

Visual Arts in Rural Communities

# Newsletter

Autumn 2009



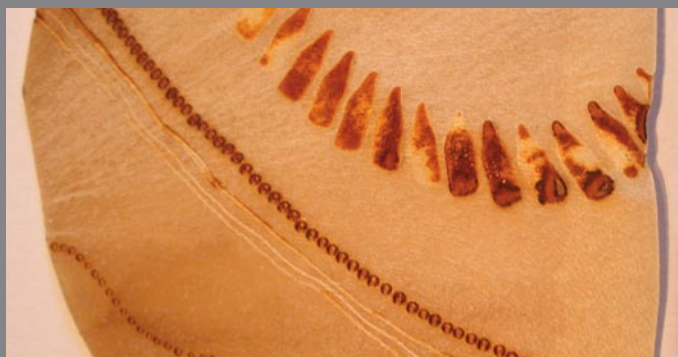
## Jilly Morris, new artist in residence

Jilly Morris arrived at Highgreen early in October. Jilly works in a variety of media including porcelain, thread, wire and enamel and has brought her kiln with her and set it up in the studio. She already has ideas for new artwork and has started work on these. She is taking daily walks and on returning from each one she is writing a walking dairy and doing drawings which she hopes will reflect the daily routine, the changing conditions of the landscape and her experience of each walk.



Jilly Morris, *Drawing Walk 2* 2009

Jilly is experimenting with mark making of different sorts on small pieces of vellum (dried goat skin). She intends to bring these pieces together to create a stitched torso that contains information on surgery. This is a very personal artwork that Jilly has wanted to make for some time.



Jilly Morris, Detail of vellum test, 2009

Disused and forgotten keys hold a fascination for Jilly no matter what their age or shape. Keys have an interesting history and hold memories of locations and times gone by. She has brought with her from Bristol a large collection of donated keys and hopes to add to this with many more keys gathered locally. Jilly hopes to eventually create a piece of art with them. If you have any unwanted keys of any age, size or use please consider giving them to Jilly. She will label them and use them in her artwork.

## Free enamel workshops

Wed 2nd & Wed 9th December, 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm

It is possible to create many different textures, surfaces and looks and wonderful jewel-like colours in fusing liquid or powdered glass onto copper or steel. Beautiful results can be achieved very simply without any special art skills but skills can be readily developed in a very rewarding way.



Jilly Morris, Detail of enamel piece, 2009

VARC and Jilly are hosting some enamel workshops over the winter. The process isn't suitable for children under the age of 12 but adults and accompanied children over this age are welcome. Dates and times for further workshops in the New Year will be arranged at the taster workshops. Workshops are free. Book a place now! See back page for contact details.

## Open Studio Event

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2pm – 4pm

Visit the Artist's Studio, meet Jilly Morris, see examples of her artwork and find out what her ideas are for creating new work during the residency. Bring with you any old unwanted keys you are willing to donate. Refreshments provided!

## Local Projects supported by VARC Fund

VARC has been very pleased to have helped two marvellous projects through to completion this year.

St Francis Church Byrness and residents of Byrness village have made a textile collage depicting St Francis and native animals and birds (and a few of residents' domestic pets!). The hanging was completed in time for its display as an altar frontal in the church during St Francis tide and is now on show in Byrness Village Hall. The project has been led by artist Sue Moorhouse who lives in Byrness.



St Francis panel on display in the church at St Francis Tide

Corsenside Recreation Access Group has commissioned wooden wildlife sculptures from forester Simon Banks. The sculptures are in place along tracks and in the clearing in Furlaws Forest to make the area more attractive and encourage local people to use it.

## New VARC Website



Look up our new website, [www.varc.org.uk](http://www.varc.org.uk). Follow the resident artist's experience over the year through the artist's blog at [www.varc.org.uk/artists-blog](http://www.varc.org.uk/artists-blog).

## VARC Celebratory Event, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2010

Keep this date free! To mark its tenth year VARC will be holding a special event that will bring together past artists, local people and visitors to celebrate what it is about Tarsset that has inspired the artists who, over the ten year period, have responded to it with the creation of new work. Everyone will be welcome so mark this date now.

## Diary of Forthcoming Events

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> & Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December,  
7.30 pm – 9.30 pm

FREE Enamel Taster workshops

Artist's Studio, Highgreen

Limited spaces so booking essential; tel 01434 240822

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2 pm – 4 pm

FREE Open Studio Event

Artist's Studio, Highgreen

All welcome, refreshments provided!

# VARC's Aims

Visual Arts in Rural Communities was set up to promote the understanding and enjoyment of visual arts in rural communities through contact with an artist, through creative workshops and through mounting exhibitions in the area. At the same time VARC intends that the residency and other projects it initiates provide artists the opportunity to develop his or her practice and create new artwork in response to a remote rural location.

VARC wants to develop its email mailing list. If you would like to receive newsletters, invitations and information about events by email rather than by post please contact us or subscribe online at [www.varc.org.uk](http://www.varc.org.uk).

If you have any ideas or would like to discuss anything in this newsletter please contact:

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[www.varc.org.uk](http://www.varc.org.uk)

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