

# OX COUNTRY

RURAL LIFE WITH COUNTRY STYLE

SPRING 2023

**CARYN HIBBERT:**  
A MOMENT IN THYME

**A WAVE OF  
BLOSSOM**

**GET READY  
FOR ARTWEEKS**

# The Joy of Spring...

FASHION | FLOWERS FROM THE FARM | ROYAL RECIPES





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 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.

**Guildhall, Abingdon**  
[oneplanetabingdon.org](http://oneplanetabingdon.org)

May

## fitch & fellows - Oxford Artweeks

Over in Thame this May, fitch & fellows gallery is hosting two wonderful artists, Caroline Moore (paintings) and Suzanne Abell (Sculpture) for Oxford Art Weeks. Caroline's paintings are classically painted but her subjects can be extremely whimsical, hence her scholarly studies of loo paper and Marigold gloves. Great fun and so beautifully done. Suzanne's bronze sculptures often depict the human form - peaceful and graceful studies to bring calm to every setting. Along with the regular feast of treasures to be found at this unusual gallery and shop, a visit is always recommended.

**fitch and fellows, Thame**  
[fitchandfellows.com](http://fitchandfellows.com)



6-29 May

## A Festival Fit for a King: Oxfordshire Artweeks 2023

OXFORDSHIRE  
**art**  
 WEEKS

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](http://Artweeks.org)



18 May

## French Pastoral

Ravel's musical magic garden of childlike wonder, the 'Mother Goose Suite', closes a programme of beautiful music from France.

**Fauré:** Pelléas et Mélisande Suite, Op. 80

**Britten:** Les Illuminations, Op. 18

**Debussy:** Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune

**Ravel:** Ma mère l'oye (Mother Goose Suite)

**Ruby Hughes:** Soprano

**Nicolò Foron:** Conductor

**Sheldonian Theatre**  
[oxfordphil.com/event/french-pastoral](http://oxfordphil.com/event/french-pastoral)



# Artweeks 2023

BY FESTIVAL DIRECTOR ESTHER LAFFERTY

From 6-29 May the annual Oxfordshire Artweeks festival bursts into life, with bright flags and bunting popping up in unexpected rural spots across the county to signal the places where artists and makers are opening their doors and welcoming, for free, anyone who would like to discover their art and their studios.

To help you get started, we've cherry-picked twelve rural studios, ten bigger art spaces hosting stunning exhibitions by many artists, and eight more unusual venues that also stand out from the crowd. Our top twelve studios:

## Abingdon:

Mother and daughter printmaking pair, **Susan and Lizzie Wheeler** invite you into a bright wooden studio close to the Thames Path in Lower Radley where they introduce you to different print techniques. The colourful variety on show includes Susan's stylised views of Oxford and the landscape, and Lizzie's take on the world and the plants and creatures we share it with.

*Artweeks venue 11*

**115 Lower Radley,  
Abingdon OX14 3BA  
6-14 May, 11am-6pm.**



## Asthall near Burford:

**Christopher Townsend** creates large sculpture, mostly in steel, sometimes with other materials incorporated. His primary inspiration is The Wychwood Forest and its

ancient trees. A regular Artweeks exhibitor, he's become a popular destination. Chris will be exhibiting alongside three other artists and makers; animal artist Nic Vickery, Guen Palmer who creates exquisite jewellery, and potter Gilly Whittington.

*Artweeks venue 279*

**The Old Forge,  
Asthall Barrow Farm,  
Asthall near Burford OX18 4HJ  
13-21 May, 11am-5pm**



## Chilton near Didcot:

In **Lin Kerr's** new home and studio, she is showing contemporary floral watercolours in her inimitable style. Invited to join her, jeweller Kisa Wallis whose bespoke crafted silver jewellery uses both ancient and contemporary methods of silversmithing and potter Jo Marshall with her colourful vases, pots and wall-tiles. Daily demonstrations.

*Artweeks venue 60*

**41 Linetrees, Chilton, OX11 0HY  
Open 12-14 May, 11am-6pm**



## Bourton near Shrivenham:

In a cottage studio below the Ridgeway, **Tara Parker-Woolway** paints instinctively. Wistful organic colours and shapes flow into abstracted land-, sea- and floral-scapes in which paint, pastel and charcoal blend to form harmonious layers of colour and rich textures.

*Artweeks venue 45*

**The Studio, 6 Church Row,  
Bourton near Shrivenham  
SN6 8JG  
Open 8, 13, 14, 20 and  
21 May, 12pm-5pm**





**Eynsham:**

At Chicken Run Studio in Eynsham, **Alison Holmans'** pottery, from bowls and bird feeders to light-hearted characters, is funky and fun. It's a chance to see her kilns and hear about the chemistry of the pottery firing process, alongside striking and unusual sculpture made from recycled and reclaimed metals by Peter Shrimpton.

