

## Art Appreciation Workshop - 11 February 2023

On a most glorious winter afternoon, when a brisk walk would have been good, twenty-four people gathered at Startforth Community Centre for the Art Appreciation Workshop. However, we were soon engrossed in A Bigger Picture, a DVD about the artist David Hockney, chosen as some of us had greatly enjoyed his exhibition at Salts Mill on the u3a trip to Saltaire last August. Filmed over three years, by Bruno Wollheim, the DVD was about when David had returned home to live at his family home in Bridlington, East Yorkshire after 25 years in California. As well as glimpses of his early life, it showed how he had worked outside during all the seasons and all weathers to produce the largest picture ever made outdoors. This measured 12 metres long by five metres tall and was painted on 50 individual canvases. It was eventually donated to The Tate.



A chance meeting at a Bridge Club (hurray for the Beginners' Bridge Workshop) between our Chair, Annie Clouston and Howard Coutts, who is in charge of ceramics at The Bowes Museum, led to the second half of the afternoon. Howard gave a short talk on his views on Hockney over the last 40 years and he brought along various of his own books about the artist, including those on his print work and also set designs, giving ever more insight into his art. A big thank you was given to Howard for coming along to speak to us.



The idea of the workshop was to replicate what was done in the monthly meetings of the Art Appreciation Group, run so successfully by Roger Stanyon for 12 years. It was hoped that someone or a few people will come forward to resurrect the group. The suggestion has been made by various people that they would be happy to organise a meeting occasionally and Roger has said that he has a huge library of art DVDs that can be borrowed. If you feel able to take this on, please contact Roger Stanyon 01833 631758 [rogerstanyon@gmail.com](mailto:rogerstanyon@gmail.com) or Sue Overton 07512368884 [sueoverton@hotmail.com](mailto:sueoverton@hotmail.com) who will be happy to give you further details.

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