

PRISM

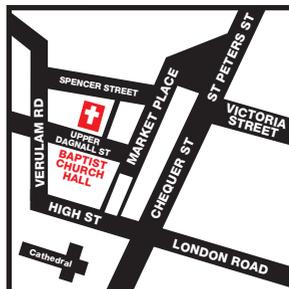
May 2017

News of art & events

www.stalbans-artsociety.org.uk



St Albans Art Society
2017 Summer Exhibition
26th-29th July



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Society Chairman

Secretary: Sandie Ford

Treasurer: Tracey Gent

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2016 SUMMER EXHIBITION PRIVATE VIEW NIGHT



Right: The Mayor, Councillor Frances Leonard, opened the 2016 Exhibition

Enclosed in this issue:

- Exhibition Entry Papers
- Exhibition Rules
- Exhibition Leaflets

THE CHAIRMAN WRITES...

Openness - it's what we are all about!



A suggestion has been made that in the near future, society members could have the opportunity of attending a committee meeting, from time to time, to observe the various deliberations that take place and to witness for themselves how we operate on the society's behalf.

The idea behind this idea, put forward by Margaret Channon, our dutiful minutes secretary, is that we can prove our openness in promoting the society and its ideals. Government departments and my journalistic colleagues refer to this as transparency, meaning, as you are all aware, liquidity, lucidity and clarity, but for me the noun openness is more appropriate because it speaks of being frank and having nothing to hide. That's what we are all about!

Having observers sit in at meetings is nothing new, but it has become more popular in recent years. There have been instances where observers have either been influenced into offering themselves as future committee members (although I must stress at this stage that this is not our intention), while others have been convinced that committee work is not for them! We will aim to discuss the suggestion at the next committee meeting and I am sure we will launch Margaret's suggestion very soon. Our meetings are speedily (and hopefully efficiently)

completed in under an hour and a half.

In the meantime, our flagship event, the summer exhibition takes place in Upper Dagnall Street Baptist Church, just a couple of hundred meters from the old town hall, from July 26-29th. Last year's event was a great success and the two organisers, Janet Blackham and Janet King will, no doubt, be planning to build on that success.

The event is the society's principal method of demonstrating its standing in the art world, not just in this cathedral city, but beyond. In recent years, I have always, wherever possible, visited other local art exhibitions and at times I have been impressed with the standard of work. I can assure members that in our membership we are blessed with artists from the top drawer. That might be stating the obvious from your Chairman, but I do mean this quite sincerely.

On a very personal note, I was disappointed to have missed (I was feeling under the weather) the last of the season's lecture series, when Rory Browne captivated the many members and guests who turned up. Our programme secretary, Linda Dorkings, must be congratulated on organising such a diverse series of events.

Edward Bevin Chairman

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

AGM report held on 3rd May 2017

Opening remarks and welcome

The Chairman welcomed the 35 members who attended and commented that a similar number attended in 2016 and one apology for absence had been received. He reminded those present that the agenda for the meeting had been sent out in the March PRISM.

Minutes of the 2016 AGM

These were approved by members present.

Matters arising

The Chairman said that there have been no further updates on progress with the Old Town Hall so the exhibition will again be at the Baptist Church in Dagnall St.

Elsbeth Jackman added that there had been very favourable comments from the previous year about this venue. Peter Osborne mentioned that the number of visitors had risen dramatically when we moved to the Old Town Hall but Janet Blackham added that the cost had also risen and we had made a loss.

The Combined Committee report

This had been sent out in advance with PRISM and was approved without any questions.

Treasurer's Report

This had been circulated at the meeting and the Treasurer drew attention to the total funds which had risen to £9,976 this year. The report had been checked by the auditor and was approved by all present. Tracey was thanked for her work during the past year.

Election of Independent Examiner of Accounts

The Treasurer confirmed that Mel Hilbrow was willing to continue in this role and the appointment was approved.

Election of Officers & Committee members

Edward Bevin was unanimously re-appointed as the Chairman but no nominations had been received for the role of Vice Chair. Tracey Gent was reappointed as Treasurer & Sandie Ford was reappointed as Secretary.

The Chairman said that Arthur Whetherley was resigning from the committee but that all the other members were willing to stand again. The appointments of Janet Blackham, Janet King, Sally Griffiths, Margaret Channon, Linda Dorkings & Jan Munro were all approved. Fortunately we had received three nominations for the vacancies on the committee and Gina Dunstan, Elizabeth Saguiez & Sue Bergquist were all approved.

