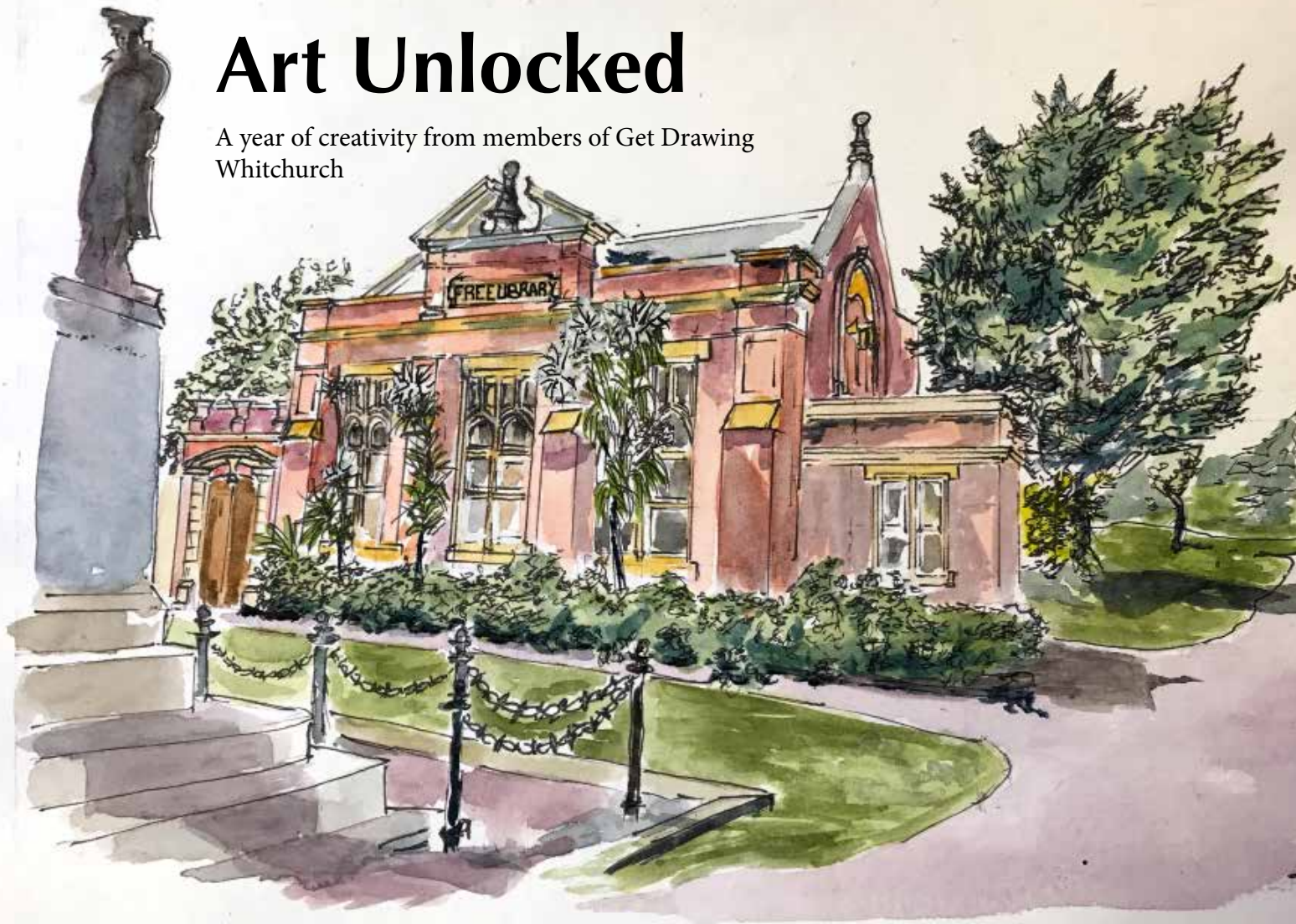


# Art Unlocked

A year of creativity from members of Get Drawing  
Whitchurch



***This book is dedicated to Joy O'Connell***

Cover artwork by John Paxton

## **Art in Cardiff, November 2020**

Their mess is full of twigs and leaves,  
wax and saturation, indigo and ink.  
They talk of clay and caves, sponge  
brushes, lines and drips, the shadow  
cast by a tree, the power  
of negative space.

My own mess simmers in the mind  
for weeks: bubbles of ideas  
obscured by thought, until I reach in  
to stir it up, pour it out and shape it  
into words while it's still wet,  
then wait for it to set.

Together, we mix the mess –  
a splodge of paint, a drop of metaphor,  
a scratch, a verb, a splash of red,  
framed by the edge of the screen,  
framed by the edge of our city,  
framed by what we have said.

*Rachel Carney*

# Introduction

## **A year of creativity by members of Get Drawing Whitchurch**

Get Drawing Whitchurch is a visual arts group in Cardiff, which was established in late 2019 by Creative Lives (formerly Voluntary Arts), and supported by Whitchurch Library and [awen@thelibrary](mailto:awen@thelibrary). From its inception, the group met weekly: first in Whitchurch Library and subsequently in Whitchurch Methodist Church when the library was being refurbished.

Starting in March 2020, when the first lockdown of the COVID-19 pandemic was announced, the group continued to meet weekly by moving its activities online. During this initial period of disruption and uncertainty, many people turned to or rediscovered the value of creative activity. It became clear that during the most difficult times, creative activity is vitally important as a coping mechanism, a way of retaining a sense of normality and maintaining a degree of connection with others in the community.

The weekly sessions involved discussing each others' artwork, agreeing a theme for the subsequent week and sharing cultural recommendations. The group also developed new creative initiatives specifically to help connect people during lockdown, such as 'Postcards from Home', an art exchange where members all created artworks and posted them to each other.

In the year since March 2020, the group has created over 1,000 pieces of art. This booklet represents a curated selection of some of that work, and is a testament to the importance of participation in regular creative activity during these troubling times.

We hope that it proves to be an inspiration for you.

## Jane Aggleton

Prior to attending the first drawing group in Whitchurch Library I had no artistic skills other than stick figures to illustrate my yoga lesson plans. I had a desire to take up watercolours in my retirement and that coincided with the formation of Get Drawing Whitchurch. Realising that I really had no idea what I was doing but enjoying it all the same, I enrolled in Drawing Classes for 2 terms and subsequently Watercolour Classes which I have attended for 3 terms.

The drawing group has been a great asset during the year of lockdown; meeting weekly with wonderfully supportive people via Zoom, sharing different approaches and techniques, and pushing myself with the different themes suggested. I am delighted to have discovered a creativity that I had no idea existed within me.



