



## **Tuesday and Friday Art Groups**

present

**An online exhibition of artwork by members  
celebrating  
Macclesfield Canal and its surroundings  
through the seasons**

**2023**

**Compiled by  
Group Leaders – John Childs, Gill Griffiths**

## **Acknowledgements**

**Big thankyou to all the artists who worked so hard on this project**

**Thank you to Terry Chamberlain for his advice and work in getting this project on to the Congleton U3A Website**

**Thanks to the U3A Photography Group who encouraged us and provided some photographic material**

**Thanks to The Macclesfield Canal Society for their encouragement and supply of information**

**Thanks to the Building Managers at Clarence and Adelphi Mills, Bollington for allowing roof top access for photography**

**Finally, to all the people who built the canal in the 19th century, and those now who maintain it**

## **Introduction**

**The aim of this project was to celebrate through art the wonderful resource that is our local canal and its surroundings through the seasons. We were not trying to paint every lock and bridge on its 26-mile length from Marple to Kidsgrove, but to give the viewer an appreciation of the variety of surroundings and marvel at the tremendous effort of the original 19th century builders.**

**This is not a history project, but we could not help bumping into history along the way. If you would like to learn more about the canal, its building and its early working years, please visit the website of the Macclesfield Canal Society at <https://www.macclesfieldcanal.org.uk/>.**

**The contributors to this exhibition are members of two U3A self-help art groups who meet weekly for the enjoyment of doing art. Every submission for this exhibition has been included. On some of the pictures the artist has added some extra notes giving a clue as to their motivation in choosing the subject.**

**There is an Appendix to this exhibition which includes some extra photographic material that we collected. Although this did not become paintings, we have included it for general interest.**

