



North Devon Arts

"building the arts in north devon"

May '06 newsletter

Next NDA Meeting - May 10th. 8.00pm

'A Walk in the Woods'

Emily Garnham Wright will be talking about her textile installation at Pickwell Manor, Georgeham, taking place as part of the North Devon Festival, during May and June. Emily is looking for members to be involved with this artwork, either in a small way or more if they wish. Stewards are also needed for some of the days, so please come along to the meeting and put your names down - it should be great fun. (More details on page 3). If you can't make it and want to be involved, please contact Stella Levy; stella@widgeystudios.com Non-members are welcome to come along - especially any artists wanting to join in with Emily's project. For a Broomhill buffet at 7.00pm, please pre-book on 01271 850262.

REVIEWS

NDA April meeting

Lillian Sum, a community and sensory artist, talked to us about her work with communities from Devon to India, as far apart in distance as well as lifestyles. Spending time with some of India's most deprived people (making their living from the waste sites), she told how she encouraged them to make art from the things around them. Creating art in these terrible circumstances seems on the surface so futile, but just to be able to enjoy the moment and see the world differently for this very short time, can be an important development in these peoples lives. Something we all take for granted, choosing as we can, to either make art, visit exhibitions or shows etc.

Some of the slides shown were of her sensory artwork to help involve the severely handicapped. Using various materials and smells, a reaction can be achieved which would not be thought possible. Being able to bring a delight into these lives must be such a moving experience.

Lillian's latest commission is just starting at the Cardiff Centre for Renewable Energy and hopefully she will keep us informed of how this project progresses.

Normally she works from a studio based at Tapely Park, the Instow estate owned and run by Hector Christie, creating eco friendly ways of making art.

Stella

in the mix - Nine photographers at Rosemoor

This was a quickly put together exhibition, organised by Devon Artsculture, filling the gap left by someone pulling out. Luckily, nine of us photographers were able to step in to exhibit in the lovely Rosemoor exhibition space. What a joy to walk in and find beautiful, clean, freshly painted flats and nicely laid out as well!

We all hung our own very varied work (*I showed my now familiar flower photos*), chatting together, looking at each others work and talking about the techniques used. This was nice and friendly.

On Saturday 15th, we invited the public to meet with us and talk, over a cup of tea and a scone!

Which, after the initial asking, the public seemed to relax and rather enjoy this unusual approach - also it gave me a chance to partake in one of my favourite pastimes - cake eating!

The Devon Artsculture scheme to develop and promote artists in this area, is living up to expectations. For details on how it can help you, contact, Sadie Green on; devart@beaford-arts.co.uk

NDA Spring Exhibition at The Plough

Show continues until 29th April.

Collection of work - Tuesday 2nd May, 10am - 1pm

ART TREK

Open Studios
16th - 19th June
11.00 am - 6.00 pm

A last chance to be in the North Devon Open Studios event! The leaflet, designed by NDA member, John Andow, has now gone to print. It's looking really good, plus a record thirty-six artists have been included.

So... too late for that now! BUT, for just £10.55 you can be on the Art Trek web page! <http://www.northdevonfestival.org/events/arttrek.html> For details on how you can still take part, contact ASAP; stella.levy@virgin.net

Art Trek is supported by Devon Artsculture and North Devon Festival .

WRITERS' OPPORTUNITY

BeachRead

The aim of this project is to bring together writers from the North Devon area, to collate and publish an anthology of poems and short stories inspired by the diversity of North Devon, its people, landscapes and way of life.

Often overlooked and usually working in rural isolation, writers are being encouraged to put pen to paper, perhaps giving them a voice in a world that is full of rejection. The common plea from writers is that most opportunities are for the visual arts - so just for once, here is one for you!

The book will be finished to the highest standards, with emphasis on quality, professionalism and value.

To submit a short story or poem, please visit the website; www.BeachRead.com to register your interest.

If we get enough support from North Devon Arts members this project could become a reality (subject to a funding application). Come on you writers, (professional and would be's), lets get this project off the ground - it could be the first step you take towards a literary career!

