

CLAY BARN CHRISTMAS EXHIBITION Review

'Richly Rural'

26 – 29 November 2010

Well it was the first time in twenty eight years that Louise had had to clear a path to the workshop door for her November exhibition, after all the garden sprucing up - it was cloaked in snow for the weekend! Still the intrepid enthusiasts and newcomers followed the path from the pub car park; one just had to make a bee line across the lawn in their haste to – get to see the exhibition – or was it to get into the warm?!

Stunning stylized bronze sculptures by first time Clay Barn exhibitor Jo Naden were really eye catching, and much admired. The other newcomer this weekend - illustrator Shelly Perkins fascinated and bemused listeners as she described the combination of her artistry and digital manipulation that she has perfected to create her limited edition framed works.

Returning to this venue with repeated success Bill Yardley and Sharon McSwiney both work with metal in very different ways – etcher Bill engraves metal plates, from which he makes limited edition prints of closely observed wildlife, and Sharon makes jewellery, wall reliefs and hangings, each individually created with unique effects in copper and brass.

Then there was the well lit, crystal based, colourful, blown glass by Martin Andrews, exhibited here before; his pieces relish the qualities of molten glass, and in turn its fluidity, transparency and opacity. Once again Louise had chosen and hung an exciting combination of styles and media to accompany her ceramics and photographs, full of richness and rural inspiration in this 'Richly Rural' setting.

