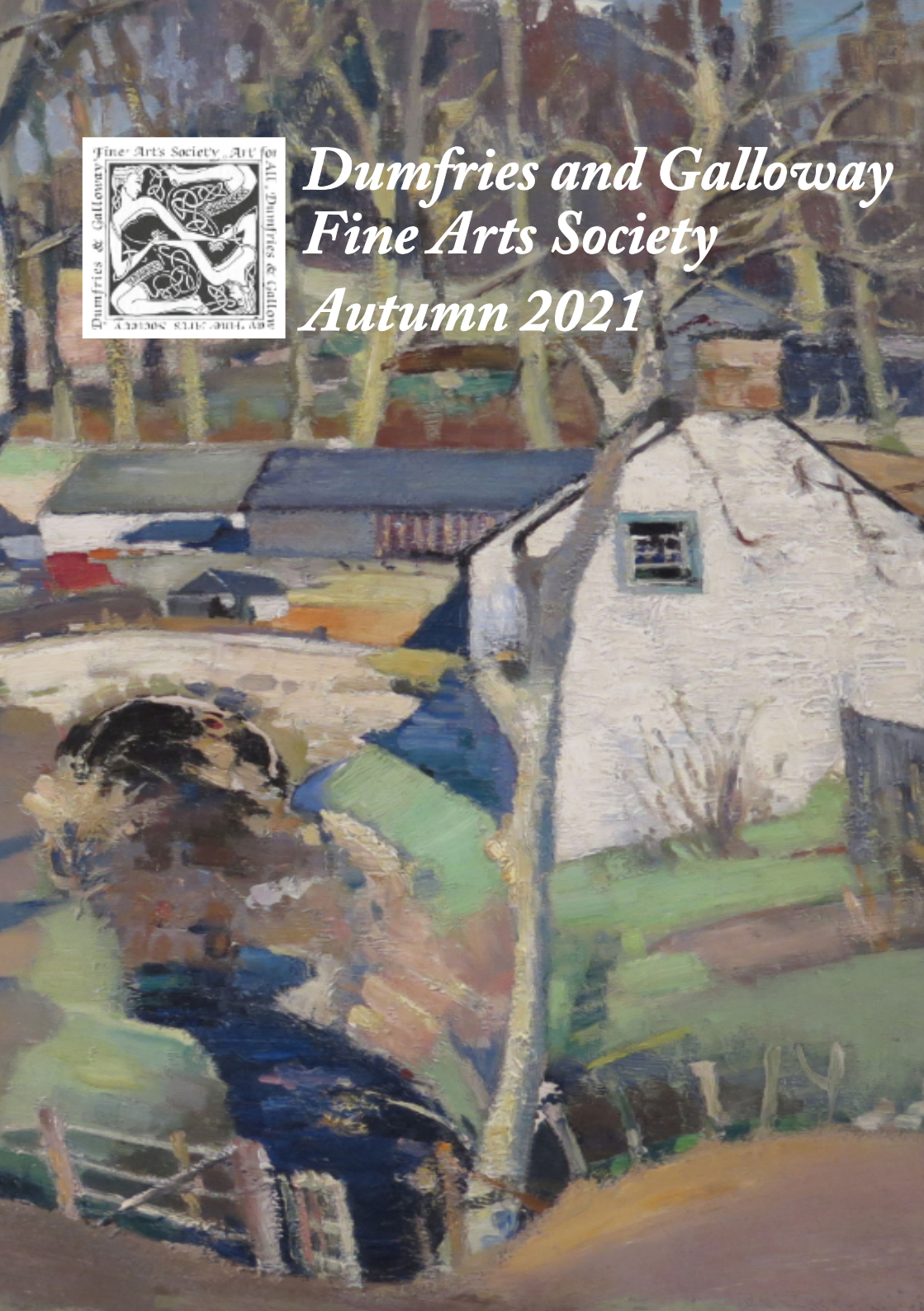




*Dumfries and Galloway  
Fine Arts Society  
Autumn 2021*



# On the cover

**In the run-up to our centenary in 2022, a painting by one of the society’s founder members, Chris J Fergusson. It depicts Torthorwald around 1925 and has been on show in the Glasgow Girls and Boys Exhibition at Kirkcudbright. From the Dumfries and Galloway Council collection.**



# In this edition

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

# From the editor

Eighteen months ago we had a great summer programme of workshops lined up, but, of course, they didn't happen because the Covid lockdown intervened.

