PATISSERIE LEWES

If you're in need of a pit stop during the Art Wave trail, seek out one of Lewes's hidden gems.

Just a short walk from the train station, Patisserie Lewes is the perfect place for mouthwatering pastries and jolt of caffeine. At the back is a wonderful secret garden where you can soak up the sun. You can even get your art fix at the same time – on display is local photography.

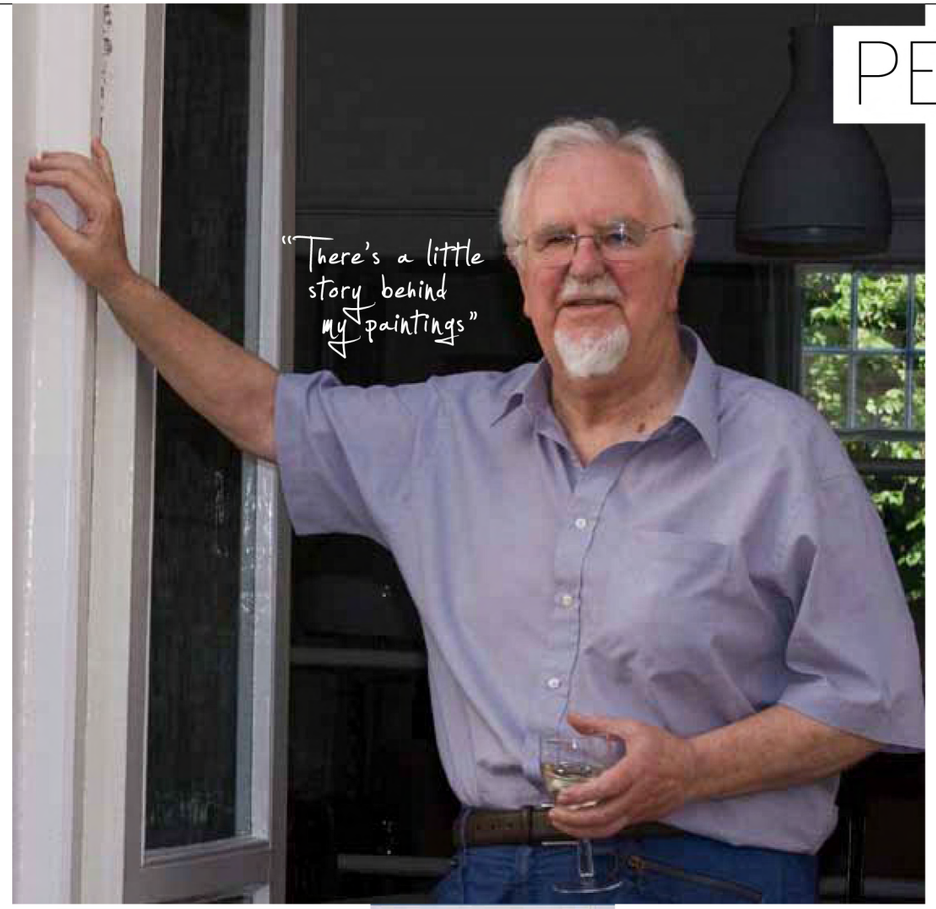
5 Station St, Lewes BN7 2DA;
tel: 01273 483211

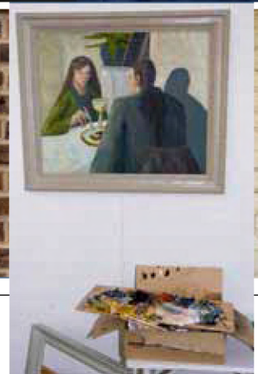
NEW STEINE HOTEL

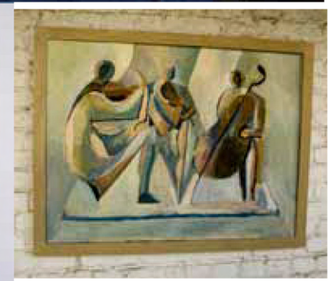
Overlooking New Steine Gardens, where the AIDS memorial by local sculptor Romany Mark Bruce reaches into the sky, the positioning of New Steine Hotel is just perfect. "We really want to be considered as a gallery as much as we are known for our restaurant," says owner Herve Guyat, who has encouraged local artists to exhibit here since opening New Steine Hotel in the building next door 10 years ago. Now that address is occupied by Gullivers – Herve's second hotel, which has 12 bedrooms and offers bed and breakfast along with a similar dose of local art. The New Steine Hotel, with 20 bedrooms, French bistro, private dining and conference facilities, has become established as a destination for fine art and fine French cuisine. Herve holds regular supper clubs. "They're a nice way to enjoy local food cooked in a French way as well as sampling some French wines." When we visited the restaurant was displaying a selection of oil paintings from 'Diners Observed' by local artist Peter Morris.

10/11 New Steine; tel: 01273 681546
www.newsteinehotel.com

PETER MORRIS







Peter Morris paints like a composer, creating variations on a theme. "I do three kinds of paintings. "Landscapes (Peter divides his time between Queen's Park and the Dordogne); people eating and drinking; and musicians."

He's brushing away the breadth of his talent with the speed that he brushes over the canvases that fill his home – and garden. And having painted for 60 years, there's clearly a longer story to tell.

IMPLIED NARRATIVES

Having originally studied art at Cardiff, Peter emigrated to Canada where one of his works was selected for the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts Summer Exhibition. He suffered "culture shock" on returning to England in 1962, instantly rejecting the pop art vogue.

"I became part of the English narrative tradition – hence there's a little story behind my paintings. But they're never illustrations. The stories are always implied – and not necessary to the paintings themselves."

It was Peter's studies of unsuspecting French diners, shown during AOH, that led to his exhibition at New Steine Hotel. "I saw people addressing the fact of loneliness or solitude. Little social scenes you get in every restaurant."

In contrast are his relentless depictions of string quartets. "I see musicians performing together as strong patterns. I've managed to keep going with virtually the same composition over and over again. I like the combination of figures – the way they build up to make a composite core – with the background playing a second melody behind them."

http://pedmorris.jalbum.net
tel: 01273 608508