

MARKET MAKERS

LISKEARD · CORNWALL

MARKET MAKERS NEWS ~ MIDSUMMER 2022 ~

PRIZE-WINNING PAINTER'S DEBUT



A selection of work by Liskeard painter Lee Rendle is currently being exhibited at the new DAK Art Gallery, based in Liskeard's Old Brewery indoor market.

Earlier this month, Lee was awarded first prize in Liskeard's Platinum Jubilee art competition at a special exhibition at the town's Public Hall. Lee's winning painting was a dramatic evocation of a Cornish fishing boat struggling to survive in a storm at night.

Lee has been painting as a hobby for twenty years, and says he feels very proud to have his work recognized.

'I'm totally made up about it,' said Lee. 'Winning the prize was so inspiring, against such strong competition. And having my work shown in this great gallery is just brilliant!'

Lee has struggled with health issues throughout his adult life but says he has found great joy in his passion for painting.

Abi Alister, who manages the DAK Art Gallery, said she was very excited to be exhibiting Lee's work.

'I love his painting,' says Abi. 'It's so full of life, beauty and energy. It's such a pleasure to have his work on our walls.'



'When I first saw Lee's work, I was astonished,' says project manager Dr Alec Charles. 'He has an extraordinary natural talent, but he also echoes the work of Turner, Monet and Van Gogh.'

'Like a lot of local artists, he's inspired by the coasts and seascapes of Cornwall. But his level of sophistication is incredible for someone who has taught themselves their craft pretty much from scratch.'

CONSTRUCTION SCUPPERED BY DELAYS

Due to delays (which you may have seen reported in the regional press), the completion date for the capital element of our project (the construction of container-based art workshop units) has been looking likely to extend beyond the funding deadline. This would have presented significant financial risks, and so the decision has been taken to shelve this part of the project. It is important to emphasize that this does not affect our core programme of activities. Liskeard's Mayor Simon Cassidy said: 'We remain committed to the provision of support and learning as part of this project as this has proved extremely successful and has been well received by those who have taken it up.'

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY

Thanks to our friends at the Liskeard Voice and the Cornish Times for their continuing coverage of our work.



NEW CRAFTS SHOP TO OPEN



At the start of July, Liskeard's Fore Street will welcome a new addition to its selection of specialist shops.

Unique Crafts Cornwall is the brainchild of local artisan and entrepreneur Jo Wallis. It will incorporate her own Scented Temple retail fragrance brand and will also stock the work of a wide array of local artists and craftspeople, including members of the Market Makers group.

'We're offering a unique range of high-quality products, all reasonably priced and hand-made in Cornwall,' says Jo. 'So, whether it's a gift for a loved one, or a treat for yourself, we're confident that we'll have a choice of beautiful items and little luxuries to appeal to all tastes.'

LEARNING WOODCRAFT IN LISKEARD



Liskeard's Market Makers project has started its first class in woodcrafting. The new class is led by local greenwood crafter Phil Harwin, whose own work includes highly sought-after footstools, walking canes, chess boards and wands.

In their opening session, the novices whittled and carved wooden flowers and butter knives. They said they loved it.

'It's brilliant,' said Andreanna. 'I can't wait for more.'

'It makes you appreciate and respect nature and natural materials,' said Dawn.

The class has proven so popular that tutor Phil was swiftly asked back to deliver more sessions over the summer.

Meanwhile, our latest watercolour painting class has also proven both popular and productive.



Market Makers offers free classes in arts and crafts to Liskeard residents not currently in work, in order to help boost their wellbeing, resilience, confidence, opportunities and prospects. Other classes include drawing, printmaking and textile art.

Although the project's building plans experienced something of a setback earlier this month, our core programme of delivery – of these skills classes, and of training for creative entrepreneurs and mentoring for local enterprises – continues to prosper and grow.

The Market Makers project is run by Liskeard Town Council and funded by European Structural and Investment Funds (through Community Led Local Development) and Cornwall Council.

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For more information, please visit our website at www.marketmakers.org.uk.

With massive thanks to our supporters and funders:

