



BROADBRUSH

Newsletter of Woking Art Society

AUTUMN 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Sue Hinton

Summer has gone, the days are getting shorter and what has been the strangest of years is nearing its conclusion, but with little hope of an end to all its uncertainty.

With so much of 'normal' life being put on hold in recent months, it's particularly satisfying that Woking Art Society has been able to adapt and continue providing at least one live monthly demonstration per month since June.

I must admit to having been a little concerned initially as to how well Zoom would work and whether enough people would join to make our online demonstrations worthwhile. But I was pleasantly surprised when more than 35 members joined our first demo with Chris Forsey and similar numbers, sometimes more, have continued to join most events since.

More importantly, your feedback indicates you're enjoying these sessions and finding it really interesting to see the artists working close-up in a way that isn't always possible at The Vyne even when using the big screen – the detail of Carole Massey's water soluble pencils being a case in point.

Just when all hope of holding any exhibitions in 2020 had pretty much gone, I received a call from Hannah Bruce in early August. She'd been talking to the management team at Woking's Peacock Centre about the possibility of a 'pop-up' in an empty shop.

She went on to organise one of the most successful exhibitions we've held in recent years with over 280 sales of cards, folios, framed paintings and craft items totalling just over £12,000. Lots of people joined the Society as a direct result of the show and it was great to see the wide variety of high quality work exhibited, including sculpture and pottery.

Well done and many, many thanks to Hannah.

What's coming next?

While I really hope we'll be able to meet in person again soon, that seems an unlikely prospect right now. But, regardless of what the future holds, I can confirm we'll be doing more pop-up exhibitions if opportunities arise and that we'll be running a full programme for 2021, even if we're forced to continue doing things virtually for the time being.

In the meantime, I hope everyone is producing their own art and/or enjoying the work of others.

Take care of yourselves
and stay safe.

TIME'S RUNNING OUT TO CONTRIBUTE...

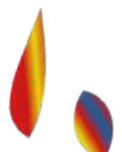
...to the virtual lockdown gallery

There are currently 54 works on show in the Lockdown Gallery on our website and there's still time to add a few more (up to three pictures per member) or to swap those you're currently exhibiting for new ones.

Simply email a good quality jpeg to:
wsasubmit@mail.com

Please add the name of your work, its size, the medium used and what you painted it on. Feel free to include a short description or explanation as to why you chose the subject and/or any particular challenges encountered too, if you wish.

We'll invite members to vote for their favourite work in the gallery at the end of year. There will be a prize for the winner, who will be revealed at our AGM in January.



THE VIRTUAL PROGRAMME IN 2020

Following a long-established tradition – and despite being forced online – Woking Art Society's offerings for the latter part of this year have comprised demonstrations in a variety of styles and media to interest (and, we hope, inspire) members with an equally diverse range of interests and skills.

They've included:

Tom Shepherd – Birds in watercolour

Although Tom paints many subjects, he loves wildlife and, in this excellent and informative demo, produced two beautiful paintings – a peacock and the owl below. He combines his artwork with conservation efforts, contributing a portion of sales and raising thousands of pounds for organisations such as the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust.



Tom recorded his demonstration and it's still available to view in its entirety on the following link, if you missed it first time around:

<https://vimeo.com/460286343/fda8ca57c9>

Mark Warner – Landscape in acrylics

Mark applies his distinctive, vibrant style primarily to landscapes and coastal scenes, working directly in the field and from sketches, notes and photographs taken on location when in his studio on the Shropshire/Wales border.

While painting this landscape on coloured paper (using quite a few disposable palettes along the way!), Mark provided lots of interesting tips:

- Disposable palettes save paint as you only need to put a small amount out each time
- Don't keep washing your brush – retaining some of the old colour will give consistency around the picture



- When using photos remember they're purely for reference – look at colour and shape, not the image itself
- Use a limited palette, but with a bit of everything everywhere, then the colours will 'talk' to and contrast with each other

Carole Massey – Water soluble pencils

Carole demonstrated two paintings – the ballet dancer in Ink tense and elephants in Graphitint pencils – again, providing lots of hints and tips on how to get the best from this medium. She's happy to help anyone looking for advice on water soluble pencil artwork (email carolemasseyart@gmail.com) and her website (www.carolemassey.com) has details of future courses and a painting holiday in Exmoor May 10-14, 2021.



