

Network pop-up (Dec 2021)

- about the Demonstrators

This booklet tells you more about each maker that will demonstrate in the pop up, including what they will be showing.

What influences these artists?

What changed for them during lockdown?

Why do they love the materials they use?

Where do their ideas come from?

Their answers may surprise you.

For information about other Rugby Artists and Makers visit https://rugbyartistsandmakers.com/ Saturday 4th Dec (10.30-12.30) Chris Pegler (peglerpurl)
Saturday 4th Dec (13.30-15.30) Steve Davies (stevedavies1st)

Thursday 9th Dec (10.30-12.30) Lottie Cockell (purpleroseembroidery)
Thursday 9th Dec (13.30-15.30) Clare Pentlow (CJPdesigns)

Friday 10th Dec (10.30-12.30) Jane Archer (Jane Archer artist)
Friday 10th Dec (13.30-15.30) Brian Dickinson (dolittle glass)

Thurs 16th Dec (10.30-12.30) Amanda Edney
(Beautifulcloth_SAORI_studio)
Thurs 16th Dec (13.30-15.30) Jenny Ball (Ditherella's Workshop)

Friday 17th Dec (10.30-12.30) Sarais Crawshaw (saraiscrawshawart)
Friday 17th Dec (13.30-15.30) Jess Hartshorn (jessi.illustrates)

No need to book – just come in and look!

For more information about the pop up activities go to https://rugbyartistsandmakers.com/pop-up Chris Pegler (Instagram: peglerpurl) describes herself as a serial experimenter and in 2013 she decided to resume an interest in textile crafts formed back in the early 1980s. What started as a mild interest in spinning fleece from her Jacob sheep spread and grew, to embrace weaving, dyeing and most recently (since lockdown) machine knitting. Along the way she has acquired and discarded many specialist machines and tools. She loves to cross boundaries in her fibre experiments, using materials and techniques from one context in a totally new ways. Her latest experiments involve weaving using wire with silk and vice versa.

In 2016 Chris set up a spinning group (the Spin Spun Sisters) to demonstrate these 'heritage 'crafts in public, encouraging spinning friends to join and to egg each other on. You may well have seen them spinning or weaving at events around Rugby before. She is very proud of her track record in enabling other craftspeople and is tremendously keen on the idea of a

Rugby Artists and Makers Network.

As many of the tools Chris uses are far too dangerous to use in public, instead of a self-portrait here is a picture of some of these ...



On 4th December (10.30-12.30 and likely at other times too) Chris will be demonstrating spinning and showing you how to prepare specially sparkly fibre for a Christmas spin. She will have carders for you to try and two of her spin spun 'sisters' will be there to show off other spinning approaches.

Steve Davies (stevedavies1st.blogspot.com;

Instagram: @stevedavies1st) describes his lino- and wood-cut prints as 'illustrating the human and the transcendent in everyday scenes and objects'. As an artist who started printmaking in mid-2019 he has had an unfair share of work appearing behind closed doors in lockdown (Coventry Open 2020, Rugby Open 2020/21), this tension is also a feature of his 'Love in an age of pestilence' series of works, which he describes as 'showing real, physical human beings, wanting to touch each other'. His current work focuses on 'Historic Warwickshire' and his print of Guy of Warwick slaying the Dun Cow was recently selected for the Wright Hassell 2022 anniversary calendar.



Steve loves every stage of printmaking: 'Each set of tools make different marks, introduce their own accidents. And then the final image, the mirror of the one you've been working on. This is the joy of printmaking'. His printing presses in his home studio use everyday stuff from his shed - car jacks, trampoline springs and a pool cue.

On 4th December (1.30-3.30 and likely at other times too) you can find Steve in the pop up demonstrating using his portable printing press – he will show use of conventional lino cutting/printing and also a more rapid approach using craft foam to print from. His portable press will utilise a rolling pin!

Lottie Cockell (Instagram @purple rose embroidery) is an

embroidery artist who creates DIY kits for all levels of experience in a range of traditional techniques. After four years and a lot of effort her embroidery business is thriving, however Lottie initially turned to embroidery for its therapeutic benefits when encountering problems with anxiety and depression after leaving school. She later realised that by designing kits she could share a wonderfully relaxing craft with others.

Although embroidery is often thought of as appealing to the older generation her kits sell mainly to buyers in their 20s to 40s. Her succulents kit featured in Cosy Craft Club 2021, she sells exclusive designs via Nitka, a Russian embroidery retailer: www.nitkanitka.ru. she has been featured in Be Creative with Workbox magazine November 2019 and



had her work on The Craft Store TV in 2021: www.thecraftstore.com.



Following experiments with coloured blackwork during the first lockdown Lottie released a 32 colour 10 inch blackwork rainbow and during her demonstration in our pop up (Thursday 9th December, 10.30-12.30) she will show basic blackwork stitching techniques and basic thread painting (long and short stitch) and have for sale some of her new Christmas themed kits

Clare Pentlow (Instagram/twitter @cjpdesigns) challenges the perception of paper as an ordinary material. Through precise hand cutting and folding she creates ever more intricate and textured artworks. She describes her works as pieces that 'evolve over time, building layer upon layer to result in mesmerising pieces of art which draw the viewer in'.

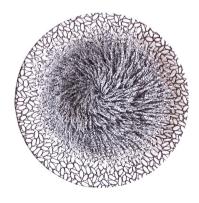


Clare is a Next Wave Associate at the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists (RBSA) and a member of Design Nation. Her work is exhibited across the UK. You may also have spotted her work outside the gallery context - she has undertaken commissions for Hermes and in April 2021 her work appeared in the craftsmanship media series to advertise the 2021 Lexus UX 250h.

https://media.lexus.co.uk/lexusreleases-the-final-film-in-its-

 $\underline{series\text{-}celebrating\text{-}craftsmanship\text{-}in\text{-}search\text{-}of\text{-}takumi\text{-}paper/}$

Clare also runs workshops to share her passion for this complex and fragile material and guide people on their own journey with Paper. On Thursday 9th December (1.30-3.30) Clare will demonstrate in the pop up - hand cutting paper in situ with pieces showing the process behind her work.



Jane Archer (https://www.janearcherart.co.uk/,

<u>Instagram@janearcherartist</u>) paints vibrant watercolours reflecting her love of colour, and her paintings try to capture 'the unseen beauty in the natural world, that secret part that speaks to the heart'. Like many during lockdown

she has craved the outdoors, and the calming effect it can have. As a result she has begun to sketch more regularly 'en plein air', and is finding this something she loves. Talking about how she chooses her subjects she says: 'I'm attracted to paint those things that make me stop and wonder - the way the light falls across a tulip, magnolia petals dancing in the breeze, or the fading colour of a summer sky'.



Her large scale works may have made you stop and wonder when displayed at Art in Dunchurch during this year's Warwickshire Open Studios, or used as banners during the refurbishment of the Pump Rooms gardens. Jane moved to Rugby in 2020 and has set up her own studio in Toft on the edge of Dunchurch, where she also runs classes and occasional workshops.

A teacher by training, Jane looks forward to demonstrating in the pop up (Friday 10th December, 10.30-12.30) and will bring a large hydrangea painting that is nearing completion. She will demonstrate wet-in-wet technique within controlled areas, and how she uses a sharp bamboo stick to draw into wet paint. It sounds glorious.

Brian Dickinson (www.dolittleglass.co.uk,

Facebook/Twitter/Instagram @brianatdolittle) is a stained glass and digital artist. He uses traditional methods to create 21st century artworks inspired by science and nature. After a career in IT and business he turned professional as an artist in 2014 with a focus on using stained glass in innovative ways to create portable artworks. He likes the challenge of unexpected themes initiated by commissions and one of his works was used to communicate a PhD project! Other stained glass work has appeared in a Space Art exhibition supported by the British Astronomical Society. Brian believes that 'Art is a great way to communicate complex scientific concepts'.



