

# WOLVERHAMPTON SOCIETY OF ARTISTS

## NEWSLETTER

### September 2026



#### Coming up ...



#### Guest speaker evening: Wednesday 16 September David McGuire

On Wednesday evening we will have the pleasure of hosting a talk by one of our committed and enthusiastic members, David McGuire. We all know David's work as he regularly exhibits at our exhibitions.

He is a Staffordshire born artist and he describes his subject matter as eclectic, ranging from urban landscape with particular emphasis on discovering a narrative of new life from time infused decay to still life and the abstract. He says he is influenced by shape, texture and colour, together with the juxtapositioning of other elements within the composition. At the same time, he often sees the need to comment on matters that disturb him in the present day.

*The following is an article by Jacky Fellows that appeared in the September issue of 'Collectivism'*

#### Chris Manley: A legacy of creativity, community and quiet transformation



Back in 2018, Chris Manley and I walked into the Good Shepherd art group at Base 25 with no idea how deeply those early sessions would ripple outward. What began as a simple visit grew into a lasting creative partnership: Chris went on to become one of the voluntary creative leads at the Good Shepherd, later joining forces with Paul Owen to open Studio G5 at Wolverhampton Arts Centre. Today, that studio hosts weekly art sessions; an open warm, quietly determined community shaped in no small part by Chris' belief that creativity belongs to everyone.

In the years since, I've had the privilege of running printmaking workshops for the group, including the Small Wonders project exhibited at Wolverhampton Art Gallery. Members of the Good Shepherd produced small, powerful art works that held stories, humour, resilience and pride. Their prints sat alongside work from the WSA, a testament to how inclusive creativity strengthens the wider artistic landscape.

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In 2026, I delivered five dedicated printmaking workshops in studio G5, exploring monoprint, drypoint and etching. Watching someone lift their print from the press, seeing that moment of surprise, delight, and “I made that”, never loses its magic. It’s confidence building.

You teach a technique, but way people produce is entirely their own – their story, their perspective, their spark. Some of the work created in those sessions has been genuinely wonderful, but more importantly, the process has been fulfilling, connective and full of shared pride

Working with the group has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my creative life. Week by week, we’ve built trust, explored ideas and worked toward the exhibition together. Art has offered a space for recovery, reflection and discovery. I’ve been inspired by their commitment, humour, courage and the sheer originality of what they make.

It feels fitting, then, that the WSA has approved the Chris Manley Legacy Award: one recovery artist will be selected for free membership of the WSA and automatic entry into our June 2027 exhibition at the Rose Paterson Gallery, Weston Park. It’s a celebration not only of Chris’ contribution but of the community he helped nurture; one that continues to grow and inspire all of us.”

Norm was pleased to present award to Alan McKee at the launch of Recovery exhibition, Friday 11Sept.

## Welcome to new members

We are pleased to welcome quite a few new members who have joined over the summer months:

**University Jarvis Award (includes 2-year membership):** Victoria Lindsay Murrain (Fine Art), Neve Frances (Illustration) and Ciaran Leeson (Printmaking)

**July new members:** Zoe Keeton, Gary Stonhill, Anne Cove, Cameron Sargent and Lee Smith

**August new member:** Simon Iredale

**September new member:** Alan McKee (Chris Manley Legacy Award winner)

## Coming up



**Some more help for Art in the Park will be very welcome. 08.30-11.00 on Saturday and 09.30-12.00 on Sunday.**

## What's on

Wolverhampton Art Gallery:

- Andy Warhol Arts Star. An Artists Room exhibition from Tate – until 28.09
- Wolverhampton School of Art MA Digital and Visual Communication Degree Show – until 28.09

Walsall Art Gallery:

- What Grows In Between. Dan Booth, Abraham Babajide Cole and Hannah Rollason – until 11.10

Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

- Everything Must Go. Solo art exhibition by comedian Jow Lycett – until 21.02.27

Royal Birmingham Society of Artists

- Guild of Aviation Artists: Defence of the Realm – until 26.09

Ikon Gallery

- Balraj Khanna: Lines of Flight – until 21.02.27

**Some pictures from the 'Recovery for Everyone' launch including the presentation of the Chris Manley Legacy Award**



**Summer painting and drawing days at David Austin Roses, Dudmaston and Cosford**

