

News from the Barn



WESSEX SCULPTORS

JUNE 2016

On a beautiful sunny day in March we visited Alison Crowther's workshop and Philip Jackson's studio.

We spent the morning with Alison at her studio/workshop in an amazing ancient barn, where she was working on an enormous "burr". She gave us a very interesting talk and then we wandered around looking at her work, tools, piles of wood etc. She works almost exclusively in oak, using a chainsaw for roughing out and then chisels for her detailed patterning. (well worth looking at her website) She sells internationally and recently made a huge table for the Shard restaurant



After a delicious lunch at the Elsted Inn we drove to Philip's new studio in Cocking. There we were given a fascinating talk and slideshow by Philip himself, plus a chance to see work in progress. He is well known for his cloaked figures but also works figuratively and has recently finished a huge commission for a memorial to Bomber Command.

www.philipjacksonsculptures.co.uk

We then had tea and cake!

So all in all an interesting and happy day

Jenny



What's on and where ...

Mottisfont Open Exhibition 2016

Mottisfont's Open exhibition is held every two years and is open to all artists, full-time or part-time.

There is no specific theme this year; works for Mottisfont Open 2016 will be selected by a panel of specialists.

The selectors will be looking for high quality works that clearly reflect the ideas and interests of the artist.

The closing date for submission is 5pm on Friday 5 of August 2016.

An information pack and application form can be downloaded from the website:

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/mottisfont.



The China Syndrome at Goodwood

This summer the Cass Foundation hosts a spectacular show of 15 new works by Chinese artists, including a 7-metre-high bust of Chairman Mao - and what is surely the world's largest pigeon house.

On view in Cannes

Hilary spotted these amusing sculptures in Cannes by Sculptor Richard Mas.

Hackwood Summer exhibition,

near Basingstoke, is open Saturday 11/12 June - PV 10 June. Variety of artists, Louise Tett and I have both exhibited there.



Modelling a Clay Head

Twelve enthusiasts got together in April to make a head in clay from a model.

John Souter began the workshop by giving us some really good pointers as to how to go about producing the head in clay which could later be cast into another material. He stressed that for this reason we should ensure, if firing the head, no air could escape, therefore the clay should be firmly applied throughout. An important point was to remember we were portraying a person, not making a portrait.



When Michaela, our excellent model arrived, John reminded us of the value of establishing measurements, looking at the bone structure and marking with matchsticks the measuring points, establishing the forehead early on, building up a shape, remembering how the head sits on the spine. John kept a watchful eye, giving guidance when needed. Thus, we were all pretty happy with our work and ready after a couple of days to cut our heads in half, to remove the armature and re-seal the head with liquid clay. Heads could then be fired or left to harden ready for any additional modelling or carving.

*As a follow up to this workshop, John will be holding a half-day's workshop on Saturday 12th July expressly for those interested in perfecting their technique on eyes, ears and mouths, so we do hope you will be able to join us. **Audrey***

At Sculpture Trust, Portland

Ann Wadman and I spent an enlightening and entertaining weekend at the end of March, at the Sculpture Trust, Portland.

We were fortunate to have perfect weather, though the indoor facilities are excellent.

I strongly recommend a visit for anyone embarking on stone for the first time or just to improve your skills. Hannah is an excellent teacher. We stayed in a small cottage for two nights, eating at good local hostels and spending the days at the workshop.

A most enjoyable way to improve our skill

Ann Brazier



On The Plinth

Mora Abell was glad to talk as she could "stop worrying about chicken feet"

Most folk will have seen her latest work in progress of a magnificent bird who will shortly be blessed with those feet.

Mora is one of our newer members who joined after moving to Petersfield from Wiltshire two years ago upon remarrying. *"To set an example to our 17 grandchildren!"*

An art historian, she worked variously including the Outreach programme at the Metropolitan Museum New York and as lecturer at the V&A where her special interest was the 19th Century.

Mora studied stone carving with Pat Elmore in Swindon and whilst she still works with stone in her own studio, she is also now enjoying experimenting with different materials at The Barn.



Project Workshop Open weekend

I went to the Project Workshop Open weekend 7,8 May. Held every May, lots of sculpture from Vivi Mallock and Amy Goodman (large pieces) to smaller works by four others. Next opening is 3, 4 December - a Christmas sale.

One of the sculptors at Project Workshops told me of a plaster Cassinic (a poly resin plaster) strong and not so expensive as Jessamine. Available through Maragon.co.uk <<http://maragon.co.uk>>

Anne Wadman

Surf's up!

I came across this while surfing (now that's an old fashioned term...) and thought it may be something for the newsletter in due course. www.mattsimmonds.com Wynn

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Lucinda

New Tools!

