



From 2015 Houghton Lodge and Gardens in Stockbridge is collaborating with Hampshire based Creative Coverage to deliver art exhibitions featuring the work of professional artists.

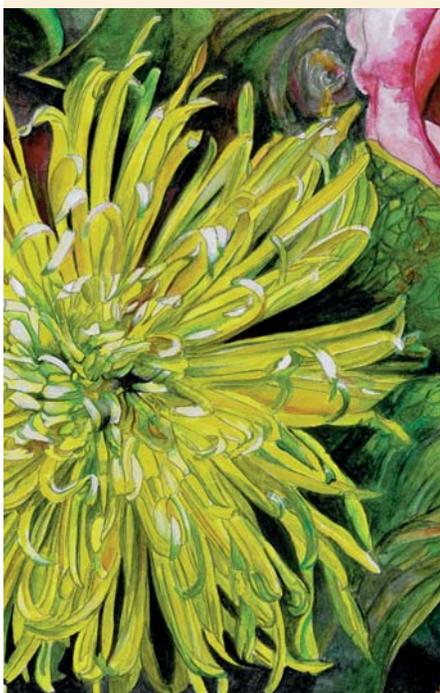
These will take place in The Orangery between April and September where there will be a variety of original art, prints and cards all for sale.

The venue is currently renovating the space. Creative Coverage will also be supplying an artist in residence, which will change every three months or so.

“This is a very exciting collaboration,” says Tim Saunders, co-founder of Creative Coverage.

Above and below are images by Susie Lidstone, one of the exhibiting artists.

For more information contact Tim Saunders on: 01489-564536.



Picture: John Millar

## New Forest walks with the National Trust

For those wanting to stretch their legs the New Forest Northern Commons offer adventure seekers an inspirational landscape, with gently worn paths through woodland, heathland, mire and grassland.

Conservation work at Bramshaw common has opened up some breathtaking views and created a vast sense of space.

Wild woodland and spectacular vistas can also be enjoyed at Rockford, Ibsley and Hale Purlieu commons. Visit [nationaltrust.org.uk/newforest](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/newforest) or call 01425 650035 to find out more about these special places.

Mottisfont, the former 13th-century priory surrounded by 1,600 acres of gardens and woods makes the perfect venue for a walk. Choose from several downloadable walks, including the six-mile estate walk, taking in historic farmland, 400 year old woodland and the crystal clear waters of the famous River Test. Download the walk at [nationaltrust.org.uk/mottisfont](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/mottisfont).

The art gallery re-opens on **January 17** with an exhibition of contemporary photography, with the rest of the house opening on **March 1**.

### Concert: January 10, 7.30pm

Riverstrings Quartet are holding a recital with a local pianist, Nao Dickson, at Twyford St Mary’s Church performing works from W.A.Mozart, A. Glazunov and A. Dvorak. Tickets £10, on the door or from 07890 415010.

## Great Wessex after dinner donation

Two thousand people took part in the Great Wessex Dinner this year, raising £228,000.

Dinners were hosted across Dorset, Hampshire and the surrounding counties – but the event also went global, with parties being held as far away as Geneva, Portugal and Australia.

The Great Wessex Dinner hosts, which included the Earl of Shaftesbury and Charlotte Townshend, invited friends and family to dine with them in return for a donation. There was also a live online auction which added £101,000 to the total.

A cheque was presented to the benefitting charities, Julia’s House, the Dorset Children’s hospice and Naomi House and Jackspace, at the home of the Earl of Shaftesbury who hosted a dinner party of his own.

He said: “We had a wonderful time at our dinner party; it was a great get-together for friends and family with the fantastic bonus of supporting the children’s hospices. We held it in our Great Dining Room which hadn’t been open for 50 years, so it was a double celebration.”



Sue Read, Peter Read, Connor Read, Suzanne Fairclough, Hattie Fairclough and Neil Fairclough