

Belated AGM marks start of a new season



Thursday 2nd September was a truly special occasion as it marked the very first time we WOKAS members have got together indoors for 18 months! Our belated AGM was well attended and the conversation as we had refreshments in the interval was particularly lively – there was plenty to say after such a long break. The meeting re-elected the officers on the committee with one important change: Pat Lock has stood down as Treasurer after many years' hard

work in the role, but will still be an active committee member, while Fani Azikri takes on the job of Treasurer. The proposal to raise the subscription to £30 from next May to meet rising costs was unanimously supported, and Judy Williams kindly proposed a vote of thanks for all the committee's hard work.

If you were unable to attend the AGM, you may like to read Chairman Clive Dand's message to members in this newsletter



Tate Modern: The Making of Rodin (until 21st November)

This exhibition focuses very much on 'making' with plaster casts in all sizes showing how he continually experimented with fragmentation, repetition and joining existing parts in unconventional ways. This promises to give a fascinating new insight into Rodin's work.



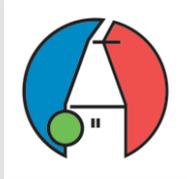
'DUNCAN GRANT 1920'

Charleston exhibition:
(18 September 2021-
13 March 2022)



Many of you will already have visited Charleston, the country home of the Bloomsbury Group, but their new exhibition Duncan Grant 1920 may tempt you to return. Works from Grant's first ever solo show have been tracked down and brought together to look at how his experiments in abstraction and post-impressionism scandalised and excited the public and critics of the day. Over 30 paintings, some of which have not been seen for decades, will be on display.

TAKE A FRESH LOOK AT OUR WOKAS WEBSITE



The entire WOKAS programme of talks, members' painting sessions, demos and workshops up until May 2022 is now available online under the 'Programmes/Workshops' tab. Under 'News and events' we are listing exhibitions and art fairs where WOKAS members are exhibiting and other art venues of interest. We rely on you to let us know about any such events - please get in touch with gunda.cannon@gmail.com so that our listing can be as up-to-date as possible. It's a great way to share your passion and activities with our other members.



Free Folkestone Triennial guided tours

If you would like a free guided tour of the artworks in Folkestone Triennial, you can book one at <https://www.creativefolkestone.org.uk/whats-on/guided-tours/>

I hope that all of you have been working away with your pencils and paints, producing exciting works of art to help get you through the last 18 months. You are probably aware that during the lockdown your committee has been very active. To keep you being creative we have been organising regular online art challenges that resulted in many excellent and exciting works of art. We have also started producing our Newsletters to keep members informed of art society events and art exhibitions in the area and we are always interested in including any information or articles provided by members.

I would like to thank the editor Alison Chandler and Glyn Roberts for producing the layout. Last September we held our first online exhibition which lasted for one month and was considered a success with 80 works exhibited. This was followed up by a second online exhibition held during May this year. We must thank Kate and Tim Rundell for all their work in setting these up on the website and for running the online art challenges.

Now that the Government Covid restrictions have been relaxed, we are able to hold public exhibitions and meetings. As Zion Baptist Church is no longer available for our exhibitions,

our next Exhibition is being held in St.Mildred's Church from November 7th -13th. We hope all the members will

Chairman Clive Dand's message to members at the AGM



submit paintings and works of art to support our first live exhibition at this new venue. By now every member should have had our winter programme which includes an exciting range of meetings, demonstrations and work shops. I would like to thank Alison again for organising this programme, and for arranging the regular en plein painting days which we have been running at a range of outside venues since April. We are fortunate in having Gunda Cannon who has written a number of

interesting members' profiles outlining how and why members became interested in art, developed their skills and why they joined WOKAS art society. If you would like to have your profile included please contact Gunda. We have been informed that Highbury Hall has a few structural problems that will have to be corrected. We hope that this will not affect our Winter programme, but will keep you informed. Thank you all for supporting the society during the last 18 months, we hope that you will be able to attend many of the coming events and please invite friends along as guests and help to develop our membership for the future of the society.

Bring and Buy at October 7th Meeting

Following a proposal from the floor at the AGM, it was decided to earmark our Members Painting Session on October 7th for a members' bring and buy to be held alongside our painting activities. So please bring along your unwanted art kit (paints, books, magazines etc. etc) to raise money for WOKAS. Members are responsible for either pricing their items or 'negotiating' a price with buyers on the evening. Unsold items must be removed by owners at the end of the evening and all profits go to the society.



Seaside Modern at Hastings Contemporary (until October 31st)

The timing of this exhibition could not be more appropriate: with this year's trend for 'staycations', it is fascinating to look back to a time when holidays by the British seaside were the norm. The exhibition features an enormous range of artists including such well-known names as Eric Ravillious, Paul Nash, Edward Bawden, LS Lowry and Ben Nicholson as well as some iconic railway posters advertising the joys of a break on the coast. The work on show also covers a wide range of media from pencil drawings to prints, engravings and paintings and even 2 sculptures by Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth. It is fascinating to see how



differently each artist has responded to similar stimuli. The gallery currently also has an exhibition of Quentin Blake's work running in parallel to Seaside Modern. It is called We Live in Worrying Times and, as the title suggests, the work presented here is a little darker than the children's illustrations we normally associate with Blake and it makes interesting viewing. So it is well worth making the trip to Hastings Old Town to see the sea and the fishing boats for yourself and then take in the exhibition to see what such views have inspired in others.

WORKSHOP BOOKINGS OPEN!

We have two Saturday workshops before Christmas. The first, a watercolour workshop, is led by art tutor Jo Hudson on October 2nd and the second on November 20th is a life drawing session led by Clive Dand. Further details and instructions on how to book can be found on the Winter Programme on the WOKAS website. Please book your place in good time - if numbers are too high you may miss out, if numbers are too low we would have to cancel!

SO BOOK NOW!

Reality check at Rolvenden

It was August Bank Holiday weekend, the sun was shining. There I was sitting at the stewards' desk in bright and airy Rolvenden village hall, handing exhibition catalogues to those who came to see the 2021 Art Exhibition. And yes, it seemed like all of Rolvenden and surrounding areas was having a quick look, everyone revelling in the unfamiliar sensation of studying pictures close up at an exhibition and most leaving after buying a stash of original cards which seemed very good value indeed.

Rolvenden was a new experience for me. The Art Show and associated Flower Festival in St Mary the Virgin across the road have been running for a good many years. WOKAS member Sylvia Kellett masterminds the whole event as a fundraiser for the church and organises the flower festival part while the art part has

been in the safe hands of Jan Gambier for the past nine years. For me, one of the exciting things about taking part in an exhibition is the fact that it gives you a yardstick to assess your own work - there is no place to hide when your pieces are up on the boards next to other people's paintings. And there are always interesting discoveries - like the imaginative felt pictures on show at Rolvenden. Another bonus is meeting in person some artists who until then you only knew by name - making connections and finding inspiration by simply talking to them.

Thank you, Rolvenden - you eased me back into physical exhibition mode and I now look forward even more to being part of WOKAS' Autumn Exhibition at St Mildred's in Tenterden. Just need to paint a few good pictures before then... Gunda Cannon

