



BRUTON ART SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

www.brutonartsociety.co.uk

Lectures * Workshops * Exhibitions * Coach Trips * Painting Days

From the Chair

It has been with a degree of trepidation that I have embarked on my role since the AGM in January. For one thing, Prof Will Vaughan is a hard act to follow: his contribution to BAS has been immense, for which we are all extremely grateful, and he is a skilled practitioner. Thank you very much, Will, for all you have done!

For another, I am no artist and won't be troubling the judges at the annual exhibition. However, the society has a wonderful committee with a proven track record and I am enjoying being involved. The 2024 programme, already well underway, is full of exciting activities and opportunities.

The garden party at Knowle Rock, Shepton Montague on the afternoon of Sunday May 12th, marking seventy years of the society, promises to be a very enjoyable occasion. I thank the organising team, and particularly our host Corinna Leigh-Turner, for all the hard work being put in, and look forward to meeting many of you there.

And before we know it, the annual exhibition will be upon us once again in August.

It's good to report that membership numbers continue to grow, as does the society's reputation.

Onwards to our centenary!

John Burrough

Bruton Art Society's 71st Annual Art Exhibition



Well! It's that time of year again 'Summer 2024' which means another of our Society's wonderful Art Exhibitions at the Memorial Hall, King's Bruton. This will be open to the public from the 17th to the 24th August 10am - 4pm daily, including Saturdays and the one Sunday.

Artists! we are waiting eagerly to see your work, so don't forget to submit online by midnight the 21st June. The OESS link is on the website as well as in the 'Call to Artists' email which you would have received on the 30th April.

We are hoping to have even more sculptures this year so SCULPTORS, please let's see your work!

A little footnote for all those wanting to exhibit: Please read all the Terms and Conditions! If you have any questions or difficulties, there is an email and telephone helpline.

We are more than happy to help out.

Thank you and all the best.

(Exhibition Sub-Committee)

Anthony Connolly PRP

A Profile of our new Bruton Art Society Patron

Anthony Connolly is President of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters, one of the world's most respected art organisations. He studied Fine Art at Goldsmith's College. Anthony has work in many private and public collections including the Royal Collection at Windsor Castle and West Point Military Academy. His parents were Irish, arriving in this country from Ireland in the 30's and Anthony grew up the youngest of 4 boys, within a typical part of that Irish Diaspora, *"an Irish community and you're born into it, and it's Catholic, it's Irish. You grew up through it and then you disperse. So my background is, I'd say it was modest but it's actually not, it was very rich in a way because my parents felt education was important, as far as possible we had education and I always just completely independently drew and painted as a child"*.

Standing in the airy gallery space at his recent shared exhibition "The Heart has its Reasons" at the Highgate Literary & Scientific Institution, with 3 dimensional work in ceramic and plaster on the walls around me, I was intrigued to find out what had triggered this change of direction.

Anthony explained, *"I wanted to make sculpture to effectively extend my drawing into 3 dimensions. When I draw I am very conscious of looking at somebody, I'm not translating into a flat surface. You actually want to communicate something of what's around the side, behind. In my drawing I'm scratching out the 3rd dimension as well when I draw, and so then the making ie: drawing, or in clay, or whatever it happens to be, feels a very natural extension, so I applied for an Arts Council Grant and to do just that - to extend my work into 3D"*.



'Self Portrait'



The result of this successful application produced a body of work which Anthony exhibited alongside two friends giving him the chance to *"get to see the work in a way that you don't get to see it in your studio, which is very important. In the Studio you can convince yourself of all sorts of stuff, then when you actually bring it out and put it in front of the public, in the context and in the company of other work, it looks very different and either you think Yes or you think No; and it's quite important to actually go through that process and see it in that way. It's made to be seen and it needs that air"*. The ceramic heads came about from a very simple photograph of two of his children, fast asleep. Anthony went on to produce the likeness in clay, which then *"by chopping and putting them together and cutting away at them so they become modular, almost like Lego bricks, you bring them together and you think does that work, and you combine and re-combine in the hope that some relationship might work"*. These are then displayed either free standing or wall hung.

We pause to contemplate and move on ...

Anthony, do you doodle, I wonder? *"I probably don't doodle that much - except when I'm in meetings. No, I usually draw with a purpose and it's usually observations, it's looking at something and trying to make something of it"*. This question of mine is prompted because, amongst the 3D work in the HL&SI there is a striking pencil drawing entitled 'Lent Drawing'.

