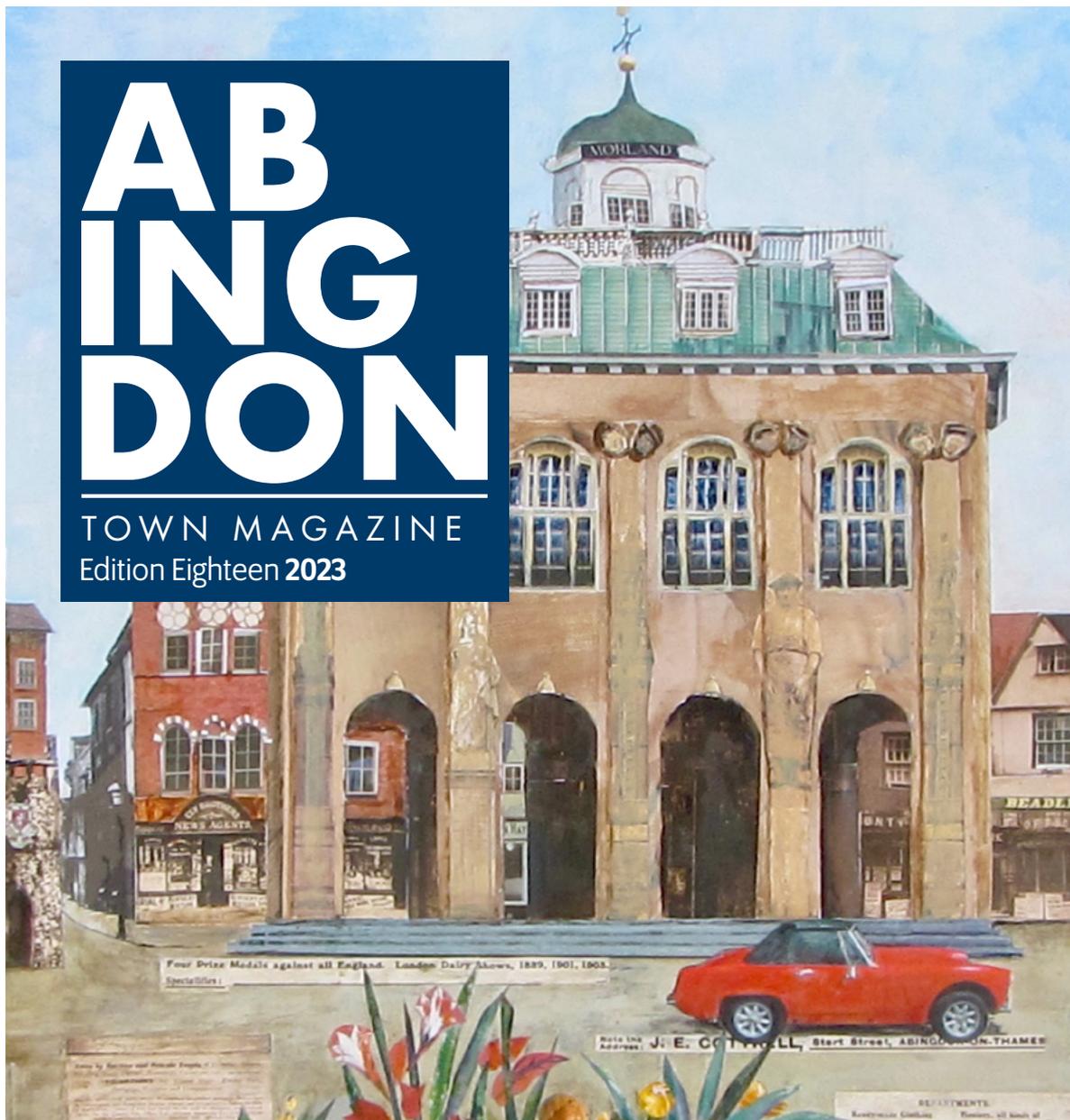


ABINGDON

TOWN MAGAZINE
Edition Eighteen 2023



Oxfordshire Artweeks • Music and Theatre • ATOM • Abingdon Parkrun

SHOP • EAT • PLAY



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Front cover

Artwork by Margaret Horton
(Artweeks venue 20)
artweeks.org/p/margaret-horton

 @AbingdonTownMag
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 @town_abingdon

Welcome

Welcome to edition eighteen of the Abingdon Town Magazine, your complete guide to local events, art, music, theatre, literature and more.

