

Visual Arts in Rural Communities

# Newsletter

Summer 2008



Imi Maufe, *Tree (one of series)*, Polaroid photograph



Dancing in Tarsset Village Hall to music by Norwegian band Tørvikbygd, and Sophie Ball and Hinny Pawsey

## Norway Day

Norway Day, held in March at Tarsset Village Hall, was a wonderful event. There were displays of hand-knitted Norwegian mittens and socks, collected souvenirs from Norway, Norwegian energy efficient design, photographs of Arctic Norway by Simon Fraser and results of printmaking, story-telling and book making workshops led by Imi Maufe and Frode Røynesdal in local schools. In the afternoon there were free Norwegian singing and willow pipe workshops, story telling and a waffle cafe and, in the evening, a traditional meal and Norwegian music by Norwegian band Tørvikbygd and Newcastle fiddle players Sophie Ball and Hinny Pawsey which around eighty people enjoyed.

The event was made possible by funding from the Norwegian Embassy, London, Northumberland National Park Authority and Queen's Hall Hexham, as well as support from Tyne and Wear Museums Service and a lot of hard work by Frode, Imi and her family and members of Tarsset 2050.



Imi Maufe, *Colour Sample Card (detail)*, ink and Unison pastels.

# Bookmaking Workshop

In April Imi ran a bookmaking and printing workshop in the village hall. The day included basic techniques with time to create a personal book using the skills learnt. Bob Howe who gave demonstrations of letterpress printing supported Imi. There were lots of positive comments about the day from participants:

‘Thoroughly enjoyable and great to learn new skills with someone expert.’

‘Delightful, happy, creative day.’

## Contributions to community activities

Imi has continued to be involved in community happenings, often with some sort of intervention. The Parish picnic was reintroduced into the calendar of events this year. Imi invented a game/artwork called ‘Hunt the Midge’ which involved a printed map, centred on Highgreen and lots of gingerbread animals with iced grid references to real place names. This game is an extension of one of Imi’s artworks in progress.



Imi Maufe, *Iced Biscuits with Grid References (detail)*

## Colourful panels for 'North Tynies' playground

Imi Maufe was asked if she was interested in producing a piece of work to enhance a large fence in the playgroup's playground. After a site visit and consultation with the staff at North Tynies, Imi ran a drawing workshop with the final year group.



Imi Maufe, *North Tynies Perspex Panels*

Imi has collated these images onto coloured Perspex that can hang on the fence. Rubbings can be taken from the panels, which can be moved around to form an ever-changing game of pairs.

## University Students Visit

Early in May a group of twelve Fine Art students from Newcastle University spent two days of intensive workshops at Highgreen that started with a visit to Unison Colour and a two-hour silent walk across the moors led by Imi Maufe. This helped the students view the landscape in a different way and set the tone for the remainder of their stay. The experience made a big impression on them and they all want to return next year!

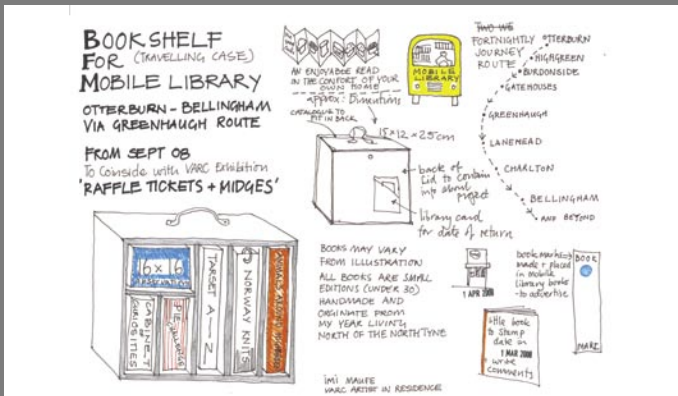
# Raffle Tickets and Midges

Having been fuelled by ideas and starting points for new work since arriving in Tarsset last October Imi has started a process of bringing all these ideas together to form a cohesive body of work. Because of the diversity of projects and activities she has been involved in Imi has not been finding this easy! In the past Imi has often documented projects using book art as an outcome and books will form the main part of the her final VARC exhibition, Raffle Tickets and Midges.

The exhibition will be presented in a specially designed portable cabinet which, after its showing at Highgreen, Imi will tour from the valley on her bicycle. She will take it to Bellingham Heritage Centre, Queens Hall, Hexham and Northern Print in Newcastle before she leaves Highgreen early in October.

## Library Collection

A selection of books from the exhibition will be housed in a specially made portable bookshelf which will be carried on the Northumberland County Library's mobile library for a year on its route from Otterburn to Bellingham (that passes Highgreen). Anyone using the mobile library will be able to borrow the collection as they would any other book.



Imi Maufe, *Bookshelf For Mobile Library*, Artist's drawing



# Diary of Forthcoming Events

Wednesday 20th August, 10 am

## Silent Walk

A walk led by Imi Maufe on behalf of the Healthy Walking Group departing from Highgreen. All welcome for a two-hour walk (some gentle inclines, stiles and boggy ground). NO TALKING and no photos... Bring a packed lunch to be eaten on the lawn at Highgreen.

Saturday 23rd August

## Falstone Show

Imi Maufe and VARC will have a table in the Arts and Crafts tent where Imi will be inviting people to take part in an interactive work involving colour and stories.

Saturday 13th September, 1.30 pm

## Silent Walk

Imi Maufe will lead a 'Silent Walk', departing from and returning to Highgreen in time for the exhibition opening party. This is the opening of the North of Tyne and Redesdale Walking Festival 2008. To book a place, please call Kielder Castle on 01434 250209.

Saturday 13th September, 3.30 pm – 6 pm

## Exhibition Opening Party

'Raffle Tickets and Midges', Highgreen, food and refreshments. All welcome!

Sunday 14th, Friday 19th, Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st

Exhibition open to the public 11 am – 4 pm

Imi Maufe will be touring her exhibition by bicycle to the following venues:

Tue 30th Sept, 1 – 3 pm

Wed 1st Oct, 12 – 3 pm

Thurs 2nd Oct, 6 – 8 pm

Fri 3rd Oct, 11 – 5 pm

Sat 4th Oct, 12 – 4pm

Bellingham Heritage Centre

Queen's Hall, Hexham

Northern Print, Newcastle

Northern Print

Northern Print

\* Artist's talk 6.30 pm

Visual Arts in Rural Communities was set up to promote interest, awareness and understanding of visual arts in a rural community through engagement with an artist and offer a unique opportunity to an artist wishing to develop his or her practice by working and living in a remote rural community.

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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