*Artweeks venue 307*

**The New House, Tanner's Lane, Eynsham OX29 4HJ**  
**Open 13-15 and 18-21 May, 11am-6pm**

**Clanfield:**

**Silvi Schaumloeffel's** studio is in the pretty village of Clanfield. "You'll find big heaps of paint on my palette, stacks of art books and seductive colour-pops in the form of collected mementos, cards with dried clumps of discarded paints scraped from surfaces, small colour studies and fresh flowers." In the same courtyard you can also visit Ben and Sue Drew's pottery studio and the Drew School of Pottery.

*Artweeks venue 283*

**Friars Court, Clanfield OX18 2SU**  
**Open 13-21 May, 11am-5pm**  
**Image: 5 silvi schaumloeffel**

**Cumnor:**

In Archangel Studio in the heart of Cumnor, **Sarah Bond** paints both engaging seascapes and more abstracted paintings that celebrate renewable energy technologies. Alongside you'll find large shell-edged mirrors and more by maker Annabel Jolly who joins Sarah for Artweeks.

*Artweeks venue 36*

**Archangel Studio, 1 Abingdon Road, Cumnor OX2 9QN**  
**Open 12th-14th May, 11am-5pm**



**Thame:**

**Jacqueline Birchall's** new glass studio in Thame is a sweet shop of colour where she creates wonderful stained-glass pieces inspired, mostly, by the natural world. She has invited fibre artist Marie Jones and jeweller Liz Dee to join her. Liz also creates pendants and brooches based on your small child's drawing, reproduced in silver

*Artweeks venue 2*

**9 Ormond Road, Thame OX9 3XN**  
**Open 6-14 May, 11am-4pm**



**Wallingford:**

**Christine Bass** invites you to visit her new studio between the river and the castle in the centre of Wallingford. "I am especially interested in landscapes where the natural lie of the land is accentuated by man-made interventions such as tracks, farmed fields & hedgerows, planted woodland & reservoirs," she says. Christine has invited ceramicist, Robyn Hardyman, and jeweller, Kate Wilkinson to join her.

*Artweeks venue 87*

**The Coach House, Castle Street, Wallingford OX10 8DL**  
**Open 6-9 and 11-14 May, 12pm-6pm**



**Wallingford:**

Down a country lane **Fay Ford's** bright garden studio where she is inspired daily by wonderful natural surroundings. With a background in textile design, her colourful and joyful illustrations celebrate the varied foliage and blooms growing, intermingled with the many garden visitors that enjoy buzzing, crawling and chirping around her garden.

*Artweeks venue 84*

**2 Copse Cottages, Shillingford Road, Wallingford OX10 8LQ**  
**Open 6, 7, 21, 13 and 14 May, 11am-6pm**



RECOMMENDED POP-UP EXHIBITIONS

**Watlington:**

In the heart of Watlington, you'll find textile artist **Harriet Riddell** who 'draws in thread', stitching the view or person she sees in front of her onto plain raw canvas, appliqueing other pieces of fabrics over the top. "I have to work very fast as people move in front of me so it's a very intuitive process," In Harriet's workspace you'll also find wonderful animal sculptures by ceramicist James Ort. Take a stroll along the High Street and beyond where you'll find literally dozens of other artists within a 500 metre radius.

*Artweeks venue 140*

**12 High Street, Watlington  
OX49 5PY  
Open 6-14 May, 10am-5pm**



**Woodstock:**

In a lush secret glade tucked away off the road between Woodstock and Bladon Church a long drive leads you into the heart of the old quarry where you'll find **Suzanne O'Driscoll's** spacious home studio and gallery. It's one of the most extraordinary studios in the whole festival, and as you enter this world of fronds, foliage and birdsong you'll find colours and gentle curves to match those of the Amazon rainforest. Vibrant and joyful colours spill from her landscape paintings and she is also showing fine metal sculptures of multi-layered interlocking garden-inspired shapes.

*Artweeks venue 315*

**Quarry Place, Grove Road, Bladon  
OX20 1RD  
Open 13-14 and 16-21, 11am-7pm**



**Abingdon:  
Peach Croft Farm Artists**

Look out for a Vermeer-inspired Goat with a Pearl Earring.

*Artweeks venue 15*

**Peach Croft Farm, Twelve Acre Drive, Abingdon OX14 2HP  
Open 6-14 May, 10am-6pm**



**Appleton Artweeks**

See if you can spot a chameleon amongst the birds and bugs on jugs and other pottery.

*Artweeks venue 39*

**Appleton Village Hall, Oaksmere, Appleton OX13 5JS  
Open 13 and 14 May, 10.30am-5pm**



**Bampton:  
West Ox Arts Gallery**

A month-long exhibition in the gorgeous town hall art space.

*Artweeks venue 287*

**West Ox Arts Gallery, Market Square, Bampton OX18 2JH  
Runs from 29 April-3 June (closed Mons), 11.30am-4.30pm**

**Buckland Village Artists**

A new venue, a private church rarely open to the public, with extraordinary dripping fruit drawings by an art TikTok sensation, chairs upcycled in luscious velvet and much more.

