



# The Easel

Newsletter of Rugby & District Art Society

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Hi All!

This is an interim newsletter for the duration of the shutdown, which we hope to publish each month until our lives return to normality. It's your link with all your friends in the Art Society. We'd like to hear from you, what you're doing, what you've done and anything you think might be interesting for other members. It needn't even be art based, write whatever you like (within the bounds of legality, of course!).

With more time on our hands this an opportunity to try new things. The internet is an amazing facility for learning through inspirational websites with free videos, instructions and helpful hints. The contents of this newsletter should give you an idea of the kind of information the electronic Easel can pass on.

With the committee, I'm here at the tap of a keyboard, to help if I can and, most of all, to enjoy your contributions!

Keep well

Jim Watson. Editor The Easel. [www.jimartwatson@btinternet.com](http://www.jimartwatson@btinternet.com)

## Coronanews

As you are all probably aware, our April Fool's Day talk has been cancelled (who is the April Fool now?) as is the May talk by the Frogmore Paper Mill. Hopefully we can re-book both for next season. The June and July meetings are, at the time of writing, also looking doubtful. In fact all our planned activities have been put on hold for the time being, including workshops, trips and exhibitions, although we hope to reinstate them when restrictions are lifted and it appears safe for members to attend social gatherings again. The question of reimbursement or something similar

will no doubt be discussed at the next committee meeting (whenever that will be!). The Rugby Festival of Culture has also been cancelled. We will let you know of any developments.

We hope that you are all surviving the enforced incarceration with good grace, and look forward to lots of still-lives of the unwashed washing up, views of cabbages from the kitchen window and the traditional 'mother-in-law at rest' on show in our next exhibition (again, whenever that may be!). Pencils and brushes at the ready? Then off you go! I can't wait for the results (but I'll have to!).

*Paul Torr. [www.mrpaultorr@googlegmail.com](http://www.mrpaultorr@googlegmail.com)*



From this ....



## Hash the Brushman

Just before the virus interrupted our lives we had an unexpected delight. Our scheduled speaker for March, Karen Pittaway, was unable to come, but luckily we managed to book Hashim Akib as a late replacement. Hashim (or "Hash" as he likes to be known) has an impressive reputation, including international exhibitions, a selection of painting manuals and videos, and regular contributions to national art magazines.

*Hash – the cheeky chappie*



No time was wasted in getting started, and, using paint brushes more reminiscent of DIY stores, his colours exploded across the baseboard with abandon and vigour. As he worked he told us that he was taking his cues from a café scene, but it took a while for the resemblance to emerge from the blobs, streaks and splashes. Yet the finished piece was a veritable tour de force, a splendid testament to his skill and perceptive eye, and a riot of cleverly positioned colour.

On the way he discussed his errant career towards fame, his flamboyant approach to paint and painting techniques, and his experiences with the commercial world, all flavoured with cheeky anecdotes and pertinent comments. A fine evening's work by a remarkable substitute!

to **THIS....! All in two hours!**

**PT**

## From John Lines

Hi all, this is a venerable person speaking. Paul and I thought it would be a good idea to keep in touch with all our friends in the Art Society, just odd bits of chat etc about anything that you might think of – including art.

It seems as though we may be apart for some time, so here goes! To think just a week ago I was as happy as a sandboy working away out Sarais's way, painting the little lanes and ash trees that are so much of my painting life. Great fun, not too big a canvas so not a lot of pressure to get done. Then I packed up and made my way home with this week all planned out in my mind. Switched on the telly and bingo, "you will be in the house for twelve weeks"! Simple message indeed!

So now I'm sitting here in the playroom, looking at a blank canvas trying to think what to do and wondering what all you talented people are up to!

Please let us all know via the electronic Easel.

John

## From Colin Bywater

For those of us with the internet there's a lot available to keep creative. A few suggestions -

**Video:** [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) – lots of free how-to videos and technical advice. Search for your subject – eg painting animals in watercolour or the name of a contributor.

Try **Art tutor or Virtual Art Academy.**

**Instructional websites**, here's a couple:

[www.arttutor.com](http://www.arttutor.com) – free and paid for videos and courses, lots of tutors including Hashim Akib and Tom Shepherd who have done demonstrations for us.

[www.painters-online.co.uk](http://www.painters-online.co.uk) – Website of the Artist and Leisure painter magazines, with lots of information, tutorials, tips and topics etc

**Some non-internet ideas:**

Try a pencil portrait of yourself in a mirror. Sketch quick portraits from the TV. Sketch the trees on your walks. Set up a little still life for painting or sketching at home. Do a little 4"x4" painting every day.

There's also plenty to do in preparation: fix that broken easel, clear out the studio area, prepare your painting materials (throw out those solid 10 year old tubes of paint). Gesso some boards for that still life or animal portrait in oil or acrylic. Start a list of materials for the next visit to the Art Shop or the Christmas list.

## From Jan Watts

On one of our adventures in America we hired a fabulous car whilst we travelled through Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. It was massive. We called it the Scottish Diner, which had enough room in the back for all our picnic and painting gear. We loved the car but as soon as we picked it up we had a problem – Leslie had forgotten her driving licence. I was horrified to think that

I'd have to do all the driving. You have to show the licence at every park entrance, so when asked I persuaded Leslie to look frantically for it then burst into tears. We perfected it – she's quite an actress! After that we were never asked for it again. What a holiday!



## From Leslie Read

Enforced lockdown it might be, but I now have the perfect excuse to paint – all day if I wish.

The sun is shining so I can paint outside. Okay, I can't go far. No problem. So paint and brush in hand, I venture outside. No one can look over my shoulder and ask what's that? In fact no one is to come closer than 6 foot, so I am safe (sigh!). I set to work on a masterpiece in the making. Of course I not only did one piece but four. A result!



*Leslie's still life subject*



### Just for fun

See how many different faces you can come up with and post them on our Facebook page.

## From Jim Watson

Further to Colin's excellent suggestions you might also like to try these websites:

**[www.johnlovet.com](http://www.johnlovet.com)**

John's an Australian artist, mainly in watercolour and mixed media. His website has a stack of free detailed painting instructions and some free videos.

**[www.willkempartschool](http://www.willkempartschool.com)**

Painter and teacher in acrylics. Lots of free and pay-for videos. Also on You Tube. Highly recommended. He sent me a free video only this morning with detailed instructions on how to paint a plant in a pot. (Isn't potting plants what many of us have been doing during this lovely weather?)

**[www.dailypaintworks.com](http://www.dailypaintworks.com)**

Thousands of small paintings done in a day from hundreds of artists with instruction videos from website founder Carol Marine.



*Will Kemp's Plant in a Terracotta Pot acrylic*

**[www.pinterest.co.uk](http://www.pinterest.co.uk)**

Free registration and you'll receive a daily page of inspirational paintings, drawings or whatever you're interested in – even interior design! Single click to stop if you become bored with the daily delivery.



At Jackson Hole they held a 'Quick draw' event for artists in the square. You had to do a painting in an hour, then a bell rings to stop work and the paintings are auctioned off. So exciting and super paintings.