



“Ignorance more frequently begets confidence than does knowledge”  
Charles Darwin

newsletter august 2016

www.northdevonarts.co.uk

**Next NDA meeting; NDA Annual BBQ. Wednesday August 10th at Broomhill. More details on page 3**

I have used the quote highlighted above before, but I wanted to include it again as it most accurately describes how I feel about a show I visited recently at Hauser & Wirth, Somerset. Martin Creed’s “What You Find” is full of the most blatantly poorly executed works one could expect to see in any exhibition space, especially one with an international reputation as H&W. The gallery, a collection of rooms and outdoor spaces making a wonderful place in which to show work, is filled with a series of ever increasingly mediocre pieces, all numbered, not titled. On entering I was confronted with a large sheet of clear perspex onto which was daubed big arcing splashes of coloured acrylic paint, dribbling floorwards, (Work No. 2695). A little further in hangs a blue neon sign with the word CHEESE (Work No. 2667), apparently he has a phobia about cheese which is a little unfortunate for a vegetarian. Next to it a long, thin, darkened space made with large sheets of plywood so that a digital film could be projected within, it turns out to be the promo video of his new single “Understanding”. On the walls are various pieces, paint on canvas or acrylic on paper, which could only be described as splodges. Through into the next room and I was talking to an invigilator, trying to make some sense of a pile of carefully collected assorted rubbish which she explained was stuff taken from his home, “He’s a hoarder” was her response. When turning back I accidentally kicked the base of the pile and a couple of bits of detritus moved several inches along the floor, the poor woman instantly looked around to see if anyone else had noticed as I kicked back the



Martin Creed “Work 2712” 2016

rubbish, in this way I think I can say that I am co-creator of “Work 2711”, not that I would want to admit that too readily.

Thus it continued, it didn’t take long to get through, there is nothing to look at, nothing to take in, except wondering at the poorly executed mimicry of such as Jackson Pollock or Morris Louise. Somewhere in the middle of all this I exclaimed to yet another invigilator “This guy is taking the piss”, she then pointed out that one of the directors was taking a prospective buyer around and suggested that I keep my voice down, she also said during the

course of the ensuing conversation “It’s amazing what you can get away with when you have won the Turner Prize” and who can naysay that. You may remember that Creed won the prize in 2001 with the unforgettable (unfortunately) Work No 227 “Lights going on and off”.

Towards the end of the show were some oil paintings including portraits of Dali, Maria Callas and Demis Roussos, for which you need the titles as they are so badly done. On my way out I was confronted with a tree about 20 feet tall with around 50 plastic shopping bags tied to it, at 5 pence each this piece has got to be worth at least £2.50, so I went in search of the director and her buyer! However a more serious issue at stake is that the Turner Prize has, with a few exceptions, helped spawn a series of under-talented individuals to the detriment of the many skilled artists in all media who don’t subscribe to the current trend of seeing art as the materialisation of bullshit. As with the referendum, the metropolitan “elites” seem not to be aware of the undertow of public opinion.

On until 11th September, you should go look for yourself, but only in passing, don’t make a special trip.

[www.hauserwirthsomerset.com](http://www.hauserwirthsomerset.com)

I have been doing this newsletter for nearly 4 years and recently have been looking for someone to take over the responsibility, I am pleased to say that at the recent AGM member Tish Brown stepped forward and will be producing the newsletter from the September issue onward.

Thanks for all your reading!



**NDA members' meeting  
Annual BBQ  
at Broomhill Art Hotel  
Weds 10th August - 8pm**

Our annual summer social event, a barbecue at Broomhill, a perfect chance to meet members in a relaxed atmosphere. There's a chance to walk in the Broomhill sculpture gardens, and choose your favourite piece in the National Sculpture Prize.

Meal costs £7.95 - please pre-book for the buffet on 01271 850262.

**Edinburgh Art Festival  
Until 28th August**

The UK's largest annual celebration of visual art, attracting over 250,000 visitors each year, Edinburgh Art Festival brings together the capital's leading galleries, museums and artist-run spaces, alongside new public art commissions by established and emerging artists and an innovative programme of special events.

