

Words by ALEX JACKSON  
Photos by IAIN GARRETT

# Artswaveek for the



THE Albion Centre was awash with colour as it opened its doors to the public once again to celebrate **Art Weeks 2010**.

The Trust's day care services at the Albion Centre in Chipping Norton, who offer support and recreational opportunities to people with Learning Disabilities, took part in the Oxfordshire Visual Arts Festival for its fifth year running with a vibrant collection of paintings and creative designs on show.

During the annual Art Weeks Oxfordshire artists and crafts people open their homes and studios to the public. Around 400 exhibitors throughout the county showcased a love of painting, photography, textiles, sculptures and mosaics, among other things.

And the Albion Artists were once again brushing down their paint kits, mixing their oils and putting their creative thoughts into practice, as they assembled a mass of different works.

They first started designing and making their ideas a reality in October last year, to go with the set theme of "Out and About". This could encompass anything and everything from the countryside, to walks, scenery and hobbies.



From left to Right: Jonathan Hook, Deborah Stranack, Julie Tyack, Matthew Kerrison

After a stunning display in last year's All Thing Bright and Beautiful exhibition, the 20 people involved this time around, were keener than ever to impress the public, for yet another year.

The mix of paintings and ceramics added great warmth to the centre and members of the public poured off the streets of the marketplace to see the high quality offerings on display.

Bursting with an effervescent aura, paintings included Sarah Thacker's "Remembrance", which was a painting of poppies dedicated to all the soldiers who have passed away in the war, Hugh Clifford's "Driving In The Countryside" and Deborah Stranack's "Seaside Stroll" which showed herself and her dogs Dixie and Bob walking on the seaside. Among other paintings there were animals, cars and flowers, as well as a mix of embroidery.

One of the highlights for many was the "Rag Man", which was created by all 20 artists and exhibitors. Made out of different fabrics and cloths donated by a local charity, the man made figure strikes an imposing stance peering over the staircase with his fishing rod in tow. In previous years, the centre has produced an array of quality art, some of which have even been sent to the Royal Art Academy in London. Others pieces have been displayed locally in the doctor's surgery in Chipping Norton and the village shop in Enstone.

From left to Right: Linda Beattie, James Wallington, Hugh Clifford, David Pollard, Anthony Bishop, Sarah Thacker

Assistant team leader at the centre, Stephanie Newbold, said it had been another great year.

"We had a lot of new people through our doors this year and some wonderful comments in our visitors' book.

"All the artists were very excited to have their work on display and thoroughly enjoyed people coming to look around. A lot of thought, care and concentration goes into each piece of art, and the artists enjoy the attention and praise they receive.

"The people that use the Albion are part of the local community and the building is well known in Chipping Norton as a centre for adults with learning disabilities and now also as the 'Home of the Albion Artists'."

**Contact for further details:**

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"I'm extremely proud of each and every one of them and feel lucky to work with such wonderful talented people."



The 'Rag Man'

