



## **Highbury Art Exhibition**

**October 2018**

### **Sandy Gough**

Throughout my life I have loved to garden, and have tried to paint and draw flowers and plants, but have always been frustrated by the

two dimensional appearance of my pictures. Taking part in various adult education courses didn't fill my needs, until prior to retirement I attended a series of workshops at Birmingham University's Winterbourne Botanical Garden. Following this in 2010 I enrolled on a course in Botanical Illustration, and then Aspects of Botanical Illustration in 2011 at Birmingham Botanical Gardens. These courses were very inspiring, as well as introducing me to the Birmingham Society of Botanical Artists (I became a member in 2011), and a new circle of friendly like-minded people where I met two artists, Jo Lloyd and Jane Wilkes, who were about to start running a monthly workshop using coloured pencils.

These workshops opened up a whole new world for me. Coloured pencil is now my preferred medium, although I sometimes draw using graphite, and pen and ink. I am particularly drawn to specimens that are less than perfect, especially leaves, fading flowers, rusty things, old wooden posts and crumbling brickwork. Having learnt the painterly techniques of using coloured pencil, I like the challenge of working out by myself how to recreate these types of things on to paper.

I strive for botanical accuracy, and I relish trying to capture the detail of all the other subjects I tackle. But above all, I enjoy exploring the different aspects of this absorbing pastime, and sharing the love of drawing with my enthusiastic eight-year-old granddaughter, who also loves helping me search for the perfect dried up leaf, rusty nail, or rotting wooden post to draw.

I have taken part in two exhibitions:

2012 *'From a Monastic Herbal'* at Worcester Cathedral (part of the Worcester Festival)

2013 *Illustrated Herbs* at the Coach House, Winterbourne Botanical Garden, Birmingham

If you have a favourite flower or something you would like a drawing of, I am happy to take commissions. (The only things I don't draw are people). I can be contacted via my email address.

[goughsandy@hotmail.com](mailto:goughsandy@hotmail.com)

Please put as the subject 'Drawing Request' so I don't miss your email.

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Barbara Gemmell

In my teens, I loved doing art and science. However, I ended up doing science, then teaching. On my retirement I did several weekend courses at Winterbourne introducing me to botanical drawing, followed by the BSBA courses in Botanical Illustration 2010 and Aspects of Botanical Illustration in at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. From then on, I was hooked. I discovered that I love working in graphite, but I keep developing my watercolour skills. In 2012, I completed a course in the use of coloured pencils - a great medium for drawing. I've always loved gardening and growing