

# Bulletin February 2024

Our full programme of activities for 2023-24 and venue addresses can be seen on the website: [www.stalbans-artsociety.org.uk](http://www.stalbans-artsociety.org.uk)



## SAAS member Rydal hits the big screen!

Viewers of Sky Arts Landscape Artist of the Year may have spotted SAAS member **Rydal Hanbury** in Series 9 Episode 3 (now available on Sky Arts catch-up). Rydal joined seven other painters and 50 'wildcard' artists to paint a landscape including Hever Castle Loggia. Her impressive painting was one of three chosen by the judges at the end of the episode, which was won by Deepa Goswami.

Rydal 'loved' the experience of participating in the show. As a keen plein air painter, often seen on the streets of St Albans, she is no stranger to changing weather and an audience watching over her shoulder. The organisation of the day and behind-the-scenes support were amazingly good. The friendly atmosphere and the presence of close family members made for a great day overall.

The hardest part was creating a painting in four hours, while stopping to answer questions and chat at critical moments. 'It was difficult to move back into my non-verbal 'painting space' after speaking,' Rydal explained. 'We were also a long way from the building so it was hard to see all the detail.' When the presenter and one of the judges took a boat on the lake, she included them in her picture – the first time this has ever happened.

Rydal would encourage anyone who likes the idea of appearing in the show to go for it. If you are not selected as one of the main artists you might get a place as a 'wildcard'. This group clearly has enormous fun and one of them gets a chance to be selected for the semi-final.

Rydal is pictured here holding her entry submission for Landscape Artist of the Year, a painting of her garden. See more of Rydal's work on [rydalanbury.com](http://rydalanbury.com)  
*Interview by Vivien Bailey*

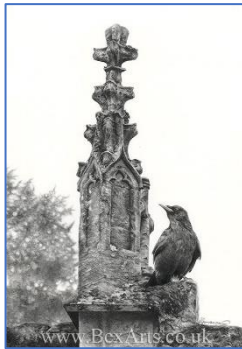
## Gary Spencer's evening of critique and compositional advice

We are looking forward to having **Gary Spencer** (a judge at last year's exhibition) to run our critique night. For over 20 years, Gary has designed, managed and taught a wide range of art courses in both schools and in colleges and also as a freelance tutor and lecturer. He has published articles in Artist and Illustrator magazine and appeared on Landscape Artist of the Year.



**Please bring a painting along to the session** which you would be happy for Gary to critique and bring out the fundamental things which make a good painting. This doesn't need to be your 'best work or a finished work'. Gary has an encouraging manner, so don't be frightened to bring along a painting you're struggling with!

## Recent SAAS Events



On 17 January **Becky Gouverneur** enthralled members with a demonstration of her beautiful, highly detailed dry-medium animal drawings and portraits. Booking is now open for her whole-day workshop on 24 February – see online for what to bring, or you can purchase items direct from Becky on the day.



In his workshop on 20 January **Jim Morgan** showed 18 eager participants how to work with palette knives. The session included how to plan a balanced composition using the Japanese Notan method, plus a masterclass in colour mixing to achieve a harmonious effect. We finished with a display of everyone's work and a helpful critique from Jim. A great day.



On 22 January **Bridget Tompkins** tutored a well-attended session in drawing and painting a clothed model.

There is another session of clothed life drawing on 13 February, 13.30 -15.30, at Charles Morris Hall, Tyttenhanger. No need to book, £10 on the day.



No pressure to paint, but if you wish to, bring: sharp soft pencils, sharpener, putty rubber; pastels / charcoal if using; decent drawing paper/watercolour paper if using; plenty of rough sketch paper; modest selection of watercolours/pencils and brush; some wax, broken or cut; pedicure sticks (optional); kitchen roll; cup for water; table cover.



## Upcoming Events

### FEBRUARY

❖ **Wednesday 7 February, 19.30 – 21.30 Marshalswick Community Centre**  
**DEMO/Critique: Compositional elements of good paintings**  
FREE to members, visitors £5. Just turn up. Bring along a painting for critique by Gary Spencer

❖ **Tuesday 13 February, 13.30 – 15.30 Charles Morris Hall**  
**Daytime Clothed Life Drawing with tutor Bridget Tompkins**  
Tutored session (£10 members, no booking required – just turn up)

❖ **Saturday 24 February, 10.00 – 16.00 Charles Morris Hall**  
**WORKSHOP: Drawing Animals in Dry Media with Becky Gouverneur**  
(Online booking NOW OPEN, including cost of materials – see website)

❖ **Wednesdays 21 and 28 February 19.30 – 21.30 Marshalswick Community Centre**  
**Life Drawing Non-tutored sessions.** Members only. Members aged 16/17 need to have parental permission (please contact Membership Secretary). £8 (£5 student members). Just turn up.

### MARCH in brief (more details – see website):

6 March: Demo How to frame your artwork successfully with **Stephen Harris** MCC 19.30 – 21.30

23 March: Workshop Urban Sketching with **Paul Alcock** CMH 10.00 – 16.00 (Book online soon)

20 March and 27 March : Life Drawing MCC 19.30 – 21.30

### New Members

Gillian Darby; Sandra McDougall

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