



BRUTON ART SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

www.brutonartsociety.co.uk

Lectures * Workshops * Exhibitions * Coach Trips * Painting Days

From the Chair

As 2024 draws to a close, Bruton Art Society can look back on a busy and successful year. Membership stands at what may well be a record high, enabling us to offer a wide and varied programme: you will see that the 2025 calendar card includes something for every month of the year.

A welcome innovation is the visit in May to the annual exhibition of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters, whose President is our own Patron, Anthony Connolly. Anthony will be giving us his own tour of the show.

We are indebted to my hardworking colleagues on the committee who put in so much time and effort to organise these events - thank you! We shall all be reporting back at the AGM on Thursday January 16th 2025, starting at 2:30pm. If you would like to become more involved with the running of BAS, do please come along or get in touch direct; 'new blood' most welcome!

With my best wishes for 2025

John Burrough

Christmas Card Competition

The winner chosen this year by the
BAS Selection Committee is

'Winter stream'

by Gary Cook RI SGFA Arborealist



Thank you to everyone who took part!

Annual Subscriptions for 2025 are due in January

Please pay online by 31 January at
www.brutonartsociety.co.uk/membership
£20 for single (or £30 for joint membership)

Any queries to: paybrutonart@gmail.com

ONLY 1 REMINDER WILL BE SENT
Please let us know if you will NOT be renewing

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

Artist Profile - Giles Penny Sculptor & Artist

When my satnav developed a fault, I covered the flickering screen with a post card which I stuck on with a bit of BluTack. The post card is of a sculpture, Man on a Bench, in Bruton. The sculptor is Giles Penny. Being newish to the area I had no knowledge of sculpture or Sculptor, but I liked the tranquil image of the Little Human very much - I found it calming in traffic jams.

Four years later the postcard, now rather faded, remains stuck to the dashboard and I've just spent a couple of hours talking to the creator of the sculpture.



Giles in his studio



Man on a Bench

When I was invited by Giles to visit his studio, my first impression was how orderly and how calm it felt in the midst of so much intensive creative activity. While I wandered about trying to take it all in, we talked about early influences and what drives him. *"We are all human,"* says Giles, and it is the everyday activities which are his inspiration.

He vividly remembers a day at school when his class teacher asked *"who enjoys cutting out?"* Every single little girl's hand shot up - but Giles was the only boy.

Cutting out has continued to come in useful, as he prepares the paper models and then the metals for his sculpture. Giles left school at 16, attended the Heatherley School of Fine Art in Chelsea for a one year foundation course and went on to Bournemouth and Poole College of Art to do another one year foundation course, then attending Newport College of Art from 1980-83.



"After leaving art school, I became interested in portrait painting and was commissioned, among others, by Richard Branson and Anita Roddick. While painting Anita's portrait, she asked me if I could make some sculpture for her garden in Sussex. I had only dabbled at sculpture at college, but I said yes, so after discussing her whimsical ideas I got a book out of the library about how to make sculpture and after a couple of years had filled her garden with sculpture. Anita later asked me if I would like to make sculpture for the Body Shop HQ. I was employed as resident artist for two years and made a total of 23 life like life-size figures. Having set up my first studio I never looked back and after finishing my time at The Body Shop I set up another larger studio and cracked on making sculpture of my own subjects and ideas."

In 1994 he was elected a member of the Royal Society of Sculptors.

Inspiration continued to come from the everyday. *Man at a Gallery* resulted from an intriguing image on the internet offering the challenge of how this reflects the feeling or thought within the action - how to read the person from behind, not just from the face, as Giles' work rarely shows much facial emotion. Therefore the emotion or feeling of a piece has to be able to be read through the body language, a passive moment leads to a reaction, the essence of the work being paired back as much as possible without losing anything.

