

The Easel

April 2025
Sarais Crawshaw

January's Meeting was a demonstration of "Wildlife in Pastels" by President Sarais Crawshaw. I explained my use of preliminary sketches and photos, and showed the range of pastels I use. My demonstration was of a hare in a grassy field, and I built up the picture in layers using both soft pastels and harder pastel pencils. I expect to do some more work on the picture before it's done.



In **February** we enjoyed the ever-popular Critique/Help Evening, led by the ebullient John Lines, who as always gave us all sound advice and encouragement to keep working. Everyone brought one or two works along, and we enjoyed the advice not only for our own work, but everyone else's as well – many thanks go to John for a job well done.

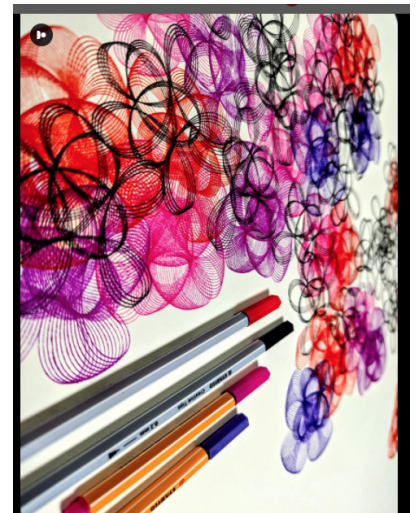
One painting that caused quite a stir was that by "Paddy" Julian Doyle.

This large and colourful canvas painted in acrylic, entitled "Last Night", showed Paddy's interpretation of a night out in Rugby Centre!

March's Demonstration was by Jacqui Smithson, who showed us the delights of wet felting. She was so enthusiastic about the process, and passed around many samples of the different results possible so that we could feel the quality. She encouraged several members to have a go, and Jane, Georgia, Jan, Rick and Brian all took part. Thanks to Ralph for his ever-patient work with the camera.



Our Guest for **April's** Meeting will be Henry Lees and his Spirograph Art. With the use of gears & other autonomous systems, he creates hand-crafted generative art, working with ink, pencil, pastel & watercolour. He asks us all to bring a compass & ruler, & he'll bring a couple of workstations so we can all have a go – sounds like an unusual and interesting evening!



After several years of enjoying **Abbeycraft Artworld**, who have brought an array of tempting art materials, and sold them to Members at a discount, sadly we had to say our farewells in March, as they are closing the business. We wish Samantha and Kev all the best in their future endeavours.

Events to look out for:

May – Urban Sketching & Event at Houlton Barn with school-children

June 7th & 8th – R&DAS Exhibition at Houlton Barn.

July – Trip to Stoke Bruerne , sketching the Canal Basin.

August – trip to Coventry Transport Museum Sketching day

If anyone would like to contribute a short article to The Easel, please send it in a Word Document with separate jpeg photos to saraiscrawshaw@aol.com/saraiscrawshaw@yahoo.co.uk.