Here are just some of the new tools that we have recently bought, in action:

Clarke oscillating tool

This is great for shaping light weight blocks or timber, with a wood blade fitted.

But with a quick change of blade, it can be used on metal as well. It also comes with sander and scraper attachments.

The attachments and the Allen key for fitting them are stored in a drawer in the the tools cupboard, for safe keeping of small items.



Arbortech contour sander

Very effective on curved timber, especially concave sections, for which the flexible head moulds itself to the shape being worked. But its key feature is that the head rotates eccentrically, so that even when held in a fixed position – say when working over a flat section – there will be no scoring of the work. It comes with a wide range of paper grades.

The sander fits easily onto any of the small angle grinders – and is shown here with the extra Makita tool recently acquired.



The contour sander kit is also kept in a labelled box in a drawer in the the tools cupboard.

Garlick stone saw

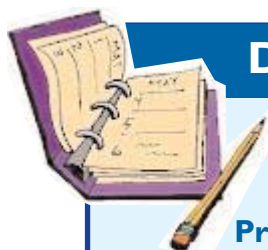
This makes it possible to cut any piece of soft, natural stone to size, given the 36" blade. The cut shown is through an 8" by 8" piece of the stone we got from the cathedral masons – and not a loaf of bread, as it may appear. It took six minutes, with one rest!



What we will/could get

Have a look at the wish list at the barn for budgeted renewals or additions to our stock for 2016/17. These include replacement portable workbench/es and a new small mains electric drill. But do please contribute any ideas for further purchases in the wish list file!

And here is a final thought. Perhaps we might aspire to a light lifting frame, equipped with a manual chain hoist, to enable us to work on larger and heavier pieces than we can currently manage? **Humphrey**



Dates for your Diary

Hampshire Open Studios

Private view Friday 19 August.

Studios Open Sat 20, Sun 21, Thurs 25, Sat 27, Sun 28 and Bank Holiday Mon 29 August.

Entry forms are available from the beginning of July. Look out for date for cleaning barn ready for exhibition ... *we will require a large number of volunteers for this task!*

Beginning a Sculpture

John Souter will be giving a tutorial to all members on Monday 13 June and Thursday 16 June on things to consider before embarking on your latest wild ideas. ... Inspiration ,thought processes, use of suitable materials, armatures, etc.



Stone Carving Courses at Salisbury Cathedral

The courses run again this year on the following dates;

7th and 8th of July, 14th and 15th of July, 28th and 29th of July and the 4th and 5th of August

Please note during the August course attendees will specifically be taught how to carve a flower panel, all other courses attendees are welcome to make what they would like assuming their masons gauge it can be accomplished in two days, although of course can be shown the flower panel too.

Details should be on their website -tickets this year will be £150 for the two days .

<http://www.salisburycathedral.org.uk>

Term dates 2016

John Souter will be available at the sculpture barn to give advice/ practical help on the following dates:

Half Term:

week beginning Monday 30 May- no tutor

Summer Term: starting week beginning Monday 6 June and Thursday 9 June

Term ends: Thursday 7 July

Autumn term: starting week. Beginning Monday 19 September (to be confirmed)

Membership up date

Welcome to two new members who joined us recently **Jane Simmons**, experienced in working in wood and **John Bonney** who is interested in developing collage. We hope that they will enjoy all the new opportunities and friendships at the Barn. **The membership is now up to 33**

Creativity all around us!

1976 40 years on

A reflective exhibition of sculptures by John Souter:
Invitation to the Private View 6 - 9 pm Saturday 23 July.
Melchet Court, Sheffield English, Romsey SO51 6ZR

BRING AND BUY BOX

Ann Brazier has started a "sale" box for all members to buy or sell unwanted art materials/books etc. The box is in D1, please help yourself to any of the items and leave the money in the cash box. All sales monies will be donated to Wessex Sculptures. Leave any of your sale items on the table in D1 and Ann will price the item and place in the box.

OPEN ON WEDNESDAY NOW!

Following the AGM it was agreed that many members would go The Barn on another day apart from Monday or Thursday. John will not be there to help but it was agreed that Wednesday was a good day, therefore this Wednesday 8 June would be a good day to start.

NEW PIN NUMBER

There will soon be a new pin code for the Barn, all members will be advised of the new number when it has been altered.

MORNING WORKSHOP at The Barn

On Saturday 2 JULY John will present a workshop, which will focus on heads, eyes, ears and mouth. Limited to 10 participants. 10 - 1pm £20 members, £25 non members. Please contact **Audrey 01489 878773** or **audreydavenport@btinternet.com**

And finally...

A BIG THANK YOU to Chris for hosting the AGM and showing us around her lovely new house, and to all those who provided lots of sandwiches and cakes.

Next Newsletter September