says.

February 2

Liz Gilbey

Workshop: Expressive painting of everyday things -
still-life in oils



Liz trained at London Fine Art Studios in classical techniques and has exhibited in London, Edinburgh and in Dumfries and Galloway. She teaches at her own Rusko Studio at Gatehouse of Fleet. Her specialism is still-life but she also loves painting landscapes. Participants can bring their own equipment or borrow some limited materials from Liz.



**'Still-life with Pot' oil
painting by Liz Gilbey**

website: <https://www.elizabethgilbey.co.uk>

February 16

Joanna Shennan

Talk/demo: mixed media on paper and fabric

I will talk about my art practice currently and a little background to my work. Through conversation we can discuss inspirations and influences and I will show a short visual presentation. I will demonstrate various mixed media techniques that I employ in my work onto paper and fabric.

March 1

Workshop

I am interested in the passage of time and how seasonal change is reflected in natural forms. I like recording them with an awareness that they could disappear or quickly change as time progresses.

We will record a range of patterns and textures from natural foliage, stencils and other objects of interest that will be supplied. From them, we will draw, print and explore a range of mixed media techniques. We will each have created a small collection of surface decorated fabrics and papers to use. We will then produce an abstract composition in the form of a mixed media panel(s) to stitch into. We can do this by hand or with a sewing machine if you have your own.



March 15

Clay Works Studios

Talk and demonstration: A brief history of my pots and process, by Christopher Taylor

Christopher will describe his 30-year career as a potter and talk about the kind of work he does now. He will show how he makes his soft-thrown vase shapes on the potter's wheel.

March 29

Workshop

To be held at Clay Works Studios at the Crichton, Dumfries.

Participants will have a go on the wheel and make a dish which will be decorated using some of the processes described in the talk.

Participants need not bring anything except perhaps some simple line drawings to transfer onto the work they make.

Christopher, who runs the studios with his wife Lauren Gray, studied ceramics at the Royal College of Art where he focused on learning decorative processes. He moved from Devon to Dumfries in 2017 and has developed a practice making pots with rich, unusual surfaces.



A glimpse of *the summer workshops*



Consultation in the print studio at Gracefield at the drypoint and collagraph workshop led by **Hugh Bryden** (centre) on June 2.

Bella Green
(right) guided
participants
towards a looser
approach to
painting at
Gracefield on
June 30





Ewan McClure assesses some work in progress during his masterclass in composition through tonal grouping, on July 21

Experienced printmaker **Sarah Keast** imparted her collagraph knowledge to members on August 18. "A really good workshop. Enjoyed by all," was one pupil's verdict.



Art on the High Street exhibition

We will need help to staff this exhibition so please indicate in the table below your preferred date/s. Sessions will be either full day 10.30am–4pm or half days 10.30am–1.30pm or 1.30pm–4pm. Scan or copy the form and send to Kathleen Woods or email her the dates and times of your chosen sessions.

	Thursday Nov 9	Friday Nov 10	Saturday Nov 11	Sunday Nov 12	Monday Nov 13	Tuesday Nov 14
10.30am -1.30pm	Hand-in 11am - 2pm					
1.30pm - 4pm						
	Wed'sday Nov 15	Thursday Nov 16	Friday Nov 17	Saturday Nov 18	Sunday Nov 19	Monday Nov 20
10.30am -1.30pm						Collect 11am - 2pm
1.30pm - 4pm						

And don't forget to let Kathleen know what art you intend to enter by Monday November 6, with title of work, medium, your name and address, telephone number and email. You can enter four works plus unframed items for the print browser and up to 20 cards.

Hope you can join us for a get-together at 109 High Street on Friday November 10 from 6-8pm

Your council

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Gill Glover, Irene Rodgers, Gary Craig

Find DAGFAS at:

web: www.dumfriesandgallowayfineartsociety.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/fineartssoc

Instagram: www.instagram.com/dagfas20/

