

# Gallery Newsletter



June 2017

Midsummer greetings!

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*We are delighted to be able to catch up with the multitalented Ken Bryan this month. Jo Simpson well known for her love of animals touches on some of the story behind her art. We are also pleased to say that Jill Holmes Solo Exhibition of light infused Pewter work will be running through till July. We hope you will be able to find time to call by the Gallery to see it, along with all the vibrant new work now part of the summer season Wild For Colour Exhibition.*

## Ken Bryan – artist, photographer, potter

My interest in art nature and wildlife started at an early age. I was born 1941 in Stapleford a small town 6 miles from Nottingham, in those days surrounded by countryside. I remember at the age of



12, trips to the Peak District, catching the Ramblers Special a steam train from our local station this was before Doctor Beeching's axe fell ! I was in awe of the landscape even in those early days.

I left school at the age of 15 trained as a painter and decorator, wasted my teenage years as many of us did ... Rock and Roll and all that ! I married at the age of 19 had a son and daughter. I bought my first camera shortly after to take pictures of my children. This was the start of a lifelong passion. In fact it changed my

life, everything I did from that point on involved art and photography. I studied art in my very limited spare time.

At the age of 28 I bought my first car, this opened up a whole new world. We camped in many of the most beautiful places in Britain including the Isle of Skye. This was a time of discovery and inspiration. I soon realised I had to take control of my life.

I gave up my job to become self employed. This gave me the time to spend in my beloved wild places; climb more mountains and take more pictures. Every summer we had 3 weeks climbing in the Swiss, French, or Italian Alps, at times spending the night on my own sleeping on glaciers, and in high places, recording all this on film with my trusted camera, while Polly camped in the valley, other times we would climb a peak together, exciting times for both of us. At home I would paint my pictures. Sometimes I would work till 3 am or in my tiny darkroom under the stairs, producing my exhibition prints.

I met Polly in 1984 .We married in Fort William Christmas eve 1986. We encouraged each other, sharing our desire to create, Polly with her weaving and textiles, I started working with pottery.

In 1994 we bought a semi derelict property by Broadford hospital car park Isle of Skye renovated it and moved there in 1996, where we opened Three Herons Studio.

My Painting in the early years was mostly in acrylics or oils.



Moving to Skye with the mountains, sea, atmosphere and light I find I can express this best in watercolour, I still use oils for some subjects.

After 40 years working in the darkroom my photography is now all digital. This allows me to work mostly in colour. Unlike most photographers who produce high contrast saturated images. My work is mostly low contrast and more pastel in appearance. With some subjects I use a little diffusion to help capture the wonderful atmosphere here in the Highlands.

For many years I gave illustrated lectures to photographic societies and camera clubs in Britain including the Royal Photographic Society . I still do the occasional tour. I am also on the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain judges list for international exhibitions etc.

I do all my own presentation and picture framing as well as bespoke framing for customers.

My bird pictures are purely opportunist. I do love my birds and wildlife, but it is a subject for the specialist, it takes a lot of time and patience and would mean giving up other work to give it my full attention.

I gave up my pottery about 15 years ago. Bought a new kiln in 2014 and started again! I love to hand build using stoneware. I find sitting down of an evening working the clay very relaxing. After biscuit firing I use brush on glazes. The exciting part is opening the kiln after the last firing.

My work can be seen at

Three Herons Studio, Broadford Isle of Skye, Dandelion Designs, Stein Isle of Skye.

Lael Crafts Gallery, Lael near Ullapool & the Torridon Gallery.



## *SPOTLIGHT on*

### Jo Simpson - artist & designer

I specialise in original paintings and drawings and also transfer these images to Prints and Greetings cards. I have a background in design too so in my spare time I like to produce design ideas for fabrics, wallcoverings, cards and giftware. Alongside my Art, I clean houses and holiday homes and do a lot of dog walking/pet minding in the local community.

I have several approaches. However, the most characteristic style is Naïve and relative to Folk Art. This quirky series of paintings conveys the humour and happy memories of a certain time and place. Imagery is often out of proportion and exaggerated for added amusement. I like to highlight the special sights and qualities found in the highlands and brighten moods with these colourful scenes. They are made up compositions which emphasise the positive aspects of a certain time, they tell a story or record memories.

Inspiration comes from a variety of sources but at present, Wester-Ross and the Highland Coast as a whole especially influences my work. I am drawn to bold colours, textures, form and pattern so I like to recreate this in my drawings and paintings. My Beach Comb collection of work is an example of this. As a big animal lover, I cannot help drawing and painting these a long side other collections and here in Wester-ross there is an abundance of wonderful wildlife.



The dramatic skies, mountains, old mysterious crofts, sea and lochs here possess an enchanting, moving and enticing allure to me. When I interpret a scene, I want it to reflect the mood it provoked in me. I sketch and take photo's regularly when out walking, then use these at a later date to refer to as a guide. I especially do this when creating a local scene or animal so it is recognisable but interpret it as I remember witnessing it.

Wester-Ross is a special place, I am lucky to live here so like to show this appreciation through my art and hope that my work will resonate with others also. I like to create colourful Art mainly because I want these to help brighten moods and lift the spirits.

## Jill Holmes Solo Exhibition

## Pewter Art Collection



### Summer

1<sup>st</sup> April – October 31st  
Monday to Saturday  
10am – 4pm  
Closed Sunday

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