

## **Spring Newsletter 2021 from your Chairman, Gina Marshall**

Dear Arts Club members,

In this newsletter I'm going to focus on the bursary students as well as a round up of our activities, poems and obituaries. How exciting that we are able to meet in person outside and very soon inside. Let's hope that the Autumn brings a return of our usual venues and activities.

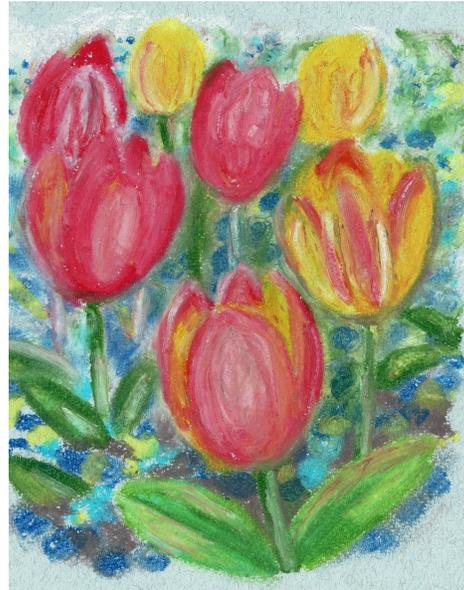
That being said I think many of us have seen some advantages of meeting by zoom: it has allowed people in different parts of the country to meet up and we can enjoy fellow members' company in the comfort of our own homes. We also seem to have attracted new members, perhaps through our promotion of the club, but I also think that people have had time to take up new hobbies and reflect on their life balances. The strength of the club has shone through these difficult times.

The studio workshop has been meeting throughout most of lockdown on zoom but are now able to embark on the summer outdoor sketching programme. Many thanks to Penny for organising this. Please see the programme attached at the end of the newsletter.



*Bridget sketching in Studland Churchyard*

The evening art group started meeting on zoom a few months ago, reviving the enthusiasm of their members. They have been sharing experiences of tutoring from the online Norfolk Painting School as suggested by Katie Heslop. They've also been sharing work created during lockdown. It must be over a year ago that the members painted spring flower pictures to inspire the poetry group.



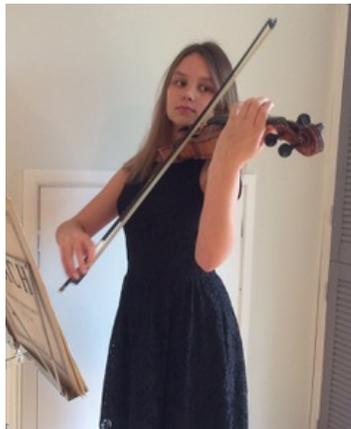
*Crocuses by Lizzie Guichard and tulips by Mary Clutterbuck*

The poets have also been meeting on zoom. They have written some beautiful responses to the flower artwork. I have made some cards and printed off the poems to sell in my gallery (Purbeck New Wave Gallery, Swanage). The idea is “Pick a Card, Pick a Poem” so that customers can select the picture and poem that they think go well together. The cards cost £3.50 each. They'll hopefully also be for sale at the PILS concert and at the summer exhibition 21-30th August, if it goes ahead, covid permitting.

I'm organising a young artists' 2D art competition, the results to be revealed at the exhibition. If you know any budding artists who are at primary or secondary school please let me know and I'll send an entry form.

So on to the bursary students. The club is lucky enough to have funds to sponsor young people in the Arts and to support schools. The Emmie and Rex Neate Fund provides awards to all areas of the Arts whilst the Pat Tunnell Fund sponsors singers.

**Amelia Seaman** is a talented musician, her forte being as a violinist. She recently gained a Distinction in her grade 8 exam. She is looking forward to exploring more repertoire and will soon sit for her grade 8 piano. She recently enjoyed a Bach workshop and masterclass with renowned professor Catherine Martin.



*Amelia playing her violin.*

**Ed Marriott** is an 18 year old artist who is studying at Poole and Bournemouth college. He has been exhibiting and selling his work since the age of 7, taking part in Purbeck Art Weeks. He is hoping to have a full time career as an artist. He is shortly going to be interviewed by BBC Radio Solent, so something to look out for. During Dorset Art Weeks he will take part in a young artists exhibition at my gallery from 22<sup>nd</sup> May to 6<sup>th</sup> June. He will also exhibit at a pop up exhibition in the Malthouse art gallery in Lyme Regis in August



*Ed Marriott at work and a piece of his artwork "Beach Life".*

**Verity Marlow** is a ballet dancer studying at Tring Park School for the Performing Arts in Hertfordshire. She has found practising her ballet at home difficult during lockdown so is excited to be back and is rehearsing for a show in July, Covid permitting. She also receives a singing bursary and has written a song. She made a beautiful recording whilst playing the guitar on the hills of Corfe Castle as the sun was setting. The link is below, a true delight.



*Verity dance practice*

**Lois Fletcher** is also studying at Tring Park. She has found studying online surprisingly enjoyable with lots of work to do. Every week she had to upload monologues, singing and a mock audition. She also had classes in jazz dancing and regular exercise classes. She is now back at school and is throwing herself in as well as auditioning for the National Youth Theatre.



