

Summary of Forthcoming Events for your Diary

- **Sunday 24th February**
Tarsset 'Art Challenge', Tarsset Village Hall. Any Tarsset residents interested in exhibiting please contact Helen Brown, 01434 240427, helenbrown@freenet.co.uk
- **Thursday 6th March**
'Kitchen Stories', Norwegian comedy in connection with Norway Day, First Thursday Films at Tarsset Village Hall,
- **Saturday 8th March**, 2pm onwards Norway Day, Tarsset Village Hall, with food and music from 6 pm, FREE but PLEASE RING 01434 240281 or sign list in Holly Bush by 1st March if you want to come for food and music.
- **Saturday 5th April**, 2 pm – 4 pm
Imi Maufe, Open Studio Afternoon with display of work, The Studio, Highgreen, FREE
- **Saturday 5th April**, 4 pm – 4.30 pm Imi Maufe, Artist's Talk, the Studio, Highgreen, FREE
- **Sunday 6th April**, 10 am – 3 pm
Printmaking and Book-making Workshop Day for adults and over 12s, Tarsset Village Hall, FREE but PLEASE BOOK; 0191 266 6857. Places are limited.

If you are in Glasgow at the end of April look in at the Glasgow International Artists Book Fair, 25th-26th April, 11am - 6pm, The Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow.

www.giab.org.uk

Imi will be showing her book works from previous projects and also work carried out whilst on the VARC residency.

Open Studio Afternoon with display of work
2 pm – 4 pm, Saturday, 5th April, Highgreen

Artist's Talk, 4 pm – 4.30 pm, Saturday 5th April, Highgreen

Imi will be opening her studio and showing examples of projects carried out so far in her residency and will also be giving an illustrated talk on her work past and present. Come along and find out more about the artist's work and see what she has been doing.



Workshop Day, 10 am – 3 pm, Sunday 6th April, Tarsset Village Hall

Imi Maufe uses different skills for different projects, but they often include print and book making. This workshop day will be based around the map-making and local distinctiveness ideas that were requested on the postcards that were sent out. There will be a chance to make a selection of basic books and have a go at printmaking.

This free workshop is intended for adults and young people over the age of twelve. The workshop will comprise a morning and afternoon session with a break for lunch. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided. Please bring your own packed lunch. Numbers are limited so if you would like a place please ring Janet on 0191 266 6857. Please note this is not a drop in session

Imi Maufe in her studio



Imi Maufe; artist's book "A short, made long, by getting lost journey"

Work with children

In connection with Norway Day, Frode Rønnesdal and Imi Maufe will be visiting Greenhaugh First School. Frode will be telling Norwegian stories and Imi will be leading illustration sessions with the children.

Imi is also visiting Bellingham Middle School. She will be teaching some Norwegian phrases to the group of 21 children soon going skiing in Norway and leading a workshop with them to make hand-made travel journals. Imi hopes the children will complete these while they are away so that they can form part of a display on Norway Day, 8th March.

Imi has been invited to create a piece of outside work to enhance the play area of North Tynies (a day centre for 0-5year olds) in Bellingham. She expects to be leading a drawing session with some of the older children and, from these, will make some signs for display outside.



Tarsset landscape; photo Steve Chettle

VARC supports local projects

A panel comprising Jane Hart (Community Development Officer, Community Action Northumberland), Sarah Burn, (Creative Partnerships Northumberland) and Janet Ross, (VARC) met and considered applications made to VARC's Fund for Local Projects and after consultation with trustees offered the following support:

£475 to Bell City Youth Project to carry out the creation of a jigsaw artwork with artist Lionel Playford and to make graffiti boards with artist John Craggs. Both of these pieces of work will be displayed on the walls of this newly established drop-in centre for 13 – 19 year olds in Bellingham.

£320 to Wark C of E First School to run felt-making workings with children and community members led by artist felt-maker Omi Pharcote and create a large felt panel to reflect the locality.

£120 to Helen Brown to support Tarsset Art Challenge, an exhibition of artwork by Tarsset residents taking place at Tarsset Village Hall 24th February.

