

PRISM

News of art and events

March 2023



St Albans Art Society Summer Exhibition 2022
Challenge Trophy Winner
Water Meadows on the Stour - Jim Morgan



www.stalbans-art-society.org.uk



Contents

	Page
Cover Story	2
SAAS Social	3
AGM Committee Report	4
Members' Forum	8
Looking Forward	8
Workshop Reviews	10
Your committee	12
Events	13
Edward Bevin's review	14
Costume Drawing Review	16

Members' input is very popular so please carry on sending in your articles for inclusion in the magazine and your feedback.

PRISM is published quarterly by
St Albans Art Society
PRISM Editor: Janet King
Associate Editor: Edward Bevin

newsletter.saas@gmail.com
www.stalbans-artsociety.org.uk

Issue 260-2023 March 2023
Printed by: Instantprint,
Brookfields Park, Unit A,
Manvers Way, Rotherham S63 5DR
www.instantprint.co.uk

COVER STORY

WATER MEADOWS ON THE STOUR

By Jim Morgan



My wife Hilary and I had been to Dedham a few times to go on watercolour painting courses which have mainly focused on plein air painting. The last couple of times were with Steve Hall and on both occasions we went down to the water meadows on the banks of the River Stour to paint.

I made several watercolour paintings during those visits trying to catch the feeling of the pastures and that light that seems so special by the river. I was never really satisfied with the on site studies and as a result have revisited the painting several times in the studio, painting in both watercolour and oil.

On our last visit the light was just beautiful, bright but with a slight early May haze. I had set up on the riverbank planning to paint the river itself but my eye was caught by the flash of a yellow rape field showing between the line of trees running up from the bank. An irregular dot dash line of bright colour against the greens of the meadow and trees and the almost black of the shadows cast by the strong sunlight.

The painting I submitted for the show was the latest of several attempts to catch the scene and the one I have been happiest with to date. I'm sure I will be returning to paint in the Stour valley before too long.

Enclosed in this issue...

Kim Rasit workshop booking form

AGM Committee Nomination Form

SAAS SOCIAL

An evening with Wine and Buffet
Wednesday 3rd May • 7.15 - 9.30pm
At Marshalswick Community Centre

Meet and get to know fellow members
while sipping a glass of wine

PLUS
FREE RAFFLE
WITH GREAT ART PRIZES!

FREE ticket for every member who arrives before 7.30pm

The evening will start at 7.30pm with a *brief* AGM session to elect the members of the committee and to hear the Treasurer's annual report.

All other committee reports are printed overleaf.

◆ **It is essential that a quorum of members attend to validate any voting** ◆

A nomination form for committee members is inserted in this issue of PRISM

St Albans Art Society **Committee Report 2022-2023**

The 2023 **AGM** will be held at 7.30pm at the beginning of a **Social Evening with Wine and Buffet plus FREE Raffle** on 3rd May - see page 3. The venue: Marshalswick Community Centre. Come and enjoy a fun evening with fellow members - your vote is very important and we must have a quorum to validate decisions.

Here is the combined Committee Report for the past year. The Treasurer's report is separate and will be presented at the meeting.



LtoR: **Gordon Bridges** - Vice Chair and website, **Janet King** - PRISM and online Newsletter, **Sally Griffiths** - Chair and workshops programme secretary, **Jane Hollins** - Membership secretary, **Linda Warminger** - Treasurer, **Iris Green** - Lectures programme secretary **Margaret Channon** - Secretary, **Chris Baker** - Life drawing.

CHAIR Sally Griffiths

It has been a very good year for SAAS. First let me thank the Committee on your behalf for all the hard work they have put in to ensure the society a good and varied programme, albeit with fewer committee members and the need for some to take on more than their allotted roles. We have had an exciting, full year for all of our society's activities with full attendances and waiting lists for many of our different types of workshops. Participants for the Life Drawing groups have also risen, helped by Bridget Tompkins' two marvellous sessions of tutoring. On-line demonstrations were well attended but slow response from members returning to the excellent live demonstrations and talks meetings.