It is an adaptation of a painting by Hieronymus Bosch in the National Gallery entitled Christ Mocked (The Crowning with Thorns) and in Anthony's interpretation the detail and complexity is astounding. Anthony tells me *"I'm a real enthusiast for copying; I think it's a fantastic thing. I mean, that drawing there, it starts out – it's a copy of a Bosch in the National Gallery, it's got lots of things in it but essentially it's a drawing and it's a lovely way of looking and if you copy work, good work, you see it in a way that you won't see it just by looking at it. I'm a real enthusiast of copying, it's a fabulous thing."*

His portrait painting involves quiet sessions of intense concentration in what Anthony describes as a *"temporary intimacy, as you are looking quite hard. It's intrusive in a way because you are looking quite hard at someone and you are trying to make a likeness, but you are in a quiet space and you are looking for hours at a time so you do talk"*. Both in his portraits and the 3D sculptures Anthony is particularly aware of the way the mouth is portrayed and prefers to *"err on the side of perhaps slightly deeper, more serious, when it comes to portraits than the lighter frothier, because the frothier wears out more quickly and so I think your grandchildren for instance will be more interested in, and will live more easily with, a painting of you which is more lasting. A painting is like a book, you want to be able to go back and read it again and again"*.

Where next I ask? The answer, unsurprisingly, *"still painting, that's my ambition, as Anthony Eyton at 107"*.

So that's where next - and I'm delighted to hear it.



'Lent Drawing'



'Portrait of a Young Woman'



'Head - JAC'

Anthony Connolly has portrait work in pencil, charcoal and oil until **18th May at the Mall Galleries, Royal Society of Portrait Painters Annual Exhibition 2024.**

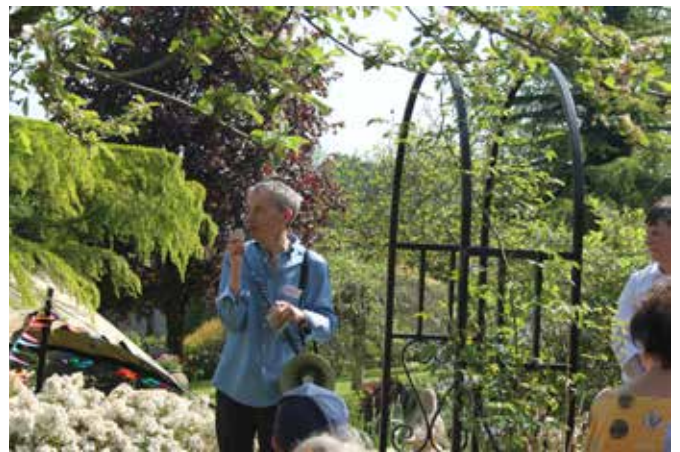
www.anthonycnolly.co.uk

Eleanor Milton

BRUTON ARTS SOCIETY 70TH ANNIVERSARY GARDEN PARTY

It was a gloriously sunny May day when the Bruton Arts Society held a garden party to celebrate its platinum jubilee, marking 70 years since its foundation in 1953. Over 120 society members gathered in the lovely garden of our host member Corinna Leigh-Turner at her home Knowle Rock, a former farmstead, high above the verdant rolling landscape near Bruton. Guests were received with a glass of champagne or local apple juice on their arrival, generous contributions from our host, and plied with canapés throughout the afternoon. Strategically placed marquees provided cover from the sun, and light music drifted across the garden carried along by a gentle breeze, lending further comfort in the heat of this perfect May day. A few hours later the guests made their way back to their cars in an adjoining field, having been treated to a truly memorable occasion in the history of the society.







Workshops

Sally Ridout

Friday 14 June: TALK/WORKSHOP 'Picasso in Context' SALLY RIDOUT

Thursday 3 - Friday 4 October: 'Paper Art' NAOMI KENDALL

Thursday 17 October: TASTER DAY: 'Gouache' KATE COCHRANE

Friday 18 October: TASTER DAY 'Pastel Painting' (oil & chalk) SU ELSDEN

Thursday 7 - Friday 8 November: 'Egg Tempera Painting' JAMES LYNCH

Painting days**Allan Howles**

Bruton Art Society Painting Days are very popular with our membership - no need to book, bring lunch and usual materials. Starting in May!