EXHIBITION

Museum of Dartmoor Life - 'RECYCLE' Okehampton

Launch of the 2006 season with a new temporary exhibition of work by Devon artists. 'RECYCLE' is an exhibition of artwork using recycled materials; anything from mud and earth to old tin cans and plastic.

The theme of the exhibition is 'Dartmoor' - all the work will relate in some way to the moors - using material found there, or simply by artists who work there. More than a dozen artists have submitted work for the show - so there will be an exciting variety of work to see.

The exhibition will be in the museum's newly created exhibition space, part of a major refurbishment of the museum, completed in 2005 with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, West Devon Borough Council and Dartmoor National Park.

Opening on 15 April and continuing until 27 May; from Monday to Saturday 10.30-4pm.

On 19th and 20th May, West Devon Borough Council's Recycling Trailer will be in the museum car park - promoting good practice in recycling and on Saturday

Also on 20th May, there will be a family workshop (using recycled materials) - making flags and banners - this is a 'drop-in' event - no need to book.

Martyn Brown

Rugging Recycled on Dartmoor

The NDA newsletter is very useful at distributing information; without it I would not have heard about the call for artists for the 'RECYCLE' exhibition at Okehampton Museum.

I phoned to inquire, as I envisaged having to go out on the moors collecting rubbish to somehow create a piece of work in my medium. I was assured it was a broad title and encouraged to submit my application. So I e-mailed a description of my proposed piece, along with photo-examples of two recent works along similar lines. (This was a major achievement, as I had recently attended a Devon Artsculture photographic workshop, designed to assist in developing photographic skills for submitting work).

My idea was accepted! Fortunate, as I had already composed, collected resources and started my idea - 'The Moors' - depicting the Dartmoor I see when driving from North Devon.

This hanging was created using the traditional craft of making rugs from rags and old clothing, an essential homemaking activity for most of the folk who lived on Dartmoor 50 years ago.

Also I wanted to use my moorland scene to demonstrate four methods of rag rug making; in the process using 3 woollen skirts and their acetate linings, remnants from a charity shop, cotton trousers and an army jacket and lining.

Deborah Hastings

'The Moors' by Deborah Hastings, along with paintings by NDA Chair, Peter Bright, are on exhibition at Okehampton Museum till 27th May.

'A Walk in the Woods' Please note the change of venue !**Emily Garnham Wright will be creating a large, temporary textile in Pickwell Manor woods**

Emily will be working with Georgeham Schoolchildren and with the public in this woodland site, during the last two weeks of May. The public, other artists and NDA members are invited to join her to help 'sew' this temporary textile installation.

The project is supported by **LEADER +, Devon Artsculture** and is taking place as part of **North Devon Festival**. Please check the Festival and NDA websites during May, to see the daily updates on Emily's installation; www.northdevonfestival.org or northdevonarts.co.uk

Dates & Times for 'A Walk in the Woods' project

10th May 2006, 8pm - Emily will talk about the project at the North Devon Arts meeting, at Broomhill
14th May 2006, 11am - 4pm - Public Day (especially NDA members) at Pickwell Manor woods
15th May 2006, 9am - Assembly talk at Georgeham Primary School
15th, 16th and 17th May 2006, 9.45 - 11.45am & 1.45 - 2.45pm - Georgeham School at Pickwell Manor woods.
23rd, 24th and 25th May 2006, 9.45 - 11.45am and 1.45 - 2.45pm - Georgeham School at Pickwell Manor woods).
28th May 2006, 12am - 5pm - Public at Pickwell Manor woods.
29th May 2006, 11am - 4pm - Public at Pickwell Manor woods.
31st May 2006, from 7.30pm - Invited guests at Pickwell Manor woods, (to be arranged).
11th June 2006 - Public day (possibly at Pickwell Manor woods), giving a review/video diary of the project.

Wanted

NDA stewards to talk to the public; showing them where to go, take their booking numbers and to ensure Emily is not on her own in the wood, plus generally promote the NDA and its members.

Wanted

Artists who would like to respond creatively to the surroundings of the woods and Emily's installation. This could take a variety of forms; photography, drawing and painting, sound recording and music making, writing etc: as long as it doesn't disturb the wildlife! I'm sure there are other members who feel this could be a great opportunity to be involved in an innovative, high profile project. (A little time or a lot - all would help to make this an 'art event' of note).