**Enjoy the show !!**

**SPRING**





**Title : Hovis Mill from the canal in Macclesfield**

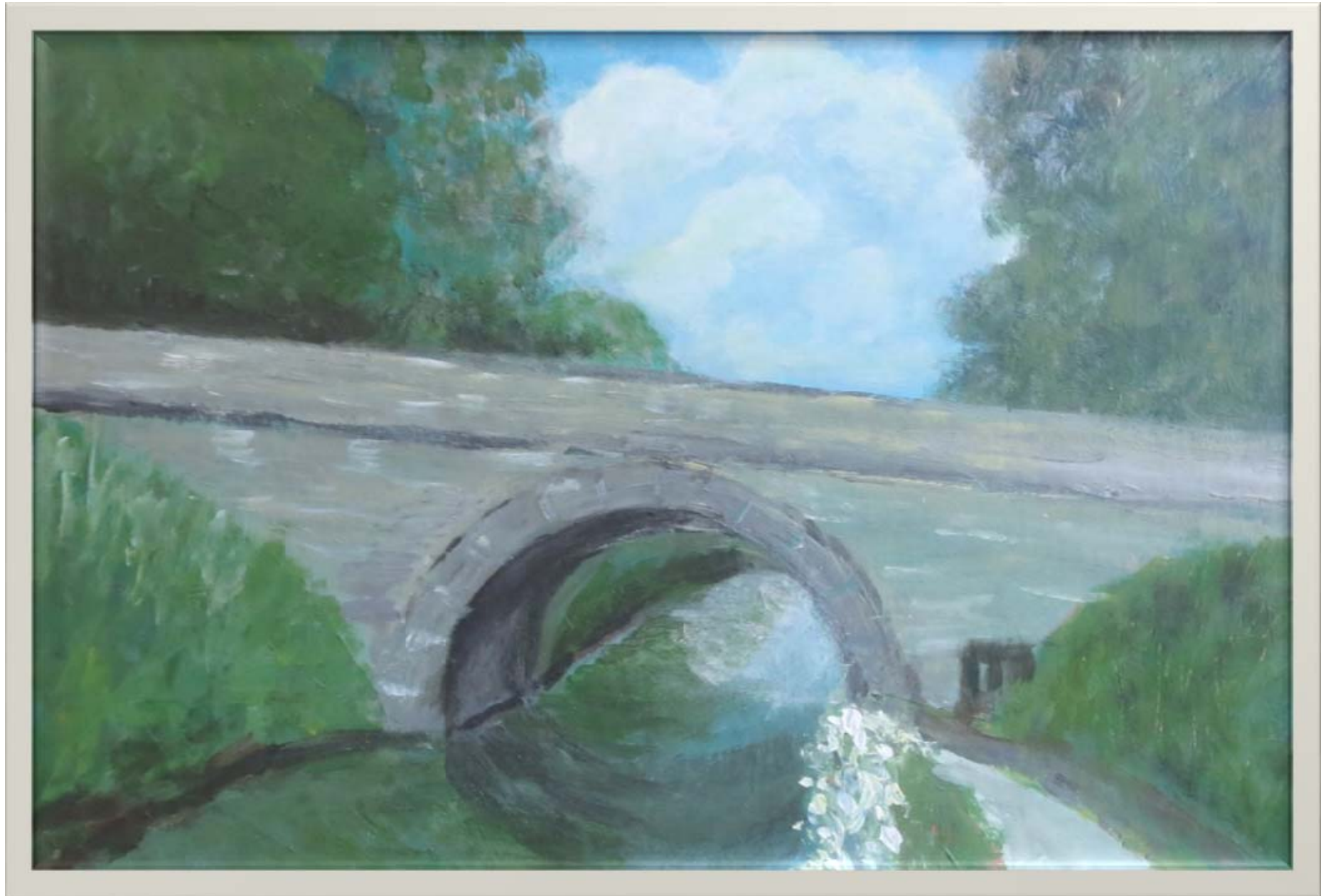
**Media : Acrylic**

**Artist : Frank Ball**



**Title : Greens of Spring      Media : Pastel      Artist : John Childs**  
**Notes : The canal between Adelphi and Clarence Mills, Bollington**





**Title : Bridge at Bollington**

**Media : Acrylic**

**Artist : Frank Ball**



**Title: Bridge 92**

**Media : Watercolour**

**Artist : Zosia Biegus**





**Title : Macclesfield Marina**

**Media : Acrylic**

**Artist : Frank Ball**





**Title : Cattle Bridge    Media : Watercolour    Artist : Malcolm Gregory**





**Title : Mooring point**

**Media : Watercolour**

**Artist : Dianne Verity**





**Title : Sunrise at the Spillway**

**Media : Pastel**

**Artist : John Childs**

**Notes : Before sunrise there was a layer of white mist over the water.  
When the sun came up over the treetops the white mist turned to gold. Magical !!**





**Title : Hall Green Lock**

**Media : Watercolour**

**Artist : Yvonne Hartley**





**Title : Spring on the canal**

**Media : Watercolour**

**Artist: Gill Griffiths**

**SUMMER**





**Title : Five Ways to Travel      Media : Watercolour      Artist : Kath Wood**

**Notes : Walking, water, rail, road and air**





**Title : Approaching Lock 9 at Bosley   Media: Watercolour   Artist : Val Brooke**





**Title : Canal Road Bridge**

**Media : Watercolour**

**Artist : Tony Birchall**



**Title : Stop Lock   Media : Watercolour   Artist : Malcolm Gregory**

**Notes : Near where canal crosses Biddulph Valley Way**





**Title : Bridge 64**

**Media : Watercolour**

**Artist : Zosia Biegus**





**Title : Sunshine on Macclesfield canal**

**Media : Watercolour**

**Artist : Val Thurley**





**Title : Commercial Barge**

**Media : Watercolour**

**Artist : Malcolm Gregory**



**Title : Meet at the Bridge      Media : Pastel      Artist : John Childs**

**Notes : This was a U3A Walking Group enjoying a canal walk north of Macclesfield**





**Title : Reflections**

**Media : Watercolour**

**Artist : Val Thurley**





**Title : The Three Bridges    Media : Acrylic    Artist : John Childs**

**Notes : A unique meeting at Hightown of three modes of transport.  
I think the owners of the red boat had just popped into the Queens Head for some  
refreshment !**



**Title : Visiting Fowl    Media: Watercolour    Artist :Sheila Barber**





**Title : Snaily Bridge in Congleton    Media : Watercolour    Artist : Gill Griffiths**





**Title : A study in orange (subtitle, where's my boat gone ?)**

**Media : Watercolour**

**Artist : John Fryer**

**Notes : I wanted to concentrate on the drawing aspect of it, so I used pen and ink.  
It was a lovely sunny day, so I decided to use colour orange throughout.**