Now we're back with an equally fascinating programme of talks, demonstrations and workshops for the autumn and winter.

However, at the time of going to press we were still awaiting Dumfries and Galloway Council's go-ahead to resume meetings at Gracefield Arts Centre. We were fairly confident this would be given, possibly with some restrictions (on numbers, for example) but keep an eye on the website and social media for the latest information.

It is encouraging that we have been able at last to have a real, as opposed to virtual, exhibition, and we look forward to another in November.

Now that our website Gallery is not needed for online shows, it is proposed to return it to what it was before: a continuing showcase of members' art.

So if you would like to see examples of your work posted in the Gallery, send up to three images to me at the address below, stating title, medium and size. If you have your own website or social media presence we can show a link to it.

Ian Irving  
[ian@dumfriesandgallowayfineartsociety.org.uk](mailto:ian@dumfriesandgallowayfineartsociety.org.uk)

## The chairman writes:

**No-one could have predicted what Covid 19 would bring and the effect it would have on all events. But we emerge enthusiastic and can see more than a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel.**

Over the last 18 months we have arranged online exhibitions, had Zoom committee meetings and published the magazines, all in order to maintain communication with our members.



**Kathleen Woods**

At last, in July, Gracefield opened their doors for our annual summer exhibition which, despite the restrictions of the lingering Covid, was a great success.

We have confirmed the Harbour Cottage Gallery in Kirkcudbright for our next exhibition in November, and from October the demonstrations and workshops will be starting up again (perhaps with some restrictions). You will find the details in the following pages of this magazine. We hope to see familiar faces and look forward to making new connections at future events.

We are now in the process of preparing for 2022, which is the Centenary Year of the society, and hope we can make it an eventful year for everyone.

So, canvases prepared and brushes to the ready, not forgetting printmaking, sculpture and crafts! We are looking forward to seeing new beautiful work for the exhibitions and, most of all, being able to meet up once again.

**Kathleen**

## **Diary dates 2021-22**

**Friday October 15** *Integrating collage into your art - talk and demonstration by Patti Lean. Gracefield 11am-1pm*

**Friday October 29** *Integrating collage - workshop with Patti Lean. Gracefield 10am-4pm*

**Sunday October 31** *Hand-in for exhibition at Harbour Cottage Gallery, Kirkcudbright. 11am-1pm. Show open November 1 to 13. Unsold work collection Nov 13, 3.30-4.30pm*

