



Shute Farm Studio



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A look back over 2007 and into 2008

Shute Farm Studio continues to attract those eager to learn or develop a traditional art form and the constant return of regular students from as far away as the Scilly Isles and Scotland is very encouraging.

We commenced the year having been mentioned by Celia Smith in the Country Living Magazine, and, as a result, were inundated with calls and emails, which has resulted in filling two Wire Sculpture courses at the end of the Summer. With continuous waiting lists for our Bronze Casting, we have arranged a second course to take place in the second part of our programme. Unable to fit into the specific categories of Somerset Arts Week, we have decided this year to have our own Open Day on the last Sunday of September and hope visitors will come and try for themselves some of the art forms tutored at the Studio, visit the Farm and listen to some music.

Jos Pinto has joined us on a permanent, part-time basis. With her knowledge of schools and colleges we have developed a programme of courses for younger students, school groups and youth organisations at the Studio.

Our 'Machinery Shed' came into action during the Bronze Casting course and was a big success.

THE ROYAL BATH & WEST SHOW 2007

This was another very successful year with approximately 300 visitors to the Shute Farm Studio stand at the Village Hall, on the Village Green, enjoying Stone Carving, Willow Weaving and Letter Cutting. Lee Meredith from Hartcliffe, now a 3rd year Stone Mason's Apprentice, demonstrated his work. His success at his chosen profession was evident as he confidently talked to visitors and marketed the Wells Cathedral Stone Masons



Company, Cheddar, his employers.

Lee Meredith with David Brown at the Bath and West Show 2007.

KICKIN' SPACE and Wells Cathedral 2007

The children from Kickin' Space, Hartcliffe, Bristol have been coming to Shute Farm for 4 years now and returned in August 2007 to participate in a Stone Carving course, once again tutored by Kate Semple. As a result of these visits an exciting new initiative has developed at Wells Cathedral.



KICKIN' SPACE at Wells Cathedral

Stone Carvings at Wells Cathedral - Frances Neale and Liz Robinson

Over the past four years, each of the groups of Hartcliffe youngsters attending summer stone-carving weeks at Shute Farm Studio have, towards the end of their stay, been brought by Fran Britten and their tutor Kate Semple to Wells Cathedral to look at examples of much older stone carvings. These visits have prompted the volunteer Cathedral Guides to re-examine the extraordinarily rich and varied resource of the Cathedral carvings, as part of the series of winter refreshers in which they share and extend their knowledge before the rush of summer visitors and public tours begins. The Hartcliffe groups' stone-carving tour engages both the guides and youngsters in searching for carved detail, in examining the stone used, and studying the techniques of the medieval carver. Cathedral guides, for their part, have been drawn to notice carvings that are not usually featured in general tours. The young people are amazed to be able to touch a 7000 year old carved leaf, put a hand inside the undercutting of a 1400's roof boss (part of a demolished chapel, now conveniently set at hand height), or admire the technique of carving

feathers on a spoonbill or scales on a fish in 1424 - knowing for themselves by now what hard, careful work entails. This is a summer holiday visit, so anything that smacks of 'school' is avoided. There may not seem, at first, to be much history, or architecture, or religion, in the tour - but the young sculptors' enthusiastic interest leads from one thing to another: How old is that? Why is it that shape? What is it used for? - until by the end these young people, some of whom may never have been into a church before, and certainly not into one as big and impressive as Wells Cathedral, have absorbed something of its age and beauty, as well as its wonderful stone carvings and the creative imaginations of the stonemasons who made them.

Frances Neale - Wells Cathedral Guide

EVENTS OF 2007

Vitalise

Vitalise is a national organisation that provides holidays for those affected by disability and the visually impaired. The group returned to Shute Farm for a third time in September for a 2 day Willow Weaving Workshop, tutored by Andy Southwell. Willow is a very tactile and aromatic material and students experienced the pleasure of weaving shapes and containers from this amazing, flexible and adaptable resource, grown on the Somerset Levels. Participants took home a woven item of which to be proud.



Members of Vitalise enjoy Andy Southwell's Willow Weaving course.

