

MEDIA RELEASE

MP TAKES THE OXFORDSHIRE ARTS TOUR

07 June 2010

Henley MP, John Howell, this week took a tour of some of the outstanding artists in the constituency who had opened up their studios and houses as part of Oxfordshire Artweeks.

His tour took in artists in Pyrton, Watlington, Little Assendon, Henley and Shepherds Green.

John said:

"This constituency is rich with talented artists. Oxfordshire ArtWeeks allows us to visit them in their homes and studios where they generously share their work and some of their secrets with us. I visited five of the exhibitions around the constituency and at each I was struck both by the outstanding quality and imagination of the work and by the way the artists were on hand to talk about their art, what inspired them and some of the techniques they used. What made the exhibitions even more powerful was the intimacy of displaying the art in the artists' homes rather than in a gallery."

In Pyrton the MP visited Ruth Heppel (painting and drawing) and Lynda Segrave (metal sculptures). In Watlington, Peter Foster explained how he approached his work with stone and wood. Anne Arlidge's glass studio [SEE PHOTO] at Lower Assendon provided a fascinating glimpse into how glass could produce stunning pieces of art.

Finally, Janet Callender's paintings of plants at her studio in Shepherds Green made a seamless transition between her paintings and her beautiful garden beyond. He also visited Emma Symonds jewellery collection on exhibition at the Hotel du Vin in Henley.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Oxfordshire Artweeks is a festival held in May each year. Oxfordshire artists and crafts people open their homes and studios to the public to share their art. There are around 400 stunning exhibitions throughout the county, some in larger public spaces, and entry is *free* to all of them. This is a unique opportunity to meet the artists, to talk about their work, watch demonstrations and even try your hand and have a go yourself! There's a wide variety of media including painting, photography, textiles, sculpture, ceramics, furniture, glass, mosaics, jewellery, and much more.

Spread over three weeks- May 15th – 23rd is South Oxfordshire week.