Working from Home, pencil, October 2020



Cup and Saucer, pencil, January 2021



Old Blue Door, pen and watercolour, July 2020

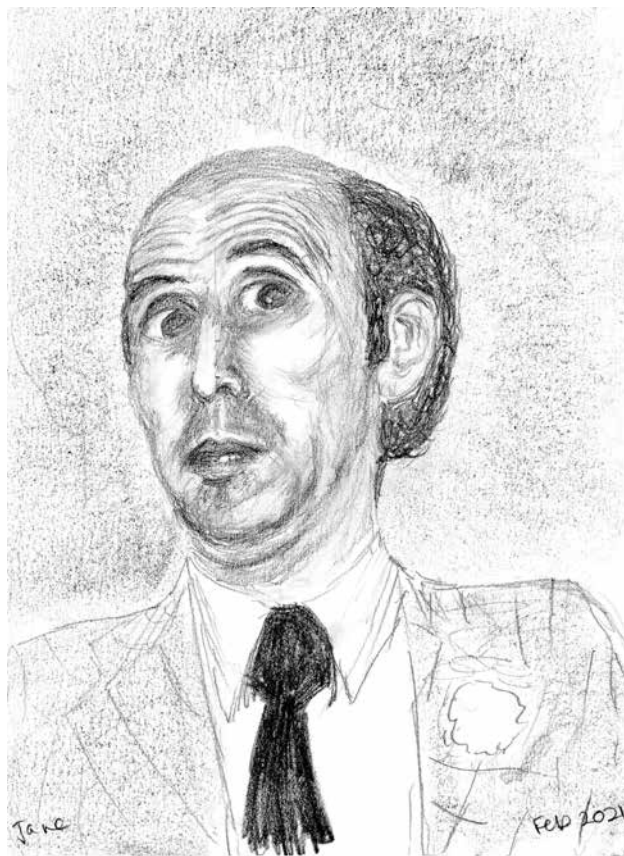




My Hands, pencil, November 2020



Garden Pond in Spring, pencil, May 2020



Father of the Bride Speech, pencil and graphite, February 2021

## Liz Brown

Having retired from working as a secondary school teacher fairly recently, I have found myself with more time to explore new interests and have always wanted to try my hand at some drawing and painting. When I noticed that the local library was starting a 'Get Drawing' group, I was keen to join and have found it a very supportive environment in which to work. I have really enjoyed experimenting with different mediums and challenging myself to try new things. The way it is structured with its weekly meetings, regular assignments, background reading to focus on, excellent guidance from Gareth and shared discussion of each other's art has worked really well to inspire and motivate me, and there is always freedom to explore other ideas too. During this particularly challenging year, the group has been invaluable and I think we are all very appreciative of the interest and support it has provided.



Shadow, pencil, March 2021



Garden perspective, pencil, May 2020



Traditional Japanese Boats, watercolour and black ink, June 2020





After the Storm, acrylics, ground salt and pepper, dried rosemary, March 2021

## Ceri Capel

I want to say that this class has been so inspiring and reminded me that I can get happily lost in creating pictures. I have experimented and learned about different ways of making marks.

I have happily done homework and felt motivated to do more and more!

The class has been therapeutic and I always feel it is time well spent, thinking about the next piece of art work and working on it. Great to see different interpretations of a subject too, by others in the group.



Crowds, acrylic, November 2020





All at Sea, acrylic, plastic, bubble wrap, October 2020



Christmas Card, watercolour, December 2020



Dog in Autumn, acrylic & felt pens, November 2020





Family Ties, pastel, January 2021



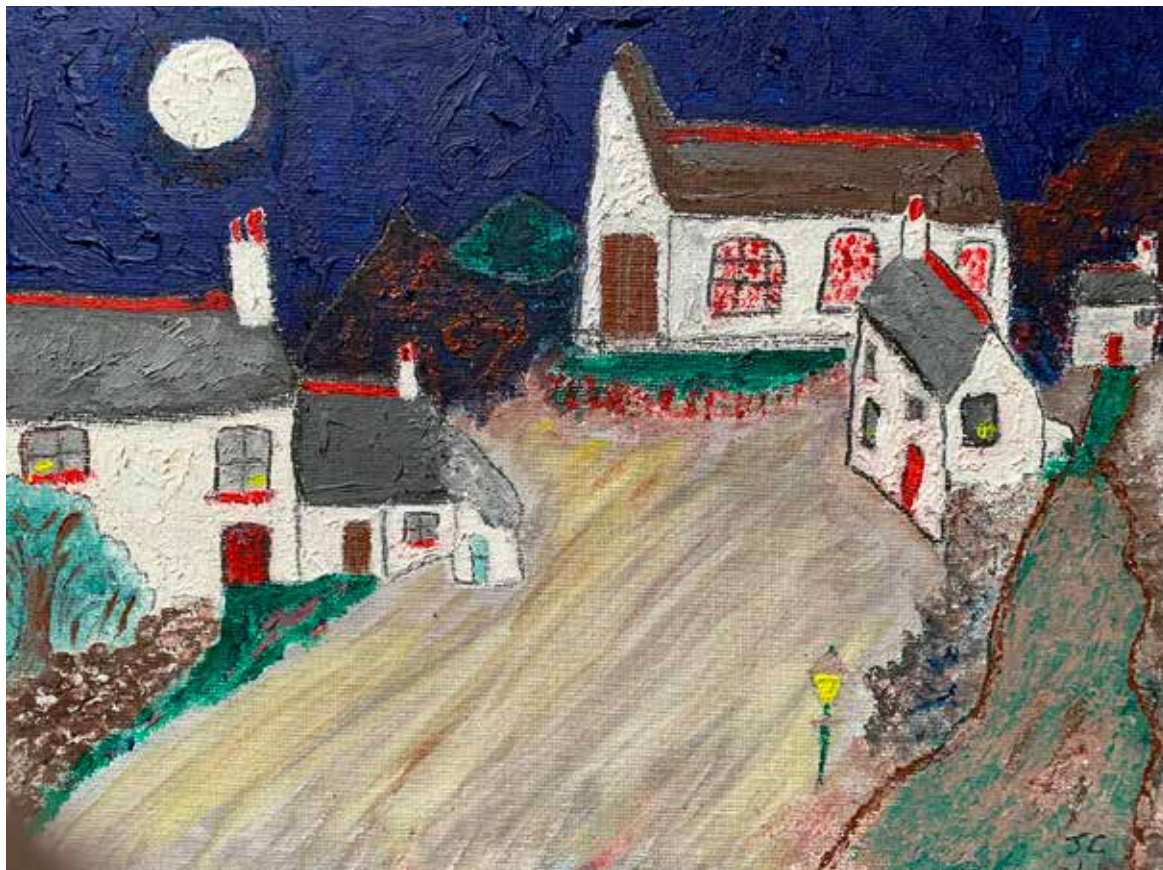
Daffodil Days, acrylic, March 2020

## John Charalambous

My name is John Charalambous, married to Aine. I am retired after having three most interesting and completely different careers in Electrical Engineering, Photography and finally Financial Services. I joined the art group in January 2020 with some trepidation as I had never drawn or painted anything in my life, it turned out to be a very good move and more so with lockdown, in that during some difficult times of missing family and all else that went with it the weekly Zoom meetings acted as a window to a welcoming outside world and something to look forward to. As for the works that I have produced they come nowhere near to the standards and skills of my fellow artists but that does not really put me off as I have enjoyed so much the learning of a new skill and of what I have produced.