The successful Exhibition was brilliantly



organised by Sue Bergquist and Jan Munro and we look forward to the next Exhibition in July.

We are grateful to Jim Morgan for taking on the position of Treasurer and thus ensuring continuation.

Ybo Vass and Lyn Hutchins have been co-opted onto the Committee with responsibility for promoting the Society and its membership through the social media and other publicity channels, as requested by members. We now have made a good start with new committee members, albeit with a clear imperative to get more members involved in its work.

As SAAS is run by members for members our aim is to continue developing and moving forward with YOUR suggestions and support which will be vital for this to really happen! Any additions, ideas and with more membership

involvement will enable our society to thrive.

The committee role for Demonstrations and Talks needs to be appointed. This is an important but not onerous role and support will be provided so if you feel you could do it please contact me ASAP.

I have relished the challenge of being the current Chair and my six years as Workshop Organiser, I would of course be content to relinquish either or both responsibilities if anyone wants to take on the challenge.

Please contact me with offers of help, ideas, support, joining the committee, demonstration and talks, or anything else – email chairman.saas@gmail.com

SECRETARY Margaret Channon

It's been a nail-biting year with people coming and going from the Committee as we say goodbye to Linda Warminger our Treasurer and welcome Jim Morgan to the role. We still need someone to organise the Lectures and demonstrations for our monthly meetings or there won't be any for the future. At least that is how things stand at this time of writing. Yes, we are only human and can only do so much, some of us have taken on two roles to keep things going for you all to enjoy. I would like to call on the younger generation who have IT skills to volunteer as we increasingly need those skills for the future, so if you have new ideas of what you would like to see happen in your art society we would be most interested to know. We can arrange support from other committee members if you are not sure what to do in your new role, so you won't be alone. We are really a friendly bunch to get on with.

I hope you are all looking forward to a creative summer and able get out and about more in order to produce lots of

lovely artwork for the coming exhibition. Jan Munro and Sue Bergquist are busily organising the exhibition for another year, they start early to get everything into place and do a fantastic job. I am sure they would appreciate the co-operation of the membership with any help you can give or else the exhibition just would not happen without you.

We have introduced Tutored Costume Drawing during this past winter which has proved successful so we will include this for next winter in the daytime. Bridget Tompkins has been brilliant at keeping our drawing up to scratch and very encouraging.

As a committee we are hoping to include more social events for you to enjoy so please don't be shy of letting us know what you would like to see happen and ideally dare to organise.

MEMBERSHIP Jane Hollins

In May 2022 I took over the role of membership secretary from Janet Blackham. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt thanks to Janet for making the handover as simple as possible and for her ongoing support.

Our membership currently stands at 133, comprising 122 full, 5 associate, 3 student, 1 Honorary and 2 life members. Please help me to keep our records up to date by letting me know if any of your contact details change, by emailing membership.saas@gmail.com or by phone (my number is on your membership card).

PRISM & ONLINE NEWSLETTER Janet King

The Society magazine, PRISM, is published quarterly to keep members informed of what is happening in the Society. Back

Continued from page 5

issues can be viewed on our website.

My thanks go to my 'helpers' Anna Gladstone and Jill Bridges who stuff and post the envelopes and Pam Bevin who proof reads for me.

I also edit the online monthly **Newsletter** which has been incredibly useful during the past 2 years to keep members informed, when our programme has been subject to some cancellations post covid. If you have any personal art events you would like to publicise, please email newsletter.saas@gmail.com

WEBSITE & IT Gordon Bridges www.stalbans-artsociety.org.uk

In the last year the SAAS web site attracted 23,296 visitors and 59,636 visits. And, as previously reported in the March 2022 issue of PRISM, the site has continued to attract visitors from around the world. Recently, other than the expected home page which contains the main slider, the pages which have been most visited and ranked in the order given are: Programme 2022-2023; About SAAS; Life Drawing; and 2022 Summer Exhibition. This helps to determine where the website maintenance effort is best directed and, to some extent, the main focus of interest to members. One fundamental question that is not answered by the statistics package and would be interesting to know is the average length of time visitors dwell on one particular page. Hopefully, this is something that could be logged by a stats package in the future.