The vast majority of the festival is free to attend, and includes exhibitions, performances, screenings, artist talks and guided tours.

With Christian Boltanski at Jupiter Artland, Damian Ortega at the Fruitmarket Gallery and Ciara Phillip's Dazzle ship, this festival promises to show some of the best contemporary art alongside important artists and works from modern and historical periods.

[www.edinburghartfestival.com](http://www.edinburghartfestival.com)



**New Exhibition at White Moose  
Hilary Paynter  
'Age of Enlightenment'  
6th August - 15th September  
PV 5th August 6.30 - 8.30pm**

This major touring show of new wood-engravings by Hilary Paynter is based around her perceptive view of ageing in today's society and is being organised by The Devon Guild of Craftsmen, in partnership with White Moose. Hilary has held various community wood-engraving workshops prior to this show, with some of the work produced by people in the workshops also on show alongside her own pieces.

The first White Moose wood-engraving workshop with Hilary has sold out instantly, but we are trying to organise another August workshop - if interested, please contact [info@whitemoose.co.uk](mailto:info@whitemoose.co.uk) and we will inform you of a potential date.

£50 or £45 per person, material included.

[www.whitemoose.co.uk](http://www.whitemoose.co.uk)

White Moose, Trinity St,  
Barnstaple, EX328HX

**NDArt Trek  
10th to 25th September**

NDArt Trek brochures are now printed, and we are really pleased with them - many thanks to our designer member, Bruce Aitken.

If you feel you can help with distributing some across the area, please collect from White Moose during opening hours;

Tues - Frid 11am - 5pm

or Sat, 11am - 2pm.

[info@whitemoose.co.uk](mailto:info@whitemoose.co.uk)



**NDArt Trek Artist  
Residency at Bucks Mills Cabin,  
8th - 19th August**

North Devon artist Hester Berry has been selected by the National Trust to be their Artist in Residence at the Cabin, Bucks Mills for 2 weeks. During this time Hester will be creating work using the local pigment, Bideford Black to render the light and geology of the tiny building overlooking the sea at Bucks Mills. The strong black paint in direct contrast to the light-filled white-washed interior of The Cabin, preserved just as it was left by artists Judith Ackland and Mary Stella Edwards over 40 years ago. Hester has painted the North Devon coast since infancy, but has lived elsewhere over the past decade. She recently took part in a show at White Moose, Barnstaple, which looked at artistic responses to parenthood, a life event which has had a dramatic and positive effect on her work.

The work produced can be viewed in September's North Devon Art Trek at the Hay Loft Studio, Dennington, nr. Swimbridge; a venue Hester is sharing with artist, Edward Crumpton. For more details of Hester's NDArt Trek open studio <http://ndarttrek.com/edward-crumpton-and-hester-berry-2016/>

**Open Days With Hester Berry  
at Bucks Mills Cabin**

**13th & 14th Aug 10am – 3pm**

An opportunity to see Hester working in situ and chat with her about the processes and emotions of working in such an historic place. Bring your drawing materials and have a go yourself!



**Emily Garnham Wright and Don Sibthorpe**  
**Open Studio**  
**Inclendon Cottage**  
**Georgeham**  
**EX33 1JN**

Emily Garnham Wright and Don Sibthorpe invite you to view their art work this summer. On 9th to 14th August, between 10:00am and 5:00pm, they are opening their studio and gallery at Inclendon Cottage to the public. This is an opportunity to talk to the artists and see how and where they work, hear about their inspirations and see work in progress - all over a cup of tea!

Open Studios are a great way to see or buy interesting artwork, meet artists and see more of the fantastic coast and countryside which has so inspired them. They look forward to seeing you.

