

Every picture tells a story at Thelma Hulbert

What better way to spend a couple of hours on a cold, damp Saturday afternoon than attending the Thelma Hulbert Gallery in Honiton – a wonderful local art gallery, writes Ali Witchell.

Saturday, January 12 saw the opening of the annual winter exhibition of work by members of the South West Academy of Fine and Applied Arts – www.southwestacademy.org

On display is a varied and eclectic mix of contemporary paintings, prints, photography and sculpture all created by artists living in the South West with predominance from those working and living in Devon.

The afternoon commenced with an introduction by Ken Cosgrove, himself an artist and former commercial illustrator, now living in Devon having moved here from the United States of America. He explained the rationale behind one of his own works, a small painting inspired by a stay on the Isles of Scilly, and how he used subtle colours and the influence of sunlight to depict what moved him.

Other artists, notably Annie Ward, Rupert Brooks, Ashton Chadwick, Ray Balkwill and Phil Creek, were also invited to describe their work and what influences them to paint in particular ways, giving a fascinating insight into the mind of each artist.

The exhibition is colourful and dynamic, with many local seascapes and landscapes represented. It's free, well worth a visit and runs until February 9. For further details about events at the gallery visit www.thelmahulbert.com ■ Thelma Hulbert Gallery is set in a Georgian town house, the former home and studio of artist Thelma Hulbert, and features a permanent collection of her work. The gallery is run by East Devon District Council and is supported by the Arts Council England.



Summer Lane, snow by Phil Creek, Four Lemons by Rupert W Brooks and Annie Ward's An Uncertain Existence



On paper, this looks interesting

BY TIM DIXON

The Arts Council Collection touring exhibition *On Paper* is coming to Thelma Hulbert Gallery in Honiton on February 23 and will be on display until May 18.

On Paper showcases the work of acclaimed 20th century and contemporary artists who work with paper. Looking beyond the mark-making of drawing to consider the material itself, the exhibition explores how artists have used paper as the focus of their work in creative and unusual ways.

Demonstrating a range of approaches to collage, drawing and sculpture, *On Paper* showcases the work of over 40

leading artists, including Damien Hirst, Roy Lichtenstein, Eduardo Paolozzi, Cornelia Parker, Wolfgang Tillmans and Bridget Riley, among many others.

The exhibition shows how paper is used by artists to create three-dimensional objects; Lesley Foxcroft's two-tone corrugated bricks; Gareth Jones's cape made from cloakroom tickets and Art and Language's jigsaw puzzle.

On Paper will also present collage works by Linder, Eduardo Paolozzi, Roland Penrose, John Stezaker and Tony Swain, who have cut and pasted works using newspaper, postcards and photographs, and paper works which have been rubbed,

folded and embossed by Anna Barriball, Wolfgang Tillmans and Langlands & Bell. The exhibition also includes paper which has been actively burnt, torn or otherwise transformed by Cornelia Parker, Tim Davies and Roger Ackling, all of whom have destroyed parts of their paper works.

For some of the artists in *On Paper*, the choice of a particular type of paper is an important consideration when making their work. The precision of Bridget Riley and Kenneth Martin's works is reflected in their preferences for graph paper; Jason Coburn creates a conflicting play between his scrawled words and the Ministry of De-

fence headed paper on which they are written; while Prunella Clough's ink line winds its way over the troughs of corrugated card.

This exhibition is accompanied by an illustrated publication including an essay by writer and paper specialist Ian Sansom, and a new poem, *Forty-Nine Moments for the Substrate* by Joey Connolly, which is inspired by the works in the exhibition.

Angela Blackwell, retiring curator at the Thelma Hulbert Gallery, had the original inspiration to bring the exhibition to the gallery.

She said: "This is an amazing opportunity to feature another key national touring exhibition at THG, following

the success of our Matisse and Paolozzi exhibitions. It gives us the chance to highlight leading 20th century artists and bring co-ordinating art activities to the community of East Devon and beyond."

The exhibition also includes a small number of loans from the British Council Collection.

The Arts Council Collection is a national loan collection of British art from 1946 to the present day, with more than 8,000 works and more than 1,000 loans made to over 100 venues a year.

■ *On Paper*: Arts Council Collection Touring Exhibition (23 February to 18 May 2019). Open Tuesday to Saturday, 10am to 5pm. Free admission.

Repair cafe in line for award

The Blackdown Hills Repair Cafe has been nominated for the People's Choice Award at the Recycle Devon Thank You Awards on March 22.

Organisers of the environmentally-friendly community-inclusive initiative are inviting readers to vote for them and "show your support for this excellent venture".

The Blackdown Hills Repair Cafe has already repaired over 150 items, saving them from going to landfill. The current trend for repair cafes across the world has led to the European Union suggesting new legislation which will enforce the "right to repair" and ensure that manufacturers have to make their products repairable.

Being part of this movement and helping to return to a society and culture of repair is a core value of the Blackdown Hills Repair Cafe, reducing waste and re-using items where possible.

The venture has also been instrumental in helping and encouraging other local repair cafes and furthering the movement across Devon, Somerset and the surrounding area.

To vote for the repair cafe you can visit the website www.recycledevon.org/have-your-vote. Voting closes on Friday, February 1.

Bank promises business help

Honiton businesses are being alerted to new funding support being made available by Lloyds Bank.

Lloyds is planning to support businesses in the South West of England with £1.5 billion of lending during 2019 as part of plans to lend £18 billion to businesses in the UK.

The £1.5 billion will support entrepreneurs looking to start-up a new business, micro-businesses seeking to scale up and small firms considering trading internationally for the first time. It will also support established mid-sized companies and large, multinational corporations seeking further growth.

Last year, Lloyds Banking Group supported Devon-based business Green Resource Engineering, which completed its first ever deal with a business based in South Korea, a non-traditional trading country, providing a warranty bond as a foreign guarantee to secure the transaction.

Stephen Noakes, Lloyds Banking Group's ambassador for the South West, said: "Access to the right finance and support is vital for any business to succeed. This announcement will be a significant boost for those looking to realise their growth ambitions. We're committed to providing support for businesses of all sizes."