



*Painted Roots: "Step by step migrants followed the stream
resting in the caves above."*

Roots from the reed beds beside the stream at Corchiano
in Italy as part of the exhibition "migranti e liberte".

Jill Rock, 2022

Foreword

Residents of Monro House together with my long-time friend Joan McDonald and writer/artist Peter Woodcock suggested I start an arts group in the beautiful annexe to their building.

Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught and Strathearn the third son of Queen Victoria originally opened Monro House "a large and handsome brick building, with slightly projecting wings, gables, and a cupola turret" as The Sailors' Orphan Girls' School and Home in 1869.

Having founded and run Pentameters Theatre in Hampstead since August 7th, 1968 I was immediately enthusiastic and Monro House Arts Group was founded on November 28th, 2017.

Residents Maureen McAllen, Olive Jerome and Pat Cook together with local writers including June Rathbone and Robert Ilson subsequently became regulars.

We meet every Wednesday at 10.30am to present poetry, theatre and literature alongside music and art. Guest speakers and performers are invited, but most importantly we create our own work.

This collection is a brief sample of some of our current work and the first of which will become a series.