The next deadline for applications will be 30th April 2008 when there will be £2085 in the fund, £1500 plus £585 carried forward from November. Applications are welcomed from groups or individuals based in the Tarsset, North Tyne and Redesdale area for projects that:

- Result in a new piece of artwork or series of works that wouldn't otherwise have got made;
- Directly relate to the landscape or community in some way;
- Include some direct benefit to a sector of the Tarsset, North Tyne or Redesdale community or as a whole, whether this is through the outcome or through creative participation.

If you would like more information and an application form please get in touch with Janet Ross, Liason Manager, VARC, janet.ross8@btinternet.com

Visual Arts in Rural Communities

Newsletter

Spring 2008



Imi Maufe; Blue Jars, ink and Unison pastels

Imi Maufe settles in at Highgreen

Imi has settled in at Highgreen, has got to know lots of people and joined in many local activities and events.

'The months since October 2007 have flown by and the weather changed almost daily. Arriving over the hill into Tarsset after 29 hours on the ferry from Bergen, Norway felt instantly like home. I have, since then, tried to understand the place from the inside, getting involved with the calendar of events, watching seasonal changes and exploring the landscape by foot and by bike.

These experiences and explorations have lead to an explosion of ideas and to the beginnings of several projects. Even in an area little populated, there is much to see and do. Capturing the special qualities of this part of Northern England into the ways that I work is challenging, but exciting.

One of the questions I am most often asked when meeting people in Tarsset is "what do you work with / what is your medium?" This always causes me a little problem; because my media and methods of working vary accordingly to where I am and what I am trying to achieve.'

Imi Maufe, January 2008



Imi Maufe explores the area taking photographs and mapping her walks

Tarsset Norway Day, 2 pm onwards with food and music from 6 pm, Saturday 8th March, Tarsset Village Hall

With her Norwegian partner Frode Røynesdal and in collaboration with Tarsset 2050, Imi Maufe and VARC are organising a Norwegian day at Tarsset village hall on 8th March.

"There is more to Norway than the fjords" is a cultural event that draws on connections between Tarsset and Norway.

In the afternoon there will be exhibitions and activities including: waffles, ways to keep warm in winter, cabinet of curiosities, local norse place names with Tarsset Archive group, examples of energy saving designs, storytelling, photographs of Arctic Norway, Norwegian willow pipes workshop and more.

In the evening there will be Norwegian food and traditional music from a group called Tørvikbygd from Norway and Sophy Ball and Hinni Pawsey from England. Both the afternoon and evening parts of the day are free, but please book for the evening of food and music by calling Tarsset 2050 on 01434 240 281 or sign list in Holly Bush, by 1st March as we need to know numbers.



Norway Day has been supported by Northumberland National Park Authority, the Norwegian Embassy, Queens Hall, Hexham and Tarsset 2050.

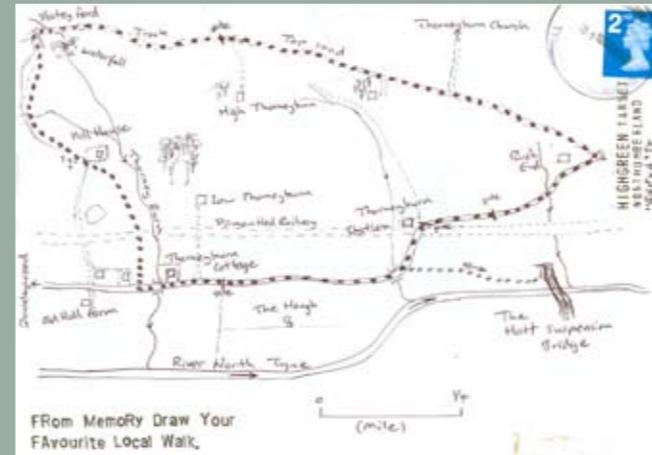
8am Oct 7th 2006 early morning start, Grindaflethyttta, Norway

Special request for exhibits

For one of the exhibits at Norway Day "Cabinet of Curiosities" Imi is asking for people in the Tarsset area to loan objects that come from Norway. These will be displayed accordingly and safely complete with museum labels. Please contact Imi on 01434 240 562 to arrange collection.