**Miro Vosper** also received a singing bursary which supported her in gaining a place at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in London.

**Joe Marlow** is a talented drummer. He is studying at Poole Grammar School. He is looking forward to playing the drums alongside other musicians, particularly school percussion and the Swanage Big Band once things start up again. He's keen to join any other bands that need a drummer so let me know if you have any ideas.



*Joe Marlow on the drums*

**Ben Cockwell** continues his studies at the Royal Ballet School.

Well done to all our students who approach their studies with such enthusiasm and drive. They are all very deserving of our support.

### **Purbeck Instrument Loan Scheme (PILS)**

With schools shut down for a significant time, 1:1 lessons being difficult and the sharing of instruments being impossible, PILS have been quiet. However zoom has been a saviour again with online cello teaching. *Zoom cello lessons*



We will focus on the school bursaries (Douglas Strickland Bursary) later, once they are able to do a presentation evening.



Next we'll have some uplifting poems by our poets, just right as we come out of lockdown!

## Spring has sprung

Spring has sprung  
The birds sing for joy  
Each hopes for a mate  
And fledglings this summer.

Spring has sprung  
Early flowers peep out  
Rain or shine they greet us  
Yellow white and red.

Spring has sprung  
The nights grow shorter  
I wake with the dawn  
Hear the seagulls cry.

Spring has sprung  
I think of sailing  
I hope for swimming  
When the sea is warm.

Spring has sprung  
Hope for the future.  
The worst is over  
And we are alive

## **'Flowers have eyes'**

Flowers have eyes,  
They do.  
Just like me,  
Just like you.  
They tilt their head up at the sun,  
Taking in the view.  
Using their petals as parasols,  
Shading relaxing roots below.  
Sometimes I see them looking down,  
When they're feeling blue,  
Then the next day up, up at the sky.  
Maybe even straight at you.  
What I'm trying to say is,  
flowers definitely have eyes,  
Just like me,  
Just like you.

## **'Lucky seed'**

A flower  
Was once a seed,  
Floating through the breeze...  
One that did go off course  
Or fall into the sea...  
And that seed  
Was once a flower...  
Now a mother or a father  
Who'd found the perfect spot,  
In your local parking lot.

Eliza

## Helibores in Spring

Hidden away behind the garden bower  
The delicate helibore flowers  
Have sprung into new life in Spring  
When no one was looking.

Tucked away by the ivy-clad fence  
Ignoring the bluebell leaves intrusion  
They complement the busy background  
The flowers emerging as heralds of Spring.

Profuse mid-green leaves are abundant  
Protecting the delicate veined petals  
With their unique colour progression  
From dark red bud to pink and green flowers.

Jen Howard March 2021

Lastly, and sadly, we will finish with two obituaries

### Margaret Bridle

Margaret Bridle, after a short spell in hospital, has died peacefully there at the age of 97, just a few days short of her 98<sup>th</sup>. birthday. I spoke to her recently after she had had a fall, which required surgery. She was her usual very alert and cheerful self, still writing poetry for the poetry group and asking after the Arts Club and its activities. Margaret had been involved in and supported all the club's activities including back stage support for the Players, painting with Studio Workshop, writing poetry and stories with the Poetry and Writers groups, and was editor of the Club's Artifax magazine for three years.

Margaret was born in a house in the grounds of Blenheim Palace, and then lived in Shepton Mallet, before moving to Shaftsbury where her husband became mayor, and Margaret was a founder member of the Arts club and enthusiastic actress.

Margaret qualified as a state registered nurse and had met Sir Alexander Fleming when she was in charge of probably the first patient to have his life saved by a continuous drip of penicillin. When she came to Swanage Margaret worked at the Youth Hostel, Day's home and then as a night sister at a nursing home in Boscombe.

Margaret was a very friendly and talented member of the Arts Club, and those privileged to know her will miss her, but will retain happy memories of Margaret and know she had a very full and satisfying life and was supported by a happy loving family.

Douglas Addison  
President



# Don't Close our Libraries

Books! What would we do without them?  
When a Caveman bumped his head  
“Aahgs” or “Oww” was all he said  
To express the pain there were no words — as yet,  
Till someone invented the Alphabet.

Language grew, and people could say  
How they were feeling day by day  
But the written word took longer to learn  
“Letter writers” used it to earn.

For many a previous generation  
The poor were barred from education,  
Till William Caxton set up his Press  
and printed books which cost less

In 1477 he printed the Canterbury Tales  
Bringing Chaucer fame from many sales  
and, Morte d'Arthur came to stay  
They are all still familiar today

In Libraries from shore to shore  
To educate both Rich and Poor,  
So — Politicians everywhere  
Don't close our Libraries if you care.

**Margaret Bridle July 2019**

## Doreen Pace

Doreen Pace was a lively, vivacious member of the studio workshop who immediately made me feel very welcome when I first joined. She ran the Honey Pot cafe next to the library where she also sold her pictures and crafty creations, often to be seen in her front garden. Sadly in her latter years she developed dementia which she coped with by walking and creating artwork, often with a mystical and spiritual meaning. We will miss her colourful personality as well as her prolific artwork.

By Gina Marshall

