



The Easel

Newsletter of Rugby & District Art Society

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Coming Events 2024

Thanks to sterling hard work by members of the committee we are able to announce a more comprehensive programme for the rest of our 2024 season

3rd April – Monthly meeting at Dunchurch Village Hall 7.30 Jo Thomas - Blackcat Jewellery.

Jo is a jewellery maker from Falmouth, where the Cornish landscape inspires her fabulous resin jewellery. We look forward to finding all about how she does it. See her work at www.jothomasjewellery.co.uk

1st May – Monthly meeting at Dunchurch Village Hall Brian Dickinson - Stained glass artist with a difference!

Brian creates stained glass artworks and light boxes for families and businesses inspired by nature, space and other wacky things 'that somehow get in my head! Don't miss it! See examples of his work on Facebook -dolittleglass

Saturday 13 April – Leamington Hastings village Hall. Jim Watson's 'Easy Line and Watercolour' Workshop. Fully booked.

Saturday 11th May – Leamington Hastings Village Hall. Members paint-in 10-4pm. £10 per person. Book with Gill or Jan to secure your place. Work on your own projects in the company of like-minded people. Bring your own lunch but free tea, coffee and biscuits are available through the day.

5th June – Monthly meeting at Dunchurch Village Hall. Mark Warner, talented painter and teacher from Shropshire Mark did an excellent zoom demonstration for us during the pandemic and tonight will do a live demo. See examples of his work at www.brushmark.co.uk

Thursday 6th June – Mark Warner, Leamington Hastings Village Hall. Following his Dunchurch demo, Mark will hold an acrylic workshop from 10am - 4pm. Places are limited but you can book ASAP by contacting Gill on martinandgilld@gmail.com Price for members £42 or guests £45. Guests will be able to book after members have been given reasonable time to do so.

If you have a friend who is a member and not on email please let them know of the new bookable events.

Your Newsletter

If you have anything to say, comment, suggest, request or whatever regarding the Society the Easel would love to hear from you at jimartwatson@btinternet.com. Let us know what you're doing! Photos welcome too!

Jim Watson Editor: The Easel

3rd July – Dunchurch Village Hall Sandi Woods - Well-regarded lace maker who exhibits and lectures around the world. See examples of her work at www.sandiwoods.com

3rd/4th August – members exhibition at Houlton - Friday 2nd August help with set up welcomed and the day of picture drop off - details nearer the time

7th August – Monthly meeting at Dunchurch Village Hall In-house activity ... The latest suggestion is that members bring one or two items and set up a still life display with the people they sit with. Other ideas are welcome!

4th September – Dunchurch Village Hall AGM followed by a talk from Chris and Steve, owners of Art at the Alex in Rugby.

The programme for 2024 - 2025 programme is underway. Details will be available during the summer.

However, the Barn at Houlton has been booked for our members awards exhibition 16th and 17th November 2024. Set up on the Friday welcomed - details available nearer the time.

Patchings Art Festival runs from Thursday 11th to Saturday 13 July 2024. A visit has proved popular with members over the years and it is proposed to again run a coach to the venue on the Thursday. A list of interested members has been started.

Coton Manor Garden in Northamptonshire is another popular venue and a possible date for another visit will be in May. More details to follow.

...And another thing!

The Society needs someone to handle publicity. We are still a member short on the committee but, although preferred, the person need not be part of the committee set up and attend meetings.

If you have a facility for publicity or would just like to join the committee please get in touch with any committee member. (Most of them are on door duties as you enter the monthly meetings)

The Amazing World of Fifoldaramakes

After the Awards presentations at the December meeting all ideas that knitting and crochet were 'boring' pastimes were blown out the window with Fifoldera's bold, brassy, funny and wonderfully entertaining creations. It's always refreshing when activities generally considered as 'relaxing but unexciting' are shown to be vehicles for extreme creativity. Fifoldara didn't disappoint. A large knitted octopus roamed amongst us as jaws dropped and gasps of delight spread around the hall. 'Handmade crochet and knitting items' on her etsy.com header does in no way describe the range of produces she produces and sells on the site. Have a look. A wonderful evening!

Eric A Go-Go!

Our guest at our January meeting was the redoubtable Eric Gaskill, whose creativity with mark-making seems to have no limits. From his legendary canal linoprints through drawings and paintings to the later, multicolour abstract concepts full of texture, colour and pattern, he has followed an amazing artistic path. And still it continues to develop!

Few of us will probably ever attempt the complexity of Eric's techniques but it was a fascinating evening to see how a master does it.



*The irripresible
Fifoldaramakes!*



*'Cornwall
Remembered'. One
of Eric's paintings*



*An early linocut:
Hillmorton Bottom
Locks*



The Helping Hands!

Our February meeting was the ever-popular 'Critic' evening, which the participants insist, probably correctly, that it should be a 'Help' evening. Roy Foster and John Lines again took to the floor and offered their many years of experience to answer members questions about problems with paintings. Many different stumbling blocks were dealt with although composition seen to be a regular topic. Maybe it's something we should all think more about before rushing to paint. The classic thumbnail sketches approach springs to mind. Many thanks Roy and John for all your help, wisdom and humour, you are both Society legends and long may you continue.



Some of Jane Archer's beautiful work



Watercolour – plus!

In March we welcomed Jane Archer, a watercolour artist who has recently moved locally to Toft where she has a studio and holds workshops.

Her work, mainly floral studies, is remarkably delicate and detailed reflecting the care and consideration that goes into their creation. Some of her pictures are surprisingly large and managing that amount of space takes remarkable skill, patience and concentration. She demonstrated her extensive use of masking fluid on a large and multi-layered piece for our amazement. Jane also paints landscapes, which also reflect her care and devotion to detail. A interesting and reflective evening. Thanks Jane.