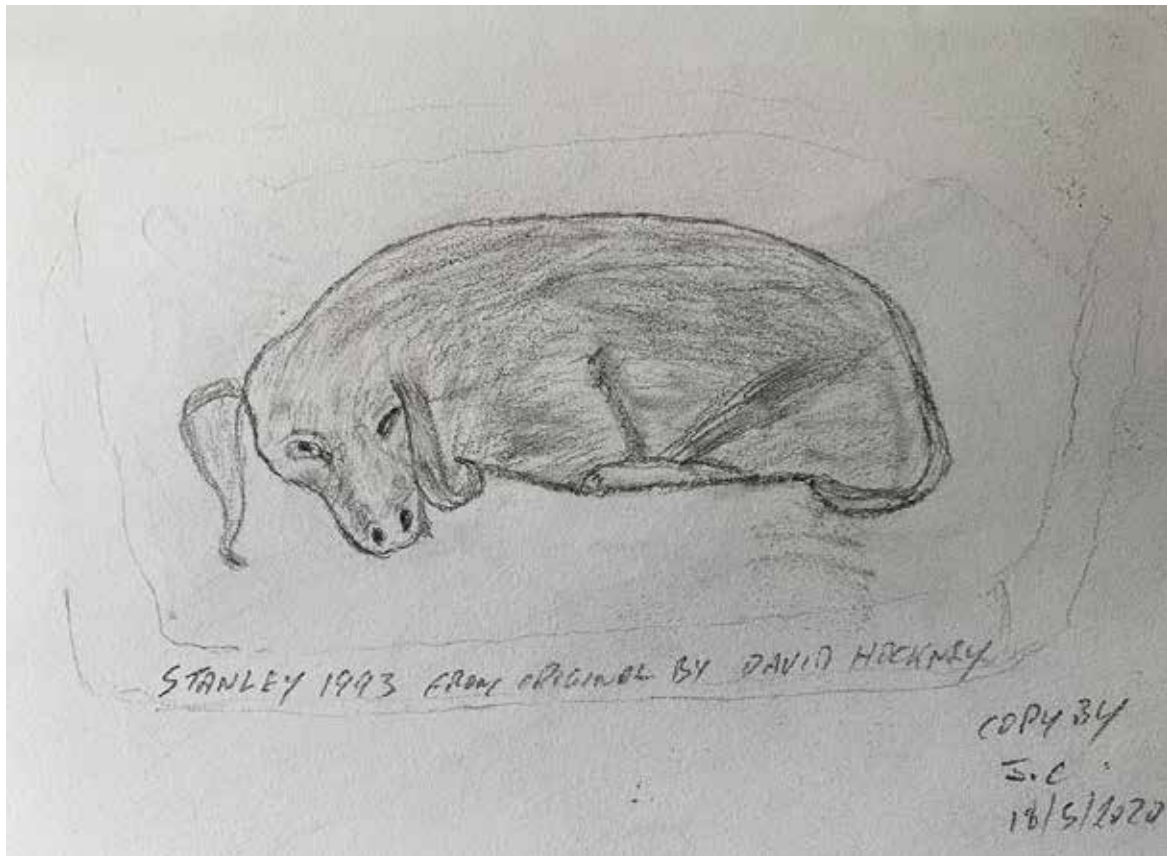


Self portrait, watercolour, September 2020



A Night Scene, oil on canvas board, 2020





After David Hockney, pencil, May 2020

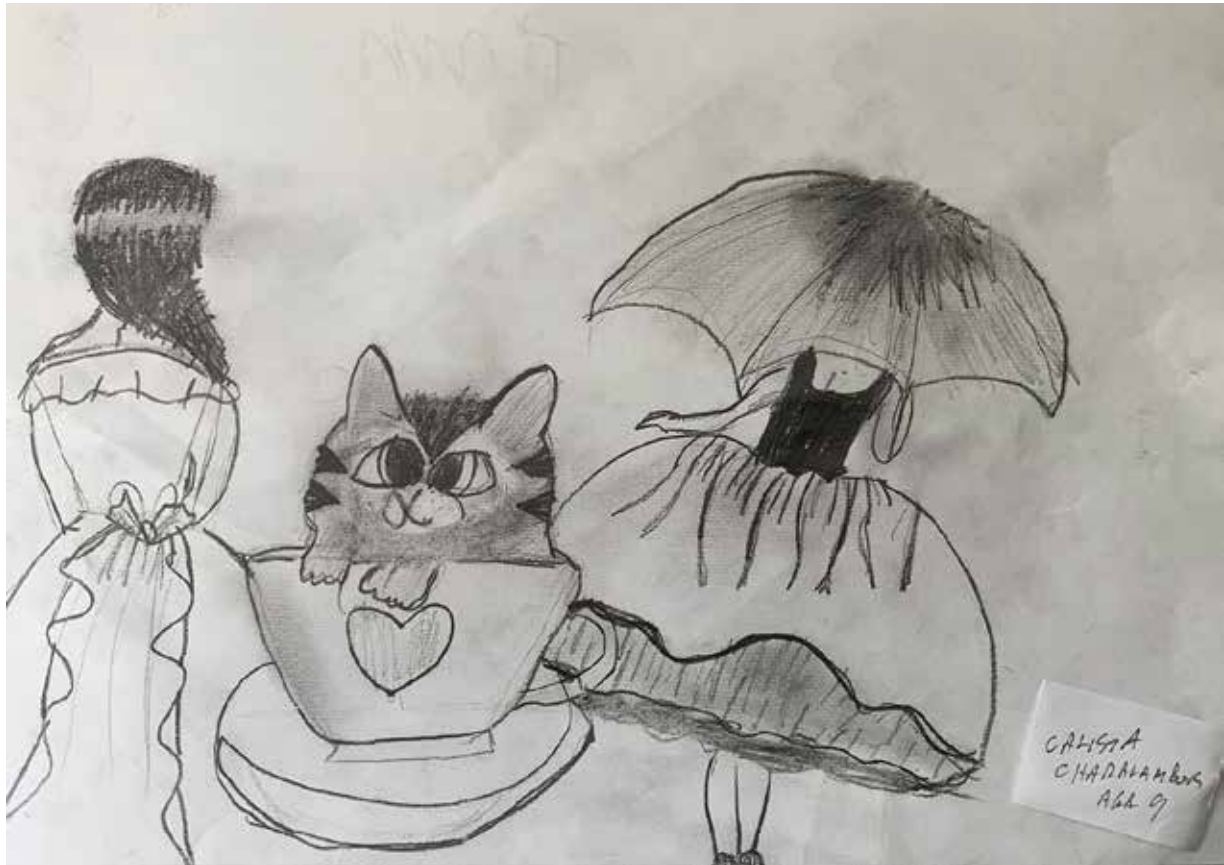




Watercolour, September 2020



A composition of previous works by Calista & John Charalambous, mixed media, 2021



A Pencil Sketch by Calista Charalambous, 2020

## Pamela Downes

Apart from the anatomical drawing necessary for Nursing Training and drawing with children and grandchildren, I never had the time or inclination to draw. A bad bout of 'flu, several years ago left me idle so I took up pencil and paper and started doodling.

