

# Painting a picture

*English student Sarah Fay, 20, talks to volunteer art teacher Andy Greuter about how his passion for art has kept him positive through hard times.*

An artist from Glastonbury is sharing his talents across town.

Three years ago, self-taught artist Andy Greuter was forced to give up work due to health problems and began to devote more time to his art.

"It started as a hobby," he said.

"I only got to spend more time working on my painting and drawing through having to leave my job as a taxi driver. I had a metal heart valve fitted in 1978 and it was only supposed to last 25 years. In 2005 I was told it was still functioning, but I have a second heart valve that is failing, and work was putting to much strain on

my heart.

"However I don't worry about it because I know there are people in worse shape than me."

Andy said he had always been interested in art, but his real passion was uncovered while on holiday in Wales.

"I travelled into the mountains around Snowdonia and found a man painting a watercolour," he said.

"I was amazed by it and decided I wanted to try and produce my own art."

Since then, Andy has spent a lot of time teaching himself painting and drawing techniques and the history of art.

Andy takes much of his methods and inspiration from American artist Bob Ross. He has also been accredited as an official Bob Ross instructor.

His passion has led him to take up voluntary teaching in Street and he is now



**PART-TIME PAINTER: Self-taught Artist Andy Greuter puts The finishing touches to One of his images.**

Instructing art groups across the region.

He said: "It all started when I began helping out at Street Senior Citizens Art Group. Someone was so impressed with what I taught they asked me to start up another group."

"I get so much satisfaction from teaching others. It is a great feeling, knowing I have shown them that they can draw and paint too."

Andy currently runs four different classes, and is hoping to start a fifth in the New Year.

He added: "I have called my art classes Painting4fun because I believe art should be fun.

"My motto is, if it's not fun then we won't do it."

It has been one of Andy's ambitions to get his work exhibited, but he said it is difficult not being an established artist. He has entered his paintings in to regional art competitions including Somerton Summer Arts Festival and this years Mid Somerset show where his work was a great success.

He said: "I will keep on trying to get my work on show. I have applied to have some pictures put on display at West Mendip Hospital. I also want to carry on teaching, whether it's through more art groups or private sessions. I just want other people to share the passion I have."

**Sarah Fay**

*For more information see [www.painting4fun.co.uk](http://www.painting4fun.co.uk)*

**Article as produced and published  
in the FOSSEWAY MAGAZINE  
Friday November 7th 2008**