The cold months seem to be lasting forever, and while Spring is on the horizon, you might feel disinclined to leave the warmth of your home, but hopefully we can help. This edition is packed with great things to do this season, from local excellence markets and Abingdon's Festival of Science and Technology, to beer festivals and air shows. Flick to page 9 to see what's on. Artweeks – the UK's oldest and biggest open studios and pop-up exhibition event – is on its way. During this festival, you'll find artists, designers and makers showcasing extraordinary talent, explaining their materials and, often, demonstrating their methods. Within the next few pages, you can find seven local hotspots near you to help you start planning your experience.

Elsewhere, we've also got some great fitness inspiration for you this issue. Winter is that time of year where motivation to exercise can be hard to find, you may have been thinking about joining a gym or taking up a new form of regular exercise but are not sure where to begin and do not have the finances to spend on club membership. There is, however, a wonderful group of people in Abingdon who each week volunteer and take part in the free 5k community Parkrun event. If this interests you, more information can be found on page 54.

Also within this issue, Michelle Heather introduces some great charities and organisations that you can get involved in, including Pennyhooks Farm Trust, A Beacon of Hope for People with Autism. There are regular fundraising events held at Pennyhooks Farm during the year including Open Days, Plant Sales, Christmas Fayres, and special concerts. Flick to page 79 to learn about this organisation and how to show your support.

Amongst all this and more updates from around the town, we've got delicious recipes, vintage shopping hot spots, local music from Tom Hingley and Gordon MacKay and loads more. We hope you enjoy this bursting edition of your local magazine. If you have any stories or updates you'd like us to cover in the next issue, please feel free to get in touch with eloise@fyne.co.uk – we'd love to hear from you.

Eloise Lonsdale

CIM

MARKETING
EXCELLENCE
AWARDS 2018



FINALIST
INNOVATION – NEW PRODUCT/SERVICE – SME

29 April

Local Excellence Market

The Local Excellence Market features a wide variety of local food producers & craftworkers. The Market gives the opportunity to shop local, with all products being produced within 30 miles of Abingdon (where possible).

Abingdon Market Place

abingdoneventspartnership.co.uk/markets



29 April

Clothes Swap

Time to tidy out your wardrobe again! A Spring and Summer theme this time. Find two-five items that you no longer wear, exchange them for your tokens and see if you can find some great swaps! All items must be in good condition and freshly laundered. Please bring on hangers if possible.

Fitzharrys School, Abingdon

abingdon.gov.uk/event/giant-jumble-sale



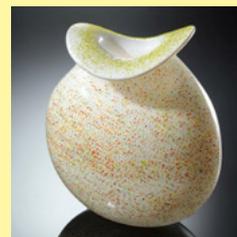
6-29 May

A Festival Fit for a King: Oxfordshire Artweeks 2023

During the 41st instalment of UK's oldest and biggest open studios and pop-up exhibition event, as many as 2000 artists, ceramicists, sculptors, jewellers, furniture-makers, milliners and more than 200 new exhibitors will be presenting over 500 shows at nearly 400 different locations. They will be showcasing their creative talent, explaining their materials and, often, demonstrating their methods. Visitors will be able to see, touch and talk about hundreds of thousands of pieces of art and craft and uncover the stories of their inspiration. The art on show both celebrates iconic Oxford views and local landscapes and promises a global journey through the eyes of local artists who have been influenced by people and places around the world and the colours, fabrics, and styles of exotic destinations. Explore a five-acre sculpture park in the Cotswolds and take an art trail through the towns of Woodstock, Watlington and Wallingford, or tour America on a motorbike, go on safari in Tanzania, and be enchanted by Rajasthan.

Various Venues across Oxfordshire

Artweeks.org



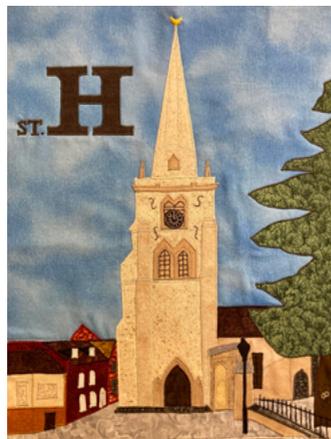
Artweeks in Abingdon

Your Local Venue Guide



Abingdon Quilters (Artweeks venue 19)

Quilted art by 20 artists from three quilting groups in Abingdon. Abingdon County Museum
Market Place OX14 3HG
Open 6-14, 16-21 and 23-29 May
(10am-4pm)



Abbey Group (Artweeks venue 20)

Inspired paintings, vibrant glass art and beautiful stoneware by talented local artists.