Joining Get Drawing has encouraged me to have a go, moving from pencil to watercolour and other mediums. Having different themes and goals every week has expanded my knowledge and hopefully, skills.

The weekly Zoom meetings have been a blessing during lockdown being both motivating and fun.



Pine and Chrysanthemums (after Chen Shu), pen, June 2020



Reflections (after Claude Monet), watercolour, April 2021





L.S. LOWRY 1887-1976.  
'A VILLAGE SQUARE 1963'  
FIGURES WEEK.  
PM NOV 2020  
WATERCOLOUR  
FINE PEN

A Village Square (after L.S. Lowry), watercolour and pen, November 2020



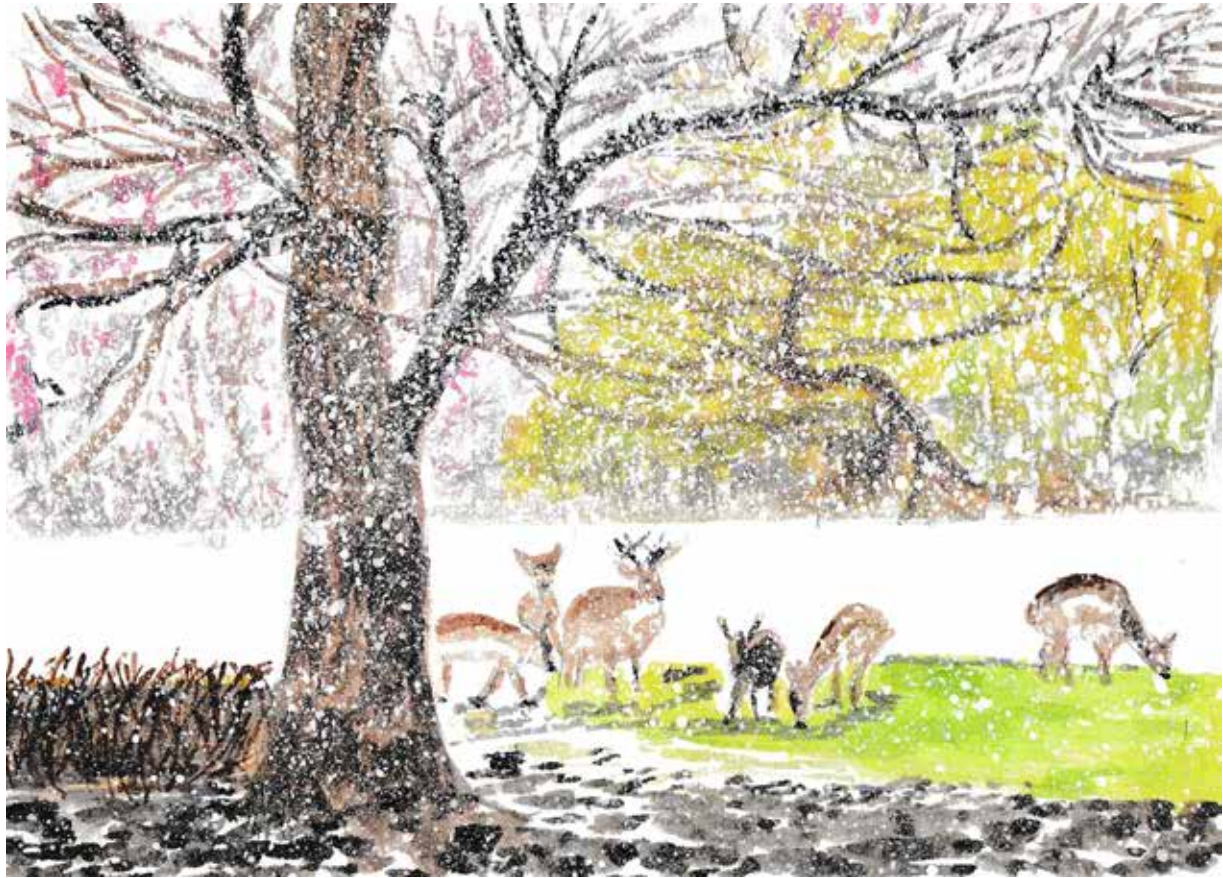
Box  
Foliage  
Fast Demand of  
looking for the best  
Green  
Pencil  
March 2020

Foliage, pencil, March 2020



Views of Edo (after Hiroshige), watercolour and pen, June 2020





Winter Scene (after Nesrin Mossop), watercolour, December 2020

## Judith Evans

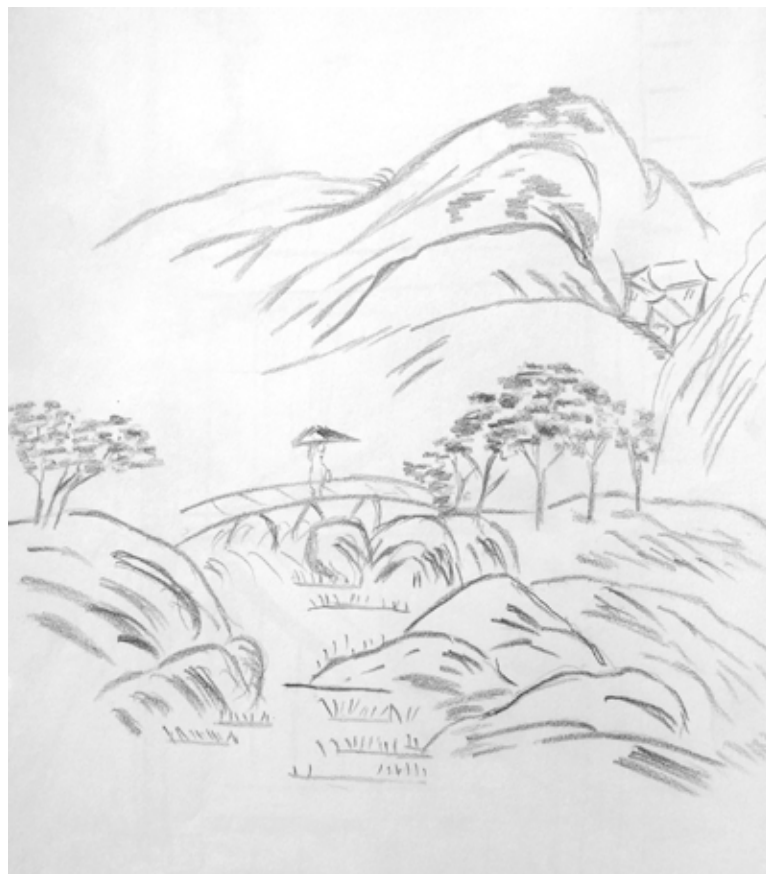
As a child I loved drawing but after a not great result in O level Art, I stopped. I blame a teacher whose frequent refrain was 'Surely you know how to.....!' Work first as a teacher and then a social worker and then becoming an adoptive parent took up all of my time, so retirement was a chance to try something new.

