



# BROADBRUSH

Newsletter of Woking Art Society

SUMMER 2020

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Sue Hinton

It seems a very long time since we were able to get together as a Society in the same space and, regrettably, that seems unlikely to change in the foreseeable future.

However, despite all the trials, tribulations and sheer frustrations associated with Covid-19, there have been some positives too. For example, who could have anticipated the technological advances – and, critically, the acceptance of these by young and old alike – that have enabled friends, families, colleagues and neighbours to keep in touch, help each other and work together.

It is also thanks to technology that Woking Art Society has been able to provide live, online demonstrations for the last few months (something that's going to continue at least until the end of October) and to create the virtual lockdown gallery on our website to showcase members' latest works.

My thanks go to Elaine Winter and Hannah Bruce for promoting the Society's social media presence. Their management and contributions to our Facebook and Instagram pages are really having an impact in terms of visitors and followers. If you'd like to showcase your work there, or let the world know about any shows you are involved with, etc, don't forget to message Elaine – as well as sending an email with all the details to [wsasubmit@mail.com](mailto:wsasubmit@mail.com) so Julia Goodswen can add the item to the news page of our website.

Another unexpected benefit of the pandemic has been a very welcome boost to the Society's finances. As readers of recent issues of this newsletter will be aware, my first task as Chairman was to work with the committee to halt a decline in our fortunes through the adoption of a more formal budgetary regime.

Last year's tightening of our collective belt was already producing dividends; but, not having to pay for the monthly hire of The Vyne since March and the cancellation of our exhibitions (almost exclusively loss-making events in recent years) have combined to produce a bank balance that's looking healthier than predicted.

This issue of Broadbrush was produced largely to keep everyone up-to-date with the Society's plans for the coming months, with the addition of some news of members' activities and successes. Your feedback on any of the content and/or suggestions for the future will, as ever, be gratefully received.

Take care of yourselves  
and stay safe.

## POSSIBLE POP-UP EXHIBITION IN WOKING!

Several members have expressed frustration that, in a year when many have been producing more artwork than usual, there was no prospect of a Lightbox exhibition nor of holding any outdoor shows in Mercia Walk, these having been cancelled by Woking Borough Council.

So, I'm delighted to tell you that – fingers crossed! – Hannah Bruce has negotiated with the Centre Manager and we hope to be able to stage a pop-up exhibition in The Peacocks, in the empty shop between Primark and Debenhams.

Details have to be finalised but provisional dates are from Monday 31st August (set-up) to Sunday 13th September.

This is a very large, fully-carpeted space that offers lots of opportunity, as well as making social distancing compliance relatively easy. We're thinking of using both the old pegboard display boards and the smarter new ones that replaced them, together with some tables where members could display sculpture and pottery.

However, we appreciate some members continue to self-isolate and/or simply don't feel ready to venture out into shopping centres just yet. So, before going further, Hannah urgently needs to know how many people want to exhibit their work and are willing to help with all the usual things that go with running an exhibition – for some, that will include carrying and setting up the boards.

***If you want to exhibit, please email Hannah ASAP:***  
[wokingartexhibition@mail.com](mailto:wokingartexhibition@mail.com)

## REVISED PROGRAMME FOR 2020

### Virtual demonstrations

Since June 2020 Woking and Guildford Art Societies have been collaborating to provide members with two online demonstrations each month. Some of these have been excellent and most have been attended by upwards of 40 people.

With no end in sight to restrictions, more professional artists are fast-tracking their tech skills to adapt their demonstration and workshop offerings to an online audience. Which is great news for us, as it means there's now a wider choice both of experienced demonstrators and subjects.

The committee is keeping the monthly meeting situation under review and, rest assured, we'll resume live face-to-face demonstrations at The Vyne just as soon as we're able and we believe it's safe to do so.

However, current social-distancing restrictions and advice from Woking Borough Council (from whom we hire the hall) lead us to believe that this may not be before the end of the year. So we've already scheduled the following virtual demos and will announce more for November and December, if appropriate.

