



BLACKDOWN
HEALTHY LIVING &
ACTIVITY CENTRE

FAMILY & FRIENDS – from February 2017

Everyone in this exhibition has some sort of association with the Healthy Living Centre, either as users, employees, volunteers or therapists - together with their family members and friends. We hope you agree that it's a very wide ranging and fascinating exhibition spanning people who use art as a form of relaxation or hobby through to professional artists who have made it their career.

SIMONE BATCHELOR

I have enjoyed art in various forms since childhood, attended a few art classes in adult years but my interest these days is in photography both in this country and abroad. The photograph of the lamb was taken by my son, Alex, who contributes regularly to Blipfoto.

RUTH BELL

Ruth trained in Contemporary Dance and went onto further her interest in the moving body and anatomy through studying massage in Sheffield and Bristol.

'Sky Dancing' is a commission from the BHaam group. It is based on interviews and filmed at Dunkeswell Airfield.

ELAINE BRANCH

Thank you for looking at my handmade cards. I am a therapist here at the Centre and I enjoy making hand-stamped and decorated cards. It's a lovely way to relax.

ELENA BRANCH

I am a textile design student at Winchester School of Art. These jackets were made with fabric I have designed and hand printed and painted. The title of the project was 'Vegetables'. The jacket on the mannequin is my Sweetcorn Jacket.

OLIVE BURSTON

Brightside Member

My elder sister, Cora Doble, taught me to knit when I was quite young. I did a lot of hand knitting for myself and others. In the mid 1950's, soon after I was married, I did this quite complicated patterned bed jacket. I used it in the nights for all four of my babies! Because of osteoarthritis, I can't knit anymore!

The little embroidered mat was given to one of my daughters, but I did the embroidery. I never enjoyed sewing!

ADRIAN AND IRENE CAMPBELL

Cameo Club members

We were both trained at Bath Academy of Art when it was at Corsham Court in Wiltshire during the war. William Scott (painter) was our main tutor. Adrian has always been interested in colour and Irene in prints and drawing.



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ALICE CARMAN

I did a Foundation Course at Manchester before completing my illustration degree at UWE in Bristol. I am currently living in Bristol, managing The Bristol Fringe music bar in Clifton Village. These pieces were completed at the Art Night I have started on Monday evenings. Not only is this a creative space for anyone to use, but we also draw live to improvised jazz.

RICHARD CARMAN

I trained as an architect but for the last twenty-five years or so I've made a living as an architectural illustrator, producing images for architects, urban designers and developers. I work mainly in either watercolour or ink and crayon but I'm happiest with a pen and some of my favourite pictures are simple black ink drawings.

Drawing things as if looking down on them has always interested me and I find the process of making images that bring an architect's design to life utterly fascinating. I'm not used to selling work from an exhibition, so if you are interested in any of the pictures here please contact me, I'm sure we can work something out.

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ROBBIE CARMAN

This was made during my foundation course at Brighton City College, in 2014. I used never to paint and would only draw or sketch. My tutor introduced me to painting, properly, so when I made this I was still drawing, through painting. Although it is a figurative piece of work, I am very interested in the space that line and colour occupy or create. This has relevance with my current practice, where my interests are still to do with constructions of lines and the space between, through the use of paint. I am currently in my third year at Central St Martins.

BETHANY COULDRICK

These pieces were designed and woven by myself as part of my graduate collection. They are a combination of industrial and hand woven fabrics that all explore the versatility of wool as a material.

Since graduating from Chelsea College of the Arts (part of UAL) I have continued working at The London Cloth Company as a weaver.

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JOAN DADD

Brightside Member

I have always enjoyed creative work, painting, textiles, collage, decoupage, photography and have designed amateur theatre costumes and sets, puppets and masks. I have painted a 90 feet mural on a primary school wall and a smaller seascape in a secondary school. Several of my paintings have been 'commissioned'.

Over the years, I have belonged to various art and design groups which have included printing, Chinese art, portraits and fabric design. Working with primary school children we have enjoyed finger painting and colour mixing, tie and dye, batik, paper murals, 3D pictures, origami and sculpture with natural materials.

JANE JULIER

Jane Julier teaches the Alexander Technique here at the Healthy Living Centre.

She originally trained as a jeweller and silversmith at Loughborough Art College. Her passion and interest in music and art moved her into a long career in musical instrument making, specialising in the Viola da Gamba.

Jane now divides her time between making instruments and teaching the Alexander Technique. She took up print making at an evening class at SCAT in Taunton and some of her prints are included in this exhibition.

CHLOE ROBINSON

I really enjoy art, especially drawing. These two drawings are part of my GCSE coursework, on the HUMAN CONDITION. They took me a few hours to complete, but I don't mind spending time on a project like this as I love the process of drawing and creating.

ALI RUTHERFORD

I have been playing with wood (as a hobby) for a number of years now, mainly relief carving letters and images but also making kitchen utensils and shrink pots. In December I was introduced to 'pyrography' (wood burning using an electrically heated wire pen to create patterns, writing and pictures). I am very much at the start of my 'pyrography' journey and am learning all the time, whilst thoroughly enjoying myself.

MARGOT SHERGOLD

Brightside Member

This is a crocheted blanket. I have enjoyed crafting most of my life, my other hobbies include card making and knitting. Proceeds from all I sell go to local charities.

SARAH TAYLOR

I have been lucky to live in the Blackdown Hills for the last thirty years. Landscape, still life and life drawing are part of my creative journey which I have enjoyed portraying using various media. I have benefitted from studio classes with local artist Liz Gregory and more recently one to one art guidance from local artist Jane Kendon. I look forward to expanding my creativity in the future in whatever form this may be. Thanks to Liz for inviting me to be part of this exhibition.



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UNA WALKER

Brightside Member

I enjoy water-colour painting and used to attend the local water-colour classes. My other interests are cross-stitch, cake-baking and sewing. I now find I am unable to craft or make cakes as much as I would like.

SALLY WOODMAN

Brightside Member

From an early age I have always enjoyed painting and drawing. I did posters of events in World War II that were put up in shop windows in Wellington. We were given certificates for this, I was at school then. I never did anything to painting until I retired, it was a bit of luck they were starting a water-colour group in the village hall on a Monday morning. This was for two hours in 1995. We chatted and socialised and painted what we liked, no-one teaching us!

I paint most things but never twice! I have sold a few, a lot given away to friends and family and some are hanging in my home. Frames I buy, the mounts I cut out myself.

Theo Wright

I am a radio and photography student in my third and final year at Birmingham City University. I have fallen in love with Brum (someone had to!) and photograph it, warts and all, from every angle.

You can see more of my work on Instagram (@tdnwright). If you would like to buy prints, please email me: feesta@live.com

Thank you to all the artists who are participating in this exhibition – and to all the staff and volunteers who helped make it happen. The hanging was exhausting, but great fun!

Liz Carman (Trustee)