

# POLDRATE ARTS AND CRAFTS CENTRE

## 2024 PACC Annual Report for AGM



### Committee Members and Changes

Current Committee Members are:

- Victoria Murray, chair
- Russell Frith, treasurer
- Mary Frith, meeting minutes
- Sarah Sutherland, class co-ordinator
- David Morris, website co-ordinator
- Pete Harper, publicity
- Lyndsay Fergus
- Frida Bleakley
- Grazyna Fremi

Sally Moore and Annie Bruckner withdrew from the committee mid-year - thanks to both of them for the contributions they have made to the committee and the PACC more generally.

We would like to record our thanks to Mary Frith for her hard work in the role of class co-ordinator (now taken on by Sarah Sutherland) and to Frida Bleakley for taking the minutes (now taken on by Mary Frith).

We would also like to thank our newly formed group of PACC volunteers, who have already been a great help setting up for term 1 and at the Social Sunday event (see below).

### 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 an annual 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 2024 Exhibition in April was a great success, with almost 200 pieces of work being displayed across all of our arts and crafts categories. Whilst the number of works displayed was slightly down on last year, the exhibition looked fantastic - the hanging being led by committee member and treasurer, Russell Frith. Kate Mackay, Edinburgh-based artist and retired curator, and Maggie Hyne, textile designer-maker, 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 very carefully considered explanations offered by the judges to support their choices.

## Weekend Workshops and Demonstrations

Over the last year we held a number of very successful weekend workshops:

- Plaster Casting, Lyndsay Fergus, 14 January
- Screen Printing, Lyndsay Fergus, 11 February
- Introduction to Digital Photography, Pete Harper, 22 September
- Introduction to Flash Photography, Pete Harper, 20 October
- Introduction to Digital Photo Editing, Pete Harper, 24 November

## Class and Tutor Changes

Our long-time tutor Alasdair Fiddes-Watt, who taught our Monday Painting and Drawing class, sadly died earlier this year. Owen Normand and Iona Molleson are now teaching painting and drawing, and we are delighted to have both with us. Our woodcarving class, taught by Chris Hall was discontinued due to falling class numbers. Elizabeth Lindsay, who teaches our Acrylic Painting class plans to retire at the end of term 1. We are looking for a replacement tutor.

## Raising our Profile

Local photographer Pete Harper joined the committee last year. Pete has been working hard to raise the profile of PACC in the community. Pete has dramatically improved our social media presence, working with our tutors and local stakeholders. He has also worked with the East Lothian Courier to promote our events in the Newspaper. In the year ahead we plan to put some surveys out to members and non-members to get feedback so we can make the most of the PACC for everyone.

## New Looms

In time for the beginning of our new year, we have acquired 8 new 8-shaft Louet Jane table looms for the textile room. We would like to formally record our thanks to the East Lothian Common Good Fund, who provided us with a grant of £1000 towards the cost of the looms, and to committee member Frida Bleakley who secured this grant for us. The looms are already transforming how the weavers work and learn.

## Social Sunday

On 6 October we tried out something new! Social Sunday was organised by committee member Pete Harper to nurture some cross-class socialising. It was a lovely afternoon with drinks, biscuits and lots of chat. We hope to hold more events like this for our members.

## Evening Lecture

We are now in our third year of holding a Christmas lecture, which has been hugely successful. This event is open to members and non-members. Dr Alice Blackwell, Senior Curator of Medieval History & Archaeology at the National Museums of Scotland will give an illustrated lecture about early Scottish jewellery and other artworks. It will be on 29 November, with complimentary drinks and nibbles

afterwards. We have decided to experiment with expanding our lecture programme, and are planning a spring lecture by Andrew Watson (who gave our two previous Christmas lectures). If this goes well, we will aim to have a summer lecture too.

## **Thanks!**

Thanks to everyone who has been involved in the PACC over the last year. We couldn't do it without you all and we appreciate everything you do with us!

**The PACC Committee**

November 2024