



The Easel

Newsletter of Rugby & District Art Society

Number 85 • November/December 2020

Zoom Glorious Zoom

Instead of the usual November meeting at Dunchurch, we trialled an online demonstration using Zoom, which enables individuals to view and speak to each other and a demonstrator on a computer, tablet or smartphone.

Mark Warner was our host and he was excellent at making us all feel at home (literally!), guiding us easily through Zoom technology before showing us how he could develop and enliven a coastal view from a rather ordinary-looking photograph.

As he worked he explained that he uses acrylics without dilution, changing paper palettes and brush sizes, then proceeded to portray a powerfully evocative cloudscape with a tatty old brush. He told us how to hold the composition together with touches of similar colours throughout, and urged everyone not to be too detailed too soon. In a remarkable coincidence it turned out that Mark, who lives near the Welsh border, was born in Rugby and has a John Lines original on his wall at home!



About 30 members tuned in to watch the demonstration and, despite a few initial technical hiccups, it was voted a very successful evening resulting in many requests for more. There is no doubt that members enjoyed the opportunity to see an artist in action, as well as seeing and speaking to their friends after long periods of isolation.

Zoom, Zoom and Zoom

We have booked three more Zoom demonstrators for the normal December, January & February meeting dates (1st Wednesday of the month @ 7.30pm), and will adjust plans to suit Covid restrictions

The revised schedule:

2 December 2020 : Peter Keegan will talk about and demonstrate traditional and old master colour techniques and colour mixing.

6 January 2021 : Vic Bearcroft will demonstrate drawing wildlife in pastel.

3 February 2021 : Tim Wilmot will demonstrate watercolour techniques and approaches (replacing John Harrison, who is transferred to our next season's programme).

How to Join a Zoom meeting

All members are eligible (remember: all 2019 memberships are extended to September 2021 without further payment). If you have the necessary equipment we encourage you all to have a try. Most participants find the process straightforward.

To enable you to join any Zoom meeting you must first download the Zoom app to your preferred device – computer, tablet or smartphone. Access the Zoom website via Google or type zoom.us. Press the 'Zoom client for meetings' button to download and follow the instructions to install. You only have to do this once.

There will be a short introductory session on Thursday 26 November @ 7.30pm for those who may need help. On that date, at or shortly after 7.30pm click on the link below and follow the instructions. It might take a little while to respond, just be patient. You will soon be able to see and hear others. Ralph de la Croix and Madeleine Prager will help you from there. If all else fails ring Ralph on 01788 535601 or Madeleine on 01788 522365.

Zoom Meeting for RADAS testing Time: Nov 26, 2020. 07:30 PM

Meeting ID: 669 516 6191 Passcode: 795531

To join the Zoom introductory meeting simply click on the link below:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/6695166191?pwd=QXpWRkdkTnBvTFIac3hyaXJxaWk1UT09>

Art Supplies

Our friends at Abbeycraft Artworld have been hard hit by the lockdowns, not least by being unable to attend our Dunchurch meetings with their cornucopia of art materials.

They are a family business based in Nuneaton, and following an enquiry they sent this message:

Oh, has it been a weird time or what?

Yes, we have had to close but are doing click and collect on a Saturday 11.30 till 1.30.

All members need to do is email us on the front page of our web site www.abbeycraftartworld.co.uk leave a message of what they need and a contact number for payment and we can go from there.

Many thanks for getting in touch, stay safe and keep well.

Sam & Kevin

We are sure you will agree that this is a worthwhile way to help a local business to survive the pandemic, and to support those who have regularly supported the Society in the past.



Moot Hall Keswick. One of six Lake District Christmas cards by Jim Watson.
Available from jimartwatson@btinternet.com

The editor and committee wish all Society members a very Happy Christmas and look forward to 2021 with hope that we can all be together again soon



Hawkshead



Bridge House, Ambleside



Coniston



Britannia Inn, Elterwater



Dove Cottage, Grasmere

New Members

Anybody not already a member who wishes to join the Society and take part in our activities can currently do so at half the normal annual subscription. This will cover membership until September 2021.

Contact Leslie Read: 01788 810697 or email: leslie.read43@gmail.com

From Mark Warner

I've been busy in the studio working on both paper and canvas.

People have asked what sizes I usually work with... The main sizes I use are 71 x 86cm on paper (Framed) and 64 x 89cm on canvas (Framed). I also work on half both these sizes too.



Small Boat at Aberdyfi Acrylic 71x86cm (framed)



Elan Valley. Acrylic 64x89cm (framed)

More from Mark at www.brushmark.co.uk