I joined the Get Drawing group when it began because I wanted to help this library initiative and thought I would be useful setting up tables etc. I soon found that the group was friendly and uncritical and my efforts at drawing were not too terrible and I enjoyed the sessions very much. The zoom meetings during lock down were supportive and interesting and other people's work has provided many good ideas.

I think I am beginning to observe more carefully and to examine other's work in more detail. I lack skill but I don't mind that because the activity is absorbing and the group is so encouraging. I think over time I might improve.



Locked In, pencil, May 2020



From Chinese Line Drawing, pencil, June 2020



View from the window, pencil, April 2020



After Rembrandt, pencil, February 2021

## Michael Hack

My background is very much science based and my working life was in the healthcare industry.

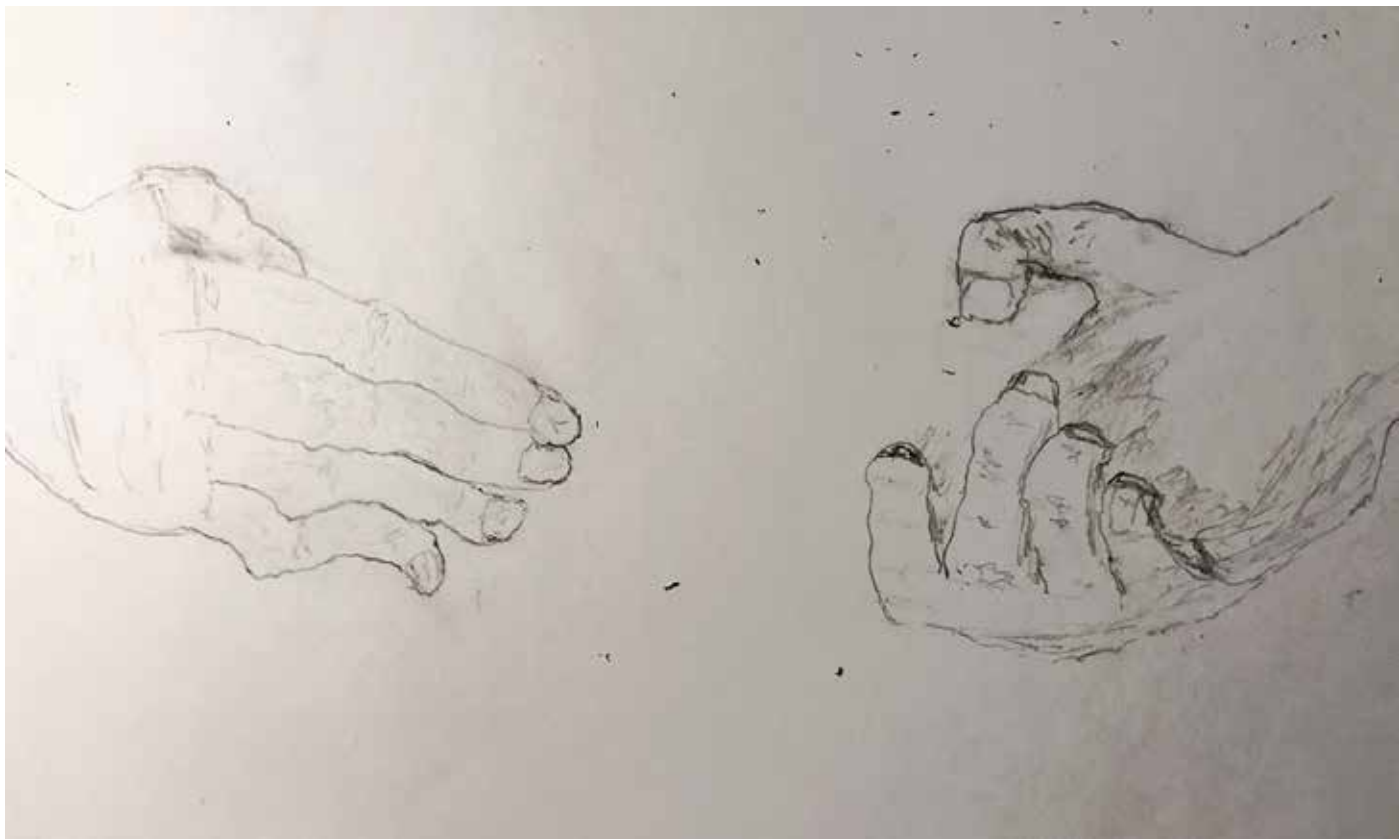
Joining the Get Drawing group towards the end of 2019, has taken me on a journey of creativity, exploration, and discovery. I have also developed a passion of learning more about art and the artists.

I enjoy planning each piece then experimenting with different materials and techniques. In particular, I like to see what different effects are achievable with watercolours.

I always look forward to our weekly Zoom get-togethers, where we see each other's work and exchange thoughts and ideas.



Girl with Pearl Earring (after Vermeer), charcoal, February 2021



Broken Handshake, pencil, December 2020





Galleon in the Mist, watercolour, March 2021





Movement, watercolour, January 2021



Observing social distancing (after Lowry), pencil, November 2020



The beach, watercolour, March 2021

## Mike Moorhead

The creation of Get Drawing Whitchurch has offered me the opportunity to re-discover my interest in art and my love of drawing.

I left Manchester School of Art and Design in 1972 with a HDipAD (Hons) Post Graduate degree in Graphic Design where I specialised in Packaging Design. I spent the subsequent 46 years pursuing a successful and hugely enjoyable career in Design Management within the UK Packaging Industry, providing Award Winning packaging solutions to numerous 'Blue Chip' clients.

Now retired I have thoroughly enjoyed being part of the group, meeting new people and discovering new art genres, materials and techniques.