No motions had been received.

AOB

The committee had again looked for an alternative venue for our meetings but although the Centre at Jersey Farm had a good hall and facilities there were concerns about the lack of designated parking in a busy precinct. The committee will continue to look at other venues but it was commented that Marlborough Pavilion was being refurbished by the Council and improvements were already apparent.

After a break for refreshments David Nelson, left, gave an interesting and inspirational talk about his move from corporate business to becoming a successful, full time artist.



Sandie Ford Secretary

'Buildings in the Landscape' Mixed Media workshop with Jan Munro

Saturday 10th June 10am - 4pm
At URC hall in Chiswell Green

Working with acrylics on a collaged piece of mountboard to give texture and depth, you will create your own painting of cottages/houses in the landscape. If you don't have your own reference photos, Jan will have plenty to work from.



If you have mislaid the Booking Form inserted in the March issue of PRISM, please contact Linda Dorkings (contact details on page 14) to secure a place.

Programme Secretary, Linda Dorkings, has put together a full and varied programme for 2017 to 2018. More details will be in future issues.

Life Drawing Studio Sessions
These popular studio sessions will restart in October.

ADVERTISEMENT

Following the popularity of last year's method of choosing the winner of the Terry Biggs Cup, the choice of overall favourite exhibit will again be made by an exit poll of the visiting public.

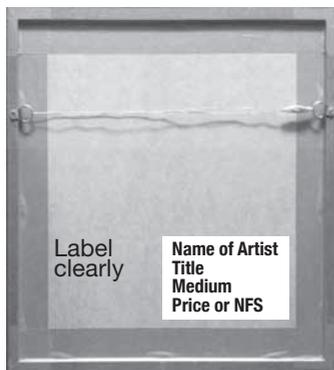
2017 EXHIBITION JOINT ORGANISERS

JANET BLACKHAM

JANET KING

EXHIBITION SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR PICTURE FRAMES

If you frame your own pictures please observe these simple rules to ensure your work can be hung



- Brown picture tape not masking or Sellotape to cover metal tabs used to hold picture securely in the frame
- Picture wire or cord, not string, tied firmly to both picture hooks. These should be screwed right into the frame about 1/3 of the way down. Tape around wire ends

Professional framing may differ slightly, but this usually meets all these requirements

The Exhibition this year will again follow the proven, more profitable format of 4 days. The venue will be in the same central location as in 2016, Dagnall Street Baptist Church Hall, just off the Market Place - see all the key dates in the panel on the right.

JUDGING

The St Albans Trophy entries will be judged on Tuesday 27th July so that the award can be presented to the winner at the Private View in the evening. However the short time format doesn't allow for more judging prior to the opening of the Exhibition so the Challenge Trophy will be judged during the Exhibition by an independent judge from the art world and the Terry Biggs Cup, awarded to the overall favourite in the show, will again be chosen by the visiting public. All the winners will hear of their success on Sunday 30th July and will be posted on the website: www.stalbans-artsociety.org.uk and in the next issue of PRISM.

PUBLICITY

This issue contains 5 leaflets for you to distribute to your friends. Please spread the word as wide as possible. More leaflets can be obtained from Janet King - contact details above left.

For those members who use email, an A4 size digital file of the poster will be sent to you in the monthly online Newsletter. From this you can print out any larger posters for yourself to display in your window.

ENTRY PAPERS

Exhibition Rules and Entry papers are inserted in this issue of PRISM, please make sure you have returned the forms with your payment to Janet Blackham not later than Friday 23rd June.

NEW THIS YEAR

ARTIST PROFILES

We are offering all contributing artists to the Exhibition, an opportunity to tell visitors something about themselves and their work.

It will take the form of an A4 looseleaf folder with acetate sleeves. Artists will be in alphabetical order. Each profile **must be no larger than A4 size** and suitable to slip into an acetate sleeve. It can be 2 sided and can include pictures and words. If you wish to participate in this idea, please bring your profile on the 'handing-in' day, to be added to the file.

VOLUNTEERING

The organisation of the annual Summer Exhibition is all done by you, the members and committee. Please remember to fill in on the entry form any offer of help you can give to the Exhibition.

Every exhibitor is expected to steward a 2 hour session. To book your time slot in advance of handing in your work please contact Janet Blackham. Otherwise you will be asked to fix a date at handing in.

THE ARTIST IS THE FIRST OWNER OF COPYRIGHT.