**Title : Snaily Bridge**

**Media : Watercolour**

**Artist : Malcom Gregory**





Title : Bosley Lock

Media : Acrylic

Artist : John Childs

**AUTUMN**



**Title : Going to Clock On      Media : Pastel      Artist : John Childs**

**Notes : Today Clarence Mill in Bollington is mostly smart apartments. I have re-imagined it in it's time as a working Mill. Smoke from the chimney and a rainy morning, workers on their way to start a shift.**





**Title : Dog Walker**

**Media : Acrylic**

**Artist : Frank Ball**





**Title : Frozen Autumn**

**Media : Watercolour**

**Artist : Zosia Biegus**





**Title : Autumn**

**Media : Watercolour**

**Artist : Zosia Biegus**





**Title : Under the Snaily Bridge**

**Media : Watercolour**

**Artist : Sheila Barber**





**Title : Bridge 25**

**Media : Watercolour**

**Artist : Zosia Biegus**





**Title : Snaily Bridge, Congleton**

**Media : Watercolour**

**Artist : Tony Bartley**

**Notes : I love the lines of this bridge, and I saw it one day  
just after a snow fall in early autumn**





**Title : Night time**

**Media : Watercolour**

**Artist : Zosia Biegus**

**WINTER**





**Title : Bridge 79**

**Media : Watercolour**

**Artist : Amanda Kirby-Crisell**



**Title : Bridge 29**

**Media : Watercolour**

**Artist : Tony Birchall**

**Notes : Near Adelphi Mill**





**Title : A cool afternoon    Media : Watercolour    Artist : Kath Wood**





**Title : First snow of winter      Media : Acrylic      Artist : John Childs**

**Notes : Winter afternoon light was fading. Shadows began to make the snow lose its whiteness.**





**Title : Late fall of snow**

**Media : Acrylic**

**Artist : Frank Ball**





**Title : Frozen**

**Media : Watercolour**

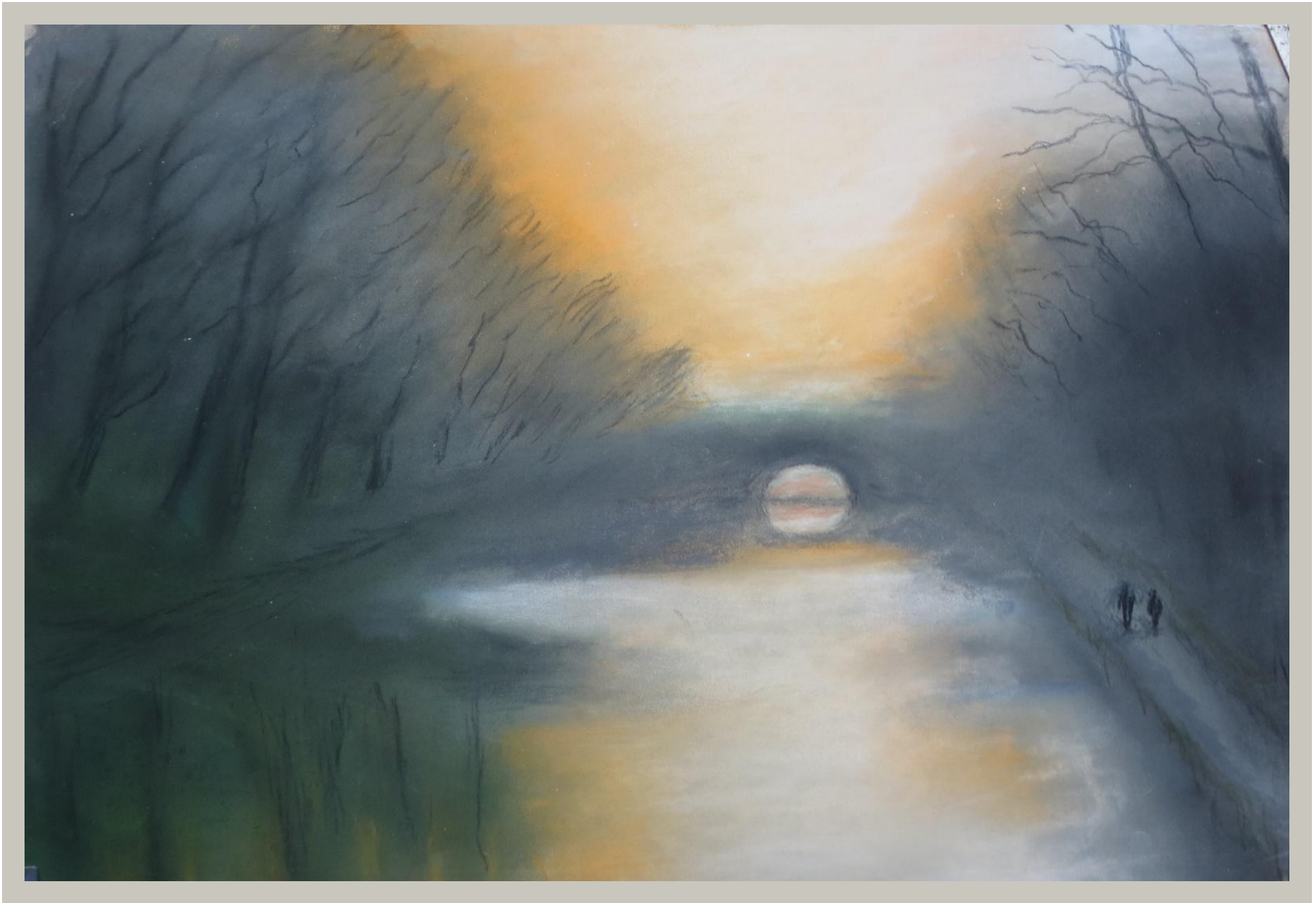
