

# PAF NEWS

A bi-monthly newsletter for the Friends of the Polperro Arts Foundation

## Sandy's glass



In the second issue of our newsletter, almost a year ago, we introduced glass artist Sandy Horton whose work is inspired by Cornish sea and landscapes. During lockdown she has been working with new techniques resulting in a fresh body of work that will be displayed in our gallery.

Glass is an exciting medium and can be worked cold (leaded glass), warm (kiln formed glass) or hot (blown glass). Sandy works primarily with fused glass, which means that all the glass is formed, and 'stuck' together by using a kiln, similar to a pottery kiln, to

temperatures in excess of 800 °C. Different temperatures give different results; the hotter the temperature the more liquid the glass. Even the small 'landscape' pendants like the one on the right have gone through multiple firings in order to achieve the final effect.

Sandy works with both transparent and opaque glass in order that her pieces can be enjoyed in ever changing levels of light. She uses photographs to design her work and then, using her experience, plans how to create different effects and colours, either by precisely cutting shapes from sheet glass or using crushed or powdered glass and then 'cooking' in the kiln. Working with glass is an adventure; cutting, moulding, etching, printing and even dropping and breaking. "I have an old saucepan and sledge hammer to crush my mistakes and disasters and reinvent - the beauty of glass!" Sandy happily admits that some of her most successful pieces are a result of an 'accident' that hopefully she remembers so that it can be repeated!



To see more of Sandy's work check out <[www.sandyhortonglass.co.uk](http://www.sandyhortonglass.co.uk)> or [sandyhortonglass](#) on Instagram & Facebook. Take a look here <[www.warm-glass.co.uk](http://www.warm-glass.co.uk)> for ideas on how to get started on working with fused glass.

## Jennie Hale



We are pleased to welcome ceramicist Jennie Hale to the PAF as a guest artist. Jennie's pottery is situated by the side of Colliford Lake on Bodmin moor and she describes it as "light, warm, delightful to work in, and set in a beautiful environment." Jennie also maintains a diary, illustrated with notes and drawings from the natural world, both as a way of generating ideas for her pottery and as work in its own right. 'The Nature Diary of an Artist' was published as a book in 2007 and Jennie continues to report her observations of the local countryside on her website <[jenniehale.co.uk](http://jenniehale.co.uk)>.

Jennie uses some interesting methods: the 'Raku' firing technique is when pots are taken from the kiln while they are still glowing red hot and immediately placed in a flammable material such as sawdust or newspaper. The resulting quite

dramatic burst of flames starves the pot of oxygen which, as Jennie puts it, "gives a wonderful crackle glaze. For potters, it's an incredibly exciting technique as there's always the anticipation of how each piece may turn out with so many different variables."

"The sgraffito decorated pieces are first thrown in red earthenware, then a white earthenware slip is applied, allowed to dry and at that point I sgraffito the drawings into the surface by scraping back the white to reveal the red earthenware below. These are drawings I take from my nature diary, always about wildlife, little sketches of the things I've seen."

Some beautiful examples of Jennie's work will be available in the PAF gallery when we re-open later in April.



## Paul's introduction to landscape photography

A big change that has benefited many of us over the last few years has been the almost universal availability of cameras in the form of smart phones; and those cameras have steadily become more and more capable. The images they produce have become larger and therefore more detailed. Some



Dawn at Lake Rock, Talland Bay

camera phones now include two or three separate lenses, and you can buy extra telephoto and wide-angle lenses as add-ons. Focusing has become easier. You can buy tripod fittings for camera phones. Some of the latest models store images as RAW files which retain more information than the standard jpeg file format, which, with the right software, allows for greater flexibility in processing your images on your computer. There are even photo contests just for pictures taken with camera phones.

It would help to learn a few basic, simple principles of composition and lighting, but with a little practice it's no exaggeration to say that these days anyone can become a fine landscape photographer using little more than what they carry around with them every day. Why bother to spend what often turns out to be a good deal of money on fancy equipment which can weigh enough to make you think twice about carrying it on your next walk along the coastal footpath? Why indeed! For many of us a smart phone will be all we need.

On the other hand, provided you have the time and patience to learn to use its manual controls effectively, a more traditional digital camera gives you far more control over how your pictures will turn out. That is what can make the cost and a weighty backpack worthwhile.

There are five main controls to keep in mind. The **aperture** and **shutter speed** determine how much light gets through to the sensor; together with the **focal length** the aperture also sets how much of the picture will be in focus. The **ISO** is a measure of the sensitivity of the sensor - a low ISO will reduce the risk of 'noise' creeping into the picture but, for any given level of light the lower the ISO the slower the shutter speed will be for a good exposure; a slow shutter can be good or bad depending on what you are trying to achieve.

**Filters** that fit over the front of the lens are a fifth kind of control that traditional cameras can provide for. Two types of filters can be especially useful for landscape work. A graduated filter allows you to avoid over-exposing the sky. A plain neutral-density filter gives an additional level of control over the shutter speed, very helpful if you want your picture to convey a sense of movement. That is what I



Lake Rock beach, Talland Bay

wanted in the two pictures above from Lake Rock beach, one of my favourite places for showing off the rugged beauty of our coastline.