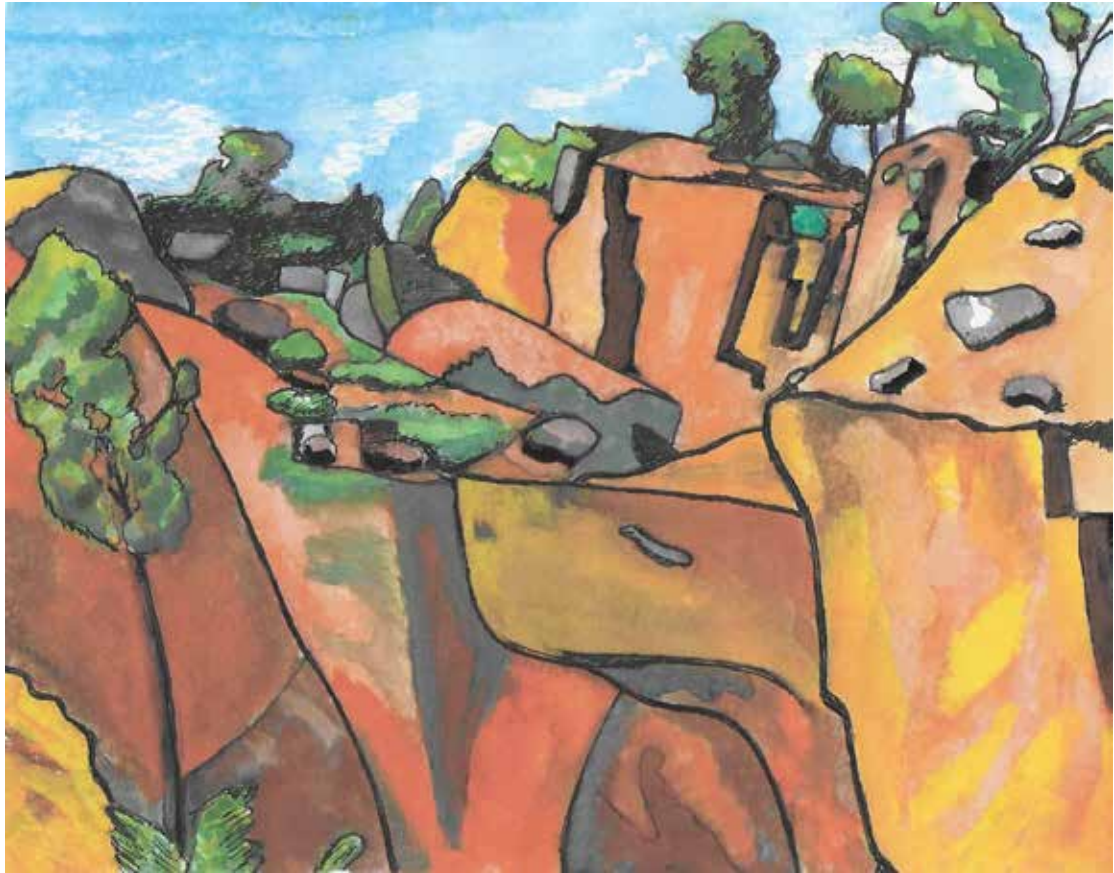


Benten Shrine (after Hiroshi Yoshida), ink, watercolour & crayon, June 2020



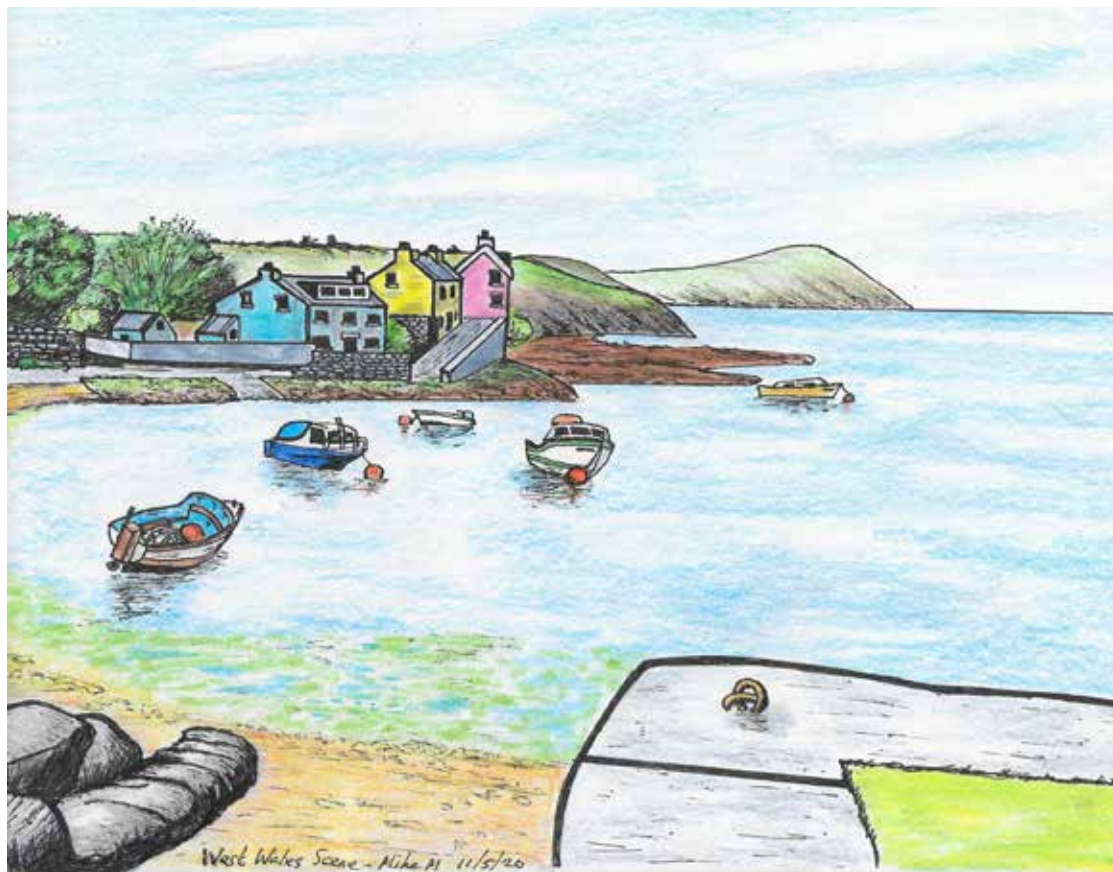
Welsh Country Scene (after Sir Kyffin Williams), charcoal & pencil, February 2021





Landscape (after Paul Cezanne), watercolour, July 2020





West Wales Scene, pen & watercolour crayons, May 2020



Big Sun (after Vincent Van Gogh), pen and ink, May 2020



Rural Scene, twig, ink and wash with salt, August 2020

## John Moseley

I've loved drawing and painting since I was a child and many years ago I passed my GCE Art O Level. After that I dabbled occasionally with drawing and some oil painting and I attended a Life Drawing class for a while. As with many people life became busier and the art dwindled.