**Artist : Zosia Biegus**





**Title : Frosty Morning      Media : Watercolour      Artist : Kath Wood**





**Title : Late afternoon sunset in Winter**

**Media : Pastel**

**Artist : John Childs**





**Title : Narrowboat in Winter**

**Media : Watercolour & White Gouache**

**Artist : Yvonne Hartley**



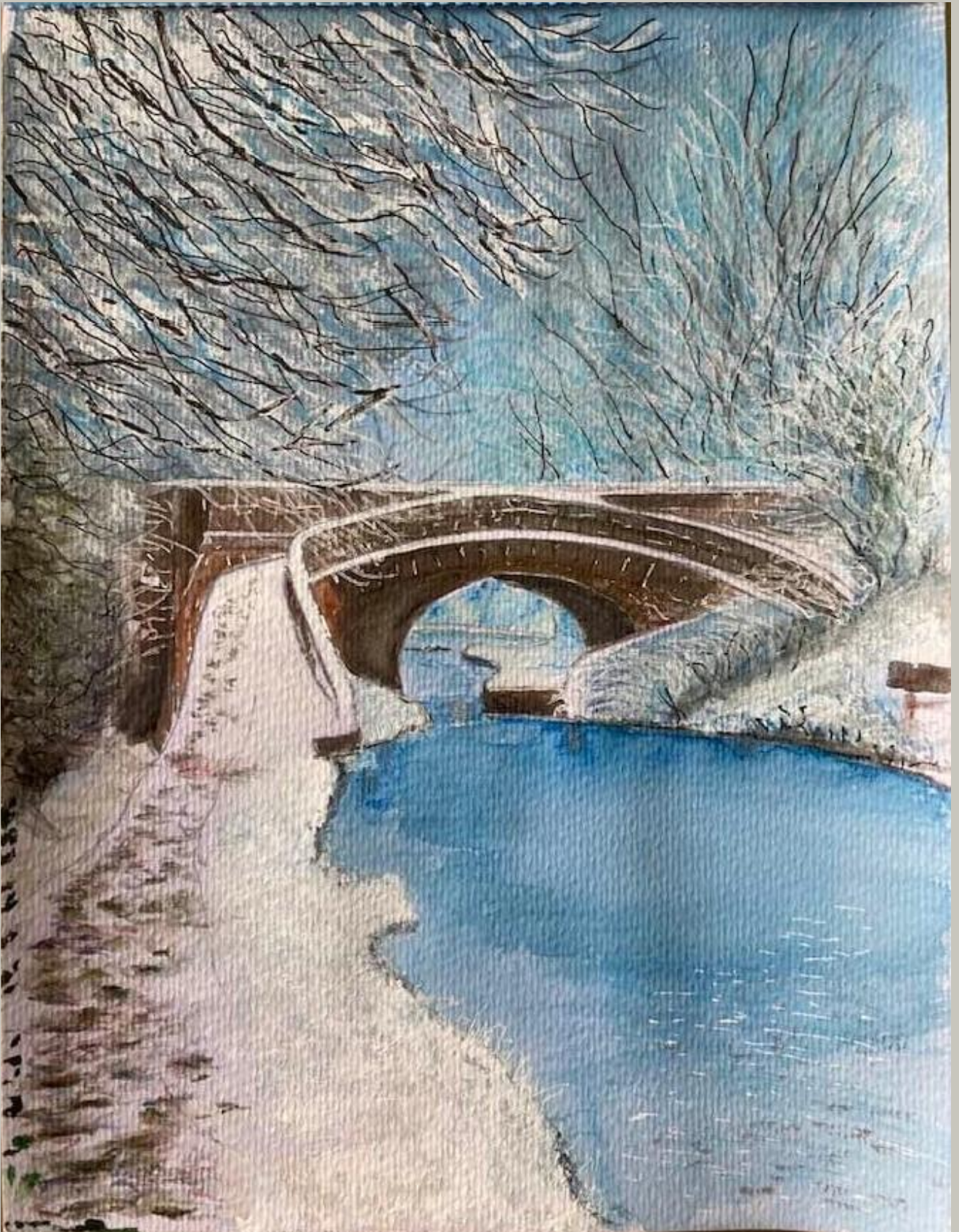


**Title : Winter**

**Media : Watercolour**

**Artist : Kath Wood**





**Title : Snaily Bridge , Congleton      Media : Watercolour      Artist : Tony Bartley**

**Notes : Someone posted a photo of this in deep winter,  
and I thought the colours were wonderful**





**Title : Bridge 71**

**Media : Watercolour**

**Artist : Tony Birchall**

**Notes : Footbridge leading to Timbersbrook**



## **Appendix**

**We collected a lot of photographic reference material on this project,  
too much to convert all into paintings**

**In this last section we have included some of the more unusual and  
sometimes challenging photographs**



**When visiting Clarence Mill, Bollington to take photos, this coincided with Steeplejacks starting their maintenance work on the red brick chimney. Although the building is mostly apartments now the chimney has been retained and is an iconic landmark on the Bollington skyline.**





**Steeplejacks going up further**



**At the top !!!!**





**Drone aerial photo of the railway viaduct over Dane-in-Shaw pasture in winter. Taken from above the canal.**

**Image kindly provided by the u3a Photography Group**





**The same drone aerial viewpoint as the previous photo but obviously later in the year.  
Image kindly supplied by the u3a Photography Group**