Mini Thrive

This exciting day was organised by the Black Swan and held at the Studio. The group of 25 people from arts organisations across the South West were brought together to participate in a wide variety of activities including painting, dance and music. The weather was glorious and full use of the Studio, both inside and out was made.

SODA 2007/ 2008

The Society for Disabled Artists (SODA) Wells group has enjoyed 2 courses at the Studio in the last year. In June 2007, Mary-Jane Evans delighted

the group with her remarkable Paper Porcelain Ceramics course and Jos and Lizzy introduced their new Print and Collage Card making course in April 2008.

Active Living

Somerset Active Living is for anyone over 50 who would like to meet people, try out different activities and learn new skills. The Leigh on Mendip Active Living Group visited the Studio for the first time in June of 2007. Following a tour of the Studio and Accessible garden they took part in a hand-made card and book making session with Nick Inns using potatoes to create shapes for designs for their prints.

Art|works 2007

In September, the Studio participated in an East Mendip initiative in which Tutor/ Artists demonstrated and offered hands on opportunities in and visitors enjoyed trying their hand at some new art activities.

Tony Pizzey was working on Stem Sculpture, Kate Semple and Laurence Tindall were showing the techniques of the ever popular Stone Carving and Mary-Jane Evans wowed the crowd with her magnificent raku firing of porcelain ceramics.



Mary-Jane Evans raku firing

We were treated to some impromptu music from the fantastic Jane Harwood, Russ and friends



Jane and Russ at our Art|Works open day

Whitstone School

We were very impressed by the enthusiasm and focus of a group of Gifted and Talented students

who attended a Stem Sculpture course, tutored by Tony Pizzey, in the October half term of 2007. Jenny Bentley, the new Head of Art at the School, mounted an exhibition of their work, which contributed to their GCSE examinations. They plan to come again this year.

NEWS OF OUR TUTORS

Laurence Tindall - Bermuda Maritime Museum Commission 2007

Laurence was invited by the Bermuda Maritime Museum to work in the historic dockyard. It was built between 1807 and 1860 by transported convict labour. Alarming, their crimes were political and petty thieving and two thirds died of disease and over work. The local hard stone, somewhat harder than Portland stone, was almost quarried out over those decades and whilst the Bermuda soft stone is still widely used, the hard stone has not been worked since the dockyard was finished. As no one on the island has experience of working hard stone, Laurence was asked to split a large rock using steel wedges and work a slab into a head stone. The finished block (30"x20"x3") will be put in a churchyard. All stages of this work were filmed and documentary evidence was collected from this extensive collection of 19th century buildings and engineering works. The museum will be mounting an exhibition focussing on the convict labour and building methods of this period next spring.



Celia Smith's Wedding 2007

Celia and Peter were married at the end of July last year and she looked resplendent in her beautiful hand made dress. It is, of course, made with a



selection of re-claimed wire, melted nylon builders bags, tissue paper, a dismantled paper light shade and decorated with guinea fowl feathers. Celia collaborated with Alison Harper, an artist who is currently finishing an

MA Design and Textiles at Bath Spa University. Her exquisite and unique wedding dress was exhibited at Shute Farm Studio at the Art|Works event.

Kate Semple - Frome Hospital Sculpture Commission 2008

Over the past few years Kate Semple and John Candler have been working on a method they developed together to use glass and stone in sculpture. Last summer Kate decided to take the idea further and design a proposal for the new Frome Hospital Sculpture. Researching the possible stone types and sizes, she put forward an idea for the theme "The Circle of Life". In her design the circle of life is travelling along time as it climbs the slope of the triangle and the stone circle encompasses the glass rods of different dimensions and colours, representing the people in our society being held securely within the circle of life. Her design was short listed to three, then chosen overall, following her presentation.



Work in progress..... and the finished piece in place outside Frome's new hospital.

The stone used is Anstrode, a French Limestone very similar to Portland. A piece of Portland big enough could not be found. Both the sculpture and base weigh about 2.2 tonnes each, and took Kate a little over a month to work. Sonja Klinger, a glass blower in

Frome, made the glass rods, and Steve Frey cut and polished them. There are roughly 140 individual rods in the sculpture.