*Artweeks venue 42*

**St George's Church, St George's Road, Buckland SN7 8QR  
Open 7-14 May, 11am-6pm**



**Lower Heyford:  
Art More Lovely**

Modern and stylish graphic design and lots of other art in a beautiful house and a glorious garden setting with wonderful wisteria.

*Artweeks venue 338*

**Heyford House, 13 Church Lane, Lower Heyford, OX25 5NZ  
Open 13-14 and 19-21 May**



**Piddington near Bicester:  
Art in Piddington**

Discover lots of colour and character from the green man to concrete jewellery with gold leaf and quirky Alice in Wonderland pottery.

*Artweeks venue 343*

**Piddington Village Hall,  
Lugershall Road, Piddington  
OX25 1PU  
Open 13-14 and 18-21 May,  
11am-5pm**



**OUR SUGGESTIONS FOR  
PLACES TO GO THAT ARE  
A BIT DIFFERENT**

**Abingdon:  
Oxfordshire Chinese Brush  
Painting Group**

A celebration of Chinese brush painting in all its styles.

*Artweeks venue 25*

**35 Ock Street, Abingdon OX14 5AG  
6-29 May (Closed Sunday),  
10.30am-2pm  
(Saturdays 10.30am-12.30pm)**



**Sibford Gower:  
The Stour Artists & makers  
@ Temple Mill Loft**

Hidden deep in lush Oxfordshire countryside against the backdrop of the first mill on the Stour.

*Artweeks venue 206*

**Temple Mill, on the Hook Norton to  
Sibford Gower Road, OX15 5DA  
Open 13-21 May, 10am-5pm**



**Woodstock Artists  
Collective**

From local views to pottery with trilobites – and look out for a tiny Chewbacca.

*Artweeks venue 319*

**St Mary Magdalene Church, Park  
Street, Woodstock OX20 1SJ  
Open 13-21 May 12pm-6pm  
(1.30pm-6pm on Sundays)**



**Coleshill:  
The National Trust Heritage  
& Rural Skills Centre**

Championing traditional building techniques and rural crafts from stone-carving to basket-weaving on the estate which was the hidden HQ of the British underground resistance during WW2.

*Artweeks venue 44*

**Buscot & Coleshill Estate, Coleshill  
near Faringdon SN6 7PT  
Open 20 May only, 10am-4pm**



**Wilcote Arts**

Tucked deep in the woods, this series of open studios and central gallery space offers an immersive and exploratory experience.

*Artweeks venue 246*

**Hunts Copse, Wilcote Riding,  
Wilcote OX7 3DX  
Open 13-14 and 19-21 May,  
11am-5pm**



**Wytham Woods:  
Oxfordshire Craft Guild**

An extraordinary spot deep in the woods with quality craft alongside a printmaking studio.

*Artweeks venue 502*

**The Wytham Studio, Sawmill Yard,  
Wytham Woods near Oxford  
OX2 8QQ  
Open 26-29 May, 11am-5pm**



**Long Wittenham:  
Sylva Wood Centre**

All things wood, including furniture by several makers, spoons and boats too, as well as other art and an Anglo-Saxon house.

*Artweeks venue 74*

**Little Wittenham Road, Log Wittenham OX14 4QT  
Open 7,8 and 13-14 May, 10am-5pm**



**Kingham:  
Sculpture at  
Kingham Lodge**

Five acres of stunning grounds with more than 500 sculptures

*Artweeks venue 264*

**Kingham Lodge, Kingham nr Chipping Norton OX7 6YL  
Open 20-29 May 10am-5pm**



**Oxford:  
Oxford University Kilns**

OU Kilns are wood firing one of their anagama kilns during Artweeks: Anagama means 'cave' and the kiln was constructed to plans based on archaeological investigations of this ancient type of pottery kiln.

*Artweeks venue 504*

**Wytham Woods, Wytham near Oxford OX2 8QQ  
Open 26-29 May, 11am-6pm**



**Oxford: OVADA**

In the industrial-chic minimalist warehouse space, explore cross-disciplinary, inclusive and experimental contemporary art on a theme of Mood.

*Artweeks venue 421*

**14a Osney Lane, Oxford OX1 1NJ  
Open 11-14, 18-21 and 25-28 May, 11am-6pm**



**Oxford: The Biblio Press at  
The Bodleian Library**

A working letterpress studio in the heart of the Oxford university's historic library buildings.

*Artweeks venue 427*

**Scholae Musicae, Bodleian Old Library, Catte Street OX1 3BG  
Open 20-21 and 27-29 May, 1pm-4pm**



**Shipton-under-Wychwood:  
FarmEd**

Meet four artists in residence at this regenerative farming centre with its extraordinary new buildings and breath-taking Cotswold views.

**FarmEd, Honeydale Farm, Station Road, Shipton-under-Wychwood OX7 6BJ  
Open 14-2nd May, 10am-4pm**



For full information on these venues and hundreds more, visit [artweeks.org](http://artweeks.org)