From the establishment of the SAAS website members have been encouraged to send in photographs of their SAAS Annual Exhibition entries in order to promote both their work and the Annual Exhibition. The response to this request in the past few years has been virtually non-



existent, and due to this extremely disappointing result this exercise will not be conducted again until there is a substantial demand from the membership. Instead, the aim over this busy period will be to show the winners with their winning entries on a slider as soon as possible.

FACEBOOK Hilary Morgan and Susie Ross, the SAAS Facebook Managers,

The Members' Facebook page has shown a bit more activity recently as the Society's programme of workshops, life drawing etc picks up. There have been several new requests to join with a flurry of activity around last summer's exhibition and the group now has 31 members. Unfortunately some requests have been received from a few people who are not members of the Society and these have sadly had to be declined.

There is little activity on the main, public Facebook page but this always picks up around exhibition time.

Susie and Hilary have now been running these pages for several years and would very much like to hand them over. The committee has found 2 new members, Ybo Vass and Lynn Hitchens, who have offered to take on the role of publicity for the Society, which will include running the Facebook pages and all other social media in the future.

PROGRAMME - Lectures Iris Green

There were six talks/demonstration booked for the last year. Four to be held at the Hall in Marshalswick and two online demos. Unfortunately, one of the events didn't go ahead due to the demonstrator being ill on the night, which was a great shame as quite a few people turned up.

The two online sessions were well received. One from Northern Ireland by artist Dermot Cavanagh, who sent a picture of what he was painting so that we could paint along with him or watch the video and do it in our own time. Over 30 people logged in

on the day. Cotswold Scene. In watercolours.

The second online was from Jamacia Susan Clare. She painted a "Tropical Lagoon" in acrylic. Again, a video was available if people wanted to have a go at painting the scene. 22 members logged in on the day.

Rory Browne demonstrated "A Summer Path with Cow Parsley" in oils on 1st March.

At the time of writing this report there is one more demonstration to be held, in person, in the hall. Joel Wareing will be demonstrating "A Street Scene with People" in acrylic on 5th April.

PROGRAMME - Workshops Sally Griffiths



This year 2022/3, we have had full attendance and it has been great to welcome new members alongside familiar faces. First two workshops were an acrylic landscape, then Keith Hornblower's excellent buildings in watercolour. Susan Chester, after 2 years in the planning, was able to deliver a wonderful abstract watercolour workshop followed by Susan Gray's dynamic sea scape in Acrylics. Feedbacks from participants attending workshops were all very positive. A variety of mediums were planned and thoroughly enjoyed. The next workshop was to create a stunning lino cut with Eleanor Mulinder. Finally, a totally different approach, working with Alcohol inks led by Kim Rasit. We were fortunate to remain at the same venue.

As it is your society, I would be grateful to receive feedback on what workshop leaders you would like again with suggestions for new Tutors, types of Workshops, or possibly to even lead one yourself, please contact me.

LIFE DRAWING SESSIONS

Chris Baker

My name is Chris Baker and I have been organising this year's sessions. (Dates are on your membership card) We had our first tutored session in November, which was very well attended. We kicked off the winter term with another evening tutored by Bridget Tompkins. The sessions which last 2 hours including breaks start promptly at 7.30 and are for all levels. Artists through the ages have seen life drawing as an indispensable tool to developing skill levels; so even if you're a complete novice, give it a go!

Sessions are for members only and cost just £8 for the evening.

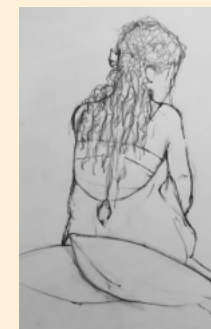
Materials are NOT provided.

COSTUME DRAWING SESSIONS

Jane Hollins

Two winter experimental daytime tutored costume sessions, tutored by Bridget Tompkins, were held in January and February, both of which were well attended, received positive feedback and positive income. The committee recognise that some members prefer not to travel at

night at this time of year and this experiment has clearly demonstrated that there is an appetite for daytime sessions. The committee will therefore propose holding daytime sessions over winter in future programmes.



EXHIBITION UPDATE 26th to 29th July 2023



2023 Exhibition Organisers:
Jan Munro and Sue Bergquist.

Framed originals and box canvases: **£6**
 Mounted unframed originals for the browser: **£3**
 Mounted unframed reproductions **£3**
 Ceramics and sculptures: **£3**

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

SATURDAY 24th JUNE

Final date for entries

MONDAY 24th JULY

Setting up and HANDING IN
2pm-4pm and 5.30pm-7.30pm

TUESDAY 25th JULY

PRIVATE VIEW 7.30 - 9.30

WED 26th JULY - SAT 29th JULY

Open to the public daily 10am to 6pm

SUNDAY 30th JULY

COLLECTION OF ARTWORK will
be from 2pm - 4pm

The hall is CLOSED on Sunday morning

VENUE: Upper Dagnall Street Church
Hall. (Same as 2022)

Sponsored by the Maltings **MALTINGS**
ST. ALBANS

We are pleased to welcome the following new members

Mrs Judy Halls	St. Albans
Mrs Emma Walker.	St Albans
Mrs Lisa Laycock.	St Albans
Ms Anna Goldsmith.	St Albans
Mrs Deborah Pritchard.	WGC
Fionnuala Robinson	St Albans
Karen Cleaver	St Albans

Are you receiving your monthly online Newsletter?

This email is sent out at the end of every month. If not... Please check your junk mail first, then if you can't find it, please email newsletter.saas@gmail.com and we will check if your address is on the list.

Mixed Media Workshop With member Mitzie Green

Saturday 22nd April. 10am -4pm
 At Gadebridge Community Centre,
 Galley Hill, HP1 3LG
 Acrylic painting with added
 techniques
 Tel 01442 862978 for further
 information



Going Green

On the internet there are several websites offering 'biodegradable greetings card sleeves'. You may want to consider these for your greetings cards.

Spring Programme 2023

For a full list of the Society's programme visit: www.stalbans-artsociety.org.uk

LECTURES AND DEMONSTRATIONS

Marshalswick Community Centre,
 The Ridgeway, St Albans, AL4 9TU.
 7.30 - 9.30pm

STREET SCENE WITH PEOPLE

Demonstration
 in acrylics by
 Joel Wareing
**Wednesday
 5th April**

Joel focuses on
 figures, body
 language and the interaction of people
 within urban environments.



SOCIAL + AGM 2023

Wednesday 3rd May at 7.15pm

Social Evening including wine and buffet - a chance to meet up and chat to other members. • During the evening, there will be a **FREE RAFFLE** with exciting art materials as prizes!

This year, the *very brief* business of the AGM will take place at the Social at 7.30pm. See pages 3-7

TUTORED WORKSHOPS

United Reformed Church Hall,
 Watford Rd, Chiswell Green, St Albans,
 AL2 3HG
 10am - 4pm

THE UNPREDICTABILITY OF WORKING WITH ALCOHOL INKS

Tutor:
 Kim Rasit
Saturday 27th May
**NB: change from the
 original published
 date**



Loving vibrant colours,
 Kim takes her
 inspiration from
 natural themes such

as flora, the sea and the land. Recently she has been using alcohol inks because of their unpredictability and vibrancy of colour. During the workshop, Kim aims to provide knowledge of the tools used, explore techniques for the movement of the inks to create a vibrant picture.

**Booking Form is inserted in this issue
 of PRISM**

LIFE DRAWING SESSIONS

Marshalswick Community Centre
 7.30 - 9.30pm

Our thanks go to Karin Friedli, who has been running the Life Drawing sessions for us since 2021. She has stepped down from this role and committee member, Chris Baker, *right*, has volunteered to take over from her.



• 19 April • 26 April
 • 17 May • 24 May
 • 21 June • 28 June



WORKSHOP REVIEWS

Sally Griffiths reviews two fun workshops using two different media: in January, *Susan Chester* tutored a vibrant 'still life with flowers' in watercolour. Then, in February, *Sue Gray* led a class

with an atmospheric 'rough seas' theme using acrylics.

No such thing as mistakes

Tutor:
Susan Chester

One of our valued members, **Susan Chester**, led a excellent workshop of a beautiful, vibrant, floral still life. Starting with a demonstration of a bold drawing using a thick black marker pen, the group were made aware that they were going to be brave and adventurous as there was no such thing as mistakes.

Susan's distinctive style and the mixing of beautiful colours came to life throughout the day with a



Susan starts with the marker pen drawing...



...then continues with the colour

good balance between demonstration of the different techniques required and the continuous individual help given. At least one suggestion was given on how the painting could go forward in the numerous times Susan visited the individual. The timing of each stage was judged to perfection and completed without rushing.

Susan's calm, caring, bubbly personality was evident all day to engage the artists with her clear

explanations, and guidance which were demonstrated by the number of exciting, attractive paintings created by the group. Along with the new techniques learnt, the artists were keen to revisit at home and definitely wanted another workshop soon.

This great workshop was thoroughly enjoyed by all the participants who appreciated the high quality of teaching given by a talented artist. Thankyou Susan for a wonderful day.



...the class follows her lead and starts to introduce colour to their drawing.



The class makes a start on their own paintings



Sue demonstrates the first layer

Sue's unrestrained technique was inspirational

Tutor: Sue Gray

A super, informative, Acrylic workshop took place presented by a relaxed but lively **Susan Gray**. She started the day with a detailed, inspiring demonstration using only a sketch.

Colour choices, how and why they were used, along with a variety of mark making was clearly shown. A variety of equipment was used, different sized and shaped brushes, palette knives, cotton buds, spray and kitchen roll.

Susan used a restricted pallet giving an explanation for any decisions or changes made during the process. Her unrestrained technique was inspirational,

enabling all the participants new or experienced users of acrylics, to feel relaxed. Susan continually gave one to one input throughout the day allowing for individual progress

resulting in an amazing group display of 'Rough Seas'

The feedbacks from participants were extremely positive with everyone wanting to come again. 'An inspirational workshop

incorporating new ways to paint with acrylics.' 'The workshop was a joy!' 'Susan's style is a pleasure to watch unfold.' 'I love her energy and her constant reassessment.'

'Sue's workshop was great – full of enthusiasm, energy and amazing paintings that emerge in response!'

Gina Dunstan

YOUR COMMITTEE

CHAIR

Sally Griffiths

VICE CHAIR

Gordon Bridges

SECRETARY

Margaret Channon

TREASURER

Linda Warming

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Jane Hollins
membership.saas@gmail.com

WEBSITE & IT MANAGER

Gordon Bridges

PRISM EDITOR

Janet King
newsletter.saas@gmail.com

PROGRAMME SECRETARIES

WORKSHOPS Sally Griffiths
LECTURES Iris Green

CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESSES

enquiries.saas@gmail.com

for general enquiries

newsletter.saas@gmail.com

for all enquiries regarding the magazine PRISM and the online monthly Newsletter.

membership.saas@gmail.com

for all membership queries

studios.saas@gmail.com

for all programme queries

VENUE for MEETINGS

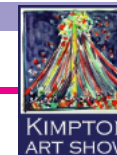
Marshalswick Community Centre, The Ridgeway, St Albans, AL4 9TU.

VENUE for WORKSHOPS

United Reformed Church, Watford Rd, Chiswell Green, St Albans, AL2 3HG

www.stalbans-artsociety.org.uk

Visit the website or our facebook page for regularly updated news of what's on at the Society.



Kimpton Art Show 2023

Friday 28th April - Monday 1st May

An exhibition and sale of artwork, forming a major feature of the Kimpton May Festival weekend.

Venue: The Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul. Kimpton Art Show brings together over 100 artists. Work ranges from the traditional to the modern. With works from £20 there is something for everyone's budget. www.kimptonartshow.co.uk

Painting days at Amwell Cottage in support of Katie's Lymphoedema Fund

Friday 14th April or Sunday 21st May 11 - 4pm

An opportunity for SAAS artists to bring their equipment and to paint, draw and be creative in a big, beautiful garden at Amwell Cottage in Wheathampstead. The funds raised by Katie's charity go to The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity. The artists will be able to offer their artworks for sale at a ball on 17th June. Artists will decide whether to donate 100% or 50% of the sale proceeds to the Fund. There will be 100 guests at the ball so there will be a large and enthusiastic audience! There are more details in our March end-of-the-month-online Newsletter, or contact Harpenden Art Club member Siân Denton at sian.denton@btinternet.com.

Berkhamsted Spring Exhibition 2023

Friday 26th May to Sunday 28th May

Exhibition/Sale of Members' works. Berkhamsted Civic Centre, 161 High Street, Berkhamsted HP4 3HB. Over 200 items are on display and for sale, including framed and unframed pictures, folios and ceramics. Cards made and designed by members are also available for sale. Entry to the exhibition is free.

berkhamstedartsociety.co.uk

Website Design, Management and Support

Since 1999 WordsAndPeople.co.uk have created attractive, fast loading sites with helpful navigation and easy maintenance. We provide a complete end-to-end service including: Brand design, Design for web and print, Hosting, Support and Email.

We have helped a broad range of companies with their visual media since 1999 from:

...Accountants to Acrobats,
...Body Guards to Beauty Salons,
...Corporates and Charities...

...Feel free to ask, we're always happy to discuss, explain and provide ideas.

Email is best: contact@wordsandpeople.co.uk | 0208 207 6864 | www.wordsandpeople.co.uk



Some of our recent website productions



transformafrica.org



careexpertise.co.uk



advocacyinbarnet.org.uk



psandr.com



talkingimage.co.uk

Hertford Annual Open Exhibition

29th April to 7th May



At Cowbridge Halls, Hertford SG14 1PG. The Exhibition attracts entries from all over Britain.

Approximately 300 pieces of artwork are selected for display. www.hertfordartsociety.co.uk

King Charles III Coronation Weekend

CORONATION BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND
Friday 5 - Monday 8 May 2023

HATFIELD PARK

Get ready for an amazing craft experience!

- Beautiful, British made art and craft for sale
- Outdoor craft displays
- Craft Masterclass Pavilion
- The Art Centre & art materials
- Fascinating talks & demonstrations
- Workshops for both adults & children
- Meet some of Britain's finest designer-makers
- Specialist food & drink producers
- Special Showcase Pavilion with inspirational work
- Complimentary entry to the famous West Garden
- Over 2,000 acres of parkland to explore
- Delicious refreshments & a great family day out!

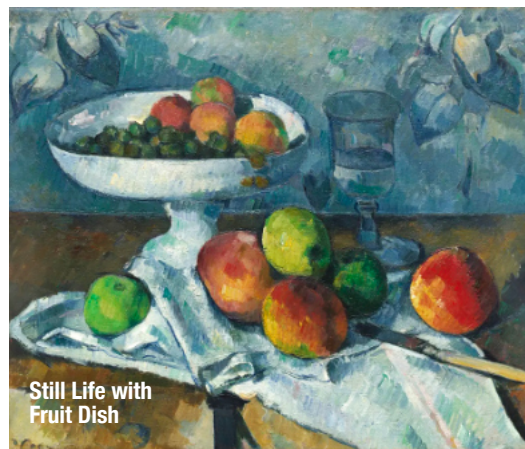
LivingCrafts.co.uk [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/LivingCraftsUK) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/LivingCraftsUK) [TikTok](https://www.tiktok.com/@LivingCraftsUK)

www.livingcrafts.co.uk/lc/event-details

Paul Cezanne turned the art world upside down as only a genius can do

It seems extraordinary today to understand why a brilliant young artist should want to leave his beloved sun kissed villages and translucent night skies of Aix-en-Provence in the south of France in the 1860s, for the bustling, rowdy, somewhat grubby, as it was at the time, city of Paris, 800 kilometres to the north. But Paul Cezanne, no doubt highly precocious at the time as well as ambitious, announced to the citizens of the French capital city that he would astonish them with paintings of an apple and lots of other fruit!

This brilliant post impressionist genius turned the art world upside down for decades with his quivering apples, shoulders of meat and eye-watering grapes, painted in outrageous brushstrokes which compel us to try and touch. There are colours which seem hyperbolic in their blazing glory. We see the use of glistening pure emerald for an apple demonstrated in his **Still Life with Fruit Dish** appearing in a fluted bowl on a table, with tremendous splashes of



Still Life with Fruit Dish

colour in full swing. He tempts us to grab a few grapes as we move away from the canvas.

The current show of Cezanne has become the greatest the Tate Modern has organised and brilliantly demonstrates the skills behind his works as well as giving us a complete insight into what made Cezanne tick. It invites us to understand the great man with his passion for nature

spanning landscapes and seems to take us on a colourful journey which one will never forget.

Cezanne was a daring artist and went down highways and byways not walked by any of his contemporaries. It's a journey in which we see

mountainscapes as

though we are there in reality, such as the **Mont Sainte-Victoire** where I have stood on the very spot that he did on sweltering high French summer days. Painting en plain air Cezanne moved around the fields and lanes to show us the same mountain from different angles. These canvases alone are iconic works which grace the



Mont Sainte-Victoire 1902-6

walls of some of the greatest art galleries around the world.

The organisers of this magnificent narrative, which sadly closes shortly, chose not to open with spectacular colours but with a painting of the artist himself. There he is, glaring at us as we walk around the gallery and look back, looking somewhat shy and worried, almost wary, and prematurely balding even though he was in his early 30s at the time. He's wearing a drab winter coat and a scarf round his neck. His mouth he painted in a single, short brushstroke, in red and a black beard smothers his face. Happily, in slight relief in the background, there are delicate pink and amber swirls. I have seen this portrait on a number of occasions in the Musee d'Orsay, Paris and each time I find something I seem to have missed previously. Such is the genius of Cezanne.

He completed a good number of portraits including one of his wife, which at least one commentator described as a masterpiece. It is indeed in my view an outstanding canvas, despite the fact that Madame Cezanne has a deeply enigmatic facial expression, with her tight lips, dark flattened hair and hands and fingers which give one the impression that she wants to fidget or get the session over quickly! For me, why it shows much brilliance and skill is its pure simplicity. Much attention is paid to her dress painted in a brownish orange with a bow neatly tied around her waist. Every ridge and fold is depicted in the material of the dress and somehow, all this seems to give the painting vitality, producing at the same time a truly extraordinary sense of fascination. And there is a radiance projected in a portrait of his son, his well combed black hair and somewhat timid expression on his face is

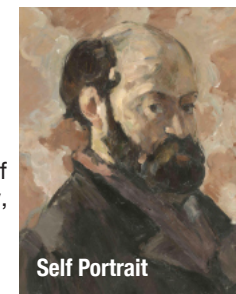
beautifully crafted in sombre oils.

Sometimes, in his portraits and landscapes the brushmarks seem almost like stippling and we are left with the feeling that we are looking at a canvas through frosted glass. This is how Cezanne saw the world before him and this technique would be copied by many artists in future years. However, his hallmark, away from landscapes is the fruit bowls and still life generally. He had the brilliance to use the most humble of objects to turn them into works admired

the world over: an apple is the perfect example. With a bottle of red wine in the midst, in other paintings we see bananas, lemons, oranges and apples in baskets or spread across a table. The beholder is invited to grab something and move on! There is a theory that this sort of still life is at the bottom of the pile within painting as a discipline. These words would surely be disputed by Cezanne today.

Cezanne drew much admiration from other artists. Picasso called him the 'father' and Manet described him as 'the greatest of us all.' When, as a young man, he left Aix he not only discovered a new world in the field of art, but created one. Like the

impressionists, Cezanne delivered a density of colour and deliverance that leaves us all mesmerised and impressed. And yet, there is one canvas that is quite the antithesis of colour. His late winter and frosty canvas of Mont Sainte-Victoire, from 1904, carries scarcely a mark or blemish of colour on a bleak midwinter day. There are few brush strokes here and virtually nothing to see. But standing before the canvas I quickly came to the conclusion that everything is, in fact, there and what's more, there is plenty to see. What a master...

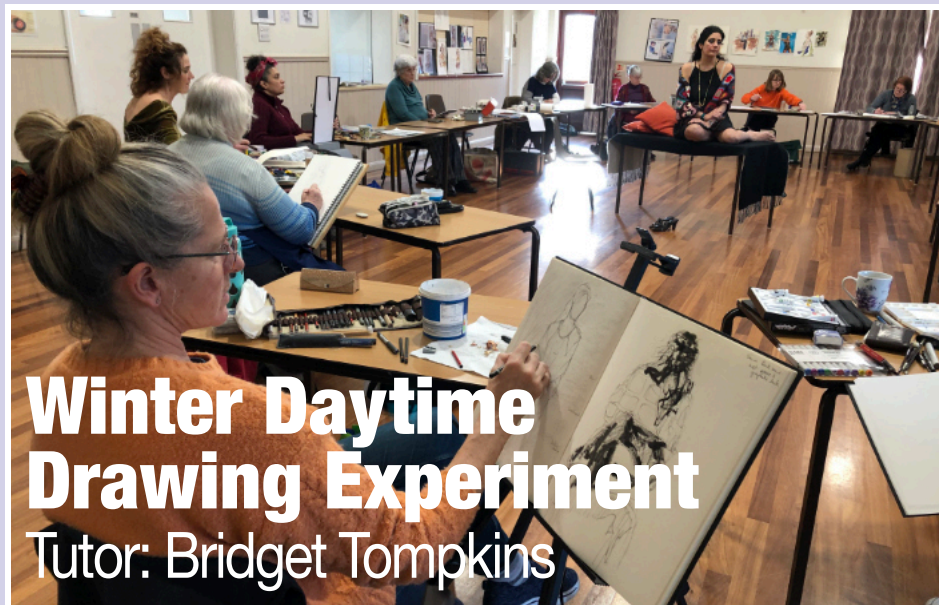


Self Portrait



Madame Cezanne

NEW: AFTERNOON DRAWING SESSIONS



Winter Daytime Drawing Experiment Tutor: Bridget Tompkins

Members **Jane Hollins** and **Bridget Tompkins** liaised to arrange two winter afternoon, tutored, costume drawing sessions. This idea has proved very successful and we hope to repeat it in the future.

Not long after becoming membership secretary, I noticed that short group activities for members were relatively sparse over the winter months. I guessed that like many, the desire to leave the warmth of one's home of an evening and drive in the cold and dark, did not hold much appeal. Equally though, the period after Christmas and New Year, before the arrival of spring, can be a pretty bleak period. From these observations the idea of short daytime group sessions for members in January and February was born.

I am happy to report that our two trial tutored costume sessions, tutored by member

Bridget Tompkins, proved to be a hit! We had 14 members at the January one and 15 at the February one. We were blessed with cold but beautiful sunny weather on both days, our friendly and inspiring tutor Bridget and a great professional model Emanuela, who came with numerous

changes of clothing. The Charles Morris Hall, with its free parking outside, was filled with happy members, in a relaxed and convivial atmosphere for two and a half hours of artistic fun and chat. Thanks to all of you who came to support this daytime experiment and for your feedback. It is something we will hope to repeat in future years.

Jane Hollins



Bridget
demonstrates in
watercolour