Emily Garnham Wright creates thread and wire landscapes, watercolours and ink drawings. [www.emilygarnhamwright.co.uk](http://www.emilygarnhamwright.co.uk) Her work compliments and contrasts with Don Sibthorpe's tactile porcelain, stoneware and bronze sculptures inspired by nature. [www.nobodiesnowhere.com](http://www.nobodiesnowhere.com)

**Devon and Cornwall Creative Classes**

This is a new group Facebook page that allows artists and makers to advertise their classes and workshops to interested customers, it's a very useful networking tool and deserves to be widely used. Recent posts include needle-felting, watercolour painting and making clay portraits.



**Bideford Bay Creatives**  
**Tales of the Riverbank 2016**  
[www.bbcdevon.org](http://www.bbcdevon.org) for full details

Water Babies: story by Charles Kingsley; with Lobster Hypnotism and Fish Tasting by Felicity Sylvester and the Appledore Fish Summer School all ages. Tues 2 August 10-12 Learn Direct (adults £5 children free). Mouth Watering Fish Lunches: £5 for 1 course, £8 for 2 courses. Pre-booking would be most helpful, email [event@bbcdevon.org](mailto:event@bbcdevon.org). Tues 2 August 12.30-2 Learn Direct (limited lunches available on the day). Native and Exotic Invasives: An Enlightening Walk & Discussion from Bideford to Landcross on the Tarka Trail with plantsman Pete Yeo. Saturday 6 August 10-1 start Brunswick Wharf (tickets £5) Walk on the Wild Side - in partnership with ND Positive Living Group: A Plant Walk from Bideford to Appledore with forager Robin Harford and plantsman Pete Yeo. Tuesday 9 August 2-5 Art Film Night - in collaboration with BBC's Culture Show Thurs 11 Aug, free event from 6pm Cafe Collective. River bank Treasures: A Metal Clay Workshop using found objects and flora suitable for 16+ with artist Mary Myers. Thurs 18 August 10-5 Learn Direct (tickets £10 BBC Eventbrite + on door) Art Trail Walk and Talk with BBC Culture Show Artists. Sat 20 Aug 10-12 free event, just turn up at Jubilee Square Wander the Wharves: A historical guided walk plus show and tell by volunteers from BBC's Way of the Wharves Project. Wed 24 Aug 5 - 7.30 Free, the Royal Hotel. Model an Insect: A family interactive workshop for children aged 7-9 years of age accompanied by an adult, with artist Sue Giblett Friday 26 August 10-5 Learn Direct (tickets £10, BBC Eventbrite + on door)



**Helen Lee and Gill Jones**  
**Fri 5 August - Sat 3 September**  
**Preview Friday 5 August 7pm**

Local artists Gill Jones and Helen Lee will be showing a selection of artworks using a comprehensive variety of techniques inspired by the beautiful land and seascapes of North Devon. They enjoy the challenge of working with different media to keep their creative juices flowing and which they hope will provide something interesting for all visitors.

This exhibition will therefore include works of art using watercolour, acrylic and a selection of printmaking techniques.

Gill and Helen have exhibited together before and have found their individual styles work in harmony. They enjoy working co-operatively and many of the images have been created whilst working side by side in the studio.

Both are members of North Devon Arts and exhibiting members of Westward Ho! and Bideford Art Society and have exhibited both locally and nationally.

**The Plough Arts Centre**  
**Open Drawing Competition 2016**  
**Entry Deadline Mon 8th August**

Celebrating The Big Draw. Open to artists from across the South West. £500 first prize, £100 second prize, £50 third prize. Exhibition will take place from Friday 7th to Saturday 29th Oct. Sponsored by Torrington Framing. Application forms available from [visualarts@theploughartscentre.org.uk](mailto:visualarts@theploughartscentre.org.uk) 01805 624624 [www.theploughartscentre.org.uk](http://www.theploughartscentre.org.uk)



... and finally

**NDA Summer Show**  
**The Stables, Broomhill**  
**Until Sat 3 Sept**

This year's summer show has a wide selection of art from across the NDA membership, with around 50 individual pieces including an interesting collection of ceramics.