#### **Saturday, 5th September**

Melanie Cambridge – Big skies in oils

#### **Saturday, 19th September**

Tom Shepherd – Painting birds

#### **Saturday, 3rd October**

Mark Warner – Landscapes in acrylics

*All demos start promptly at 2.30 pm and will have a 5-10 minute tea-break halfway through*

### SIGN UP TO ONLINE DEMOS

If you'd like to watch the above – or, indeed, any future – demonstrations you need to be on the master emailing list to receive joining instructions, which are sent out the day before each event.

If you're not on the list and want to be, please let me know by email to:

[sue.wokingart@btinternet.com](mailto:sue.wokingart@btinternet.com)

### Workshop in October 2020

As things stand, we hope Kim Page's workshop, scheduled for Saturday 10th October, from 10 am to 4 pm, at Brookwood Memorial Hall will go ahead – *if there are enough people wanting to attend.*

This will be a watercolour workshop on the topic of 'Surrey Woodland' and will follow our normal format, albeit with a limit on attendees (yet to be finalised). This means you'll need to bring your own lunch, along with all materials – canvas/paper, paints, brushes, easels and water carriers, as appropriate – but tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided.

Cost will be £30 for members, £40 for non-members; on this occasion, however, we won't be collecting payment just yet, in case we have to cancel nearer the time.

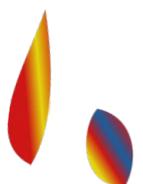
***If you would like to book a place, please email [wsasubmit@mail.com](mailto:wsasubmit@mail.com) so we can assess likely numbers and the viability of the event.***

## PLANNED PROGRAMME FOR 2021

Planning of next year's programme is now underway, on the assumption that we'll be able to start the year with a celebratory tea party and AGM at The Vyne in January, followed by monthly meetings. We are, however, looking for demonstrators who can also offer Zoom demos in the event that face-to-face meetings have to be cancelled again.

We're hoping to stage at least three workshops – probably in February, May and October; but, unfortunately, it doesn't look as if the long-promised digital art workshop will be one of them. Instead, a Digital/iPad art demonstration has already been booked for Saturday, 3rd April.

The full programme will be shared with members and published on our website later in the year.



---

## THE VIRTUAL LOCKDOWN GALLERY

With all our planned exhibitions for 2020 cancelled, we created the Virtual Lockdown Gallery on the Society's website in April as a place to show works produced while unable to venture beyond the confines of our own homes.

It's proven once again what a talented lot our members are and, if you've not taken a look recently, I'd urge you to do so. Better still, it's not too late to contribute to the gallery as we'll keep adding new images until some sort of normality is resumed.

Each member can show three pictures at any one time and, if you wish, you can swap those currently displayed for new ones. Simply email a good quality jpeg to [wsasubmit@mail.com](mailto:wsasubmit@mail.com) along with the name of your work, its size, medium and what you painted it on.

Although it's not essential, a short description or explanation as to why you choose the subject and/or any particular challenges encountered would be welcome too.

We will be inviting you all to vote for your favourite work in the gallery later in the year, with a prize for the work receiving the most votes.

Below are the thumbnail images of just some of the paintings currently displayed in the Lockdown Gallery



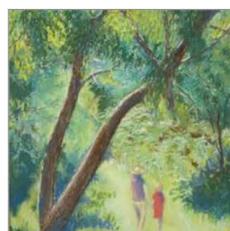
Approaching Storm - Julia Aspin



In A Hurry - Julia Aspin



Morning Walk - Julia Aspin



A Walk in the Bush - Ron Best



African Sunset - Elaine Balmer



Along the Bournemouth Beachfront - Lauren Sapseid



Blackbirds and Blossom - Margaretha Shepherd



Blanket of Bluebells - Lauren Sapseid



Bubbles - Janice Cross



Buzzing! - Elaine Winter



Cabbage, tomatoes and salt pig - Sue Wright



Clematis Blue Moon - Julia Jacs



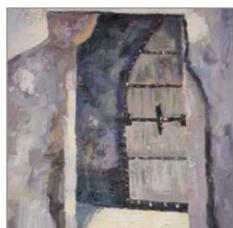
Coastal Path, North Cornwall - Margaretha Shepherd



Cottage Garden - Sue Reynolds



Day Lily - Julia Jacs



Doorway at Caernarvon Castle - Sue Wright



Dorset Spring - Ron Best



Drakensberg Mountains - Kathy Lemmer



Essentials - Liz Seward



Fading glory (Tree Peony) - Sue Hinton

## MEMBERS' NEWS

### Sky Portrait Artist of the Week

**Elaine Balmer, Elaine Winter** and **Annmarie Shenton** were amongst a number of members who participated in Sky's Portrait Artist of the Week programme over nine weeks of the lockdown.

This was a live programme made possible by Zoom technology and Facebook whereby, each week, a previous finalist from Portrait Artist of the Year painted the portrait of a celebrity over a four-hour period and viewers at home were invited to do the same thing.

The artists were Christabel Blackburn, Duncan Shoosmith, Samira Addo, Gareth Reid, Christian Hook, Kimberly Klauss, Aine Divine, Tom Mead and Selena Mowal and the sitters included Bernadine Evaristo, Clare Balding, Mary Beard, Noel Fielding, Rob Rinder and Will Young.

Artists at home could submit their final portraits through social media and at the end of each week the judges chose some of their favourites to feature on the wall in the following week's live programme. A total of 20,000 paintings were submitted over the nine shows.

Annmarie says this proved to be a great way to get motivated to paint during lockdown and she was grateful for the distraction. She is particular proud of the paintings below, both were A3 in size and done in water mixable oils.



Clare Balding  
by Annmarie Shenton



Will Young  
by Annmarie Shenton

Elaine Winter too says she learned a lot while watching each week and painting in acrylics, watercolour and pastels, getting two of her pictures on the back wall.



Mary Beard  
by Elaine Winter



Bernadine Evaristo  
by Elaine Winter

### Victoria Square Art Project Exhibition

The original deadline for submissions to the Open Call for the Project was extended as a result of world events. Having been seriously worried about the paucity of submissions initially, in the event, apparently there were huge numbers of entries and a good few were from Society members.

**Brenda Ord, Elaine Balmer, Julia Jacs, Sharon Bristow** and **Sue Hinton** are amongst those who've been successful. Their paintings will be on display in the forthcoming exhibition, which has now become a Lightbox Gallery online event scheduled to take place mid-August, with hopes of a real-world event when access and safety are less of an issue.



Brookwood Boat Rally  
by Julia Jacs

Woking 2020 Vision  
by Sharon Bristow



## Lightbox online auction

A number of Society members were contacted by The Lightbox in June and asked if they would be willing to donate a painting to raise funds to help with the gallery's reopening costs since, like many charitable organisations, its financial position has been adversely affected by the imposed closure.

Ewbanks hosted an online auction and, to cut a long story short, by the time it closed on 16th July sales of works by **Hannah Bruce, Liz Seward, Nagihan Seymour** and **Sue Hinton** had together contributed £945 to The Lightbox's fund.



Lot 4505

Nagihan Seymour, Little Penc Series-1, This original piece of my own design is free hand drawn and ...

Hammer Price: £185.00



Lot 4506

Hannah Bruce, Aqua and Blue Organic Abstract Splash, 2020, 'I'm a professional painter working in Wo...

Hammer Price: £190.00



Lot 4515

Liz Seward, Last Light, 2017, Acrylic on canvas, 53 cm x 53 cm, Unframed, "This is Tanner's Lane be...

Hammer Price: £260.00



Lot 4516

Sue Hinton, Tulips, 2020, Acrylic on mdf board, 61 cm x 61 cm unframed "I am an amateur artist with ...

Hammer Price: £160.00



Lot 4517

Sue Hinton, Rusty Pipes, 2020, Acrylic on box canvas, unframed "I am an amateur art: with no forma...

Hammer Price: £150.00

## Surrey Artists Open Studios 2020

Like so many others, this annual event had to be postponed in June but is now scheduled to take place from 19th September to 4th October with 115 studios and 200 artists taking place, including some Society members – **Hannah Bruce, Elaine Winter, Janina Klein, Diane Marshall, Annie Robson** and **Louise Rowe** amongst them.

Check out the SAOS website for all the details:

<https://surreyopenstudios.org.uk>

## IN MEMORIAM

### Gerald O'Coffey

Sadly, I have to report that Gerald O'Coffey died peacefully in his sleep on 4th July 2020 at the age of 90. He was a long-term member of our Society and well-known to many of us – not least for the fudge and conversation he contributed for many years to our Mercia Walk exhibitions, which he so enjoyed participating in.

Gerald will be sadly missed by many and our deepest sympathy goes to his family and friends.

## ANYONE INTERESTED IN PAINTING TOGETHER?

We know members are really keen to get together to paint and that there are currently limited opportunities to do this.

You might like to know that there's a cabin at the Heather Farm Wetlands Centre in Woking that has kitchen and bathroom facilities, as well as tables and chairs. It is of similar size to the Brookwood Memorial Hall that we normally use for workshops and is available for £15 per hour. This would be suitable for painting sessions, with a nominated 'leader' to take responsibility for and oversee compliance with Covid-19 guidelines.

Anyone wanting to set up a session should make their own arrangements with the Wetlands Centre.

---

## MY MEGA YEAR!

Brenda Ord

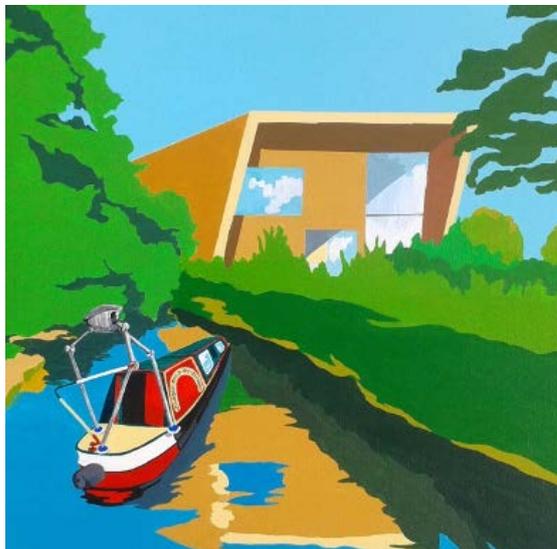
This year was meant to be a mega year for me. I was determined to be 'proactive' and enter as many exhibitions as possible. I was very organised in advance, deciding on subjects and producing what might have been the odd masterpiece.

Well, we all know what happened – leaving me with my efforts stacked up, unloved. All except one that is.

I hope many of us entered the Victoria Square/Lightbox competition and I expect I am one of many of our Society who had a painting or artwork chosen for the exhibition but, in the midst of the Covid misery, it was a nice surprise to get a place.

I entered two paintings, one especially photogenic... imagining it hanging in one of the hotel rooms, that being part of the competition. Needless to say, that painting wasn't chosen. The judges' choice was a painting of Woking (what a coincidence!) with the Lightbox and a Martian machine (I don't believe in taking chances!).

Somehow, I can't see this adorning any foyer, but stranger things have happened...just ask the Martians.



---

## NEWS OF FORTHCOMING SHOWS!

After all the cancellations this year, it's great to be able to tell you about two art fairs that are taking place.

What's more, some exhibitors who booked for the original dates can't make the new ones, so there are stands available should anyone like to take this opportunity to show and, hopefully, sell their work.

**SURREY (AUTUMN)**  
**2-4 October 2020, Sandown**  
**Park Racecourse, Esher**

**WINDSOR**  
**13-15 November 2020**  
**Royal Windsor Racecourse**



All the details can be found on the website: <https://contemporaryartfairs.co.uk>

---

### NEXT ISSUE OF BROADBRUSH

There will be an issue of Broadbrush later in the year with further updates on planned events and demonstrations. So please send your stories, anecdotes, news items and/or generally useful stuff for fellow artists to:

[sue.wokingart@btinternet.com](mailto:sue.wokingart@btinternet.com)