Lovington Mill 15 May

Listed grade II mill probably dating from 1086 in a lovely setting with stream and weir.

Pitcombe farmhouse 12 June

18th century former farmhouse in an idyllic setting with pretty gardens on the river Pit, with separate cottage, and fields leading to the parish church.

Wyke Champflower Manor 26 June

Listed grade II manor house in a lovely garden with the grade I listed parish church of The Holy Trinity (1623) attached to the house.

Batcombe 3 July

Pretty village, one of Somerset's finest, set in rolling countryside near Bruton.

Sexey's Hospital Bruton 17 July

Ancient almshouses founded by Hugh Sexey in 1623 accessed off the High Street. Now 28 retirement flats arranged around a courtyard with a chapel, and gardens leading down to the river Brue.

Yarlington House 24 July

Listed grade II house and stable wing of 1782 set in parkland in an elevated location above the village, with a superb kitchen garden.

East Somerset Railway 6 August

Heritage railway at Cranmore near Shepton Mallet. A small country branch line station on the Great Western Railway which closed in 1966. Now preserved with a complete railway infrastructure including station buildings, museum, signal box, engine shed etc.

Sherborne 21 August

Delightful country town in north Dorset with ancient abbey church and schools.



Lovington Mill

Workshop Reports

A 2 day Workshop ‘Sculpture in Wire and Resin’ with sculptor Melanie Deegan

We started our 2024 Workshop Programme on the 7th and 8th of March at our usual venue, Hadspen Village Hall near Bruton. One of our most regular and well liked tutors, the sculptor Melanie Deegan took a group of 12 members through the processes of sculpting in wire and resin. Their choice of subject matter was completely their own, which turned out to be mainly birds and other animals.

Melanie has a very calm and professional approach and some members book her workshop as soon as it’s available, every time she comes. This year there was even a waiting list.

Her students always produce amazing work considering they only have two days to do it in and this year was no exception, with some beautiful pieces.

We are always grateful that Melanie travels from Watchet on the West Somerset coast each day, where she has a studio at the “East Quay” contemporary Art Centre. We look forward to having her again, hopefully in 2026.

Sally Ridout



ALEX CREE - 'Basic oil painting skills'

The Society continued its 2024 workshop programme at Hadspen Village Hall with 2 recently held workshops, one after the other.

The first one was a 2 day workshop on the 11th and 12th of April on 'Basic oil painting skills', with Alex Cree. There were 11 participants, some complete beginners and some who wanted to refresh their oil painting skills.

Alex took us right back to basics with the colour wheel, colour mixing exercises, cool and warm colours, mixing greys and browns and observing the effect on the eye of one colour against another. We talked about different oil mediums, solvents and varnishes and learnt about the process of 'Tonking' like Henry Tonks and 'Scumbling' like William Turner.

Everyone benefitted from Alex's relaxed and encouraging teaching style with some very happy people at the end.

**SARAH BALL - 'Playing, Exploring and Creating in Acrylics'**

The second workshop was the week after on the 18th and 19th April on 'Playing, Exploring and Creating in Acrylics' with Sarah Ball.

This workshop was booked out with the full 12 participants.

Sarah is a very inspiring teacher and artist who encouraged us to go outside to absorb the landscape around the Hall. It was a lovely warm Spring day and she asked us to draw a number of simple abstracted lines representing the landscape on paper using a grid system with numbers to start with, then to make sketches. Over the two days we developed semi abstract compositions in acrylic, based on our 'plein air' studies, playing and exploring with colour, texture and shape, using different tools and processes which she demonstrated for us as we went along.

Sarah held group discussions from time to time on what it is to be an artist, how we can free ourselves from what is expected of us and how to find the ability to indulge our practice in what truly makes us happy. These 'chats' were received with enthusiasm and honesty. We came away feeling positively renewed and confident.

I am happy to report that I know some folks continued what they had started over the weekend with some wonderful results.

Sally Ridout



'Landscape Painting with earth pigments' - Tutor: Amanda Bee

This was a special one day workshop on the 10th May at Hadspen Village Hall with Amanda, who has recently admitted to being obsessed with painting using earth pigments, especially mixing them with acrylic paint.