**Looking towards Macclesfield**

**Photo taken from the roof top of Adelphi Mill, Bollington. This Mill was built next to the canal by two brothers.**





**White Nancy on the skyline to the left**  
**Photo taken from the rooftop of Adelphi Mill, Bollington**





**Paddle Boarders on the canal at Bollington**





**The Canal & River Trust boat and the maintenance crew**





**New life on the canal**





**Looking up the canal towards the Bollington Aqueduct**

**Photo taken from the rooftop of Clarence Mill  
(The red brick chimney is ever present in Bollington)**





**We noticed that some stone bridges on the underside had courses of stones running parallel to the ground**

**See next picture**





**On some bridges the courses of stone ran diagonally**

**Why the difference ?**

**The answer is on the next page**





**The answer is that the diagonal stone courses are on a Skew Bridge, ie., one that crosses the canal at other than 90 degrees to the line of the canal, see above**

**Then the alignment of the face arch stones at 90 degrees to the arch face dictates that the following courses run diagonally  
Very clever stone masons !!**





**Orange coloured water at Harecastle Tunnel, Kidsgrove – said to be caused by iron deposits from local mining**

**This is actually the Trent & Mersey Canal but it is close to where it joins the Macclesfield Canal**

**The Harecastle Tunnel was designed by Thomas Telford (the superstar of Victorian civil engineering) who also surveyed the route of the Macclesfield Canal**





**And finally,  
Congleton U3A Walking Groups make good use of the Macclesfield Canal  
Long may it be available to all**