

Sheffield Printmakers Newsletter August 2020

I was going to start by saying that I'm sorry this newsletter is late and then noticed that's how I started the last one. Obviously it's becoming a habit. One would expect that with the cancellation/postponement of so many things that time would drag but actually I can't believe how quickly it has gone. I hope every one is keeping well and as busy as possible in the circumstances.

There are a lot of restrictions and cancellations, but some people have managed to get work into on line events and others are working towards things that we hope may take place later in the year.

Judith Duvall has worked extremely hard in getting the website up and running. I hope everyone has seen it and added work to it, it is very good.

Congratulations to **Louise Westerman** who has had 4 prints selected for the Derby Open 2020, 2 of which won awards. She also had 2 prints selected for The Old Lock Up Gallery "Open iso" exhibition which went ahead on line from May 23rd -June 4th.

Louise also donated two prints to The Art House Sheffield Charity Auction,

Louise is also one of the 10 members of Sheffield Print makers who taking part in **20:20** again this year.

Angela Harpham also had pieces in the Art House Auctions as well 2 pieces in the Secret Post Card Show at the Old Lock Up Gallery and a piece in the frontier Lockdown online exhibition.

She has also been cutting and etching into lino and printing onto her own handmade paper as well as well as doing a couple of online water colour courses.

Caroline Quincey also donated pieces to the Art House and Creswell Crags on line auctions. She has also had work selected for the Harley open along with **Katherine Rhodes** and **Jan Beautyman**.

As a result the last year Print Open, **Cath Dunn** won the opportunity to have an exhibition of paintings and monotypes which will take place at the Green Man Gallery, Buxton, from August 28th -September 23rd, (barring last minute lockdowns.) Further information from www.thegreenmangallery.com.

She will also be exhibiting as a painter at Art in the Gardens, at Sheffield Botanical Gardens over the weekend 5-6th September from 10.30am-5.30 pm each day. I am informed by a friend of mine who is involved the organisation that this will definitely go ahead but up to date information is available on www.welcometosheffield.co.uk/visit/evenys/art-in-the-gardens.

A number of us either share studio space or work in other people's workshops, such as those of us who are regular users of Pete York's space and expertise, so lockdown has been a problem in several ways. Partly it is not having the same range of materials and equipment available, but also, and probably the most importantly, not having other people with whom to share ideas, problems and new techniques.

However, some people have found ways round this.

Jenny Bowden has been collaging old prints into new landscapes, which she calls her "Lockdown Postcards." So far she has produced 19 "covid world postcards." Jenny says they are "a little eerie and odd" but they reflect how she feels.

Sounds like a good idea. Perhaps we could all do something similar and have a group exhibition of them when things become more settled.

Jan Beautyman that she has finally decided to invest in some etchant so that she can prepare plates against the day when, as she puts it, we get an "open all hours" message from Pete. She says she has missed exhibiting so is happy to be preparing for the 20;20 Print exchange.

This year there are 10 members of the Group taking part:-

Linda Green

Rosemary Watson

Valerie Vernon

Jo Pye

Louise Westerman

Jan Beautyman

Sally Brooks

Eva Juusola

Cath Harnett

Uura Niemi-Junkola

I took part for the first time last year and found it very satisfying. I thought having to produce 25 exact copies would be daunting, I don't normally do editions, but it wasn't actually once I got into the swing of it. I was also a bit nervous about comparison with work from other groups and countries, but I found that both interesting and confidence boosting. I found my work compared quite well with that of others, so if you are holding back, don't. There is still time to get involved. We've all had the

details, but if you can't find them, I'm sure won't mind passing them on again.

Before all this began, I had started cutting a series of lino blocks based on the symbols from the Chinese Zodiac. I had only finished cutting and test printing a couple, but fortunately Pete had cut the rest of the blocks to size for me so I have been able to finish them. Fortuitously they of a size that can be used for the 20:20, so I am using one of those. It also gives me the chance to use up the water soluble printing ink which has been lurking at the back of the cupboard for years. Mostly, however, I have doing embroidery and other textile stuff, as that can be done sitting in the garden, but I have sort of combined the two as I have a number prints made on fabric into which I have begun stitching.

Quite what I'm going to do with them when I have finished, I don't yet know. We shall see.

It's a very peculiar situation in which we find ourselves, so I hope everyone is keeping well and tolerably happy.

I hope that when I do the next Newsletter at the end of the year, (on time maybe,) the situation will be a little clearer and we can start to plan for Group activities again.

Take care.

Jo