Before visiting call Broomhill to check dates and times;  
 01271 850262

**NDA AGM**  
**13th July**

At the recent AGM some of the committee members stood down from their posts and other NDA members replaced them, welcome to Mike Stocks and Tish Brown. Only one position remains unfilled, that of minutes secretary.

The minutes of the meeting are attached to this newsletter for your information.

**Redwing Primitive**  
**Printmaking Studio For Hire**  
**Deadline Saturday 31 December**  
**Hours Open 11am - 4.30pm**

Open access printmaking facilities available in Penzance equipped with intaglio presses, letterpress proofing press, screen printing equipment, UV exposure unit, paper and board cutter, papermaking equipment and reference books etc.

£5 per hour. Concessions for daily or weekly hire periods.

Tuition available if needed.

01736 448402

[redwingprimitive@gmail.com](mailto:redwingprimitive@gmail.com)

[www.redwinggallery.co.uk](http://www.redwinggallery.co.uk)

**Thelma Hulbert Gallery**  
**Call out for SW makers**  
**Deadline Monday 26 September**

Thelma Hulbert Gallery in Honiton is currently seeking makers who produce high quality, contemporary work, either one offs or small scale production, to show in their annual exhibition of contemporary craft and design : Present Makers 2016 (12 November - 24 December)

Present Makers 2016 is a vibrant selling exhibition exploring the skill and innovation of craft makers across the South West region (Bath, Bristol & Somerset, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire).

Present Makers gives both iconic and emerging designer makers the opportunity to showcase their broad ranging skills and artistic vision. The exhibition features the very best of South West craft including examples of printmaking, textiles, jewellery, ceramics, wood, glass and lighting. South West designers and makers interested in exhibiting should download the application or call 01404 45006 / email [info@thelmahulbert.com](mailto:info@thelmahulbert.com)

**Copy deadline** - 20th of the month for the next month's issue. to email the Editor;  
[newsletter@northdevonarts.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@northdevonarts.co.uk)

**NDA Contacts**

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[www.northdevonarts.co.uk](http://www.northdevonarts.co.uk)



**Minutes of the NORTH DEVON ARTS and ART TREK AGM 2016**  
**held at Broomhill on Wednesday 13th July 2016**

Apologies:- Stuart Fiddes, Christina Bonnett, John Andow, Marianne Edwards, Mary Chugg

1. The minutes of the 2015 AGM were read and there were no corrections
2. The Chair read out the Annual Report. The financial reports for NDA and Art Trek had already been circulated. There was discussion about the incorrect PO Box on website. Had 96 paid up members with 27 free. Need to look at visitors coming into meetings and not paying their £5. Explanation was given re the amount in the Art Trek account (£5300.86) and how it was going to be used over the next couple of months. The balance in North Devon Arts (£7402.44) was going to be used towards a new website. Total balances in the accounts was £12703.30. Stuart is going to oversee the new NDA website but does not want to do the newsletter. Tanya will offer a lesson on social media and will e-mail everyone to sort out. Amelia only had 4 entries for the show at the Landmark theatre on 14 November to 9 January. The events for the coming months were discussed. Questions from the floor regarded how we could promote ourselves better to get new and younger members.
3. The Committee stood down and George Brown stood in as interim Chair for the election of the new Committee

Proposed New Committee :- proposed by Pat Haddrel, Seconded by Daun Marshall

Chair: Gill Jones  
Minutes: Vacant  
Treasurer: Lesley Woodhouse  
Membership: Fiona Matthews  
Publicity: Tanya Gaffney- Greetham - standing down in August  
Exhibitions: Amelia Jenkinson – standing down in September  
Webmaster: Stuart Fiddes & Christina Bonnett  
Events: Stella Levy

2 new members were voted on –  
Mick Stocks – proposed Fiona Matthews, Seconded Lesley Woodhouse  
Tish Brown – proposed Eilean Eland, Seconded Pat Haddrell

Date of next AGM – 2nd Wednesday in July 2017

The meeting closed at 9.55 pm