

NEWS FROM THE BURTON ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

It is now May, and Diane Arbus, one of the best known American photographers, and her portraits continue to be on show at the the Burton, on tour from the Tate and the National Galleries of Scotland and the Ferens in Hull. Diane's aim was often to capture the unusual, sometimes marginalised people, characters with strangeness of gender or beauty. Other pictures are just of the people she met in her daily life, the children, the workmen and women in the neighbourhood of New York, where she grew up and lived. She said: "Photographs are perfect. They are immediate and true to the moment they were captured." She turned photography into an art form, and that is what you see as you wander around the galleries, studying each portrait, and perhaps understand what Diane saw through the camera lens at that split second as the shutter opened and snapped shut. She was a quiet person, sometimes secretive about her work, but bold in her approach to uncover her subjects' inner being and the complex nature of their lives. She died in 1971, and left a legacy which has fascinated her contemporaries and those who followed in the same genre. The exhibition continues until 11th June.

It's Half Term again, from 26th May to 4th June, and the Burton offers a few Crazy, Messy, Crafty things for children to play around with. '*Crazy Faces*' will be designed on 29th May by 5-11 year olds; '*Superhero City*' will be recreated on May 30th, (again, 5-11 age group), and '*Messy Landscapes*' for children from 6 months to 5 years, will happen on 31st May. June 1st sees experiments with '*Attract-ive Magnets*' (3-5 years). But every Monday 'Crafty Kids at the Burton' from 10-12 (£1 donation per child, please) is there for pre-school children.

The Craft Gallery hosts Rhian Malin's delicate, hand-painted ceramics, alongside all the other creations by the best craft artists in our region and beyond.

The Friends' speaker on 17th May, is local author, Liz Shakespeare, on 'Edward Capern, Postman Poet.' 7.30 p.m. in the Gallery, £5 at the door. All welcome.

There is also a coach outing to Prideaux Place, Padstow, on Saturday, 9th June, leaving Bideford at 9.00 a.m. Time out in Padstow after the visit. Cost: £9 entry to the house. Coach cost to be advised. Book at the Gallery, 01237 471455.

Gallery opening hours: Mon-Sat: 10-4; Sunday, 11-4. Admission Free.

Diana Warmington, Friends of the Burton Gallery.