



**NORFOLK AND NORWICH ART CIRCLE  
NEWSLETTER  
JUNE 2016  
www.nnartcircle.com**



**Remember to visit the new format website**

**Douglas Farthing MBE**

**Demo/talk for NNAC at URC Hall on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2016**

Douglas Farthing enlisted as a soldier straight from school in Lowestoft in 1984. After a distinguished career (during which he drew and painted wherever and with whatever was to hand) on active service in Northern Ireland, Afghanistan, Pakistan and the Balkans he now concentrates on his career as an artist. Despite having no formal art training, he has recently completed an MA at The Prince's Drawing School. His final MA show was bought in its entirety by a collector and he now exhibits his work throughout the UK. Doug showed a number of his unique and highly collectable sketches and paintings done on the wooden sides of ammunition boxes. His sketch books are a fascinating record of the locations, people and campaigns in which he has participated. As a soldier, Doug was trained to observe everything around him, to see and interpret every face, action and the environment at all times – it could have an impact on what he should do next. Rising to the rank of RSM in the Para troops, although he was never an official UK war artist, his artwork has always been very well supported by his commanding officers. They would often arrange things in order to enable him to have access and protection in some fairly difficult circumstances. His work is both a record of fleeting and often traumatic events and a way of coming to terms with them.

All his past and current work is based on his observations and recollections. Although now away from the theatre of war, he continues to return to the people and places that still figure very powerfully in his memories. The demonstration after tea showed how his fluid approach to the development of each picture is a synthesis of these observations and recollections together with an abstract assessment of the way the paint and marks are evolving on the canvas. Working on a small study of people originally sketched in Afghanistan, one figure emerged as more critical in the composition and began to create the focal point of the picture. Shortly after the demonstration, the picture (after a bit more work in the studio) was displayed in the window of Mandell's Gallery. Following his MA at the Princes Drawing School, he is working on setting up a drawing project for young people which will be based in Norwich and is to be launched at St Mary's works on 23<sup>rd</sup> July. NNAC members are invited to attend. He is one of four featured artists in a new publication – "War Artists in Afghanistan – Beyond the Wire" which includes pictures and first-hand accounts. His work is regularly shown at both Mandell's Gallery and The Ferini Gallery in Pakefield, Lowestoft.

**For more information about Doug and his work, go to his website at [www.douglasfarthingart.co.uk](http://www.douglasfarthingart.co.uk)**

**Malcolm Cudmore**

**Sketching Day at Beth  
Chatto's Garden**

Six members braved the cold wind and horrendous weather forecast to visit the gardens and paint or sketch. In the event we were able to sit with wonderful views of the garden away from the wind and enjoyed not only our artistic efforts but the magnificent surroundings and pleasant conversation with other visitors.

Members are reminded that work produced in the garden may not be put into exhibition with any named reference to Beth Chatto.

**Sue Willmer**

**Brancaster Exhibition**

The Circle will be exhibiting at Brancaster Staithe **from Friday 9th to Sunday 11th**

**September 2016.** Members may submit three works that have been accepted at selection in the past two years. We have a maximum of 80 works that can be exhibited and submission will be accepted by date of receipt of the application form by the Chairman until that total is reached. Set up Friday 9am. Work accepted between 9 and 10 am  
Entry £5 per picture.

Commission 20%. If exhibiting the artist must be prepared to sit in. Exhibitors should be responsible for making arrangements delivering and collecting own work

**The next social gathering** will be on  
**Thursday 21st July 2016** at the **Marsh  
Harrier**, Ipswich Road (A140), Norwich from  
7pm onwards. Come along and join in.  
**Contact Clive for more details**  
Please note the proposed date for future  
gatherings Tues 16th August

## **London Trip**

Very unfortunately this event has had to be cancelled. Apologies to the members who did show an interest, however we need a minimum of 40 to make a coach to London viable and we were very short of this number. Many thanks to Christine Darwood who put a lot of her own time into making arrangements with Notcutts and the coach company.

## **Future Events**

Saturday 23rd July URCH 2-4pm Tim Fisher Pastel Demonstration  
Friday 9th September to Sunday 11th September Exhibition at  
Brancaster Staith  
Friday 16th September Art Circle Dinner At Bawburgh (Glen Lodge)  
Saturday 24th September Critique Session at URCH 2-4pm  
Saturday 8th October Forum Selection Day Nelson Street Infant School  
Saturday 22nd October John Shave Demonstration at URCH 2-4pm  
Sunday 13th to Wednesday 16th November Forum Exhibition  
Saturday 3rd December Easel Party 12-2pm URCH

## **CALL FOR ENTRIES**

NNAC members might be interested in this  
National Open Art Exhibition **closing date 10th  
July. [www.nationalopenart.org](http://www.nationalopenart.org)**

NATIONAL OPEN ART is administrated by THE  
CHICHESTER ART TRUST, a registered NOT  
FOR PROFIT Arts Charity, whose aim is to  
provide a truly open and fair platform for all UK  
and the Republic of Ireland artists to exhibit, sell  
and promote their work through a genuinely open  
Art Competition with an well respected annually  
selected judging panel choosing works to be  
exhibited in the NATIONAL OPEN ART  
EXHIBITIONS in London, Chichester and other  
venues around the UK

The Chichester Art Trust receives no Arts  
Council funding and is paid for through  
registration fees, supporters donations, art sales,  
advertising and wide ranging sponsorship.

Registered Charity No:-1067096

## **Life Drawing Group**

**URCH Ipswich Road Norwich.  
2nd Wednesday of each month**

**Provisional Programme for 2016**

**13th July- Mythical**

**10th August- Earth**

**14th September- Against the Wind**

**12th October- Fire**

**9th November- Rain/Umbrellas**

**14th December The Christmas Fairy**

**If that doesn't inspire you to join in a session.....!**

**Sessions are from 9.30am (set up) to  
1pm ( we must be out by 1pm) with a  
break**

**Fees £8 per session (£10 non members)  
Bring your own materials**

**If you wish to join a session you are  
urged to contact**

**Clive Brookes 01508 499358  
[clive@theautumnhousestudio.co.uk](mailto:clive@theautumnhousestudio.co.uk)**

**Juliet Hodgson 01603 211827  
[Hodgson.ja@btinternet.com](mailto:Hodgson.ja@btinternet.com)**