**Friday November 19** *Still Life - talk and demonstration by Bella Green. Gracefield 11am-1pm*

**Friday December 3** *Still Life workshop with Bella Green. Gracefield 10am-4pm*

**Friday January 21** *Linocuts and landscape - talk and demonstration by Joshua Miles. Gracefield 11am-1pm*

**Friday January 28** *Wildlife pastels - workshop with John Threlfall. Gracefield 10am-4pm*

**Friday February 18** *My creative practice - talk by Bea Last. Gracefield 11am-1pm*

**Friday March 4** *Markmaking and exploring sketchbooks - workshop with Bea Last. Gracefield 10am-4pm*

**Friday March 18** *Narrative portraits - talk and demonstration with Blossom McCuaig. Gracefield 11am-1pm*

**Friday April 1** *Narrative portraits workshop with Blossom McCuaig. Gracefield 10am-4pm*

**Friday April 22** *Annual General Meeting. Gracefield 11am*

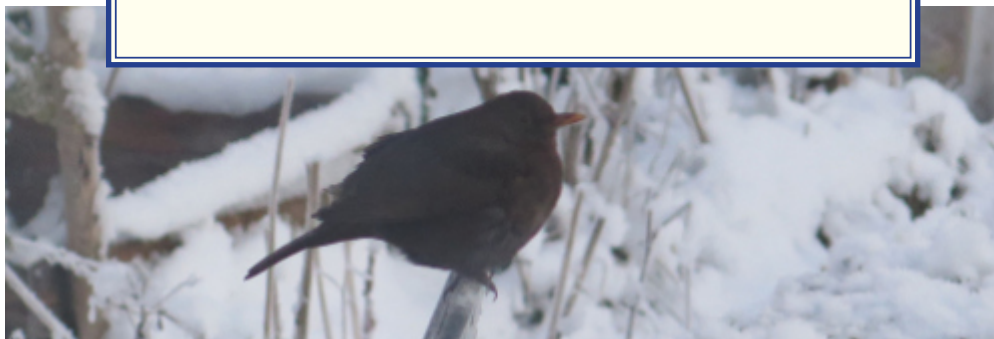


## Autumn and Winter programme

The society's programme of talks and workshops is due to resume on October 15, if Dumfries and Galloway Council have given the go-ahead, which was awaited at the time of going to press.

If meetings can take place, there may be some restrictions because of anti-covid precautions. Keep an eye on our website and social media for the latest information.

**Workshop booking form on page 28.**



# Who's who - a brief introduction to the artists who will be sharing their vision and skills with us

## Patti Lean

President of the society. Lecturer in fine art at the University of Cumbria. "I'm interested in painting as a way of saying things about the material world, and see painting as a process of thinking and communicating. I collect material by walking and making sketches, photographs and sound recordings; back in the studio this becomes the impetus for abstract and semi-abstract painting." **[pattilean.co.uk](http://pattilean.co.uk)**

## Bella Green

No stranger to members, Glasgow-born Bella had a retrospective exhibition of her work at Gracefield in 2019. She trained as an artist and teacher at Harrow, Norwich and Leicester and has taught and painted for many years. Now living in Lockerbie, she devotes most of her time to painting but enjoys leading workshops from time to time in various locations and also online. **[bellagreen.co.uk](http://bellagreen.co.uk)**

## Joshua Miles

South African born, Joshua recently relocated to Kirkcudbright with his Scottish wife. He spent many years painting with oils on canvas but his passion has always been with block printmaking with lino or wood. He is inspired by the play of light on the landscape - and recently won the Yellow Door Gallery's "Inspired by Dumfries and Galloway" open competition. **[joshuamiles.art](http://joshuamiles.art)**

## John Threlfall

A Dumfries and Galloway resident since 1992, John is an award-winning wildlife artist and landscape painter. He became a member of the Society of Wildlife Artists in 2007 and is the author of three books; his latest, "Drawn to the Edge", visits locations round the UK where land meets ocean - "spectacular and exhilarating places" which he feels compelled to depict in pencil and paint. **[johnthrelfall.co.uk](http://johnthrelfall.co.uk)**

## Bea Last

Bea uses found objects, recycled and upcycled materials in her creative process, producing sculptural drawings and paintings. She has recently taken part in "Get Out Of Your Skull", a project involving 64 artists in 20 countries, each of whom presented their own interpretation of the human skull. Bea is also a tutor for the Glasgow School of Art "Widening Participation" portfolio course programme, and offers online mentoring sessions. **bealast.com**

## Blossom McCuaig

Blossom is a Dumfries-based artist, illustrator and muralist. She studied literature and philosophy at Lancaster and is largely self-taught as an artist. Since graduating she has "immersed herself in the practice of classical and contemporary realist techniques", and was awarded one of the Upland organisation's "Emerge" bursaries for young artists.



**White Bags, an installation by Bea Last, using recycled plastic. "Plastics as a material to work with are beautiful on so many levels. Should it not be human behaviour that is questionable?"**

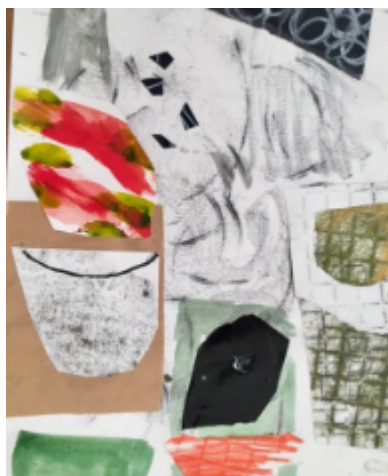
# Patti Lean

**Talk:** Integrating collage into your art  
Friday October 15, 11am

This talk and demo will show examples of collage, either as a medium in its own right or as an aid to composition.

