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Sculptor carves her way to top

By Richard Mills

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A MONKTON Farleigh sculptor has hit the jackpot as three separate exhibitions will be shown in the coming weeks.

Liz Watts, 59, has had her works accepted for an exhibition at The Bankside Gallery, London, which runs from April 26-May 2; at Devon's prestigious Creative Coverage Open Exhibition at Kennaway House from April 29-May 5 and at Southwick's Greenhill Cottage Gallery from April 30-May 8.

On top of this success, Ms Watts, of Broadstones in the village, will once again be exhibiting her work of porcelain, clay and bronze at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in August.

Exhibitions of her work will be featured at three locations

"I did not expect this level of success. It is lovely and very exciting," she said.

"People have been so supportive and shown that confidence in me and I do not want to let them down."

Formerly a veterinary surgeon, Ms Watts spent 10 years learning the craft of sculpting and ceramics in France before returning to the UK in 2002 and began her own workshop near Bath.

After gaining recognition for her displays from the likes of Tim Saunders and Martin Slade, she has branched out and is going from strength to strength.

"There has been a lot of hit and miss times over the years and you just hope and pray for that breakthrough. I feel I have been very lucky with the support I have received and this is for them as well," she said. "It is all going a bit mad right now. I like to experiment. With porcelain it is quite like having a difficult child. You have to persuade it to do what you want. I love it."

The mother-of-three is putting on displays of eight of her pieces in London, six in Devon and several for the local Cloth Roads Arts Week.

To see her work visit <http://www.lizwatts.co.uk/>.

Manor house to host charity jamboree

BRADFORD-ON-AVON'S Belcombe Court is opening its doors to the public in aid of British Red Cross for a day of music, exploring the grounds and much more on May 22.

Rarely open to the public, the 15th century manor house, in Belcombe Road, will host the

jamboree from 2-6pm.

Visitors will be treated to exploring its gardens, woodland, caves and grottos whilst enjoying acoustic acts, food and specialist plant stalls.

Guests can also enjoy an open mic show, a choir performance in the barn and a glimpse of the

cutting garden and the new vegetable garden at a cost of £5 per adult with under 16s going free.

For more information contact British Red Cross community fundraiser Jessica D'Arcy on 020 7877 7603

Or you can email JDarcy@redcross.org.uk