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# FERINI

artists talking about art

# ARTISTRY



Issue 14 2023



In  
support  
of

## Bb

Britten as a boy

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# CARDS

By **John Stone**



# Welcome 2023

**A**s we say farewell to the festive season and the New Year gets underway - we are focusing our attentions on organising for this years exhibitions. We have a full and varied schedule lined up.

But first we'd like to tell you that we are celebrating 10 years of the Pakefield Postcard Auction. And, as usual, we are ready to share with you who we intend to raise money for this year. It's in aid of the "Benjamin Britten as a Boy Statue", due to be sited near his childhood home in Kirkley, and will be gifted to the children of the town. The amount required for this project is £96,000, however

our intention is not just to raise as much money as we can but also to raise awareness of the project along the way.

There are more details from the steering group in the article within this issue. If you are an artist and would like to take part, then the packs are ready for you. Just pop in to the gallery and pick one up. If you're reading this from our website and would like us to forward a pack to you, send us your postal address (via email) and a pack will be with you soon. The deadline for submissions is on the form.

We hope this will be a bumper year for both entries and sales. So

**Michaela Hobbs**  
Gallery Manager/Owner  
Arts Ambassador

do pass this on to any art loving friends and family. We appreciate and value your participation whether you're a regular or indeed a new comer. It wouldn't happen without you. Thank you from team Ferini.

*David Gayda will be gifting his money from the sale of the painting 'Light in the Storm' (shown on the front cover of this issue of Artistry) to add to the proceeds of this year's Pakefield Postcard Auction*

# BROWSE THE BROWSERS

We don't just hang pictures on the gallery walls. We have many more examples of unframed original art and prints in our browsers. Have a look - there's a lot to like.



Log on to our website: [www.feriniartgallery.co.uk](http://www.feriniartgallery.co.uk)  
Or visit our beautiful gallery when you get the time.

**Editors**  
Michaela Hobbs  
Paul Hobbs

**Designer**  
Will Goodman - phantasmagroph

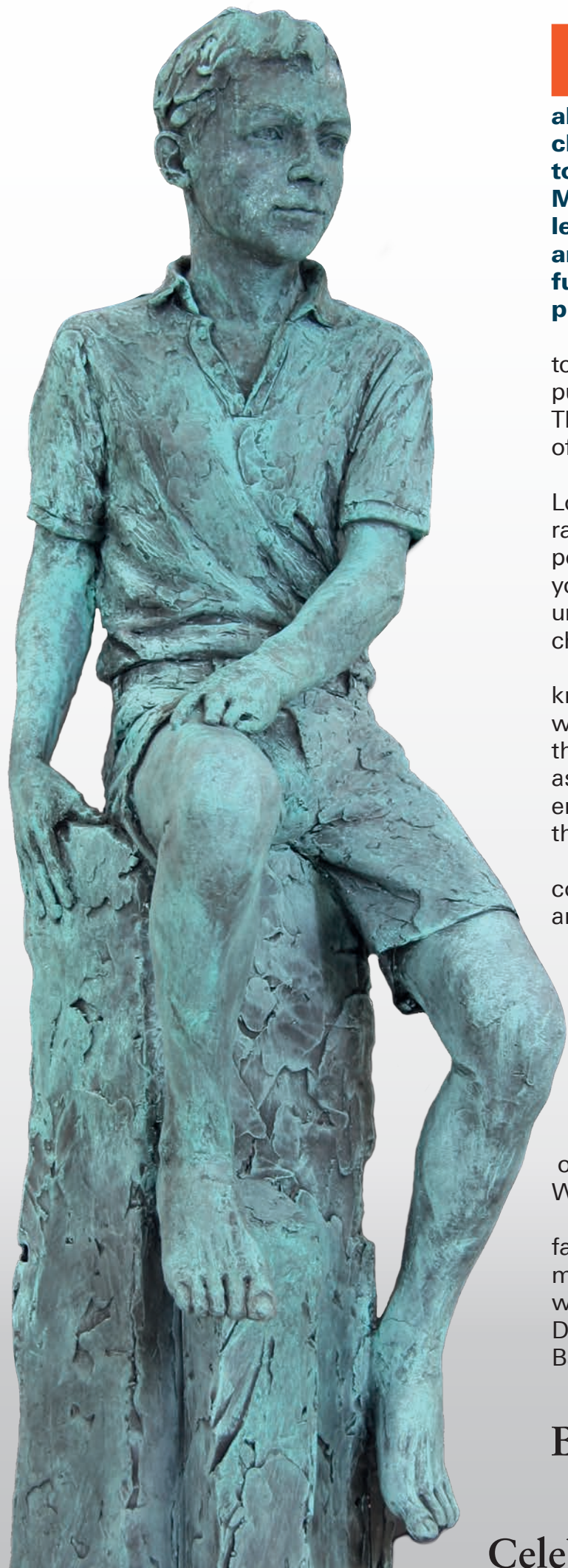
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**D**uring the first Lockdown, Ruth Wharrier, a local illustrator and primary teacher, created a project about Benjamin Britten's childhood, for children from the primary school near to the house in which Britten was born. Many children were disengaged from learning. It proved enormously popular and, subsequently, Historic England has funded the creation of a wider education project for all Lowestoft Primary Schools.