St Nicolas Church
Market Place OX14 3JD
Open 7-13 May
(10am-5pm; Sun 2pm-5pm)



New venue for 2023 - Oxon Artmakers (Artweeks venue 21)

A group of artists expressing their feelings on paper and canvas to make inspiring art.

The Abbey Cinema
Abbey Close OX14 3LD
Open 6-11 May (10am-9pm)

New venue for 2023 - Makespace Oxford (Artweeks venue 22)

Visual arts and crafts from residents of spaces reanimated by Makespace Oxford.

The Charter Studios
The Charter, 3rd Floor
Broad Street OX14 3LZ
Open 8-10 May (10am-2pm)



Caroline Harben (Artweeks venue 23)

Paintings of the local landscape capturing the changing seasons and their charms.

St Ethelwold's House
30 East St Helen's Street OX14 5EB
Open 11-14 May (11am-4pm)



New artist for 2023 - Emma Williams (Artweeks venue 24)

Colourful semi-abstracted images of country and coast made from cyanotypes, painting and printmaking.

The River Room, St Ethelwold's House
30 East St Helen Street OX14 5EB
Open 11-14 May (11am-5pm)



New venue for 2023 - Oxfordshire Chinese Brush Painting Group (Artweeks venue 25)

Painting. A celebration of Chinese Brush Painting in all its styles, on paper and on silk. Also open 15-20, 22-27 and 29 May.

35 Ock Street, Abingdon, OX14 5AG
01235 530080

cbpoxon.home.blog
10.30am-2pm (Sat 10.30-12.30pm)
6 8-13 May



New venue for 2023 - Fi Cooper
(Artweeks venue 14)

Ceramics with designs influenced by the natural world.

5 Cameron Avenue OX14 3SR
Open 6-7 10-14 May (11am-6pm; Wed 2-6pm/Thu 2-7.30pm)

Peach Croft Farm Artists
(Artweeks venue 15)

Lively new art in a beautiful old barn. Sculpture, paintings, ceramics, textiles, including paintings by Paul Minter and the Six Great Jewellers. Daily demos at 2pm.

Peach Croft Farm
Twelve Acre Drive OX142HP
Open 6-14 May (10am-5pm)



Dominique Walravens
(Artweeks venue 17)

A mixed media artist and illustrator with influences from nature to fantasy and everything in-between.

24 Welford Gardens OX14 2BW
Open 6-14 May (10am-5pm)



New faces for 2023 - Jan Morter and Julie Edge *(Artweeks venue 18)*

Jan's stoneware ceramic vessels for every day and special occasions and Julie's mixed media art inspired by landscapes and plants.

27 St John's Road OX14 2HA
Open 7-14 May (11am-6pm)



Oxford Wood Recycling
(Artweeks venue 26)

Reduce, Reuse, Repair. What does this phrase mean? Oxford Wood Recycling asked local schools who have interpreted it through art.

Oxford Wood Recycling
4 Suffolk Way OX14 5JX
Open 6 8-13, 15-20, 22-27, and 29 May
9.30am-4.30pm (Sat 9-3pm)



In the surrounding villages

Lower Radley: Printmakers Lizzie and Susan Wheeler
(Artweeks venues 11 and 12)

Linoprints, collagraphs, monoprints, and etchings based on animals and the natural world, about the landscape and the plants and creatures that share it with us.

115 Lower Radley OX14 3BA
Open 6-14 May (11am-6pm)





Radley: Ceramicists Dylan Bowen and Elizabeth Newbery (Artweeks venue 13)

An exhibition Slipware: Sources of Inspiration.

Radley College OX14 2HR

Open 6, 9, 11 and 13 May (1pm-5pm) or by appt

Culham: ceramicist Charlotte Storrs (Artweeks venue 28)

Functional stoneware, all wheel-thrown. Pottery in beautiful secret garden close to the Thames.

The Pottery and Greenhouse gallery
8 The Green , Culham OX14 4LZ
Open 6-7 9 12-14 May (11am-6pm)



Wootton: Anna Crook and Anna Lockwood (Artweeks venue 32)

Modern bright bird paintings; hand-built textured/patterned ceramics; and a mutual love of nature.

Cockerels, 29 Wootton Village
Old Boars Hill OX1 5HP
07981 794268

Open 6-14 May (11am-6pm)



Drayton: Carolyn Hawkes and Andrea Whitehouse (Artweeks venue 29)

A wide variety of acrylic and mixed media paintings: vibrantly colourful landscapes together with abstract designs large and small.