When I heard about the "Get Drawing" workshop I thought here was an opportunity to start afresh. Since the Lockdown the drawing classes have evolved into both drawing and painting at home and weekly Zoom meetings to discuss each other's work. It's been a fascinating adventure and a chance to meet a great group of people with a similar interest.



Spinalonga, watercolour, September 2020





A Pembrokeshire Cottage, pen and watercolour, January 2021



A Windy Day, watercolour, January 2021





Silver Birches, watercolour, February 2021





Winter Trees, watercolour, December 2020

## Tina Moseley

I've always enjoyed drawing and painting, but it's only since I retired a couple of years ago that I've had the time to return to it.

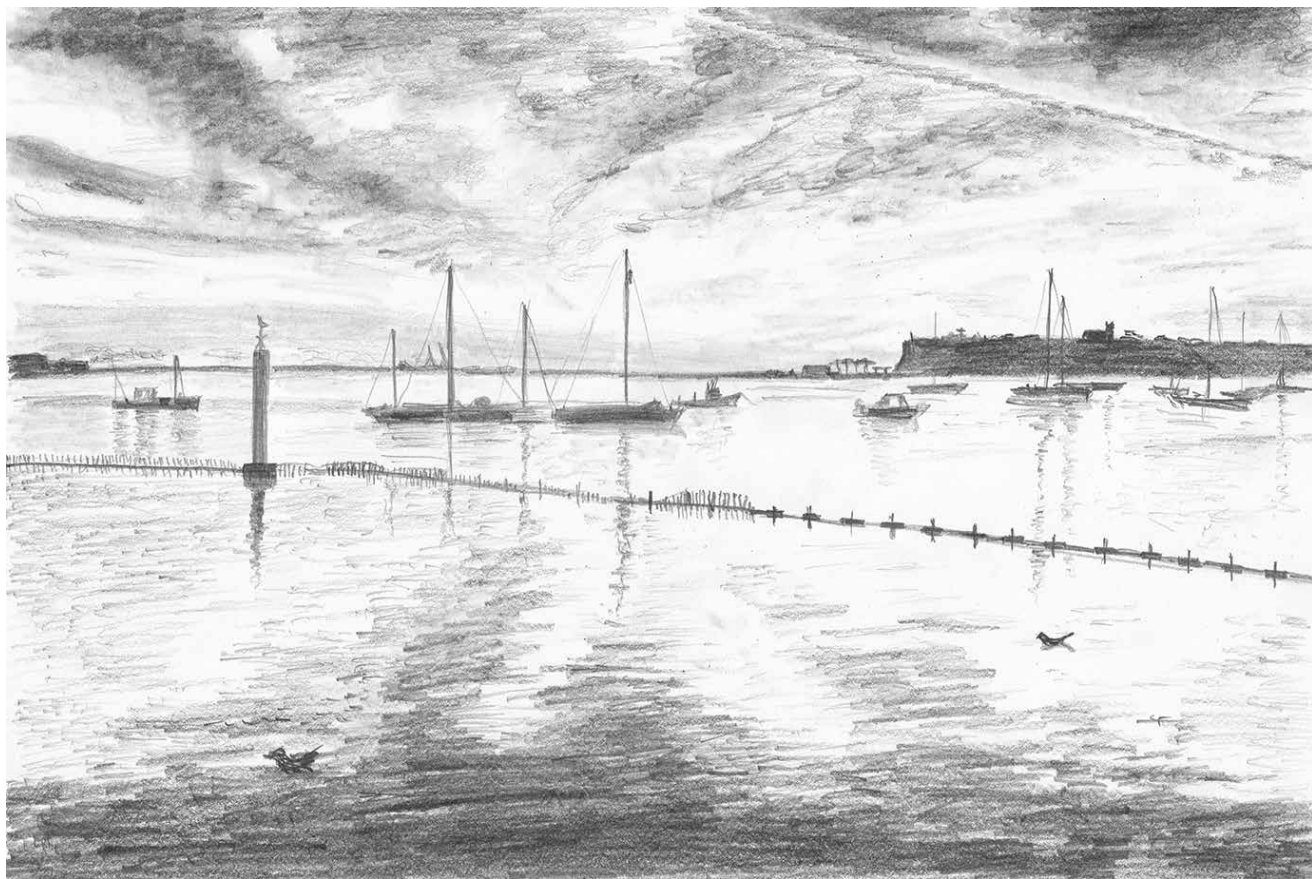
The Whitchurch Drawing Group has been a great way to share this interest with other enthusiasts, especially during the last year when we have been able to stay in contact via Zoom.

However, I'll be really glad when we can all meet in person again!



Castell Coch, Indian ink, August 2020





Cardiff Bay, pencil, May 2020



Tina  
10.01.21

Colgate toothpaste tube, watercolour & gouache, January 2021





Still Life, Vegetables, watercolour, April 2020

After "Scroll Painting of  
Famous Chinese Artist  
Zhang Daqin"  
(1899-1983)

Zhang Daqin  
in lockdown 2020

by Tina  
14.06.20



After Zhang Daqin, Indian ink, June 2020



Tina's Turner (after J.M.W. Turner), watercolour, August 2020

## Joy O'Connell

Joining Get Drawing at my local library at the end of 2019 rekindled a love of drawing. My background had been in social care and then an administrator in the NHS, coupled with bringing up a family there never seemed to be the time for sketching.

Though I always had an interest in being creative I channelled my creativity into photography and studied part time for a degree in photography which I gained in 2006.

Now life has taken a slower pace and though it has been a challenging year, it has brought time to get back to the creative process. Meeting weekly on Zoom with the group, sharing ideas, setting a theme and exploring various materials and concepts has helped me keep both motivated and inspired.



Anthurium, acrylic, August 2020



iPad drawings, May 2020





Louise in the Kitchen, acrylic, October 2020





Granddaughter, pencil, February 2021



Storm over the sea, pastel, August 2020



Still life, acrylic, July 2020

## Anne Marie Penny

Following an active career in the health service and with a busy family life, I am now prioritising some time for myself. Although inexperienced in art I have always wanted to draw but felt I lacked the skill.

This group has allowed me to explore and develop my creativity and has given me a far greater appreciation of art. It's been a boom during lockdown!