This will include a virtual walk (available to view by schools UK wide and the general public) with a cross curricular education pack. The walk will become part of the development of the Heritage Action Zone within Kirkley.

From this, the idea of the statue grew. Lowestoft and Kirkley have some of the highest rates of deprivation, unemployment and child poverty in the country. Aspiration amongst young people is low and intergenerational unemployment is a harsh reality for many children who grow up here.

Ruth met with Zeb Soanes, a well-known BBC and Classic FM broadcaster who was born in Lowestoft and together they envisaged a statue of Benjamin Britten as a boy, for the children of the town, to encourage them to dream big and aspire to be the best they can be.

They recruited members of the local community to form a constituted committee and commissioned Royal sculptor, Ian Rank-Broadley FRSS ([www.ianrankbroadley.co.uk](http://www.ianrankbroadley.co.uk)) to create the statue.

When installed, the statue of Britten as a boy will be of national merit. Ian's effigy of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II appears on all UK and Commonwealth coinage. He created the Diana memorial at Kensington Palace and has recently completed work on one of the most important war memorials since WWII, the Armed Forces Memorial.

We have the full support of the Britten family along with the local community and many big names who knew and worked with Britten such as: Sir Thomas Allen and Dame Janet Baker along with admirers Barry Wordsworth, Sir Stephen Hough and

**Benjamin Britten**  
1913 - 1976

Celebrating **110** Years



Julian Fellowes. Local dignitaries include The Countess of Euston (Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk) and Sir Christopher Howes.

East Suffolk Council have embraced the concept of the statue and have offered a site opposite his birthplace, Britten House, on the seafront in Kirkley.

When erected, the statue will be gifted to the children of Lowestoft.

**AIMS:**

The statue is needed because it will

- Educate people about Lowestoft's most famous son.
- Inform them about Lowestoft's heritage.
- Promote tolerance and the acceptance of diversity in the community.
- Illustrate the role of education in providing opportunities.
- Inspire children and young people.
- Be of national interest and lasting artistic enhancement to the town of Lowestoft.

**FUNDS SOUGHT:**

We are seeking £96,000, or a contribution towards this sum.

We are supported by local business, Adnams and are seeking funds through funding applications, events and crowd funding.

This year, funds raised from the Pakefield Postcard Auction will be going towards the cost of producing a statue of Benjamin Britten as a young boy which will be placed close to his childhood home in Kirkley.

**Bb**  
Britten as a boy



# You've Been Framed!

## Or rather your picture has ...

**Wendy Wright**  
Thistles

I have been framing pictures and other treasures for 25 years. My shop 'Thistles' is in Bevan Street East off London Road in the heart of Lowestoft Shopping Centre.

