

Studio doors are opened

This month's 5th annual Stroud Valleys' Open Studios festival will help raise the profile of the area's considerable artistic talent

Stroud has for many years enjoyed a rich seam of artistic talent and much of the current crop will be on view when more than 90 studio doors are thrown open this month for an event that boasts the greatest concentration of artists and craftspeople in the UK.

The 5th Stroud Valleys' Open Studios, presented by Stroud Valley Artspace, will stretch over two weekends – June 16-17 and June 23-24 – and will involve some of the area's best known artists.

Among them will be Haresfield-based sculptor Jamie Vans, Stroud-based landscape artist Carolyn White and textile designer Liz Lypiatt, who will display her work at the Stroud Valleys Artspace.

The Artspace is based in a three-storey warehouse in John Street, Stroud, and provides low-cost communal and individual studio space for artists.

Also displaying there will be Shelley Campbell, whose latest commission by The National Trust involved making a dress from real grass for last month's Chelsea Flower Show. The inspiration for it was dreamed up at last year's festival.

She said: "I made what can be best described as mud pies, from compost, grass seed and water and stuck it to an old office chair. The idea progressed to a brussel sprout dress, which proved very popular. Because the grass is growing it is temporary art so needs to have instant impact."

She is currently working on a new grass creation especially for the festival but will also have three more conventional pieces of art on display.

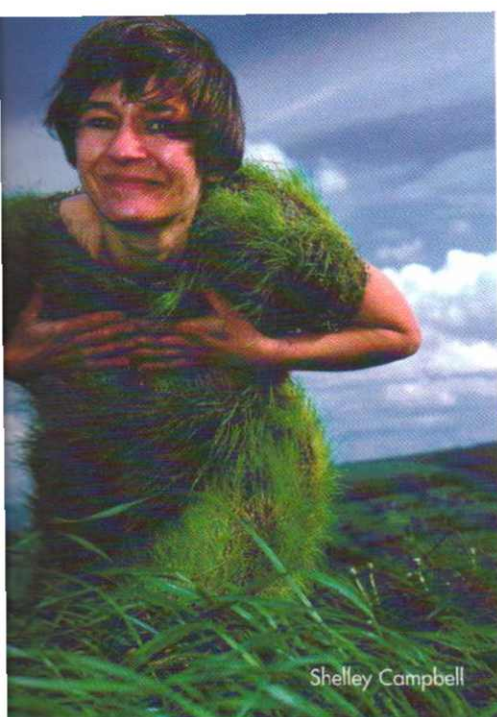
"There is something about paintings that makes the viewer self conscious. With the grass work there is a great sense of humour and it hits a different place. People love it."

Running alongside the open studios will be a taster exhibition at Bank House, High Street, Stroud, from June 9 to June 24. This will feature works by all the artists participating in this year's Open Studios event.

Festival organiser Sybil Edwards said: "The festival offers visitors a wonderful opportunity to view the wide range of artistic talent working in the area.

"People will be able to obtain a free 36-page catalogue full of all the information they need to enjoy a wonderful day out, moving conveniently between the various studios."

Catalogues, featuring events, venues, studios and maps, are available from Tourist Information centres and libraries.



Shelley Campbell

Just how much
tax are you
clocking
up?

From the 6th of April 2002, substantial changes will occur in the way that company cars are taxed.

There are two main areas of change – the level of mileage and the age of the car now have no bearing on the taxable benefit, whereas the list price and the CO2 emission level will now be taken into consideration.

How can you be sure if you will benefit or lose out?

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