Last year she made a trip to Rousillion in Provence to research the origins of some of the pigments she uses and she showed us how to mix them with water, acrylic binder and a drop of acticide, which is a fungal preventative.

We learnt that one of the most versatile pigments is 'ochre' which has been found in archaeological sites in Africa dating back to around 300,000 years and in Australia dating back 50,000 years.

The ochre colours which she brought were natural, with varying amounts of clay and sand and ranged from yellow to orange, red and brown.

We were also given the opportunity to use a pigment called 'green earth' which was first used by the Romans and has been found on wall paintings in Pompeii.

Amanda is a very organised and experienced teacher who had a calm and encouraging approach to each one of us during the day.

I particularly enjoyed how she inspired us to develop intuitive landscapes from our memory as well as using existing resources, sometimes from our own sketches, without losing the spontaneous creativity which we all possess.

One of the comments received about the day:

"I thought I would drop you a quick line to say how much I enjoyed the above workshop. I found it quite inspiring and liberating and have since been up early each day to do more of the little "squares", but in watercolour!!"

Sally Ridout (BAS Workshops and Bookings)

News from BAS Members

Gary Cook. cookthepainter.com

Days after exhibiting with the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours at the Mall Galleries, Gary had a solo exhibition of work at Daylesford Organic in the Cotswolds in April. His ReWolding show featured 25 new paintings.

Closer to home he has another solo exhibition called *Temperate Times* in **Child Okeford**. For this show he is focussing on rainforests. You might immediately think of the Amazon but the trees he is painting are not in South America but are the incredible temperate rainforests that we have in the UK. There is even some evidence that we have small remnants of rainforest right here in Dorset. The exhibition will be at **the Art Stable** from **22 June to 20 July**.



Winter in the rainforest

Gary made sketching trips to the several precious pockets of rainforests that we have in Devon, Cornwall, Wales and the Lake District. These environmentally vital woodlands used to cover up to 20% of our country but now, sadly, they make up less than 1%. They are particularly enchanting because they thrive in damp conditions so their trees tend to be mistily romantic with branches draped in mosses and ferns. They really do look as though they've come straight from a fairytale book.

Gary was inspired to begin this project after reading Guy Shrubsole's brilliant best-selling book *The Lost Rainforests of Britain* and was particularly intrigued by the passages where Shrubsole describes the plants to look out for because they are telltale signs of these magical, enveloping places. Tree branches, mostly gnarly oaks, are covered in mosses, liverworts, lichen and polypody ferns. Oh and the clue is in the name, they need lots of rain.

Gary turned amateur detective on walks around our misty damp valleys, concentrating on spots next to streams that have this tick list, so there is a theory that the oaks growing there could be remnants of rainforests in our Dorset. It is an amazing thought. People may be surprised to discover that some of the small tracts he has painted in the Lake District, Devon and Cornwall are actually in popular tourist areas. They may well have walked in them without realising their ecological significance.



Stream off the moor

The paintings, from around the country as well as Dorset, have hidden silhouettes of some of the 2,300 species dependent on them, as well as some of the wildlife he sees as he paints written into the background of the artwork. He is also enlisting the help of the public by giving a gift of an oak sapling to everyone who buys one of the paintings. Gary hopes that they will plant their presents with care, helping to replenish the UK's diminishing tree cover and maybe even make a small start in re-growing our lost rainforests.



French Mill oak

Jenny Monds - Salisbury Art Trail

25 May – 9 June

The Salisbury Art Trail covers Salisbury and the surrounding area (roughly 20 miles) and covers a wide variety of artists, from stone carvers to painters to jewellers to ceramicists and more.

The brochure listing the 40+ venues can be seen online here:

<https://www.plainartssalisbury.co.uk/salisbury-art-trail/> to help you plan your visit.

BAS member Jenny Monds will be opening her home studio at Kirkhams, Flamstone Street, Bishopstone SP5 4BZ (in beautiful countryside and with pubs and a cafe nearby) and would be very happy to see any BAS members.

Open every day from 25th May - 9th June, including Bank Holiday Monday. Look for the yellow signs!

photography · painting · sculpture · mixed media · jewellery · ceramics · glassware & everything in between!



