



Jewellery start-up is real gem

Former teacher Audra Daws-Knowles has always loved vintage jewellery, particularly brooches, and now she is turning her passion for pins and clips into a new business. Audra has just moved her company from her kitchen table at her home near East Finchley Library to a shared workspace at the Business Design Centre in Islington.

She runs Brooches Pins and Clips with fellow entrepreneurs Noi Abrahams and Miacah Huggins. They source vintage and antique jewellery, researching the history and provenance of each brooch and clip and providing details of its age and maker.

Even though they've only just launched, they've already sold items to buyers in China, Spain, Canada and the US. Their next steps are to open a high street shop and to develop training packages for others wanting to sell their products online.

Audra is a former teacher of media studies at Highgate Wood School in Crouch End and is currently a member of the Phoenix Cinema Trust supporting the cinema's educational work with students of film and media studies.

Find out more about her jewellery business at www.etsy.com/uk/c/jewelry/brooches-pins-and-clips.



Pin-up: Audra Daws-Knowles wears one of her brooches.

Confidence through creativity

By Daphne Chamberlain

Christine Watson is a well-known local artist who says that teaching is her passion. She has just published a book called *Art Therapy*, a collection of art projects, very carefully explained and set out, and gorgeous to look at. It's partly the result of a series of classes she has been running on the Dollis Valley Estate.

Art for anyone

"Many people think they can't do art, but I want to show that anyone can if they try," says Christine. "The book is aimed at those would-be artists who are tempted to have a go, but lack the confidence to work alone or join a class."

Christine believes very strongly that mastering a creative skill is not only calming and relaxing, but builds up confidence in many aspects of life.



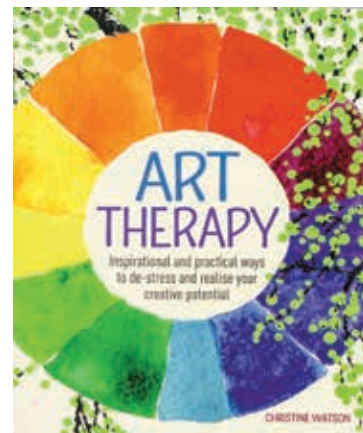
Artist guide: Christine Watson

are templates to use. Drawing is covered too, with the classic exercise of copying a portrait upside down.

EFO and beyond

Christine studied at the Winchester School of Art and the Slade in London, and won a scholarship at the British School at Rome. She has had many exhibitions, including at the Pastel Society in the Mall Galleries, where she won the Schmincke prize in 2015. She belongs to the East Finchley Open artists group and is also a lecturer at Barnet College, and runs private classes in Muswell Hill and Barnet.

She says she was thrilled to see *Art Therapy* in stock at the Tate Modern bookshop, but you can find it a bit nearer home in the Muswell Hill Bookshop. It's published by Arcturus, and the ISBN is 978-1-78428-580-7.



On sale: Christine's book

After years of teaching experience, she gives very precise information about the materials and brushes, pencils, etc, needed for each project, and step-by-step instruction with illustrations on each page. The book includes watercolours, acrylics, pen and ink, pencils, pastels, and collages, and there



Lean on me: Dance teacher William Comet with his dancing partner. Photo Andrew Ridley

Men in high demand for tea dances

Fun afternoons of smooth, modern jive dancing are starting this month, with men likely to be in strong demand as dance partners. The monthly Sunday tea dances will follow previously successful events hosted by local teacher William Comet. He says that while ladies are usually the first to register for these events, gentlemen are often a little shy.

"We know from research that men often find partnered dancing difficult and are easily embarrassed," says William. "So we aim to make it as relaxing and accessible as possible. We use a proven, safe, low-impact format

that enables our guests to dance with a variety of people and to feel comfortable. The most important thing is that dancing should bring a smile to your face and to your soul."

William, 51, says his aim is to share his love of this kind of partnered dancing, which has helped him stay fit despite long term back and knee pain.

Relaxed atmosphere

To help encourage that relaxed atmosphere, there will be cakes and snacks on offer and, for those watching their waistlines, fruit and tea. The first of the Sunday tea dances will take place on Sunday 26 November at the Free Church Hall in Northway, NW11, for adults and supervised teenagers.

There will be a beginner's class from about 2.30pm for about half an hour, followed by freestyle partnered modern jive dancing until carriages at around 5.45pm.

To register your interest and for other dates in December, January and February visit www.jivedanceparty.com and join the mailing list.

RICKY SAVAGE ...

"The voice of social irresponsibility"

Have you seen the cat-ologue?

He who sleeps under the radiator has just forwarded me an email from the most feared gang in East Finchley. Yes, the Finchley Feline Federation is at it again. This time the gang's chief spokescat Thomas has sent out a link to the new IKEA catalogue.

Why? Because those weird Swedes have just launched a range of furniture for cats. Naturally Tom thinks this is a great idea. The only problem is that there are bits he won't let me see. So, I did the only thing a cat's servant can do, I asked the dog.


Butch, from Bulldogs for Brexit, was not happy, partly because he hasn't yet worked out how to use the internet; in fact he can barely use the phone. But, as far as he was concerned this was another attempt by feline invaders to steal his basket, ban lamp posts and make him be nice to French poodles.

When not chasing parked cars or listening to the sound of his own bark, Butch was upset that there was far more stuff for cats than for Britain's true defender. In fact, he claimed that cats were a secret plot by Europe, having arrived only with the Italians in 43AD. But Butch is like that. If he had a tail he'd still be chasing it.

So back to he who sleeps under the radiator. He knows that the world has gone so pet crazy that he can get away with anything. He might not be keen on organic vegan cat food, but he likes to know that it's there and might even try it some time with a side order of robin.

Now he's brought the new IKEA pet range to my attention, he no doubt believes that it's only a matter of time before I upgrade him from his current cardboard box and blanket arrangement, like any good human servant would do. As they say, cats are in charge. Maybe they've taken over the board of IKEA already and are just too sly to admit it.

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