

POLDRATE ARTS AND CRAFTS CENTRE

2023 PACC Annual Report for AGM



Committee Members and Changes

Current Committee Members are:

- Victoria Murray, Chair
- Russell Frith, Treasurer
- Mary Frith, Class Co-ordinator
- David Morris, Website Co-ordinator
- Lyndsay Fergus
- Frida Bleakley, meeting minutes
- Grazyna Fremi
- Annie Bruckner
- Sally Moore
- Olivia Christie

Olivia Christie withdrew from the committee mid-year.

Lamp of Lothian

As ever we are grateful to the Lamp of Lothian trustees for making the buildings available to us for no charge. We make a donation to the Lamp to contribute to the cost of utilities and the upkeep of the buildings. The Lamp continues to increase the usage of the buildings and it is good to be at the heart of the community with new and different groups using some rooms.

Like PACC, the Lamp is run by volunteer Trustees. They have one part-time employee to co-ordinate all their activities and manage and take care of the buildings. Members of the Committee are in regular contact with the Lamp to ensure that we all get along effectively and harmoniously.

Annual Members Exhibition

Our 2023 Exhibition in March was even bigger than last year, with 220 pieces of work being displayed across all of our arts and crafts categories. Helle Woldsgaard Kilkenny, of Beech and Birch in Gifford, provided the judging and award of prizes, which was, as always, challenging given the high standard and number of works. Prizes were awarded across the range of our classes, with thoughtful insights offered by Helle to support her choices.

Tutors' Exhibition

Wonderful works by our tutors and self-help leaders were displayed in the John Gray Centre, Haddington for the second year running. The exhibition ran from 15 July to 26 August 2023, and included 3 demonstrations in painting, weaving, spinning, as well as a guided tour. The exhibition was extremely well attended by a very diverse audience, and we received a lot of positive feedback. We are considering the frequency of this event, which aims to raise awareness in the community of the range of classes that the PACC offers.

Related to this (and the open day below), we had a stall at two Haddington Farmers Markets in July and August.

Open Day

We held an open day in the mill and granary buildings to coincide with the end of the Tutors' Exhibition on 26 August 2023. This was the first such event in a number of years, and was a great success. Many members of the community popped in to have a look round and chat to tutors. The event coincided with the opening of class bookings for the new term. Bookings flooded in, with many classes being fully booked within 24 hours! We plan to hold a similar event in 2024, perhaps in the spring/summer term rather than during the summer holidays, when students and tutors are often away.

Weekend Workshops and Demonstrations

Over the last year we held a small number of very successful weekend workshops and a demonstration. We hope to hold more workshops in the future.

- Monoprinting Workshop
- Plaster Relief Workshop
- Willow Lampshades (Basketry) Workshop
- Haddington Weavers and Spinners spinning demonstration in Haddington library

New Tutor(s) and Classes

We have introduced some new classes this year:

- Landscape Painting with Andrew Watson
- Knitting with Helen Donaghue

Evening Lecture

This year we are holding our second evening lecture, open to members and non-members. "Painting the Light: Still Life painting from the 17th Century to the Present Day" will be an illustrated lecture by Dr. Andrew Watson. It will be on 15th December, with complimentary drinks and nibbles afterwards. We were delighted to receive a donation towards the running of events like this from The Cray Trust because they enjoyed last year's event so much. We plan to continue to hold similar events in the future, and welcome suggestions of potential speakers.

The PACC Committee

November 2023