SALISBURY
ART TRAIL®

PLAIN arts salisbury

May 25th - June 9th 2024

www.plainartssalisbury.co.uk

To put your News and Events on the Bruton Art Society Website
Contact Peb Burfoot the Website Manager on
websitebrutonart@gmail.com
www.brutonartsociety.co.uk

Carolyn Moran - Dorset Art Weeks Venue 250

25 May – 9 June



CAROLYNE MORAN PAINTINGS

Dorset Art Weeks, VENUE 250 (look for signage)

25 May – 9 June (Closed 31 May-3 June)

Open 11am – 5.30 PM

Subjects include Interiors, Garden Scenes and more.

Refreshments Studio @The Farmhouse, 12 Well Lane, Shaftesbury SP78LP

M.07958 393152 E.carolyn@carolynemoran.com

W.carolynemoran.com Insta. carolynemoranartist

Mark & Miranda Pender - Dorset Art Weeks Venue 8 25 May – 9 June

Abbots Fee, Priestlands Lane, Sherborne DT9 4EY



Mark displays an eclectic and quirky miscellany of paintings inspired by magic, music, myth, and mystery. Miranda plays freely with colour, curve, and contour line in her collection of semi-abstract landscapes - and may also be playing some live music!

Fen D'Lucie - Dorset Art Weeks Venue 166

25 May – 9 June

Exhibition

**West Stafford Village Hall
Dorchester DT2 8AH**



Phillip Goble, Sally Pinhey & Fen D'Lucie



Venue
166



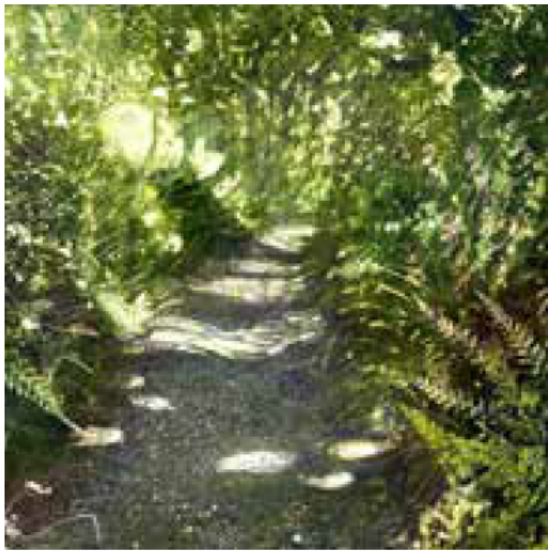
*Landscapes, seascapes & wildlife oils & acrylics by **Phillip Goble**.
New natural history & landscape watercolours by illustrator & author **Sally Pinhey**, also featuring book illustration originals.
Bronze sculpture by **Fen D'Lucie**, representational and abstract.
Also invites Dog Portrait commissions in oils.*

Saturday 25th May to Sunday 2nd June 2024

Open 10.00a.m. to 5.00 p.m. daily.

Dorset Art Weeks

Rachel Sargent - Dorset Art Weeks 25 May – 9 June
Venue 240 and 173



240 Rachel Sargent
 MIXED MEDIA | PAINTING | PRINTMAKING

Works about my moments of connection with nature when walking ancient tracks and footpaths in all lights and weather.

Cowshed Studio, Goldhill Organic Farm, Ridgeway Lane, Child Okeford DT11 8HB

- 📞 07957 452853
- ✉ sargentrachel4@gmail.com
- 🌐 rachelsargent.co.uk
- 📷 @rachelsargent51

Directions: Child Okeford to Manston Road. After 1/2 mile turn right into Ridgeway Lane. First right into Goldhill Organic Farm and Cafe.

///socialite.flush.renews

10.30am - 4.30pm



S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
25	26	27	X	X	30	31	1	2	X	X	X	6	7	8	9



173 The Instinct of Hope
 at Durlston Country Park NNR

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY

Dorset is home to an incredible but fragile bounty of natural wonder.

The range and scale is vast - insects, birdlife, reptiles, mosses, lichen and grasses form part of this rich tapestry, as well as the larger elements which inform this, such as the underlying and shifting geology.

Taking its title and inspiration from the poem by John Clare, 'The Instinct of Hope' features work by artists who are responding to a distinctive aspect, or elements, of Dorset's unique landscape.

As Dorset Visual Arts and Dorset Council declare a Climate and Ecological Emergency, this exhibition seeks to raise awareness of the inspiring elements and wonder which make the county so unique, and why we should cherish, value and celebrate it.