Giles continues *“I was asked to take part in ‘The Shape of the Century’ exhibition which started out in the grounds of Salisbury Cathedral, then went to Canary Wharf, the two sculptures I exhibited were ‘Man with Arms Open’ and Two Men on a Bench’, both of which were bought by Canary Wharf as part of their permanent collection.”*



Man with Arms Open



Man in a Gallery III



Man with Head in the Clouds



Two Men on a Bench

“It is a coincidence that Worthing Museum and Art Gallery recently asked me if I would like to hold another One Man exhibition. When I had my first exhibition there in 1996 I was interviewed on TV and asked “If being more recognised would lead to complacency?” my answer was, “ask me that when I am 65.” “It is quite a coincidence that 30 years later and nearly 65, I can say that there is no room for complacency as there are still so many ideas and work to get done.”

“In summary, making a sculpture requires correcting, honing and refining Ephemeral. Mind, body and spirit and material.”

Eleanor Milton

www.gilespenny.co.uk

Painting days and outings for next year

Allan Howles has planned another exciting programme of 7 painting days in May, June and July in 2025, with all except the last one taking place on a Wednesday, the exception being a visit to Sturminster Mill in Sturminster Newton, on Thursday 17th July.

Other venues include a visit to Redwood Rare Breeds at Wanstrow in May, followed by a return visit to Pitcombe village where facilities and refreshment will be provided by Merida Drysdale. Then we go back to the Jacobean Sexey's Hospital in Bruton in June, followed by a day at Wells market, with many artistic opportunities in the Market Place.

Next we have been invited back to Parsonage Farm in Swallowcliffe, kindly hosted by Juliet Chilston. July sees a return visit to Zeals Green House, Zeals, kindly hosted by Lyndi d'Ambrumenil and finally we meet at Sturminster Mill.

Allan has now left the Committee and we thank him for all he brought to the Painting Days!

The year's outings begin in May with a trip to the Royal Society of Portrait Painters Annual Exhibition at the Mall Galleries in London, for a 'President's Tour' with Anthony Connolly RP. In November we finish with our usual trip to the RWA in Bristol, always a popular day out.

We look forward to seeing you all out and about at any or all of these venues next year.

Editor

Workshop and lecture programme 2025

We are looking forward to another set of inspiring and creative workshops for you to enjoy in 2025, in our usual venue of Hadspen Village hall.

For those of you who love acrylics or would like to try them, Lynn Keddie will be encouraging you to let yourself go for a day, painting 'Expressive land and skies'. We are fortunate that Toby Wiggins RP has accepted our request to run a two-day workshop on 'Portraiture - a route to character and likeness' in March. Toby won the Ondaatje Prize for Portraiture in 2023, for his painting, 'Winter's Work; Russell Woodham at rest while laying a hazel hedge in the Dorset Style'.

We have Kate Lynch giving us two one-day workshops on drawing, in willow charcoal and soft pastel consecutively; fabulous fabric landscapes with Imogen Bittner, and painting the clothed figure from life with James Budden, a well known local artist and tutor. We have 'Autumn' themed workshops with Sarah Sherrington a botanical artist and Jackie Curtis an energetic and popular printer well known to the society. You will have fun 'Gelli Printing' with Jenni Richards. I will be presenting another Talk/Workshop, this time on Franz Marc and 'Der Blaue Reiter' one of my all time favourite Expressionist painters.

I would like to point out that we have three free lectures lined up for our members next year at Caryford Community Hall, Castle Cary, and guests are welcome for a small fee of £5. Starting in January at our AGM, our ex chairman William Vaughan will give a lecture on 'Drawing the Line'.

In February Jenny Newman from Sherborne, will give a talk on the 'Art of Snow and Ice' and for our Christmas Lecture we have David Chandler from Frome, talking about his book Tate: 'Master Water-colour'.

I look forward to meeting old and new friends in 2025 and will as they say "see you there".

Sally Ridout November 2024

Workshop Reports

Sally Ridout November 2024

Recent 'Autumn term' society workshops held at Hadspen Village Hall.

Since our last Newsletter we have had three very inspiring and fully attended workshops.

Our '**Taster Days**' have become very popular. We had one trying out painting in 'Gouache' with **Kate Cochrane** and one in 'Oil and Chalk pastel' with **Su Elsdén** and **Sally Ridout**.