Based on her own work made during lockdown on a Finnish island last winter, Patti will offer methods and ways of thinking about this lively, tactile artistic medium.

**Examples of Patti's  
collage work**



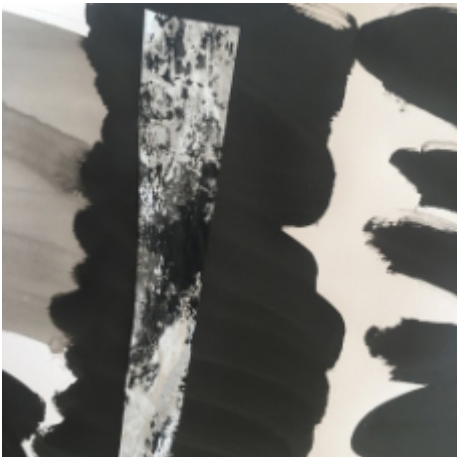
# Patti Lean

## Workshop: Integrating collage

Friday October 29, 10am-4pm

The workshop will focus on making drawings and textural surfaces from your own life, using your meaningful objects and interests.

We'll consider repetition, texture, surface, variety and unity, families of shapes - all the time keeping things lively and dynamic in terms of movement and composition.



The aim of the day is to shake up and push ideas of composition, no matter what medium you normally work in.

# Bella Green

**Talk:** Still Life - Still Going

Friday November 19, 11am



**Still lifes - a composite image**

Bella's talk, illustrated with slides, will examine the enduring fascination of still life for painters

For centuries artists have worked with still life. It has been used in different ways - to reflect status, to explore symbolic meaning or simply to capture the fleeting beauty of a flower or fruit or an interesting vessel.

The stillness of still life has also been useful for exploring the abstract qualities of the visual elements in painting and in contemporary work it continues to be a significant genre.

Bella will discuss these aspects of still life and give an overview of the development of this genre from the Renaissance to the present day. She will also share her influences and her own approach and methods.

# Bella Green

## Workshop: Still life: ways of seeing

Friday December 3, 10am-4pm

Bella writes: This workshop is about exploring a variety of stylistic approaches to still life. Broadly, these might be called 'painterly' or 'graphic'.



Still life styles  
- a composite  
image from  
Bella

Think, for example, of the difference between Bonnard and Mary Fedden or de Kooning and Mondrian. We will look at lots of different ways painters have approached this genre and play with different methods and processes. Working from observation, real objects and/or photo references, the aim, later in the workshop, will be to develop an exploratory study to a more in-depth piece, in either a 'painterly' or 'graphic' style.

The mediums will be charcoal, pencil, marker pen, chalk pastel or oil pastel. You will need only a few of these, not all. If you go with a 'painterly' approach, either oils or acrylics are good. If you choose to go 'graphic' acrylics plus a few of the line mediums above would be best, although oils and oil pastels are also possible.

# Joshua Miles

Talk and demonstration: **Linocut landscapes**

**Friday January 21, 11am**

Joshua, a full time landscape artist/printmaker with his own working studio in Kirkcudbright since April, 2021, will be talking about and demonstrating his process of creating reduction block linocuts.

'I will show what attracts me in the image that I take myself to work from, how I do the initial sketch, the planning and mixing of my colours, the cutting of each layer and how I use selective rolling in my process. I will also talk about what has inspired me and had an influence on how I create my work.'



Joshua at work in his  
Kirkcudbright studio and  
(above) the finished print,  
*Coastal Thrift*

# John Threlfall

## Workshop: Wildlife pastels

Friday January 28, 10am-4pm

John will be helping participants explore the exciting possibilities of the pastel medium in depicting wildlife, both birds and mammals.

He says: "Members need to bring their own materials with them; pastels (hard and soft if they have both, but not to worry if they don't) and pastel paper, minimum A3 size, various colours.

"An old oil painting/hog hair brush may be useful and a soft rubber. Willow charcoal for preliminary drawings.

Fixative is not essential but if they have some then bring it by all means."



Illustration: John's "Long Eared Owl"

# Bea Last

**Talk:** My creative practice

Friday February 18, 11am

Processed Based Practice – The Artist's Journey

We'll be taking a look at a creative practice that has been process-led over 35 years, from art school to full-time practitioner.