Copyright is both an individual's right and the law used to describe those rights that creative people have over what they create and whether it can be reproduced.

The creator owns the copyright to all original work they have produced in physical form, such as paintings, drawings, photographs, sculpture etc.

Remember, creating an image from a copyrighted newspaper or magazine is an infringement of copyright. Photographs are the copyright of the photographer!

© To protect yourself, it is sensible to endorse any work with at least your name and the international copyright symbol.



2017 EXHIBITION KEY DATES WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

FRIDAY 23rd JUNE
Final date for entries

MONDAY 24th JULY
Setting up and **HANDING IN**
2pm-4pm and 5.30pm-7.30pm

TUESDAY 25th JULY
Hanging work followed by
PREVIEW EVENING at 7pm

WEDNESDAY 26th JULY - SATURDAY 29th JULY
The exhibition will be open to the public daily 10am to 6pm

SUNDAY 30th JULY
COLLECTION OF ARTWORK
will be from 2pm - 4pm

● Please note the hall will be **CLOSED on Sunday morning**

Three of our members are taking part in the Bucks Open Studios in June, Linda Cavill, Mitzie Green and Sally Bassett. Linda and Mitzie are also taking part in the Herts Open Studios in September in their own home studios.

Bucks and Herts Open Studios 2017



Mitzie Green

Mitzie will be taking part in the Bucks Open Studio from 10 - 25 June and again Herts Open Studio from 9 - 24 September, both at 14 Meadway, Berkhamsted HP4 2PN from 12 - 5pm at weekends.

Mitzie has a vibrant sense of colour, texture and dynamic composition. Preferring to work spontaneously and in a manner where the medium can flow. She chooses watercolours, acrylics and liquid mediums where the addition of water helps to create accidents that she can make use of. Mitzie runs several workshops throughout the year including one in July details below:

Still Life Acrylic Collage Workshop with Mitzie Green

Saturday 1st July, 10am - 4pm

At Gadebridge Community Centre,
Galley Hill, HP1 3LG

Tel: 01442 862978 for further information
or email: artist.mitziegreen@gmail.com

Linda Cavill

Linda is part of a group of artists who exhibit several times a year at College Lake Nature Reserve in Tring and will take part in the Bucks Open Studios 10th-25th June 2017. She is also for the first time, taking part in the Herts Open Studios in her own studio at Glebe Lodge, 5a Watling Street, St Albans, AL1 2PY. Email linda@lindacavill.co.uk for more information.

Furthermore, Linda will again play an important part in our own Summer Exhibition. She is leader of the hanging team - well supported by Bridget Tompkins, Gina Dunstan and Helen Raynes, who together do a brilliant job for the Society.

She studied Textile Design at The Scottish College of Textiles, Herriot Watt University's Galashiels campus in the Scottish Borders.

Specialising in Printed Textile Design she has produced designs for most of the High Street Retailers over the years. Currently,



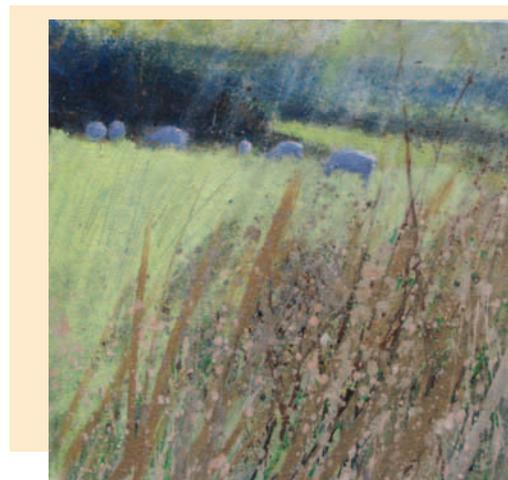
Bridget and Linda (right) hanging the Exhibition

Textile Designs are sold to clients in Europe, Asia and the USA.

She began painting several years ago as her design work became more computerised. Using mainly collaged papers and acrylic inks Linda says her work aims to capture a sense of place: the



colour, texture, atmosphere and light. She is particularly interested in buildings. Widening her field even further, she recently started making ceramics. She makes black clay houses and pots as well as large hand coiled stoneware clay vessels.