Originally my husband was going to run the business, we bought all the equipment and rented a shop. Just before opening he was called back to the building trade and I went forward alone. Learning on the job. Yes I'm self taught, no apprenticeship. And I'm still enjoying learning & creating the right frames.

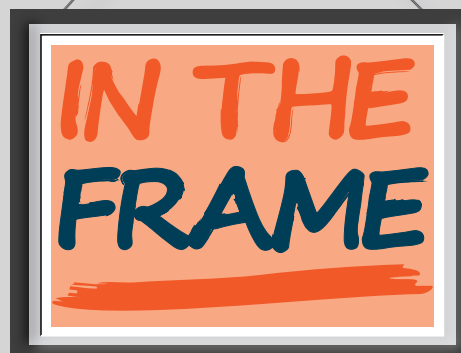
The first part of the process is a discussion with the customer. Some know exactly what they want, others appreciate my help in trying different mounts and frame corners which are displayed on several walls in the shop. I try to help those who are uncertain by asking about the proposed situation of the picture, the colours and objects in the surroundings and the preference for modern or classic decor. For artist, mounting or framing their work, I tend to suggest more neutral colours as I have in mind that they aim to sell their work.

Behind the scenes the process begins. I take a very careful set of measurements. Then I cut the framing from long lengths to the right size. In addition I may use a foam board which gives the impression that the picture is floating. I cut the glass and the mount. Some pictures are enhanced using a double mount. The idea is that the mount and frame add something to the picture, perhaps bringing out certain colours.

Each year I donate the blank cards made from mounting board off-cuts for Pakefield Postcard Auction. It then gives me great pleasure to have some of those cards with their art work returned to me for framing.

I enjoy framing different objects. Once I framed a wedding dress. Another time I framed Ralf Schumacher's racing suit. I usually work on one picture at a time. A small frame could take 15 minutes to complete. More complex framing projects could take a whole day. Whatever the time spent I enjoy the process from start to finish. I smile when people say that I have transformed their pictures.

I like to think that the environment of Thistles with its gifts and art work create a pleasant place in which people can take their time to decide on the perfect frame.



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**‘Why do you paint?’ I was having coffee with a potter friend and we were having one of those delicious art chats covering everything from technique through to exhibiting, mindset and more. My immediate response was to say I can’t not paint. It’s a compulsion. It brings me energy, frustration, learning, curiosity... ‘what if I do this?’**

I think about painting constantly. If I’m out walking I scan the horizon for composition, colour, texture, the smell of the mud, the feel of decaying paint on abandoned boat. Back in the studio I love the dance between head and heart, play and analysis, intention and possibility. My work is always executed with a degree of abstraction. I paint my emotional response to my experience. I don’t paint things.

A supplementary but I think relevant question is why did I start painting? I have been doing it consistently for about five years and before that intermittently. I first picked up a brush in 2009 when a tricky health diagnosis and acute hyperacusis meant I had to step back from organisational change consultancy and find something quiet to occupy and distract me. I bought a cheap set of watercolours from Carrefour (we were living in Abu Dhabi at the time) and began playing. Post surgery I returned to corporate work but by then I was smitten. Art making gradually took over from consultancy. I saw

my last client during lockdown via Zoom by which time I had secured gallery representation and was focusing full time on my art practise.

I love the community that comes with creating art. I know that if I suggest coffee and art chat the response will always be positive and the conversation wonderful. Who else wants to listen to this stuff?

One of the big benefits of painting, especially now that I have a studio, is the opportunity to have hour upon hour of alone time. Creating, yes, but also thinking, observing, waiting for the work to reveal itself. It’s often a meditative process during which the external world subsides. Of course it is possible to over-do it. Even as a committed introvert I can get a bit weird if I go too long with no human contact.

I would be kidding myself if I didn’t own up to another major upside to being an artist. Shopping for art tools. My work involves building layer upon layer of paint which I then excavate to reveal shape and form. I discover the subject within the paint. Each intervention is a response to the one before. My favourite tool is my cordless orbital sander, closely followed by coarse grade automotive sand paper. The delicacy of the marks they can reveal is quite astounding.