During his demonstration in the pop-up (Friday 10th December, 1.30-3.30) Brian will focus on two methods of making stained glass - Tiffany and leaded lights. He will also talk about his raw materials which are fascinating in themselves. As he points out: 'Stained glass gets its colour through minerals included in the melt. e.g. gold is used to make red glass. The colour becomes part of the glass. I don't paint glass.'

Amanda Edney

(Instagram:

beautifulcloth_saori_studio) is a mixed-media textile artist, with a background in Social Psychology, Education, Interior Design and Textiles. More recently she trained in Japan, to become a registered SAORI Weaving Instructor and she is hugely influenced by Japanese textiles, having lived there for three years.

During lockdown Amanda developed her work in collage, sketching and weaving to represent this time of uncertainty and isolation. In



terms of influences she is attracted to the details and textures often left unnoticed: 'peeling paint, rusty metal, torn posters, fragments etc'. She will often reuse/upcycle yarns, papers, driftwood etc, to give materials a new lease of life.

Amanda enjoys living and working on a narrowboat where she finds plenty of inspiration for her art.

She runs regular SAORI weaving workshops both locally (Napton) and across the UK. She loves inspiring others to express their creativity and in her demonstration in the pop up (Thursday 16th December, 1.30-3.30) she will display woven cloth and visitors will be encouraged to have a go at weaving themselves. Amanda has a stall in store that day so you can also see her at work in the morning too.

Sarais Crawshaw (http://www.saraiscrawshawart.com) is an award winning wildlife and countryside artist who has been fascinated by wildlife and wild places since childhood. She aims to depict the observed characters and lives of animals in her highly detailed work. You may have encountered



her work as magazine illustrations (BBC Wildlife) or even seen it in advertising for Derwent Pencils!

During lockdown, Sarais developed her paper cut work to an even greater level of complexity. She uses a variety of materials and says 'I find the planning for and then use of mixedmedia and paper

cut/sculpture in my work endlessly fascinating, I keep finding new ways of doing things'.

During her demonstration in the pop up on Friday 17th (10.30-12.30) Sarais will show how she makes intricate cuts in paper with her scalpel. She will also show how she colours her paper to create textures, and can manipulate flat paper to become 3D.

Jenny Ball (Instagram @ditherellasworkshop) sees inspiration everywhere, especially in natural forms and textures. Recently, when getting outdoors and noticing nature in lockdown times she has become more aware of the natural world in her garden and the local Caldecott Park. As she says: 'Nature has myriad forms and changes, so there's always something new to observe and be inspired by. I pick up leaves, seed pods, twigs - all sorts of things.'

Jenny is very pragmatic about her tools. As a maker 'if I haven't got the tool I need I make them forming blocks from wood offcuts and punches from old nails'. Jenny sells her work online and also locally at Fosse House Gallery at Dunchurch and in Hatty Bakewell's – which brings her designs full circle



from the inspiration to display of the final object in the cafe in Caldecott Park.

Some of the tools Jenny uses are modern but based on centuries old technologies. She will bring an hand-operated bow drill to demonstrate with in the pop up on Friday 16th December (10.30-12.30) and hopes to encourage people to try it for themselves.

Jessica Hartshorn (Instagram: @jessi.illustrates) is an illustrator who uses fun and colour to make people smile and bring characters to life. You may have seen some of her work at The British Motor Museum and at Compton Verney. She also works with museums and delivers art classes in a range of venues, e.g. as part of Rugby School's Festival in the Close. One of her latest projects was completion of the 2021 winter mural at Midlands Arts Centre Birmingham (pictured), an annual commission she has undertaken since 2018.



Her work is sketched, and then painted using layers of colour and finally adding details. You can find out more about her activity at www.jessicahartshorn.com Locally she sells work at The Nest.

As part of her demonstration on Friday 17th December (1.30-3.30pm) Jess will be working on paintings for her second book and also talking through the self publishing process of her recently published work 'Super Panda'. So come and see how Jess makes her artwork and then transforms it into works or books – she is a brilliant communicator.