Additionally, Kate is embarking on a new venture..... a 'Mobile Stone Carving Studio' to take into schools, colleges and youth centres.

www.katesemplesculpture.co.uk

Shane Whitehead - 'Nelson' the Seal



'Nelson the Seal'

On May 28th, Sir Robert Knox-Johnson CBE will be unveiling a statue of 'Nelson The Seal' at Looe Harbour. The life size seal created by Suzie Marsh, artist, has been cast in bronze by Shane Whitehead at his

foundry in Shepton Mallet.

artoffinenature@btconnect.com

EVENTS & HAPPENINGS 2008

Bronze Age Urn Replica



The Beacon Society was funded in 2007 to excavate a Barrow in Beacon Wood. A Bronze Aged urn, which has been dated at approximately 1300BC, was discovered containing the cremated remains of a young woman aged between 18 - 24 years. The urn, in all probability, was used as a vessel for food. In addition to the cremated remains, it contained a variety of seeds. It was decided to re-make a replica urn to allow re-internment of the remains. The original urn is awaiting funding for repair work to allow it to be exhibited. Approximately 25 members of the Beacon Society joined Nick Inns, our potter, to coil, finish and decorate a copy of the original urn at the Studio. It is hoped that further funding for a deeper excavation of the site, previously hampered by weather conditions, will be possible, as it is believed there is a primary burial site beneath. If funding is secured for this additional dig, the re-internment date will then be arranged, using the original capping stone.

Fonthill Arts Festival

Fran has been asked to judge the sculpture entries for the second consecutive year. The Festival takes place on Saturday 31st May and Sunday 1st June. For details, contact Linda on 01747 820644 or lindahenderson-stainton@dawsondurham.co.uk

We will be at...
THE CONTEMPORARY CRAFT FAIR
Bovey Tracey, Devon
Friday - Sunday June 6th - 8th
DEMONSTRATIONS AND TEACHING
Ceramics : Stone Carving :
Letter Cutting
www.craftsatboveytracey.co.uk

New Courses and Tutors 2008

Drawing for the Terrified - David Chandler
Life Drawing - Sean Slater
Painting the Figure - Sean Slater

Christmas Print and Collage cards - Jos Pinto
Portrait Sculpture from your own Model - Jane Hamilton

We are delighted to welcome back to the Studio Ganesh Bhat, creator of 'The Sacred Cow' who will be tutoring a course Hoysala Style Stone Carving and delivering a lecture on Chalukya Sculptures.

SHUTE FARM STUDIO OPEN DAY 29th September 2008

Come and enjoy the atmosphere of the Studio and Garden, designed by Kevin McCloud, on this creative open day! There will be lots of exciting things going on, with music and demonstrations of a variety of traditional art forms, including stone carving, ceramics, raku firing, printing, wood carving, letter cutting, wire work and collage. There will also be an exhibition of studio artists' and tutors' work.

TEACHERS! Why not come and see what we can offer groups from your school?!

Pat Hurley Stone Carving student

We would like to congratulate Pat on the celebration of her 80th birthday.

The closure of KICKIN' SPACE 2008

Unfortunately, we have to report that Kickin' Space is no longer able to come to the Studio. They have had $\frac{3}{4}$ of their funding cut and it is now a part time project, only within the precincts of Withywood and Hartcliffe, Bristol. The drive and enthusiasm of Barry Abbott and his team should be congratulated, and we are devastated that they have been made redundant. A great many children will be affected by this tragedy. We'll really miss them

Some appreciations from students

Chris "wonderful facility, keep up the good work"
Lucy "a wonderful refreshing place, we need more of you!"

June "It's all done with love and care"

Jacky "Thank you for all your time, energy and vision in organising this amazing course"

Lorna "It really was wonderful in all aspects - location, ambience, teaching, comradeship! You do make people feel very welcome and it *is* such a lovely place. I'm looking forward to coming again"

The Museum 2008/9

We are still seeking funding for The Museum, 'An Experience in Time' to display the progress through the ages with an extensive geology, fossil and local archaeology collection.