Portrait of a Great Aunt, pencil, February 2021



After L.S. Lowry, pencil, November 2020





Movement: A Dog on a Leash (after Giacomo Balla), pencil and pastel, January 2021



The Cardplayer (after Paul Cezanne), watercolour, July 2020



Winter, watercolour, December 2020

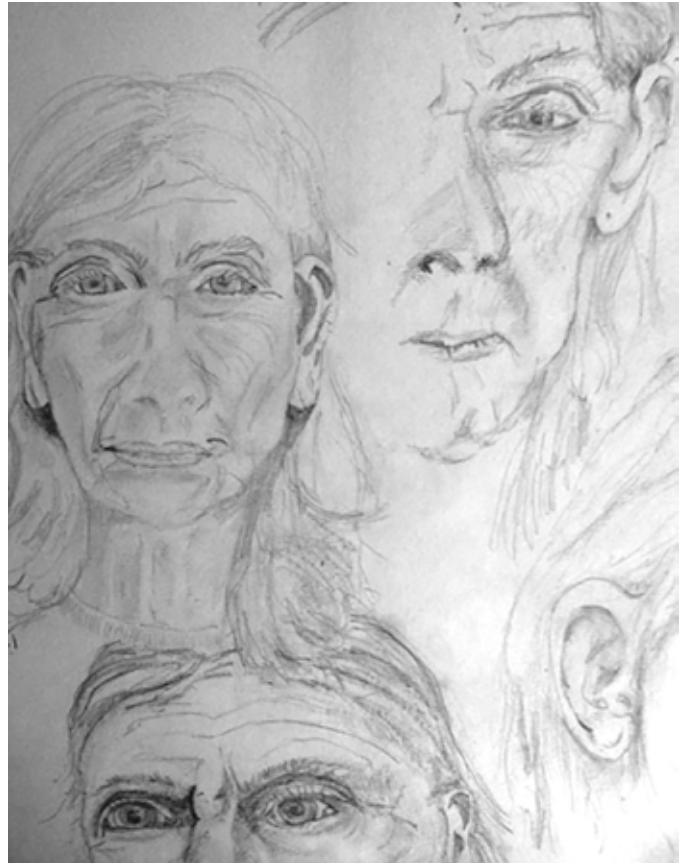


Looking Forward, January 2021

## Wendy Paxton

As a child, my sister was considered the “arty one” and I was always out of doors, a “sporty one”. So we are categorised from our first years!

As age crept on, starting art at first kept me in the air with holiday landscapes. Get Drawing Whitchurch has given me so many different experiences. Pencil work, life drawing, the discipline of weekly topics and attempts at my art, not just copying others.



Heads, pencil, January 2021





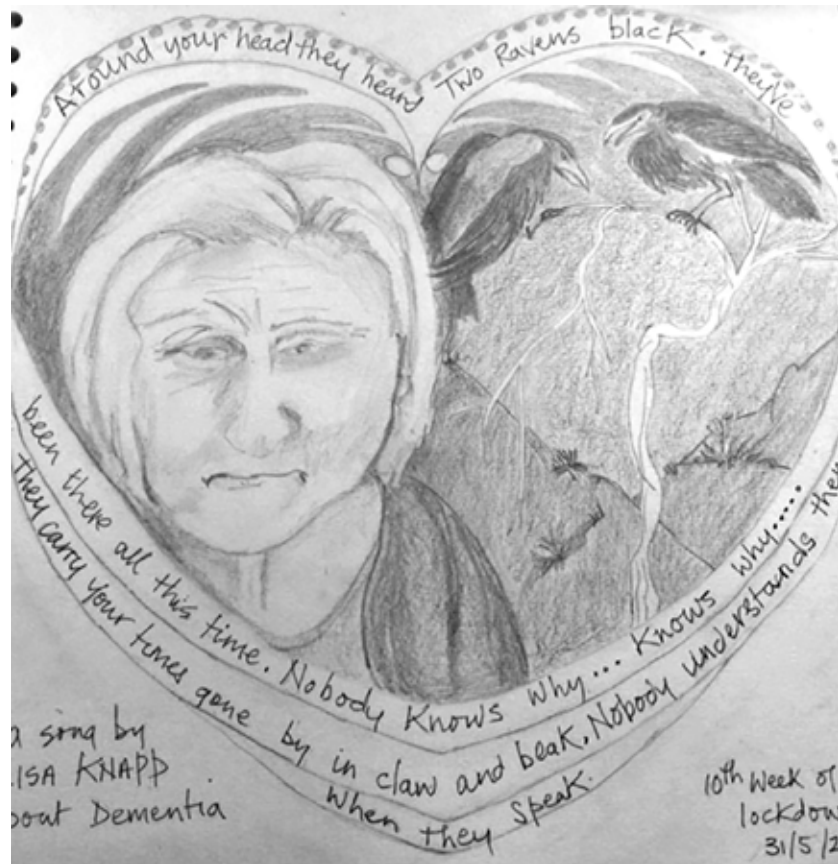
Head, pencil, January 2021



Boats (after John Singer Sargent), watercolour, July 2020



Boats (after John Singer Sargent), watercolour, July 2020



Elsie, Dementia and the 3 Ravens Song by Lisa Knapp, pencil, May 2020



36 Views of a Coronavirus Walk, no. 3, watercolour, June 2020



## Jan Rogers

I joined Get Drawing in late 2019, hoping to gain confidence in my drawing and painting after a very long break since Art O Level. For decades I had drawn only geographical diagrams and field sketches in my role as a teacher.

I am particularly interested in the media of pen and watercolour but experimenting with other techniques, outside my comfort zone, has been interesting and satisfying. I like to create pieces based on images and memories from my travels, for example based on the light and colours of Africa or coastal landscapes nearer home.

Lockdown has been made much more bearable with the structure provided by our weekly art assignment and online meeting. The creative activity has been challenging but also relaxing. I have really enjoyed seeing the work of my fellow artists. Their creativity has been inspiring, their encouragement and suggestions much appreciated.



Penarth Pier, pen & watercolour, June 2020



A Window on Singapore, pen & watercolour, October 2020



The Hearth, pen & coloured pencil, April 2020



Autumn Leaves, watercolour using foam bud, November 2020





Flame Grass, Botswana, watercolour & collage, October 2020





Okavango Delta, Botswana, watercolour, April 2021

## Mike Walsh

I retired from a legal career in 2019.  
I joined the Get Drawing group in  
November of that year.

I hadn't done any drawing/ painting  
since school and have learnt a lot about  
different techniques and styles.

During lockdown this rekindled interest  
has really helped me, particularly as my  
other main artistic endeavour - singing  
tenor in a couple of choirs - is precluded  
for the time being.



Bare Tree, pen, August 2020



Winter Storm, ink, November 2020





Sea / Sky / Beachscape (after James Dickson Innes), watercolour, March 2021



Snowdonia, watercolour, February 2021



# Creative Lives

Creative Lives is a registered charity established in 1991, that champions community and volunteer-led creative activity. We work to improve opportunities for everyone to be creative and, in particular, celebrate and promote people expressing themselves creatively with others, recognising the benefits this brings to both individuals and communities.

[www.creative-lives.org](http://www.creative-lives.org)

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