Devon Artsculture are commissioning film-maker, **Hugh Hartford** to spend two days filming the project, showing the film on the evening of 31st May.

Emily would be delighted if any members or other artists out there, could join her to make this creation in the woods.

A video diary of the process will be made - volunteers proficient with a 'movie camera' please come forward, plus anyone willing to take documentary photos of the event.

Please contact Stella to be part of this interesting, innovative project; 01769 574441 or stella.levy@virgin.net

NDA SUMMER EXHIBITION**'The Small (Square) Picture Show' at Broomhill Art Hotel.**

Also being held as part of the North Devon Festival

NDA preview Sunday, 4th June at 2.30 pm.

This show is once again highlighted in the North Devon Festival brochure and on their website;

www.northdevonfestival.org It would also help if members were able to promote the show amongst their own circle of friends, clients, neighbours etc: The more people through the doors the more chance of sales happening. Don't forget maximum artwork price is **£150** - lets see if this can engender a more enthusiastic buying atmosphere! Entries to be submitted by Friday, May 19th

Delivery date: **Thursday**, 1st June 14.00am - 18.00pm

Help with hanging required: **Friday**, 2nd June, 10.00am onwards.

Exhibition Opens: **Saturday**, 3rd June. *(Please check these dates in your diary, as we sent out some wrong data!)*

To give an even greater professional look to the NDA Portfolio, make sure you have sent John Wright your two Artist Profile pages.

The Portfolio/s will be on show at any NDA exhibitions, Broomhill, The Plough and other assorted venues around the area.

The Portfolio will be the first contact point should the NDA be asked to source artists for jobs, commissions, etc: so as you see, it could be important to have your pages in it!

Download these two Portfolio pages from; www.pagemonger.com/profile.doc

DEVON ARTIST NETWORK

CALL FOR DEVON VISUAL ARTISTS AND MAKERS

The second phase of the Devon Artist Network has now gone live and it is possible for artists and makers, groups, organisations and supporters in Devon to join by going to the website - see below.

The network is a membership organisation open to all visual artists and craftspeople living and practicing in Devon. The organisers have been working hard all year to create an organisation offering a resource to support the artistic development of artists in Devon's towns and rural areas. Devon Artist Network is fast becoming an important part of the visual arts and crafts scene in the South West. Devon's artists are encouraged to join the network to strengthen an organisation, already providing strong representation for individual artists, in an important economic growth area for the region. We believe the arts have the power to change and inspire communities, as well as improving the economic vitality of this beautiful part of the country.

Devon Artist Network will work closely with Local Authorities, Arts Organisations and individual artists, to promote work through a vibrant, searchable website and by organising and hosting Open Studio events, such as the well known and successful 9 Days of Art, on an annual basis. Part of the organisation's role is also to develop a strong audience for the visual arts, through education, promotion, publicity and a range of exciting events.

A new artist member's area is being created which will include information for artists on job opportunities, funding sources, commissions, special offers etc. Full membership will also entitle members to their own information and gallery page with plenty of space for text and images. This Art index will provide artists with amazing flexibility, allowing them to edit and update text and provide fresh images using their unique password. The information will be fully searchable by the public giving artists the opportunity for a web presence to use as an information site and an aid to selling work at a fraction of the normal cost.

Devon Artist Network Development Worker, Ishbel Ramsay said, "There are 3 categories of membership; Individual artist/maker, Group Affiliation and a Friends scheme, for non artists who wish to support the arts in Devon by keeping up to date with what is going on. We have kept the application process as simple as possible and annual subscription low". The fully searchable Art Index will be ready by mid May, with membership forms available on the website and, although we would prefer electronic submissions, they can be downloaded and completed by hand as well.

For any further information, or to request a paper based membership form, please contact, Carre Cooper Locke; 01626 779355 or email her at carre.cooperlocke@virgin.net
For more information about **Devon Artist Network** visit our website; www.devonartistnetwork.co.uk
<<http://www.devonartistnetwork.co.uk/>>

MIXING ARTFORMS!

Winning the battle of hearts & minds!

"When we first joined the accordion group no-one had any interest in art and, to be quite honest, when I first mentioned waistcoats and design, I don't think they knew what I was on about".