If you’re an artist you will probably identify with a lot of this narrative. If you’re a collector perhaps it will dispel some of the myths that surround art and artists. Every day I wake up with a sense of gratitude that I have discovered a talent, a passion, an adventure that will occupy me for the rest of my life.

# Why Do I Paint?

**Susan Debnam**  
Artist





# Paint Up LOWESTOFT

We believe that we have the largest selection of Lowestoft scenes in any gallery in the area.

**If you are looking for a likeness of Lowestoft -**



Lowestoft Yacht Club: Lorenzo T Barron



The Grampian Explorer: Andrew Pitt

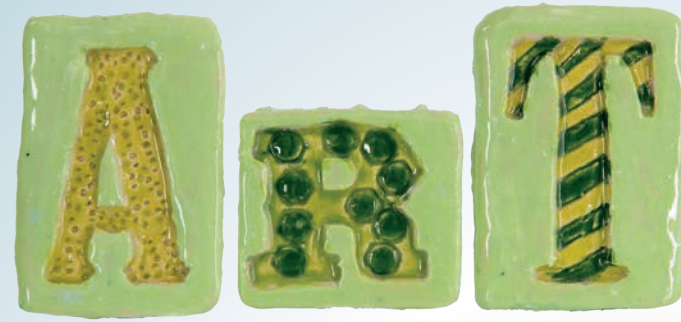


Lowestoft Lighthouse: Malcolm Cudmore



Railway Bridge - Oulton Broad: Wil Harvey

**We've got some!**



# Eclecticity 2



**Kevin Holmes**  
Art Maker

**M**y partner, Zoe Leverett and I, are very pleased to have the opportunity to exhibit our creations for a second time, here at Ferini Art Gallery under the title... 'Eclecticity 2'.

If you are a regular visitor to the gallery, there maybe a few pieces that might appear to be of a familiar concept, however we can assure you that each one is unique and that this exhibition will also include many fresh ideas that we have worked on and developed over the past few months.

We actively encourage visitors to give feedback, albeit, good, bad or indifferent, as this will help us in deciding upon which creative path to follow. At the very least our hope is that you will find the exhibition interesting.

Please note that our artwork is exclusive to Ferini Art Gallery.



# Benjamin Britten Next!

**Patricia Peters**  
Poet

I found my voice  
No, not my conversational voice  
The on-the-phone, face-to-face voice  
Regularly exercised with friends, family and strangers.

Nor my poetic voice, my locked-down muse  
has been ruminating, sulking underground.  
Nor my public speaking voice  
Honed by years of practice  
But, squashed out, squeezed out, locked out  
No one has invited her to speak  
Friends, Romans and country men. Not now, not here!

My inner voice has been troubled  
No opportunity for outward expression  
At least I can write down what she's been saying  
'Her highs, her lows her ups and down.'

No this is my SINGING VOICE!  
Coming from a separate department in my brain  
Encouraged out by a wonderful teacher and  
Her life changing classes, 'Music for Well Being'  
At The Seagull Theatre, Pakefield.  
I have found my voice, along with others  
Who in sickness and health have found theirs voices too  
We sing of friendship, joy, comfort, knowledge,  
Religion and love\*

As we engage our minds, bodies and spirits  
In the joy, the unconditional love, the fellowship  
We feel for each other, when we make music together

With a lot of practice  
The next step; combining all my voices,  
Will be one of Benjamin Britten's songs  
Of which there are so many!

\*The World in Six Songs. by Professor Daniel Levitin 2008



# NEW YEAR EXHIBITION 2023



13th January –  
26th February 2023

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Open 11am to 4pm Fri/Sat/Sun & Bank Holidays



Stangy's  
style



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# David Gayda



*as I sea it*

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A new collection  
of art and  
artifacts created  
from the  
imaginings of

Kevin Holmes  
Zoe Leverett

10th March – 10th April 2023

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Open 11am to 4pm Fri/Sat/Sun & Bank Holidays



eclecticity 2