We will look at a journey that has been led by the creation of art throughout those years, culminating in where Bea is now as an artist, mentor and educator.

Currently using recycled, upcycled and mixed media to create 'sculptural drawings', Bea's work is exhibited across the UK and abroad.

Highlighting current global issues and socio-political issues, in subtle ways, this work opens up a platform for conversation and dialogue and why creativity matters.



**Bea Last - The  
Black Scrolls 2017**

# Bea Last

## Workshop: Markmaking/exploring sketchbooks

Friday March 4, 10am-4pm

We'll be taking a look at creative markmaking, collaboration and sketchbooks. For those who have attended Bea's workshops before, we will be both re-visiting and engaging with new creative ways of working. This workshop will allow space for more personal expression with support, and how process and experimentation can help to move your creativity forward in greater or lesser ways, helping find ways through creative blocks. Includes a demonstration and examples of artists sketchbooks.



A variety of drawing materials will be available, however you may wish to bring:

- \*Any sketchbooks, paper and drawing materials you may prefer to work with
- \*An apron or old shirt for any messy work you may find yourself doing.
- \*An object or item of inspiration that can be referred to. For example, a flower or plant, an object- natural or manmade.

# Blossom McCuaig

Talk/demonstration: Narrative portraits

Friday March 18, 11am

Blossom has studied literature and philosophy and says both subjects are integrated deeply within her artistic practice. Her talk and workshop will track the entire process of a drawing and how each step develops and constructs a narrative.



Workshop: Narrative portraits on toned paper

Friday April 1, 10am-4pm

Covering the emergence of an idea, the practicalities of methods and materials and the final emotional impact, this workshop will focus on storytelling through the technical language of drawing.

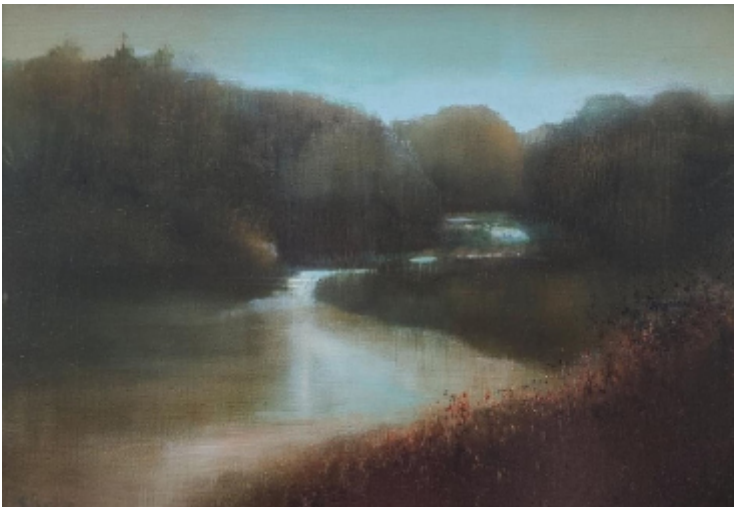
Bring graphite pencils and erasers. Other materials will be provided, including paper, charcoal, gouache, shellac ink, sanguine powder and chalk.

## ANNUAL EXHIBITION NO. 94

It wasn't quite the same as usual  
but it was still a success!



**At last, after eighteen months of pandemic, we were able to have the annual summer exhibition at Gracefield Arts Centre in Dumfries.**



It had to be organised in a very different way to usual because of continuing restrictions.

Hand-in was extended over two weeks instead of one day; there was

no selection process or preview night, and numbers viewing the exhibition at any one time were limited. Despite all of this, our 94th annual summer exhibition was very successful and well admired. Eleven hundred people visited over the five week period and 19 works of art were sold.



**“Waiting”, a bronze resin sculpture by Jennifer Watt, did not have long to wait before being snapped up by a buyer. Right: a visitor admires the botanical art of Mary-Claire Cornwallis.**

Visitors’ favourite piece of the show was “Quiet River” (opposite) by new member Kate Bentley. Congratulations to Kate! Once again, we thank Dawn Henderby and her team at Gracefield for their co-operation and input to making this exhibition a success. We very much appreciate this. To Caroline Hone, a special thank you for your assistance in the arrangement of paintings for hanging. We had a good day! And lastly, we thank you, our members, for your entries and helping to bring together this exhibition.