A lot of people are unfamiliar with 'gouache paint', so it was a real opportunity and Kate is one of the finest 'Gouache' painters around. She exhibits and teaches mainly in the South West, but has work in private collections abroad as well. It is worth noting that there were only three paintings in the 'gouache' medium in our Summer Exhibition this year, and one of those was by Kate.

The next day was another '**Taster Day**' which was divided between soft pastels with Su Elsdén and oil pastels with Sally Ridout.

Su is a very organised and inspiring artist whose work in soft pastels is exquisite, particularly of animals; dogs and horses. She also paints landscapes. She brought a huge array of gorgeous multi-coloured pastels for us to use which was generous of her as we all know how expensive they are. She makes her own as well. We had a very fun and rewarding time under Su's guidance.

Sally wanted to bring oil pastels into the mix because they tend to be a rather underrated medium, but as some people discovered during the day, they are very versatile and can be applied satisfactorily in many different ways. We particularly enjoyed using white spirit for textural effects.

All in all we had a very uplifting and fun day.

"..... a really good and inspiring day with terrific tutelage! I was so pleased to join in."

Julie Pettinger

"Had a fantastic day with Su Elsdén and Sally Ridout learning all about soft and oil pastels. Demonstrations, then a few exercises and we were off. Lots of useful help and we saw amazing results from everyone. I was even pleased with my own! and we managed to sit outside in the sun at lunchtime. Thank you Bruton Art Society."

Charlotte Lorimer

"Thank you and Sue for such an enjoyable day last Friday. It was fabulous to play and draw with fellow enthusiasts. A terrific relaxed atmosphere with generous encouragement from the tutors, very much appreciated! I will definitely be signing up for Taster days in the future."

Gabrielle Ramsden



'Chalk and oil pastel' workshop

Egg Tempera with James Lynch

Our last workshop of the year was in November where we learnt how to paint using **Egg Tempera with James Lynch**.

James has been painting in egg tempera for many years. His work is highly sought after and he uses his own chicken's eggs. Unfortunately, he told us that due to the change in weather, they had not been laying, so he had to get eggs elsewhere for the workshop!

James has recently had a very successful solo exhibition at the Portland Gallery in London. Painting in egg tempera requires a lot of time with a lot of layering and detail, so we were lucky he was able to give us his time.

James has an engagingly quiet way of encouraging his students and is a lot of fun. I know he was pleased with our achievements as well.

This was a very rewarding and enjoyable two days, with some outstanding results. We all walked proudly away with a piece of our work on small gesso boards (which he had prepared for us) tucked under our arms, determined to continue the good work!

For those that missed the experience, James has promised to do another egg tempera workshop for us in the future.

Comments received afterwards:

"What a brilliant couple of days and a very good teacher!"

Nigel Stevenson

"Just to say thank you for organising the two day workshop with James Lynch. I loved learning about Egg Tempera and James was such a wonderful teacher and so generous with his equipment too."

Dorothy Bark



'Egg Tempera' workshop

Bruton Art Workshops December 2024

News from BAS Members

Gillian Flack *I am pleased to have a painting accepted for the Victoria Art Gallery in Bridge Street, Bath BA2 4AT. It's on until January. My painting is a picture of Brixham fish market where I spent some time working in the summer.*



Sharon Bielby

UPCOMING EVENTS @ OLD TANNERY STUDIOS



BTEC EXTENDED DIPLOMA IN
ART AND DESIGN

‘EXPEDITION’ EXHIBITION

9TH - 13TH DECEMBER

PRIVATE VIEW
WEDNESDAY 11TH DECEMBER
6 - 8 PM



16TH, 17TH & 18TH DECEMBER

FERNANDO VELAZQUEZ



Lanterns and Whispers

Private View

16th December 4.30-7pm

Open 17th 10-5 and 18th 10-1pm



An exhibition of a new series of objects, paintings and works on paper by the international artist Fernando Velazquez



AT

OLD TANNERY STUDIOS

BAS member Kristen Lindop has been included in the prestigious Black Swan Arts Winter Market, in Frome, again this year. Open until 31st December, visit the Long Gallery to see, and buy, original artworks and crafts from local artists.



WINTER

16th November -
31st December



BlackSwanArts

MARKET.