Kitchen Stories

Linking to Norway Day there will be a screening of the award-winning Norwegian comedy, 'Kitchen Stories'. This is being shown as part of the series First Thursday Films at Tarsset Village Hall, Thursday 6th March.



Imi sent out postcards with the last edition of the Tarsset News. These asked local residents to send drawings of their favourite walks and also asked for any ideas of what they think is special about Tarsset. Imi plans to use these to create an alphabet of local distinctiveness. If you haven't sent back your postcards there is still time to do so....just draw or write and pop them in the post!

The cards will be brought together and included in the artist's final exhibition in some form and possibly in an artist's book.

One of the postcards already received

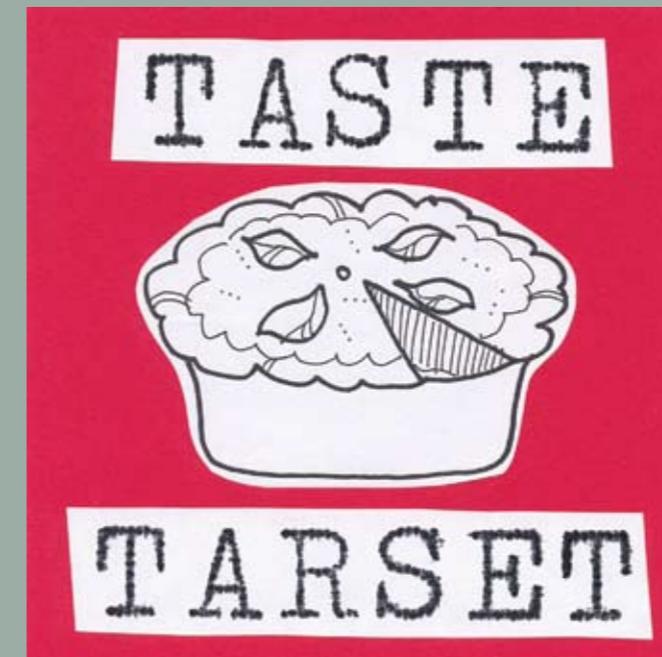
Colour Project

Unison Colour, based locally at Thorneyburn, Tarsset, make handmade soft pastels for artists which they export all over the world.

After spending a day watching the pastels being made, drawing and photographing at Unison Colour, Imi Maufe has been experimenting with colour and text in the shape of pigment jars and postcard samples with the intention of developing a colour map of Tarsset. VARC is very grateful to Unison Colour for it's support with this project.

Graphics designed for Tarsset 2050 Great Pie Challenge

Imi was invited to do the graphic work for the Tarsset 2050 Great Pie Challenge which was held on 9th February. This included designing and printing posters, certificates and special aprons! To do this Imi has started to use the print room in the Newcastle Universtiy's Fine Art department; part of a growing link between VARC and Newcastle University.



Imi Maufe; graphics for Great Pie Challenge

Visual Arts in Rural Communities was set up to promote the understanding and enjoyment of visual arts in rural communities through contact with an artist, through creative workshops and through mounting exhibitions in the area. At the same time VARC intends that the opportunities provide an artist a unique opportunity to develop his or her practice.

VARC is eager to develop further links with groups in and around Tarsset, in villages and towns in the area and in the city of Newcastle.

If you have any ideas or would like to discuss anything in this newsletter please contact:

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www.varc.org.uk

To find out more about Imi Maufe and her work visit www.axisweb.org/artist/imimaufe (or come along to the Open Studio afternoon on 5th April)

The annual residency was set up by, and is funded and managed by Visual Arts in Rural Communities (VARC), a registered charity no 1091282.

Norway Day has been supported by Northumberland National Park Authority, the Norwegian Embassy, Queens Hall, Hexham and Tarsset 2050.

