

9th September 2021

Dear Mr Mayor,

On behalf of Melody James, Jean Mintoft, Tina Tian, Simon Young and myself, I would like to thank you and Saltash Town Council for the opportunity to hold our Open Studios week in Isambard House. It was a real privilege to be the first group to use the building and hopefully you feel we did it justice. The venue truly lends itself to displaying art with its large windows and skylights providing glorious natural light.

The sympathetic refurbishment of this historic building has created a beautiful contemporary space whilst maintaining many of the original features and nods to its past. It is our hope that Open Studios was the perfect event to promote the building. Our feedback shows the complimentary comments from the many visitors who came to see the wonderful work that Saltash Town Council has achieved.

Through a combination of interest in the rescued and refurbished building and our own promotional activities, we achieved 737 visitors during the week, vastly more than any other Open Studios venue this year. We also did much better than expected with our sales of artwork and we are delighted to be making a payment in excess of £1000 to Saltash Town Council for the use of the building.

We would also like to extend our thanks to the staff who supported us throughout the week and indeed to yourself and your wife for providing refreshments to visitors during the first weekend.

The free event received huge praise from its visitors and as such we would love to return next year with new pieces to share.

Kind regards

Joanna Shepherd

Saltash Rep for Drawn to the Valley, a collective of 178 artists living and working in the beautiful Tamar Valley