



## Gallery Newsletter

August 2017

### In this issue

- Interview with Liz French
- Spotlight on Vicky Barrett-Webb

**Remember the Summer Season Exhibition, “Wild for Colour”, is now open every day, Monday - Saturday, 10:00 - 16:00**

### Interview with Liz French, fused glass artist

Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?



*My adventure with glass started 14 years ago when I enrolled in a stained glass summer school class. It was several years later before I had time to take it further. Initially I started working in stained glass but my focus soon changed to fused glass.*

*In 2013 I decided to spend the winter on North Uist. I ended up staying there for two years! The impact was that my colour palette changed ( I had to buy lots of new glass!) and in the second year I completed an Arts Foundation course at Taigh Chearsabhagh and discovered that I had a eye for colour.*

#### Where are you based? Do you have a studio?

*I am now based in Kishorn, but still spend time in North Uist. Very recently I moved into a purpose built studio.*

#### What inspires your work?

*The inspiration for my work ranges from the beaches and openness of North Uist, to the waterfalls in Wester Ross, to the vibrant colours of Paulozzi's Millennium window in St Mary's Cathedral Edinburgh.*

#### What are you working on at the moment?

*Recently, I won a place in the Contemporary Glass competition to show 'Abhainn Coire Mhic Nobaill' waterfall (see above - 204 cms x 83 x 45 cms) in the Pyramid Gallery in York. Currently, I am working for an exhibition at this years' Edinburgh festival to be held at St Mary's Cathedral responding to Paulozzi's window.*





*I am making 3 pieces 180 cms x 10 cms in response to the light patterns transmitted from each one of the three lancets named after his daughters.*

**Apart from the Loch Torridon Gallery where can people find your work?**

*Locally, smaller works can be found in Torridon Gallery, Bealach Gallery and some unique simple pieces made especially for Nanny's in Shieldaig.*

Liz French has a number of pieces on display at the Loch Torridon Gallery. For more information, and to see more of her work, please visit [www.lizfrenchglass.com](http://www.lizfrenchglass.com)

## **‘Spotlight on’ Vicky Barrett-Webb, painter in acrylic, pastels and mixed media**

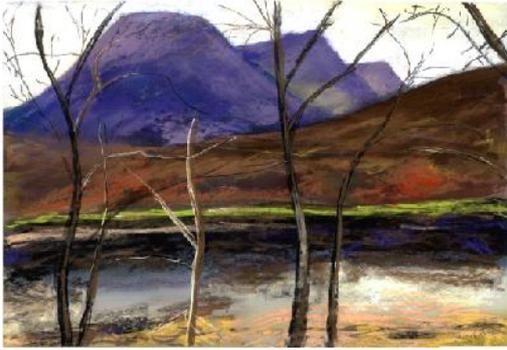
Vicky Barrett-Webb has been interested in arts and crafts since school days, despite receiving no encouragement from the art teacher, who was only interested in pupils who were doing 'O' level or 'A' level art! Instead she would give subjects like 'car crashes' to draw from imagination, while she sorted out the art cupboard.....

After starting a career in the public sector, Vicky joined an evening class for pottery principally because the aforementioned art teacher refused to allow non exam pupils to touch the pottery wheel! Pottery was later given up when all evening classes were removed from the local Art College curriculum. During this time, Vicky's mother, Elsie M. Barrett became a professional artist and, although she was always encouraging Vicky to try some sketching, it was inevitably a bit discouraging to compare results to that of her mother who was busy exhibiting regularly in London etc.



Vicky's work pressures precluded much time being spent on art except during holiday periods with some outdoor sketching using ink or pastels. Visits to art galleries could be inspiring. However it was only later, on retiring, that there was the time to develop skills and techniques by experimenting with all the new mediums on the market (other than watercolour and oil paint) and by attending various workshops and beginning to meet other artists and hearing about possible open exhibitions that might take some of her artwork. The very first sale was a big boost to continue what had become a real consuming interest.

Vicky now likes to use different media including pastel, acrylics and mixed media as appropriate to the subject. Her main interests are landscapes, both big and small, although sometimes animals including chickens and cockerels, flowers and still life.



She regularly attends a life drawing group which she feels is an excellent discipline for all the drawing skills necessary to tackle any artwork. Colours are always an interesting challenge whether in the Highlands of Scotland (cool and warm greys, browns and greens), Italy (sunny light colours such as Naples yellow) or Dorset (with softer greens and greys). Vicky exhibits regularly in the Wessex region as well as at the Torridon Gallery.

Her love of the Highlands started when she was a schoolgirl after her mother bought a small cotters cottage on the southern shores of Loch Torridon with no water or electricity! The front door was promptly redecorated with a bright yellow which initially caused some amusement. At that time there was no 'coast road' only a narrow track so the only way to travel was to go by boat from Shildaig! This same cottage (now updated) is a peaceful haven in a small caring community away from the crowds and an ideal place to draw and paint.

Vicky was very pleased to be invited to exhibit at the Torridon Gallery a few years ago and to be part of an exciting mixture of artists and artworks. The Torridon Gallery, as part of the local Community centre, is well supported by both local residents and visitors travelling through the Highlands - it has become a great asset to the area.



Further information about Vicky Barrett-Webb can be obtained by emailing her at: [vickybarrett-webb@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:vickybarrett-webb@tiscali.co.uk)

**This, and previous issues of the newsletter, are available to download from the Centre website via the [Exhibitions page](#).**

#### **Address**

Loch Torridon Community Centre  
Torridon  
By Achnasheen  
Ross-shire, IV22 2EZ

#### **Contact**

Email: [manager@lochtorridoncentre.co.uk](mailto:manager@lochtorridoncentre.co.uk)  
Telephone: 01445 791 361  
Website: [www.lochtorridoncentre.co.uk](http://www.lochtorridoncentre.co.uk)

#### **Summer Opening Hours**

Easter - October  
Monday to Saturday  
10am - 4pm  
Closed Sunday

#### **Winter Opening Hours**

November - Easter  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
11am - 3pm  
Closed Tuesday, Thursday, Sunday