And there's more to come:

We'll see out the year with the following events:

7 November Elizabeth Baldin
Farmyard animals in acrylic inks and watercolour

5 December Mark Fennell – Portrait in oils

THE 2021 PROGRAMME

We are still finalising next year's programme of monthly meetings/demos, but media to be demonstrated will include charcoal and pastels along with acrylics, oils and watercolour. Subjects will range from fantasy and abstraction to still life and caricatures.

All the artists booked have been honing their tech skills to be equally adept demonstrating in person and to an online audience, ensuring the programme can go ahead in the most appropriate format regardless of whether or not pandemic restrictions are in place.

Arrangements for the AGM and workshops have been confirmed; here are the dates to note.

Saturday, 9th January @ 2.30pm – AGM

As tradition (and our constitution) dictates, the first meeting of the year will be our annual general meeting. This one will be on Zoom – all the usual documents will be available to download from our website at least two weeks prior along with the joining link.

Saturday, 9th January @ 3pm – Demonstration

Since we can't hold an actual tea party after the AGM, as has become the Society's custom, the committee decided to treat everyone to an extra online demonstration on that subject! **Roger Dellar** will be our demonstrator and he'll be working in oils.

Saturdays, 13th and 20th February – Workshop

Roger Dellar – Café and street life

Although Brookwood Memorial Hall is available (currently at least), social distancing rules restrict the number of attendees to such an extent that we can't cover the cost of running workshops unless there's a significant increase in the charge to members. So, until rules relax, we will be running workshops virtually.

This one will comprise two separate two hour sessions, starting at 2.30 pm. On the first Saturday, Roger will host a demo and discussions on painting café and street life scenes. Delegates will then go away and produce a work on that topic in their own time over the next few days, before emailing a photograph of it to Roger.

On the following Saturday, everyone will share their painting experience and Roger will appraise each work, providing demonstrations of technique, etc, as appropriate.

Roger will be working in oils, but delegates may use their medium of choice. Cost will be £30 for members, £40 for non-members.

Saturday, May 8th; 10 am to 4 pm

Ronnie Ireland – Life drawing/portraiture

While ideally this will be a 'live' session with a model in the room, we're keeping all options open until nearer the time.

Ronnie has been running participative online classes very successfully over recent months, so is well-placed to deliver a well-structured workshop for us. He will supply relevant images to participants prior to the workshop, so everyone draws from the same references and can compare results as the day progresses.

Cost will be £30 for members, £40 for non-members, plus model fees if appropriate.

Saturday, October 16th; 10 am to 4 pm – Workshop

Vicki Young – Subject to be confirmed

Again, the format for this workshop will be decided nearer the time, as will the subject.

Cost will be £30 for members, £40 for non-members.

10th–24th May – Lightbox Exhibition

Having had to cancel our first planned two-week exhibition at this prestigious venue last March, fingers are firmly crossed that this one will be able to go ahead. All members will be eligible to submit works and, as usual, a panel of independent professional artists will make the final selection.

Prizes will be awarded for the best overall submission and for the best watercolour/water-based painting (both judged by the selection panel) and for the people's choice (voted for by visitors to the show).



POP-UP EXHIBITION

Hannah Bruce

Planning an entire exhibition in just two-weeks was a challenge but with the management team at the Peacock Centre not prepared to confirm availability of the unit until all hopes of a more permanent tenant were exhausted, this was unavoidable.

After many, many emails and with loads of volunteers (thank you one and all) on hand to help, everything got underway on Monday, 31st August. Two van loads and three car trips saw two sets of exhibition boards delivered to the empty shop between Primark and Debenhams.

The original floor plan had to go out the window once we realised the location of lights and floor to ceiling supports meant some areas were badly lit.



