



## Summer Show continues to be a Success!

**Another great summer exhibition was held in August ( as part of Hampshire Open Studios) showing a wide variety of excellent work by our members.**

Many thanks go to all those who regularly help to make the exhibition such a success: Preparations start from February with Jen collecting photographs of members' work for the HOS brochure, advertising is placed in numerous locations, a team of members clean the workshops and the exhibits are then arranged in an ever expanding area, road signage extracted from the workshop attic and put up by Humphrey, gazebo erected and bar set up for the Private View, followed by the stewarding of the exhibition itself, payments efficiently sorted out by our treasurer Jill, and then it all has to be taken down and put away for another year! We couldn't do it without such a team effort, so thank you all.

Sales were down on last year with a total of 11 pieces sold, amounting to £1705, giving Wessex Sculptors £170.50 in commission .

Although it was generally felt that the number of visitors to all venues was generally lower than last year we had excellent feedback from our visitors, much interest in forthcoming workshops and we must remember that it is an important event in attracting new WWS members.

For these reasons it was decided that we will partake in HOS again next year. Next year we will provide tea and cakes to attract more visitors and give them more time to contemplate the work. Well done everyone!

*Christine*





## Willow Workshop at the Barn

### A full class of ten people attended the Willow Workshop on 29 October.

Visiting artist Anne Herbert encouraged the group to produce chickens, fish, dragonflies, bulrushes and a hare!

It was an intense day and the results were very good and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day. Anne provided enough willow for everyone to finish their work at home.

As rain was forecast the gazebo was erected on Friday and thanks to the volunteer members who came at short notice to help.

It provided a large dry extra space so we may use the gazebo again for future workshops. (Also thanks to those who dismantled it)

*"Susan & I really enjoyed our time at the willow workshop, she had bought it for me as a Birthday/ Christmas present. Thank you for the beverages & the lovely homemade cakes. As 'outsiders', we were made to feel welcome by everyone.*

*Although my chicken/cockerill was called 'eccentric', we both are proud of what we made, especially as we had never done anything like that before.*

*Mine is now called 'Peckham' "*

*Sue and Julia Perry*



**Creativity was not dampened by the threat of rain !**







## On The Plinth

### Marie Ashman

**Marie is more of a painter than a sculptor. She first became interested in making sculpture after a taster session at the barn where she played with a lump of clay.**

After seeing work at an exhibition Private View, she thought "This is interesting. It was such a variety of things that I wasn't sointimidated and I thought I could probably slot in there somewhere. I think the environment (at The Barn) is splendid and very supportive.... Having John there is superb. I think John is one of the best tutors I have ever come across."

Most of Marie's work is in clay. "I'm still at the playschool stage really. I love getting mucky with clay and being able to push it around. I have tried cement and that is fun too, although it is a bit more unpredictable."

She likes casting pieces "because it's not so final. In the past I would normally fling things about. I remember John saying 'Marie, you're so impatient; you'll never make a good sculptor', so that pulled me up. I've learned to be more patient." She admits that it is a dilemma whether to stay in her comfort zone and get better there or to start entirely fresh. "I've come to the conclusion I want to stay fairly comfortable and develop there."

Marie's first instinct is to paint the things that interest her and to decide from the painting whether to try the subject in 3 dimensions. When she is painting, she "likes the idea of the roundness of things" but enjoys the 3 dimensions of sculpture "because you can't go behind a painting."

Her next piece may come from a recent painting of men with concertinas "I saw a whole row of them outside a pub in Baltimore in County Cork. They were just tuning up and I've got them here in a painting that makes me laugh and I thought I might try them in clay."





Talk to Alresford Art Society

## Talk of joint interests in Alresford

by Jen and Penny



**On Wednesday evening 28 June this year, we were asked to give a talk about Wessex Sculptors to Alresford Art Society at Alresford Recreation Centre. The art society was interested in finding out more about our organisation and hoping to get a bit of hands on experience with materials.**

We set up four tables with examples of Wessex Sculptors' members work, manned by Jen, Chris, Marie and Carole. Each table covered a different medium/material: wire, carving, casting and clay. For the first half of the evening, Jen and Penny gave a talk supported by Powerpoint pictures, about why we were formed, who we are, what we do and how to get involved, and, although it wasn't practical for our audience to actually try making

sculptures, the second half enabled them to interact with us and find out more about materials and working methods at individual tables. Instead of hands on work on the evening, we were able to offer places on forthcoming workshops; block carving and a wire workshop. Jane Cannon and Penny worked hard at getting people to sign up.

It was a bit of a logistics exercise to get all the work in place, most of which was heavy and bulky, and unfortunately there was a very poor attendance from the art society on the night. However, those present were very interested and engaged and the Powerpoint presentation will be very useful to repeat to other interested organisations and could prove an effective way of gathering interest in both our workshops and also membership.



## Yorkshire Sculpture Park

We spent a lovely sunny day visiting the Yorkshire Sculpture Park. I had not been for several years and it has expanded quite a lot. We went on an August Bank Holiday weekend and the Park was very busy but there is so much to see and it is so big that it was not crowded. It's a good way to spend a day and brings sculpture to everyone. Hilary



### Visit to Portman sculpture trust

**I went to Portland for a wonderful weekend of carving, only dampened by having to dash from open workshop up to the Drill Hall after torrential rain.**

Six of us picked up our stone from near the Drill Hall. I actually started on a fairly rough piece of stone to create a face in profile but by Saturday decided on a quality piece suitable for a relief.