Sally Bassett

This year a number of artists will be exhibiting in the wonderfully restored Rothschild Village Hall, behind the Tring Natural History Museum, at Hastoe where we hope to have cream teas and music over part of the weekend. The address is:- Hastoe Village Hall, Church Lane, Hastoe Tring. HP23GLU
Sally divides her time

between seaside locations, and Aldbury a small village in the Chiltern hills. So this year her work will be mainly inspired by visits to fields, meadows and orchards and walks along cliff paths above the sea.

Her art work commences with observational drawings and sketches collected in a small sketch book which she always has with her. There is ample parking and wheel chair access.

Bucks Open Studios 10th - 25th June 2017

It's a record year, with more entries than ever and over 550 talented artists and makers taking part. **For more info:** www.bucksopenstudios.org.uk

Herts Open Studios 9th Sept - 1st Oct

It's a once-a-year opportunity, with thousands of Open Studios visits to see artists in action and find out what they do. **For more info:** www.hvaf.org.uk

My Journey into the Pastel Society



Jan at work in her studio



The Red Chair

Jan Munro has been successful in her mission to become a member of the Pastel Society. She tells us how her dream came true.

It all started with some lesson prep I was doing for my Pastel Group three years ago. We were doing still life and including whatever shapes we saw in the background as part of our designs.

I made a painting as an example. 'Red Chair with Apples'. Having made a simple flattened contour drawing I then transferred this to Pastel Sennelier card and started painting from a photo I had taken of the set up on my iPad. Looking in the mirror in my studio as I painted I was very excited about what was developing.

My thoughts turned to the Pastel Society exhibition which I had exhibited in for the past two years. Having noted that members who submitted work always produced a

group of cohesive, compatible paintings I decided to do some more still life work based around The Red Chair.

What followed was a group of four paintings all with a theme and different colour schemes and objects.

These were then submitted online to the Pastel Society via The Mall Galleries registration site of which I had registered. I uploaded some high resolution images of the paintings. Being a non-tech person this took me some

time and quite a bit of 'hair tearing' but eventually I did it.

This was the first submission and if chosen, (and all four were!), they then had to be framed and taken to Carlton Terrace

I included bits of news and images used in PRISM and awards won as a member of St Albans Art Society.

(Mall Galleries) for a second selection. How thrilled I was to find out a few weeks later that they wanted to hang three!

Well we went to the private view, Feb 2015, to see the show and I was taken by surprise when my name was announced as a prize winner...not once, but twice!

The same process happened the following year, 2016, and two more awards. This time I shook the hand of Anne Widdicome twice!

Invitation

The Pastel Society had written to me to say I was an encouraged artist and that now I had been exhibited 3 years running, won awards and sold work, I could if I so wished apply to be a member if I got work into the next exhibition 2017. No pressure then! I set to and produced six works in a similar style. All 6 were accepted in first submission online and 3 were hung. Phew!

Meanwhile I had no idea how to apply to be a member so I phoned the Membership Secretary. He told me that once I was in the exhibition I then had to submit a portfolio. This included my c.v, artist statement, biography, evidence of involvement in the art world and sketch books.

As a candidate for membership my work was hung alongside other candidates in the Exhibition and the members voted during the AGM and at the preview night. Finally, along the road, I received a letter from Rosa Sepple, the President, telling me that I had been voted in!

This, a few years ago, would have been beyond my wildest dreams. To be selected for one of the most prestigious societies in the UK and whose members work I had always drawled over.

A dream come true.

Jan Munro

Jan is running a Mixed Media workshop for the Society 'Buildings in a Landscape' on 10th June. See page 5

We are pleased to welcome the following new members

Sarah Sanders	St Albans
Lindsey Fallon	St Albans
Jacob Lawson	St Albans
Anthony Dunham	St Albans
Anna Kolos	Leavesden

Nude Tin Can Gallery Dave Nelson, Clive Patterson, and Henriette Busch to exhibit at NTCG

125 Hatfield Road, St. Albans AL1 4JS

Great Escapes

Exhibition finishes Wednesday 7th June

This art exhibition features versions of 'scapes and places across the spectrum. The wonderful to the weird all from an extremely talented selection of artists.

For more information:

www.nudetincan.gallery



Dave Nelson



Clive Patterson



Henriette Busch

**LITTLE GADDESSEN
ART CLUB EXHIBITION**

The Village Hall, Church Road, Little Gaddesden, HP4 1NU **3rd - 5th June**
An exhibition of members' work.



1 Stevenage Rd, Knebworth, SG3 6AN
Art Van Go has an interesting selection of workshops in the coming months including...

**Creative Drawing Tues 6th June
Tutor: Suzy Drake**

Drawing is the first step to creating a totally unique image.

**Painting Summer Fruits and Berries, the Botanical Way Fri 21st July
Tutor: Jill Winch**

How to achieve the colour, shine, bloom and detail seen in summer fruits and berries.

For more information Tel: 01438 814946
www.vycombe-arts.co.uk



ART IN CLAY
Pottery & Ceramics Festival
18th - 20th August
Hatfield House, AL9 5NQ

Showcasing some of the finest ceramics currently being made by individual makers in the UK and Europe.

Art in Clay Hatfield is an outdoor summer event held in marquees in the beautiful parklands of Hatfield House. A large event of over 190 exhibitors, which also includes a full programme of talks and demonstrations, a Throw-a-Pot marquee if you'd like to have a go and a Make and Take area for families to get their hands on clay and be creative.

For more information
www.artinclay.co.uk

UPSTAIRS GALLERY
Berkhamsted

The Upstairs Gallery, in Berkhamsted, is supported by a charitable trust and aims to provide a showcase for Chiltern artists at an affordable cost. They are introducing a new project at **The Open Door**, 360-364 High Street, Berkhamsted, where Upstairs will be Downstairs, running workshops, showing artwork and providing a pop-up exhibition space. This is in addition to the main gallery above the Post Office.

The first series of talks and workshops are now coming to fruition, and they have some fascinating things in the pipeline.
For more information:
www.upstairsgallery.co.uk

Becoming Henry Moore

The Studios and Gardens at Henry Moore's former home in Hertfordshire, Dane Tree House, Perry Green, Herts, SG10 6EE are open to visitors each summer.

On site you can explore over 70 acres of gardens and countryside, showing the artist's iconic work against the landscape he shaped. You can also take a tour of the Moore family's home. The artist's studios give you the chance to see how Moore's sculptures were created.

To coincide with the 40th anniversary of the founding, **Becoming Henry Moore**, is an exhibition charting the artist's creative trajectory from 1914 until 1930, giving an insight into the influences at play in the mind of Britain's foremost modern sculptor.

For more information:
www.henry-moore.org



2017 Ayot Art Show 10-12th June

Now in its 43rd Year the Ayot St Lawrence Art Show will this year be held in the beautiful Palladian Church. Each year the Art Show attracts many hundreds of visitors. There is a fantastic range of artists, many of whom exhibit every year in a variety of styles and mediums including oil,

water colour and acrylic. Each year the Show is kept fresh by inviting new artists to exhibit. In addition to the framed art available for sale, there is a much sought-after selection of unframed art, and a variety of art-based greetings cards designed by the artists.

For more information
www.ayotstlawrence.com/the-ayot-st-lawrence-art-show-2017.html



The 2017 Childwickbury Arts Fair 30th June - 2nd July



Childwickbury Estate, Harpenden Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL3 6JX

Buy original art directly from the artist. Fine art, printmaking, ceramics, jewellery, glass, hat making, paper making, sculpture, photography and more. The focus is on hand-made and high quality, with over fifty artists demonstrating their skills.

Delicious food including pizza, salads and toasties, plus tea, coffee, ice cream and a fully licensed bar.
For all enquiries: email info@childwickburyarts.com or visit website: childwickburyarts.com/the-2017-arts-fair



ART ON THE COMMON, Harpenden

Art on the Common will be held in Harpenden on **10th & 11th June**.

A two-day event showcasing the work of local artists with a wide range of works featured. It is a wonderful location, set on a tree lined section of the Common close to the town centre.

For more information aotc.harpenden@gmail.com or visit www.artonthecommon.co.uk



Last year member Michele Head took part in AOTC

TALK TO YOUR COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN
Edward Bevin

SECRETARY
Sandie Ford

TREASURER
Tracey Gent

PRISM EDITOR
Janet King

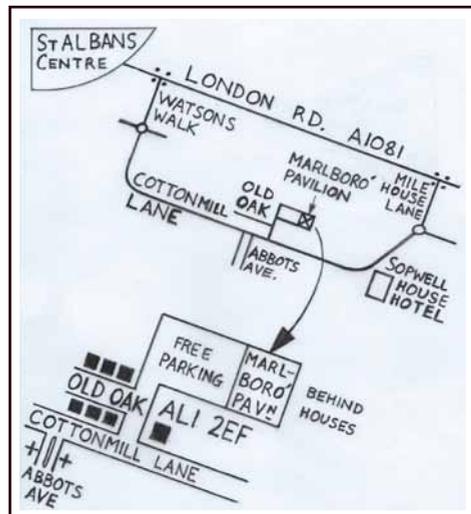
For all editorial contributions

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
Janet Blackham

PROGRAMME SECRETARY
Linda Dorkings

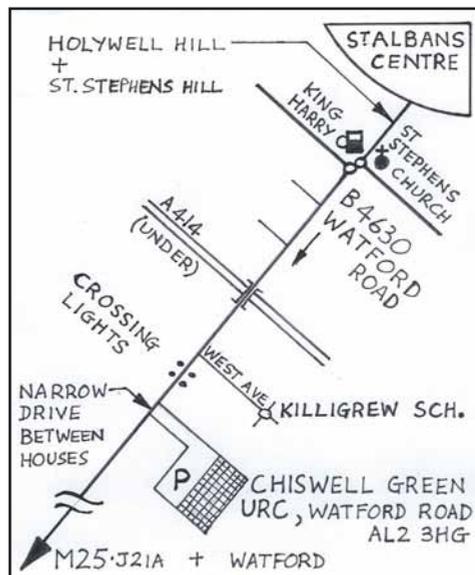
MINUTES SECRETARY
Margaret Channon

SUPPORTING COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Sally Griffiths
Jan Munro
Sue Bergquist
Gina Dunstan
Elizabeth Sagueiz



The Society meets for discussions and meetings at **Marlborough Pavilion**, Old Oak, off Cottonmill Lane, St. Albans, AL1 2EF (entrance is opposite Abbots Avenue). Most meetings start at 7.30 pm

One day workshops are held at **United Reformed Church**, Watford Road, Chiswell Green, St Albans, AL2 3HG



Map illustrations by Peter Osborne

www.stalbans-artsociety.org.uk
Visit the website for regularly updated news of what's on at the Society.

WORKSHOP REVIEW

Eight of us enjoyed an incredible day with **Sho-Jen Dowell**. She is an extremely talented lady being a good musician as well as an excellent artist.

Lotus Flower and Goldfish

We started the day with a talk on the rituals and meaning of Chinese Art. These date back centuries and follow strict rules. The materials are classed as the Four Treasures :

- 1) **The Ink Stick.** This is a crucial element and should be made from Musk, Sandalwood and Pine Soot.
- 2) **The Ink Stone.** A good quality one should be made from a whole stone with no cracks or blemishes.
- 3) **Hand Made Rice Paper** of varying thickness.
- 4) **Brushes.** All brushes must be real hair sometimes made from Wolf or Weasel (these words are the same in the Chinese language!) Squirrel or Badger.



Critique of some of our artwork

● **Editor says:** I really enjoyed this workshop - especially as I am a watercolourist. It was disappointing that more members didn't take up this opportunity to try something different with materials supplied. 15



Sho-Jen helps Pam Bevin with her goldfish technique

Getting started

The ink stick is ground with a little water on the Ink Stone and the elements in the stick calm the mind as you breath in the aroma.

Depending on the amount of alum in the various papers indicates how much water should be used on your brush. This posed a huge challenge for everyone as we have been used to much thicker watercolour paper and lots of water.

Like so much from the past, it is impossible to buy hand made Rice Paper now, particularly outside China. The genuine Ink Sticks are incredibly expensive and not available here either.

Sho-Jen comes originally from Taiwan so we will have

to give her a big order for materials when she is next visiting her homeland.

She is such an enthusiastic painter and teacher and was very funny and excited by all we achieved.

Traditional icons

Our subjects were traditional Chinese icons used in many depictions of Chinese scenery. The Lotus flower and Goldfish.

The inks are used almost neat for the single outlines and diluted for shading. We also used our watercolours for the flowers and fish.

By the end of the day we were exhausted but had a better understanding of Ancient Chinese culture and Art.

I will invite Sho-Jen to give an evening talk and demonstration in the future as the history of this ancient art is fascinating.

Linda Dorkings
Programme Secretary

HERTFORDSHIRES BIGGEST ART EVENT

HERTS OPEN STUDIOS

9TH SEPTEMBER - 1ST OCTOBER 2017

FREE ENTRY!

VISIT LOCAL ARTISTS AND MAKERS IN THEIR STUDIOS

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND DETAILS OF ARTISTS AND
VENUES SEE OUR WEBSITE

WWW.HERTSOPENSTUDIOS.ORG.UK

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 @HVAF #hertsopenstudios

