

PAULA CLIFFORD enjoys a varied new exhibition – People, Places and Pots – at Bampton Town Hall

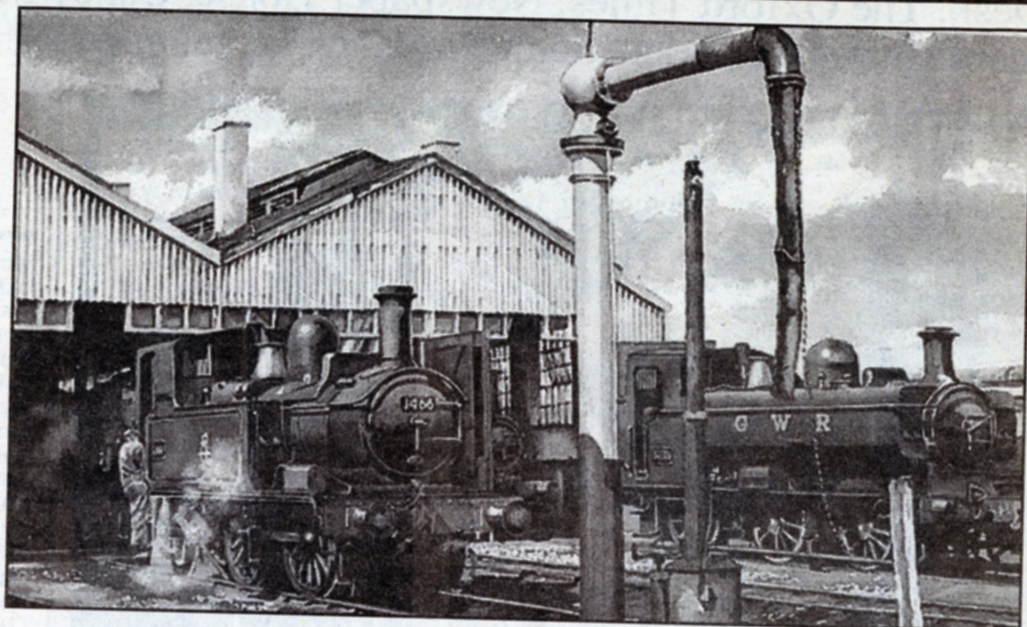
Until the end of August Bampton is home to a fascinating exhibition of oils, watercolours, pastels and ceramics by five artists who became friends through working in the Stanford in the Vale arts group. Together they present an intriguing mix of styles and a wide range of subject-matter.

This is exemplified in the work of the two potters, Inge Pevsner and Lawrence Carter. Inge Pevsner likes her work to be used as well as looked at, although one could hardly describe her output as simply functional. Japanese influence plays a significant part in her work, as revealed in some delightful bottle-shaped piggy banks which use Raku techniques, while the artist's extensive travels are reflected in African patterns on sgraffito pots. Jam pots, planters and bird baths receive equally imaginative and individual treatment.

Lawrence Carter's work reflects his interest in crystalline glaze and again offers a rich variety of styles. A retired chartered surveyor, he has devoted several years to developing his personal glazes, creating a different one for each pot or base. As a result his exhibits are richly varied.

The other three exhibitors are Ray Rawlings, who works in watercolours, oil painter Mike Skidmore, and the exhibition's organiser, Seija Wentworth who uses pastels and watercolours. Ray Rawlings's representation of engines at Didcot reflects his family background — his father worked on the railways — and there are two equally appealing paintings of trains at Tenterden in Kent.

This artist treats many familiar landscapes, from Tom Tower in Oxford to the lock at Goring, but includes delicate splashes of colour which give them a subtle stamp of individuality.



Steam up... Didcot Railway Centre, by Wantage artist Ray Rawlings

Make tracks for Bampton

Seija Wentworth's work reflects her family life as well as her origins in southern Finland, and there is a fine love-filled study of her daughter holding her three-day old baby. Similarly, her *Threesome* was inspired by her son's wedding at the parish church in Stanford in the Vale. Although not strictly within the theme of the exhibition, Mrs Wentworth's flower studies also repay attention.

Mike Skidmore is best known for his portraits and his models range from his wife to

an Afro-Caribbean friend, who is depicted with more than a touch of humour. Others include a blacksmith at work (*New Shoes*), a fisherman (*The Fly Tyer*) and someone cleaning a gun (*A Clean Shot*), all revealing the artist's close interest in the people he presents.

The exhibition is open daily except Mondays until August 31 and is well worth a visit.

Enthusiasts can read about Lawrence Carter's techniques on his website (www.puseyfootin.demon.co.uk/).

Contents

August 20, 1999



*Seija Wentworth's watercolour
Threesome . . . which can be seen at a
current exhibition at Bampton*

Page 19