So, with the help of Hannah and Paul we all produced work that we will complete in due course. I slept in one of their comfortable cottages and felt the cost of the weekend was very reasonable. And I was delighted to have been able to repeat the weekend that Ann Brazier and I had done in March of last year. I know Ann will confirm how useful and fun these 3 days can be (or there are 6 day courses).

See the leaflet in the Black Barn. Ann Wadman website, [www.learningstone.org](http://www.learningstone.org)

### Exhibitions on now

#### Rebecca Louise Law -

##### Kew Gardens

Until 11 March 2018, Free with entry to the gardens

##### Life in Death

Discover Rebecca Louise's most intricate largescale artwork to date, and see the Egyptian Garlands that provided inspiration.



#### Bomberg at Pallant House

##### Pallant House Gallery

9 North Pallant, Chichester

01243 7744557

Until 4 February 2018

A major review of the life and career of David Bomberg (1890 – 1957), recognized as one of the 20th century's leading British artists.







## New tools and equipment

Following up on members' suggestions and filling in the blanks, we acquired substantial additions and a few replacements to our stock of tools/equipment out of our 2016/17 budget.

These included:

- **New set of pliers** • **A stapler**
- **Ribbon wire clay modelling tools**
- **Long masonry bits**
- **One-hand operated clamps**
- **Two handed 'Japanese' saw rasp**
- **Set of needle files for stone**  
(kept in the draw beneath the big bench in D1)
- **Long stone cutting hand saw**
- **20mm bouchard hammer with 25 and 36 teeth inserts**
- **Additional Industrial Woodcarver blade**
- **Stock of long life pads for the Contour sander**
- **Light Bosch 500W corded hammer drill**
- **Medium width low level and a medium width two level workbench**



All of these items have been in use for a while now and may they bring pleasure to all of us. If you think that we are missing some particular item that would be generally useful, please do let it be known.

Most power tools are now kept in the cupboard in D2; small items and consumables (blades, large bits, etc.) can be found in the drawers in the right hand section.

## Gripping stuff?!

**Did you know that some of our portable benches can easily hold a tapered piece?**

**Look - no hands! Have you ever felt the need to grapple with a mole wrench?**



Holding work in place securely is an important precursor to working on it with power tools reliably and safely.

We have recently prepared an illustrated note on how to hold work in place firmly using the full range of devices that we have and this is now available at the barn for consultation.

Over the coming months we intend to follow up with notes on how to use each type of power tool in our range effectively.



*Any feedback will be welcome.*

*Humphrey*



## Welcome

We extend a warm welcome to our new members who have joined recently ... they are Irina, Rosemary, Madeleine, Carolyn, Andrew and hope they are enjoying a creative and social experience at 'The Barn'.

## and Farewell

"I just need a few lines to say that sadly I have to leave the group at the end of this term since I am moving to near Wantage, and leaving Petersfield behind. I think it is going to be too far to com-

mute on a regular basis! Just a line to say how much I regret this as I have had happy days with the group". *Mora Abell*

We are also very sad to be saying farewell to Elizabeth Skeet as she is leaving WS and was one of founder members. As a founder member, Elizabeth is becoming our first 'associate member', entitling her to regular newsletters, invitations to social events and workshops.

Associate Membership is only open to founder members and we hope that Elizabeth will continue to enjoy contact with WS.

## Wessex Sculptors Annual Twelfth Night Lunch

**Monday 8 January 2018, 12 noon  
for 12.30pm start**

All welcome! An opportunity for us to get together and share lunch, a glass of mulled wine and good company!

**How it works:** you bring a lunch contribution to share, e.g. one dish of main course, dessert, cheeses, side

dish, bread or salad and bring it along on the

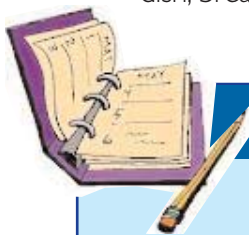


day. We provide plates etc. Volunteers needed for - getting the Barn ready on Thursday, 4 January from 11am or setting up and decorating the Barn on Friday, 5 January.

Please sign the lists at the barn as soon as possible, so that we know numbers and also have an idea of what you are bringing so that we end up with a balanced meal!

If you can't get to the Barn before the end of term please email:

[jcbkwilk@btopenworld.com](mailto:jcbkwilk@btopenworld.com)



## Dates for your diary

### Next Term 2018

**Monday 8 January Twelfth Night Lunch**

12 noon for 12.30 pm start at the sculpture barn. See article for details

**Monday 15 January &  
Thursday 18 January** – First day of new term

**Monday 19 February &  
Thursday 22 February** – Half Term holiday

**Monday 19 March &  
Thursday 22 March** – Last day of Term

**Monday 26 March to  
Thursday 12 April** – Easter holidays

### Workshops for 2018

**Ciment fondue** with John Souter

**Working with Wire** with Jane Cannon

**Working in Metal** with John Thompson

**Portraits/Torsos in Clay** with John Souter

All Workshop dates TBA.