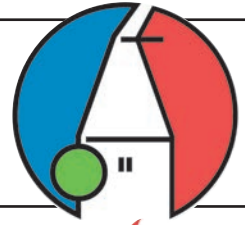


BRUSHSTROKES



NUMBER 6 DECEMBER 2021

Exhibition Success!



Our first exhibition in the newly opened-up space at St. Mildred's church, Tenterden proved to be a great success. The work displayed was not only of a uniformly high standard, but was shown off to best advantage amidst the church's impressive architecture.

Our preview on Sunday was well attended by exhibitors, friends and local art-lovers, who enjoyed a convivial evening together admiring the works on show over a glass of wine. Over the course of the following week, we saw impressive visitor numbers totalling over 750 and many of these went out of their way to congratulate us on the quality of the work. Compliments were matched by strong sales with a record of 24 framed and 11 unframed works purchased and impressive card sales.

The exhibition could not have succeeded without the hard work of all the committee but in particular of John Hamilton who shouldered most of the

responsibility before, during and after the exhibition, and Gunda Cannon, who not only took on the organisation of formatting and printing the catalogue at short notice but also found extra advertisers and our new sponsor NFU Mutual. We would also like to thank all at St. Mildred's for their cooperation and help in accommodating our first exhibition at this new venue and we hope to repeat this successful experience in the future!



**NFU
MUTUAL
WELCOME
TO OUR
NEW
SPONSOR**

The NFU Mutual sponsored prize of £75 was awarded to John Hamilton for his bold work *Through the Ravine* and the Chairman's award was presented to Leelee Kock for her delicate collagraph *Pears and Plum*. Tony Langham's oil painting *A Quiet Place* was a worthy winner of the public vote. If you missed any of these, please have another look at them on our website; they certainly all merit a closer look!

WOKAS PAINTING HOLIDAY IN CRETE

In September, Clive Dand organised a painting holiday in Crete. The group stayed in the village of Vamos 40 minutes' drive from Chania and overlooked by the White Mountains. Beautiful sunny days were spent in the countryside around Vamos, painting historic monasteries and villages, and relaxing by the hotel pool and at the nearby beach resort of Kalyves. We dined on Greek dishes and wines at the excellent local tavernas all finished with strong local Raki. Some beautiful paintings were produced by the enthusiastic artists and our one week went far too quickly.

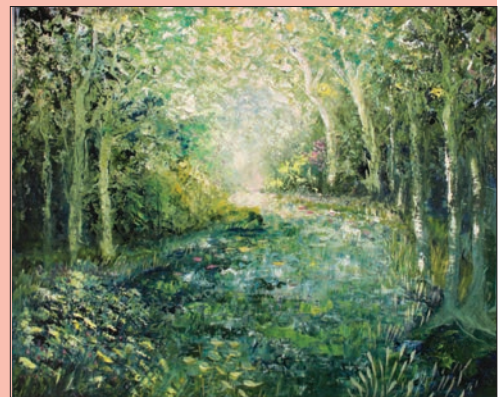
XMAS IS COMING!

Looking for ideas for a gift for an art-lover, or for yourself? Dorling Kindersley's ART: a definitive visual guide may be the answer. With 600 pages spanning the history of art worldwide, this beautifully illustrated book edited by Andrew Graham Dixon answers all of those questions about artists and art movements you haven't heard of before. And it is highly addictive – as you look for one piece of information, you will find yourself drawn into reading more.

WOKAS exhibition prize-winners



NFU prize-winner



Public's favourite



Chairman's prize awarded

Winter Programme

Our winter programme has provided us with a great deal of variety to date with an acrylics demo by Trevor Hartley, a talk by Rowena McWilliams, watercolour and life-drawing workshops and 3 painting sessions with challenges varying from "painting without a brush" to a more traditional still life! If you haven't been along to any of this

year's events yet, check your diary and try to join us over the next few weeks. We have one of Hash Akib's ever popular demos coming up on December 2nd and on December 16th you can take part in our Art Quiz at the Christmas party. Do join us and don't forget you can always bring a friend as guest for £5.

Advice for aspiring artists



At her recent talk, Rowena McWilliams passed on some valuable advice about how to get yourself known as an artist locally. She recommended visiting local exhibitions and galleries and introducing yourself to those running them and to other artists, while emphasising the importance of having a reasonable body of work in a recognisable style all well framed and ready to present. She also recommends the Artjuice podcast which has plenty of advice for aspiring artists and forums such as the Sevenoaks Visual Arts Forum, which has monthly meetings and the Hastings Visual Arts Forum (both have websites with further details).

Painting Holidays recommended!

Many of you may have experience of going on a painting holiday – and it would be great if you could share your recommendations with other members. To start the ball rolling, here are 3 providers I can recommend:



Field Studies Council

A somewhat unexpected source of art courses. Accommodation and food are included in their very reasonable prices and they have some great locations including Slapton Sands and Flatford Mill. Though the accommodation is likely to be a little spartan the food is copious and the tutors very professional.



West Dean College

Many of you will already be familiar with the short courses run at this highly regarded college. Again accommodation and food are included and the historic surroundings provide an impressive setting alongside excellent facilities. The sheer range of courses on offer here is unequalled.



The Norfolk Painting School

Face to face classes are promised to restart in 2022 providing high quality courses where you will work hard but learn a lot.

Accommodation is booked separately, but lunch and coffee etc. are included.

If you have experience of painting holidays and courses that you can recommend, we would love to hear from you! Contact:

Alison Chandler at a.j.chandler@hotmail.co.uk



Smartphone apps

Most of us have a smartphone or a tablet these days, but have you thought about downloading an app for sketching or transforming your photos? Take a look at David Hockney's iPhone drawings to see what can be achieved and let us know if you have any favourite apps, particularly free ones!

Plus ça change....

"An age of opportunity and change.

enlightenment and innovation, but also materialism exploitation and injustice": no, not 21st century Britain, but 18th century Europe. Take a look online at the amusing video introduction to Tate Britain's new exhibition: Hogarth and Europe.



Behind the scenes

The knowledgeable curators at the Towner Gallery in Eastbourne will take you behind the scenes for a tour of their very comprehensive art store. Tours can either be booked privately for groups (with requests as to their emphasis) or tickets can be booked individually for public tours on set dates. At the time of writing, tickets are still available for Sunday December 19th and January 2nd and 16th.



Online courses

For the winter months, when both the weather and the Covid numbers may make working from home the most attractive option, you may like to consider the online courses run by the St Ives School of Painting and the Norfolk Painting School – both are well established with an excellent reputation.

SOUTH EAST OPEN STUDIOS



South East Open Studios have a new committee and are currently rebranding to take the event onwards and upwards after lockdown. WOKAS members Rowena McWilliams (area coordinator for Tenterden and surrounding villages) and Jude Askey-Brown (area coordinator for Ashford) are keen to recruit past and new artists for the 2020 event. More news as it becomes available on our website and in our newsletters but please start thinking about joining in. Perhaps two artists could do it together in one home or studio to give moral support and share the stewarding? This can also attract more visitors.



Ideas please!

Let us know if you have any ideas for events or recommendations for demonstrators or tutors for our next programme or suggestions for what we should be covering in our newsletter.