The Gallery Upstairs
28 Lammas Land, Drayton OX14 4GG
Open 7-8 11-14 May (11am-6pm)



Culham: New for 2023, photographer Daniel Taylor

(Artweeks venue 27)

Photographic landscapes and abstracts in the 179-year-old railway station.

The Old Ticket Office, Platform 2.

Culham Station, Station Road OX14 3BT

Open 6-7 13-14 May (11am-5pm)



Dry Sandford: Elaine Newson (Artweeks venue 33)

Colourful textiles, glass, jewellery, painting, printmaking, mixed media, cards and more. Parking and teas.

Sanctuary, 32 The Field
Dry Sandford OX13 6ED
Open 7-14 May (11am-6pm)



Marcham: Pip Stacey (Artweeks venue 31)

Stunning experimental kiln formed glass art and jewellery - fused, cast, pressed, pâte de verre.

Pear Tree Cottage
7 Packhorse Lane, Marcham OX13 6NT
Open 6-7 11-14 May (12pm-5pm)



Appleton Artweeks (Artweeks venue 39)

A group of artists and makers showing pictures; ceramics; jewellery and other media in a bright and airy village hall with refreshments.

Appleton Village Hall
Oaksmead, Appleton OX13 5JS
Open 13-14 May (10.30am-5pm)



Sunningwell School of Art (Artweeks venue 30)

Celebrating 50 years of adventures in painting, pottery, drawing and sculpture (1973-2023).

Sunningwell School of Art
The Old School
Sunningwell OX13 6RD
Open 27-29 May (12pm-6pm)



In the Cumnor Cluster

Hannah Vickery (Artweeks venue 34)

Evocative semi-abstract mixed media paintings inspired by natural and literary sources.

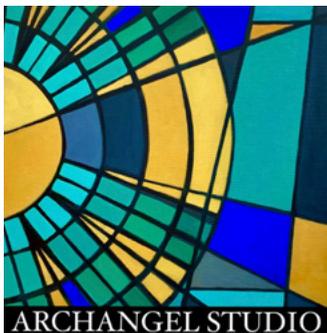
2B Hurst Lane
Cumnor OX2 9PR
Open 6-7 and 13-14 May (11am-5pm)



Annabel Jolly and Sarah Bond (Artweeks venues 35 and 36)

Colourful contemporary paintings inspired by the sun, sea and renewable energy and decorative shellwork mirrors and pictures that bring the beach to light bright airy Archangel Studio.

1 Abingdon Road
Cumnor OX2 9QN
Open 12-14 May (11am-5pm)



Ian Fraser (Artweeks venue 37)

Raku ceramics and limited-edition architectural prints of Oxford and Venice.

94 Oxford Road
Cumnor OX2 9PQ
Open 12-14 May (11am-5pm)



Judith Scott (Artweeks venue 38)

Silent Oxford: watercolour and drawn images inspired by a city in lock down plus other works in oils, inks and soft metals.

80 Appleton Road
Cumnor OX2 9QH
Open 6-7, 9-10 and 12-14 May
(10am-5pm)



An art trail in The Wittenhams

Earth Trust Gallery (Artweeks venue 77)

Nestled beneath the iconic Wittenham Clumps, connect with nature whilst admiring beautiful local ceramics, painting, stunning aerial photography of The Ridgeway and more.

Earth Trust Centre
Sires Hill OX14 4QZ
Open 6-14 May (10am-3pm)

Meet the Artist: Sue Smith



Abingdon's Sue Smith is the winner of the 2023 Artweeks Mary Moser Award, an annual award intended to help develop the career of a professional artist who has taken up art as a second career later in life. Artweeks Festival Director Esther Lafferty visited her to find out more about her art and her inspiration.

Until recently, Sue spent many years as a front-line worker helping vulnerable adults, the homeless and refugees, getting and keeping roofs over their heads and supporting people to have a voice wherever she could.

"I always cared desperately about the people I was helping and it was hard to accept that it is impossible to help everyone," says Sue. "I had begun to feel that it was beginning to unravel me around the edges. I was part of a pilot scheme supporting medical staff on best practice for working with the vulnerable and those with insecure housing during stays in hospital, and when it came to an end, I decided it was time for a change of direction. I decided to focus on drawing.

I had always doodled – in meetings for example - as I found it helped me keep my mind focused on the matters in hand and then a few years ago I began to draw at home too," she explains. "I found it was a wonderful escape and I could get completely lost in my drawings. As I put pen to paper, it was as if I was clearing my mind by transferring

deep-rooted issues around security, emotions and even frustrations into art."

Sue draws expansive energetic cityscapes primarily in pen and ink in which hundreds of houses and buildings line the streets.

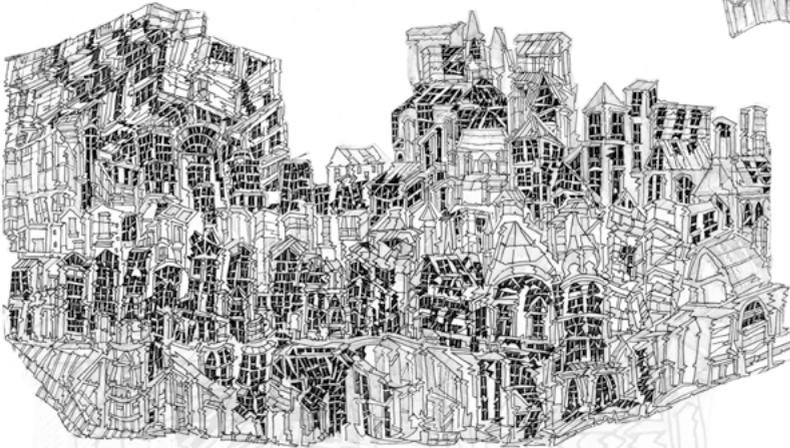
Although you can't see people in the pictures, you can sense the humanity. Each urban landscape is an impressive vista from nowhere in particular, inspired by buildings from around the world but perhaps most influenced by Middle-Eastern architecture and the places that Sue, entranced by their archaeology and history, would most love to visit.

Sue takes a non-conformist approach to perspective which pulls the viewer's eye right into the picture. "My intention is that people will stop and really look at the detail of my work," she says. "With these pieces, I want people to step



Our brains don't think in a linear way, and they can process multiple perspectives at once

My drawings are how I express my feelings about the world



away from the run-of-the-mill thinking and let their minds run amok. Our brains don't think in a linear way, and they can process multiple perspectives at once and that's what I'm trying to encourage. While drawn from real life emotions and places, for the viewer they're a distraction, a break from everyday existence. I include some blank spaces in some of my pieces as if to provide a spot in which to rest and catch your breath. It's interesting that different people see different things in each: just as in real life, not everybody sees the big picture in the same way. On top of the main theme, I also often add the occasional little touch of other things, too. I'll catch something transient and pin it down on paper: a flower, a moment of humour or intrigue from the news, or something I've seen locally. I once saw a boat half-submerged in the river in Abingdon and it stuck in my mind so I popped into one of my drawings," she smiles. "I'm also mad about football so look out for a stadium and a football flying high from within it."

Representing the state of society as Sue sees it; if you peer more closely, and dig deeper into the stories of each drawing, however, you'll understand they are more dystopic that they first appear. Her architectural forms are drawn with jagged lines to give an edgy other-worldliness and the undefined edges which add a sense of dynamism hint at a story that is still unresolved. Larger pictures are made up from several smaller drawings, built up like the quarters of a city or chapters of life.

"All of my pictures begin from a concept of security, whether that's getting it, losing it or the threat of it. My whole career I have seen how losing security affects people, and in my cityscapes, that security is represented as

buildings: having walls around you offers, in most cases, a place of safety, an idea of home. The idea of being wrapped in something warm and comforting, whether that's love, a blanket, or bricks and mortar, is comforting. For the lucky majority of us in this country, however bad our day has been, we have somewhere to go where we can close the door behind us when we get home and shut out the rest of the world for the evening. Many people here and around the world however don't have that luxury. Their environment is never safe or secure. I found that I can't separate my art from these issues that have always concerned and motivated me, so they underpin most of my work. My drawings are how I express my feelings about the world and the latest news stories from the Covid pandemic to the situation in Ukraine. Each is a response to the trauma and distress of places in conflict or other issues like climate change that challenge the human spirit," she explains.

However, while Sue's drawings are metaphors for insecurity, destruction, and vulnerability, her art is not dark or melancholic. "I'd like to think my cityscapes offer hope," she says. Her drawings are like three dimensional maps on the page, "and," she continues, "if there's a map, then there's a way out. We can all help someone to find it."

You can follow Sue on Instagram (@McShoeSue) and you will be able to see her work in St John the Evangelist Cloister Gallery, Iffley Road, Oxford during Oxfordshire Artweeks in May (venue 367) alongside art by other artists and an exhibition of many artist-postcards which are being auctioned to raise funds for Sobell House Hospice, where Sue was once a volunteer.