

# MARKET MAKERS

LISKEARD · CORNWALL

## MARKET MAKERS NEWS

~ SEPTEMBER 2022 ~

### AUTUMN EXHIBITION



More than a hundred people attended our second show of the year on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September at Liskeard's Public Hall.

Supported by the European Regional Development Fund, the exhibition featured the work of our core business client group of artists, craftspeople and creative enterprises.

Exhibitors included painters Ann Kinahan, Melanie Beer and Lee Rendle, glass artists Abi Alister and Dee Knight, jewellery-makers Karen Burden and Meg Bateson, photographer John Peters, ceramic and textile artist Laura Welsh, printmaker Dawn Curtis, and mosaic artist Kirsty Freeman. The multi-talented Abi, Dee, Karen and Laura also contributed paintings to the show.

Kirsty has recently established her own business MonChic Mosaics, making and selling both affordable decorative pieces such as coasters, and higher-end original mosaic artwork. Her work is always hand-crafted and unique, and she has recently been producing an increasing number of bespoke commissions.

Kirsty joined Market Makers earlier this year, taking the programme's practical skills classes, followed by a course in how to set up a business. She is now a member of the project's business mentoring scheme. She is also happy to offer advice to new creative entrepreneurs who are now starting their own local enterprises.

'I'm so proud to be able to showcase the range of my work at this exhibition. It's a real boost to my new business,' said Kirsty.

'Kirsty has achieved so much so very quickly,' said Alec Charles, the project's manager. 'She's a highly talented artist and also a strong businessperson with a robust and realistic business plan.'

Kirsty's work is now stocked by Unique Crafts Cornwall, a new shop based on Liskeard's Fore Street, the town's premier retail area, and also a member of the Market Makers enterprise scheme.

Unique Crafts Cornwall is managed by local crafts entrepreneur Jo Wallis, who also makes her own brand of luxury artisan products, The Scented Temple.

'It's so exciting to have started a crafts business in Liskeard. This town is full of so much creative talent,' said Jo, who also exhibited at the Market Makers show.

The free samples of her wax melts proved a particular hit with visitors to the exhibition.



Alongside Unique Crafts Cornwall, the exhibition hosted displays from local craft enterprises The Sweet Spot (also based on Fore Street), Abi and Dee's DAK Art gallery and Pot Stars Studio, a crafting business run by Tiff and Marlon Biddle with premises in Liskeard's Old Brewery indoor market.

In addition to Kirsty's mosaics, Unique Crafts Cornwall and the DAK Art gallery in the Old Brewery also stock the work of other Market Makers artists, including Laura, Karen and Lee.

Meanwhile, Melanie Beer and John Peters' work can be seen at their stalls in the Old Brewery.



## LISKEARD UNLOCKED



Our project has been taking part in the Liskeard Unlocked programme of events, as part of the national Heritage Open Days festival scheduled to take place across the UK between 9<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> September.

Our member Ann Kinahan hosted a highly popular three-day open studio event on behalf of the Market Makers group, at her own home in Looedown, just outside Liskeard Town itself.

Ann welcomed more than 120 visitors between Friday 9<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September, and generously even provided free cream teas for all her guests.

Alongside her own paintings, Ann exhibited the work of a range of other Market Makers members, including the ceramic and textile pieces of mixed media artist Laura Welsh, a selection of mosaic art by Kirsty Freeman, the oil paintings of Lee Rendle, and watercolours, jewellery and hand-painted greetings cards created by Karen Burden from the neighbouring Woodhill Studio.

'Liskeard Unlocked has been a great opportunity for our Market Makers open studio,' said Ann. 'Our artists have

been able to showcase their work which has proven very popular with visitors – quite a few of whom have been very happy to buy some excellent pieces.'

Meanwhile, Market Makers member Melanie Beer led tours of the Old Brewery indoor market and studio complex on Bay Tree Hill in the centre of Liskeard, also as part of the Liskeard Unlocked programme, on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> and Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September.

The tour included the opportunity to see the work and workspaces of a number of Market Makers artists, craftspeople and creative businesses based at the Old Brewery.

These included the beautiful glassware, resin work and acrylic art of Abi Alister and Dee Knight, alongside the work of other Market Makers artists stocked in the DAK Art gallery, which regularly features work by Kirsty Freeman, Lee Rendle and Laura Welsh, and where Abi runs popular crafting classes.

Also based in the Old Brewery are Pot Stars Studio, who create crafting kits for traditional family fun, including ceramic painting and cross-stitch kits. Pot Stars is run by married couple Tiff and Marlon, who also offer kids' crafting sessions at their family-friendly facility on site.



Landscape photographer John Peters is also based at the Old Brewery. John's portfolio includes a great array of beautiful photographs of natural Cornish landscapes, which can be bought as prints or which can be printed to order onto mugs, placemats or coasters to provide a unique range of gift items.

Tour guide Melanie Beer also, of course, works from the Brewery, where she paints and teaches painting, and where visitors can view a selection of her abstract and

figurative art, much of which is influenced by the cultural and aesthetic traditions of her native South Africa.

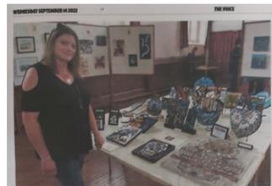
‘Liskeard Unlocked is a great chance for us to show visitors the great creative work of our friends in the Brewery,’ said Mel.

Several Market Makers members also took part in Liskeard Unlocked’s local produce and crafts market which took place on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September in the centre of town.



## WHAT THE PAPERS SAY

Huge thanks, as always to our good friends at the Cornish Times and Liskeard Voice for the positive coverage they’ve continued to give our work.



Friday, September 9-Sunday, September 11, 10am-5pm – Homestead Open Studios and Cream Tea: There will be a range of beautiful arts and crafts created by Liskeard’s innovative Market Makers group in this historical farm yard setting with a free cream tea for all visitors. One-mile walk or five minutes’ drive from Liskeard Parade at PL14 6RD (What3Words: ///hoped,starlight,nasal).

Friday, September 9 and Monday, September 12 – Old Brewery Tour, Pondbridge Hill: Hear about the site’s rich history, including the rumours of a nuntery, stories of the old Venning’s Brewery and a display of photos from past uses of the site. Take a tour of the building and the art studios of DAK Art and Pot Stars Studio. Tours at 11am and 1pm.

## ARTS CLASSES



Our popular programme of free arts and crafts classes is continuing into the autumn, and we are now actively recruiting for new participants.

Our weekly classes take place on Thursday afternoons at Liskeard Public Hall. They are designed for residents of the town who are not currently in work, in order to help enhance participants’ wellbeing, confidence, skills, opportunities and prospects.

The sessions are led by local artists and craftspeople, and are inclusive, friendly and fun. A warm welcome is extended to all. No prior experience in arts and crafts is necessary.

Sessions include painting, woodcrafting, drawing, printmaking and contextual classes.

For more information, or for a chat about what we do, please don’t hesitate to contact Alec Charles at [cmm.manager@liskeard.gov.uk](mailto:cmm.manager@liskeard.gov.uk).



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For more information about our project, please visit our website at [www.marketmakers.org.uk](http://www.marketmakers.org.uk) or email [cmm.admin@liskeard.gov.uk](mailto:cmm.admin@liskeard.gov.uk).