**Kathleen Woods**



**Craft entries included ceramics by David Alexander and glass by Alan Brockbank**



# Celebrating a Wasps 'nest'

**Cannonwalls and Claverhouse studios in Kirkcudbright High Street have been providing working spaces for artists for 10 years now, under the aegis of Wasps - Workshops and Artists Studio Provision Scotland.**

To celebrate the anniversary the occupiers of the 14 studios have mounted an exhibition at Kirkcudbright Galleries, which continues until November 28.

DAGFAS honorary president Patti Lean, is among the tenants of the linked Cannonwalls and Claverhouse buildings, and this (right) is one of her exhibits - a response to winter in Finland during the second lockdown.

Wasps is a charity that provides affordable studios to support artists, arts organisations, and creative businesses.



**Langviken Study 2, acrylic, by Patti Lean**

It currently houses about 900 artists and 33 organisations at 20 buildings across Scotland.

The Kirkcudbright facility was set up after an eight-year search for suitable premises in Dumfries and Galloway where there was a high demand for studios. The current show features work by Maggie Ayres, Ian and Claire Cameron-Smith, Cat Coulson, Marianne Davidson, Laura Derby, Lizzie Farey, Ross Fleming, Pattie Lean, Margaret S Milligan, Hannah Morris, Nickie Newsum, Cate Ross, and Sarah Thomas.



**Sweet Peas, acrylic, by Margaret S Milligan**



**A woodblock print by  
Claire Cameron-Smith**



**Nest - willow, birch and bog myrtle -  
by Lizzie Farey**

# DAGFAS 'on the road' at Kirkcudbright Harbour Cottage Gallery Monday November 1 to Saturday November 13

Dumfries and Galloway Fine Arts Society members are invited to submit three paintings or artworks for this exhibition.

In order that a list of exhibitors and works can be prepared a completed application form must be sent to Kathleen Woods on [woods664@btinternet.com](mailto:woods664@btinternet.com) or to 10 Davie Gill Park, Thornhill, DG3 5AH by **Tuesday October 26**.

As well as artworks, a member may show up to 20 cards priced at £2 per card.

Artwork must be labelled with the title, medium, name, address of artist and the price. Please use own label and affix to back of painting. Pictures must be framed with rings and cord fixed to the frame ready for hanging. A deep box canvas may be unframed.

The artwork along with an entry fee of £3 per piece of work must be handed in to the hanging committee at the Harbour Cottage Gallery on **Sunday October 31 from 11am to 1pm**.

Sales commission to DAGFAS will be 30%. The exhibition will be open from 10.30am – 4.30pm daily. Free entry.

Artworks not sold must be collected from the gallery on **Saturday November 13 between 3.30pm and 4.30pm**.

APPLICATION FORM

Name of Artist:-

Address:-

E-mail Address:-

Telephone No:-

Title:-

Medium:-

Price:-

Title:-

Medium:-

Price:-

Title:-

Medium:-

Price:-

You are allowed three entries of which two pieces will be hung and the third held for replacement in case of sale.

We will need help to staff this exhibition. Please indicate in the table below your preferred date. Sessions will be either full day 10.30am-4.30pm, or half day 10.30am -1.30pm or 1.30pm -4.30pm.

|                      | Sunday<br>October 31 | Monday<br>Nov. 1    | Tuesday<br>Nov. 2 | Wednesday<br>Nov. 3 | Thursday<br>Nov. 4   | Friday<br>Nov. 5    |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 10.30am<br>- 1.30pm  | Hand-in              |                     |                   |                     |                      |                     |
| 1.30pm<br>- 4.30pm   | 11am-1pm             |                     |                   |                     |                      |                     |
|                      | Saturday<br>Nov. 6   | Sunday<br>Nov. 7    | Monday<br>Nov. 8  | Tuesday<br>Nov. 9   | Wednesday<br>Nov. 10 | Thursday<br>Nov. 11 |
| 10.30am<br>- 1.30pm- |                      |                     |                   |                     |                      |                     |
| 1.30pm<br>- 4.30pm   |                      |                     |                   |                     |                      |                     |
|                      | Friday<br>Nov. 12    | Saturday<br>Nov. 13 |                   |                     |                      |                     |
| 10.30am<br>- 1.30pm  |                      |                     |                   |                     |                      |                     |
| 1.30pm<br>- 4.30pm   |                      |                     |                   |                     |                      |                     |

REMEMBERING...

## School Prints - a project 'of its time, in the best possible way'

Anyone remember School Prints? I don't mean experiments with block printing in the art room, but the project conceived in the 1940s to bring quality art into the lives of schoolchildren throughout Britain.

It was inspired by a young ex-Etonian called Derek Rawnsley, who died in 1943 while in the RAF. His vision of giving children contact with contemporary art at low cost was taken up by his young widow, Brenda. The result was a series of hand-drawn colour lithographs by notable artists of the day, including Henry Moore, L S Lowry, John Nash, and

Julian Trevelyan.

As the writer Mel Gooding put it: "For many of those at school in the austere '40s their first memory of a genuine work of art will be of a print by one of the many artists who contributed



to the two major series of 1946 and 1947". As someone who *was* at school in those times, I believe I did see one of those prints - the one above, "Timber Felling in Essex", by Michael Rothenstein. The memory may be false, but the image seemed strangely familiar when a brochure offering many of the prints came my way in the 1980s. It seems that, sadly, schools' take-up of the prints was not as great as hoped because of logistical problems, and a cache of them in mint condition was discovered 40 years on, to become sought after by collectors. In the 1980s I passed up the chance to acquire one or more of the

30x19.5in prints at £45 each. Many are still available but now you would have to pay upwards of £150 for the least popular and over £2,000 for the Lowry "Punch and Judy" (below) and £750 for the John Nash "Window Plants" (bottom). It wasn't only British artists who took part; Brenda Rawnsley broadened the series to include French artists and



persuaded Dufy, Picasso, Léger, Matisse and Braque to contribute.

An editorial in The Guardian in January 2018 said "It is hard to summon up now how extraordinary it must have been for a child, perhaps never

before having seen a real work of art, to encounter a bright Picasso abstract – and hanging on the classroom wall, not closeted away in a museum. The School Prints initiative was of its time, in the best possible way." That was written in praise of the Hepworth Wakefield. which was reviving the School Prints idea.

The museum commissioned lithographs from a number of artists, and sets of the prints were made available to local schools, with poster



versions for schools elsewhere.

You can see the results here:  
<https://shop.hepworthwakefield.org/collections/school-prints>.

**I.I.**

# 2021 - 2022 workshops

## Booking form

Please tick the workshop/s you wish to book.

|                        |                   |            |
|------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| <b>Patti Lean</b>      | <b>October 29</b> | <b>£35</b> |
| <b>Bella Green</b>     | <b>December 3</b> | <b>£35</b> |
| <b>John Threlfall</b>  | <b>January 28</b> | <b>£35</b> |
| <b>Bea Last</b>        | <b>March 4</b>    | <b>£35</b> |
| <b>Blossom McCuaig</b> | <b>April 1</b>    | <b>£35</b> |

All at Gracefield Arts Centre, Dumfries, 10am-4pm

**Name**.....

**Email for confirmation**.....

**Telephone**.....

I enclose a cheque/s payable to DAGFAS, for a total of.....

Please indicate which workshop/s you wish to attend and send a separate cheque for each event along with the completed form to:

**Maureen McKeown**  
**Criffel Cottage,**  
**11 Ingleston View.**  
**New Abbey,**  
**DG2 8BZ**

Payment with booking, please. Confirmation will only be sent by email.  
Please note: fees are non-returnable except when a workshop is overbooked.

## — Your council —

### **President**

Patti Lean

### **Chairman and exhibition organiser**

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### **Council members**

Muriel Collins, Caroline Hone, Aileen MacEwan

Find DAGFAS at:

**web:** [www.dumfriesandgallowayfineartsociety.org.uk](http://www.dumfriesandgallowayfineartsociety.org.uk)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/fineartssoc](http://www.facebook.com/fineartssoc)

**Instagram:** [www.instagram.com/dagfas20/](http://www.instagram.com/dagfas20/)



Chas. J. Fennell