And for pictures that can seem a little surreal try an infra-red filter; among other effects it can require exposures that are long enough for you to walk around in front of the camera and serve as a ghostly model in your own picture (that's me sitting on a bench at Respryn).

So there you have it: camera phones are great for cost and convenience. Traditional cameras can be expensive and heavy and using them effectively requires time and experimentation. But that is where the fun lies. A little work at landscape photography in our beautiful corner of the world can be enormously rewarding.

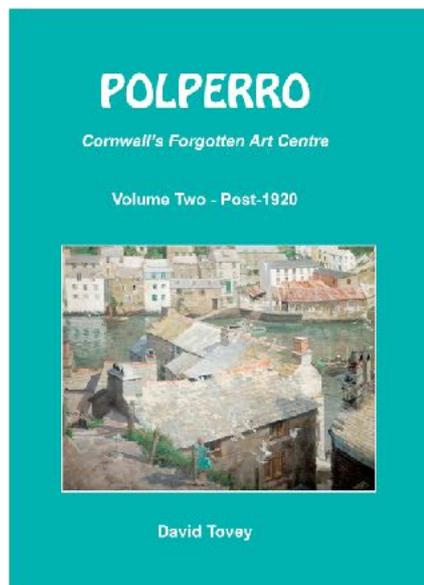


Paul Lightfoot

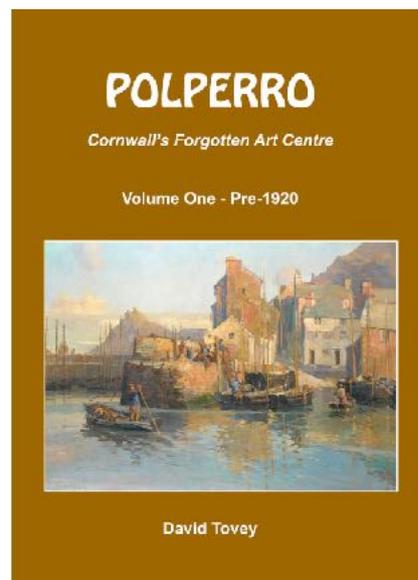
The River Fowey below Respryn

## Polperro, Cornwall's Forgotten Art Centre

David Tovey's two-volume work is now out. At 256 A4-size pages for Volume One and 346 pages for Volume Two, it's a comprehensive and beautifully illustrated history of the village as seen through the eyes of the numerous artists who have worked here, together with outlines of the artists' lives and anecdotes about their experiences in Polperro. And not only artists. The books also include extracts from novels, short stories and diaries by or concerning a number of well-



known authors who have made the village their home or an occasional retreat. This is an excellent piece of work full of well-researched information and highly recommended for all those who have an interest in the history of Polperro or Cornish art.



As a reminder, the publication of the books was originally intended to coincide with the opening of an exhibition of the paintings at the Falmouth Art Gallery. Due to the Covid situation that exhibition has had to be postponed for a year, and will now open on 2nd April 2022.

The books can be purchased directly from the author, details are available on his website <[www.stivesart.info/art-in-polperro](http://www.stivesart.info/art-in-polperro)>. Copies will also be available in the village at the Post Office and in our own gallery.



## About the Foundation

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The Foundation was set up in 2001 to support and promote local established and aspiring artists and to increase awareness of locally-produced art and the long history of art in Polperro.

### *Our Team*

Currently we have eight exhibiting members all of whom live and work locally: **Barbara Ellis**, artist; **Sandy Horton**, glass; **Paul Lightfoot**, photographer, writer; **Sue Lord**, artist; **Charles Summers**, artist and fan-maker; **Babs Taylor**, artist; **Tracy Watts**, graphic designer and illustrator; and **Lisa Woollett**, author and photographer. **Jennie Hale** is our guest artist and **Jacky Humby** is our secretary.

### *What we offer*

- We **exhibit** an extensive, evolving collection of local art works in our gallery in the Polperro village hall.
- We arrange and host occasional **events** for the benefit of local residents and visitors.
- We circulate this free **newsletter** six times each year; email us to suggest others who might like a copy.
- At these links you will find freely-available examples of our work as [screen-savers](#), [desktop wallpaper](#) and in other formats to bring a taste of Polperro and its art to your home computers, tablets and phones.

### *Support us*

Maintaining and running the gallery is expensive and we need your support. Please click [here](#) to make a donation through [PayPal](#) , visit our website at the link below for other options or let us know if you would like to join us as an artist, Friend or volunteer. Thank you for any help you can give!

### *Contact us*

Due to the Covid situation we have been closed since the New Year. We intend to re-open as soon as regulations permit which we now expect will be from 12th April. Meanwhile please contact us by email <[polperroarts@gmail.com](mailto:polperroarts@gmail.com)> or through our website: <[www.polperroarts.org](http://www.polperroarts.org)>