Durlston Country Park, Lighthouse Road,
 Swanage BH19 2JL
 ☎ 01929 424443
 ✉ durlston@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
 🌐 durlston.co.uk @durlstoncountrypark

culture declares



Directions: Durlston is to be found 1 mile south of the town of Swanage. Follow the brown tourist signs. There is a charge for parking.
 ///purses.bounding.solved

10.30am - 5pm



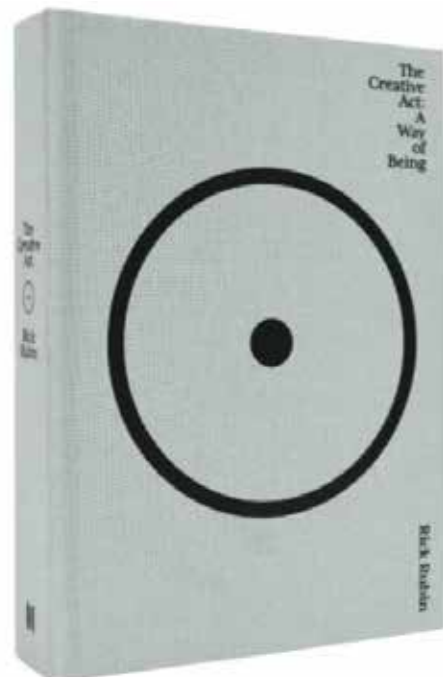
S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Are you stuck in a rut with artists block?

Angela Scott recommends:

The Creative Act: A Way of Being

'I can really recommend this book for anyone stuck in a rut, with artists block or feeling guilty about wasting time in the studio or on their art'.



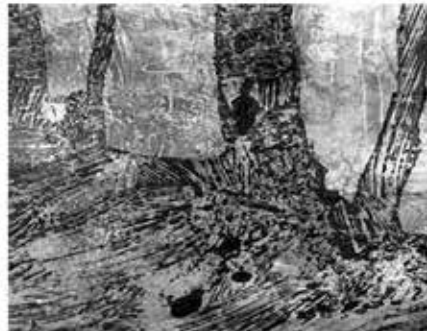
**Rachel Sargent - Sunday 14 July MAKING YOUR MARK
in the beautiful woods near Durweston, Blandford**

Using paper, pen, ink, brush and natural drawing implements, we will explore different ways of making bold marks and strong images. We will also learn techniques using washes (watery ink) and wax resist to produce some exciting and unexpected results. If you ever felt your drawing and mark making needed new vitality...this could be for you.

Classes are very relaxed and are for all abilities. We can start inside the Living Classroom with the big double doors opening into the woods and then, weather permitting, work outside where there are numerous beautiful places to sit and settle in. There will be plenty of help and tuition during the day.

All materials are provided. £75. Maximum 8 people

Teas and coffees supplied. Bring a packed lunch.



Making your Mark
in
the woods workshop

Sunday July 14th

Durweston Woods
DT11 0QE

Using paper, pen, ink,
brush and natural
drawing
implements.

More info
www.rachelsargent.co.uk
07957452853



Kristen Lindop will be part of a group exhibition from 18 May - 2 June



Secret Barn Art Exhibition

Saturdays & Sundays 18th May - 2nd June

VOID

Our recent Hatch Fashion Show saw the eternal beings step back 'INTO THE VOID' abandoned by humankind. Delighted and disturbed by discarded products we created fashion fit for the gods. This exhibition is a chance to see these creations up close as we find dwelling places for the gods of the new world!

Use the QR code to visit our website and book your visit... location (near Langport) revealed on securing your place!

Alternatively visit www.hatch-art.weebly.com for more info.



hatch.art.somerset@gmail.com @hatch_somerset

www.philippahicksart.com
Instagram: philippahicksart
E: pjhcreativity@gmail.com

**Philippa Hicks
End of Season
Studio Clearout!**

**Friday 31st May 2024
10am—7pm**

Spring

I have been having a big tidy-up and have decided to sell a lot of artwork, old and new. All items are at a reduced sale rate!!! Also 10% of all sales will be given to the Salisbury Stars Appeal. I would be grateful if you could park on Wavering Lane East and walk up to the house following the signs!

Stourside
Wavering Lane East
Gillingham
Dorset SP8 4NX

(Last road/driveway before bollards and river

*What 3 words:
newspaper. reflected.postings)*