But with suggestions from George Otto and others, a successful layout was achieved so that members of the public could move around the exhibition in a one-way system and see everything effectively.

Hanging went well, so we were Covid-19 compliant (we got through four large bottles of hand sanitiser during the exhibition!) and open to the public by 1 pm. After that we opened from 10 am to 4 pm daily until Sunday 13th September.

Things we learnt:

- There is a real appetite for original art amongst the general public right now;
- Although we thought the front window displays would be a major attraction (artworks here were changed most days), no sales were made from the windows;
- Investing in a card payment machine was worthwhile and avoided handling mountains of cash – the downside being you need a good internet link and sometimes we didn't have one!
- It's important to record all transactions and keep card payment receipts;
- Whatsapp is a brilliant way to communicate between organisers and volunteers about all sorts of things, from missing stewards and Covid updates to reporting on daily sales numbers;
- The first week's footfall was phenomenal compared to what we're used to, although the second week tailed off – weekends were very busy, but it was quiet on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday (fewer stewards were needed on these days);
- Stock up on bubble wrap, in bulk, in advance!



With the cancellation of our Lightbox exhibition earlier in the year, this was the first time we'd held a two-week show and feedback from both members and visitors was incredibly positive. Customers were delighted to have a show to visit – some came more than once. The friendly nature of the event made people feel at home and they bought more as a result.

All the artists are to be commended; it was the quality of work that made this such a good show with over 280 sales, of which 70+ were framed paintings, raising £12,109 with 25% commission retained – 5% by the Society to cover costs and 20% payable to the Peacock Centre.

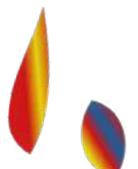
We were delighted to welcome 21 new members to the Society as a result of the pop-up – some before the event so they'd have a chance to show their work (seven went on to make sales) and more once the exhibition was underway.



All in all, the pop-up was a great success and we hope to run more similar events in the future, subject to the continued cooperation of the Peacock Centre management team and, of course, the availability of suitable units.



A reporter from Woking News and Mail visited the show on more than one occasion and gave Woking Art Society a big spread in the local paper.



SKY ARTS OPPORTUNITIES...

... to watch and enjoy



With Sky Arts now available on Freeview (channel 11) as well as Sky's own pay per view services, more of us will be able to watch the latest Portrait Artist of the Year (PAOTY) series, which started on Wednesday 14th October.



Alongside this, Portrait Artist of the Week on Facebook Live started on Sunday 18th October (10 am to 2 pm) and provides a chance to paint your own portrait of a celebrity sitter while picking up tips and watching a former PAOTY finalist doing the same thing. Submit your portrait online and it may feature in the following week's programme, hosted by Joan Bakewell.

... and to be part of

Sky is also calling for entries for next year's series of both Portrait Artist of the Year and Landscape Artist of the Year – with the chance to win a £10,000 commission from a major British institution and £500 of materials from Cass Art.

The competition is open to amateur and professional artists aged 16+ and you'll find all the details here:

https://www.skyartsartistoftheyear.tv/?mc_cid=3286d996c8&mc_eid=e1406969c1



Submission deadlines:

Portrait – 29 January 2021

Landscape – 30 April 2021

Volunteers please!

COMMITTEE VACANCIES

Woking Art Society is run by members for members, the common denominator being a love of art.

Your committee generally meets (currently on Zoom) one evening in every six to eight weeks, unless there is a specific issue to discuss or an event to prepare for. We benefit from and dip into each individual's particular strengths, working very much as a team to ensure no task becomes too onerous for any single member.

We're now looking for at least two volunteers to join the committee and help run the Society.

After six years, first as Exhibitions Secretary and latterly as Secretary, Sue Wright is retiring at the end of the year. This means our primary need is for a Secretary to keep our records and take minutes at meetings.

In addition, current committee members would appreciate more support in organising publicity and exhibitions.

If you'd like to have a voice in what we do and how things happen at Woking Art Society, this is your chance to get involved.

Please contact Sue Hinton:

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T: 01483 811214 or 07484 386830