Since then I have built them a website and designed a logo and now they see the potential. Hence, a great enthusiasm for the waistcoats idea...or something similar". *Ros Osbourn*

Ros Osbourn, that bundle of artistic energy, has yet again come up with an idea that may gain her group funding from the Arts Action, LEADER + scheme, NDA keep going on about. (*See below*).

The accordion group Ros and her husband belong to, want to commission a textile designer to help them design and make their own waistcoats.

This would entail holding some workshops with them, helping get their ideas on to paper, choose and put a design onto fabric and guide them to completing the garments. Not much to ask of pure novices!

Anyone up for this potentially paying challenge (*subject to gaining funding*) and wanting to discuss further details, please contact; Ros Osbourn at; **rosgo@btinternet.com**

www.ouraccordions.co.uk

**Arts Action LEADER +
A funding scheme for community groups to enable them to engage professional artists for their projects.**
Please can any of you get an application together for your/a community event? This scheme is not getting enough applications and is in danger of being withdrawn - a disaster for the area's artists! See the form on: <http://pagemonger.com/nda/leader.doc>
Lisa Downie at LEADER +, administers the fund and is very helpful - do give her a ring.

Self Promotion

Continuing the debate, Craig and Gaenor Blackledge of The Courtyard, Chulmleigh, have written in with their thoughts on the subject.

Thanks for your very positive feedback on our recent publication in the North Devon Journal. (*Alongside an article on NDA artists in the 'North Devon Open Art Show'*).

As for any tips we could give our NDA members - we did send in our overall project (*to the Journal*) here at The Courtyard, but rather than 'here's what we're doing come and buy our Art' - we gave a very frank interview, explaining our true to life positions here and, rather than being self promoting we just presented ourselves as honestly as we could. I think having an interest in the local community and offering what we do as a service to local artists is obviously of interest to the public. This allowed the editor to want to enquire, ask questions, visit us and send a photographer to come to see what we were talking about.

Ready made 'written articles' are possibly filed under 'bin' because they only offer themselves as a finished piece. Ready written, photos provided articles, which only offer the public 'come and see my art and buy it' are pure self promotion, free advertising. There is no benefit to the public if they are merely being invited to see and buy art.

We offered our project, our lifestyles AND our art. We 'spoke' quite frankly, expressing our passion and vitality for being in North Devon. If you can show something about a way of life, people are interested to know more. Why? How? What did you do before all this?

The possibilities for your own future are whatever you want to make them. If Devon artists want to know more, then the response from them phoning us, wanting to be part of what we are doing, is proof that yes, 'people like to buy into what they think is a success'. We are not driven by sales or financial gain, the 'way of life' we have here is actually the art of life in Devon, very simple -main aim, enjoyment for all three of us. We work hard, we play hard... surfs up!

Yes, I would agree with Craig and Gaenor - you do have to have a 'story' to tell.

It's no good just saying you are putting on an exhibition - where's the news in that? Unless of course you are Damien Hirst, putting one on in the local village hall!

I do think that sending in pre-written press releases is a good idea, especially if you are able to introduce that 'indefinable something', because like us all, journalists are busy people and strive for a simple life, your press release could be just what is needed to fill a gap at the last moment.

Sometimes press releases can trigger the journalist, fitting them in with others on similar subjects. So, rather conflicting views, but don't be put off - at least by sending something in, the law of averages says you should get an article printed in due course!

One thing that usually lets artists down is the quality of the photos they send with a press release. The one thing that grabs the eye! Why would anyone want to use an out of focus, boring shot?

Just think of the successful artists you know, what are their photos like? Have they commissioned a photographer to take professional shots? If they want their work shown in up-market mags, you can bet this is the way they make sure of being noticed! Not many publications have big budgets to pay for photographic shoots these days - if this does happen think yourself very lucky!

We do have professional photographers in the group, why not approach them - you never know they might not be as expensive as you think. Certainly if a few of you got together who made similar work, the cost of a days shoot could be shared. Perhaps this is something that could be discussed and taken forward with Devon Artsculture.

Stella

Anyone with ideas on how to gain publicity, please let me know so I can pass on through the newsletter. stella@widgery.com