# PRS//

**News of art and events** 

September 2022



#### **2022 Summer Exhibition issue**

www.stalbans-artsociety.org.uk



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

**PRISM** is published quarterly by St Albans Art Society

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Winner of the Terry Biggs Cup

#### FROM THE BECK

By Susan Chester



Although it was July I visited Staithes in East Yorkshire two years ago with the intention of painting en plain aire. However, it was pouring with rain. So 'From the Beck' was created from a mix of hasty rough sketches and photos. I have since been back and the fishing village looks completely different in the sunshine.

Initially I covered my canvas with a mid blue wash and roughly torn hand made pieces of collage. Then using a limited palette of Prussian Blue, Quinacrodone Gold, Perylene Violet and White acrylic I 'found' the shapes of buildings and walls moving some houses around slightly to help my composition.

I decided to leave the foreground quite nondescript allowing the textures in the collage pieces to shine. The feather in the left front corner of my painting represents the seagulls who took refuge from the weather on the posts along the water's edge.

Susan Chester

#### Enclosed in this issue...

Membership renewal form Mike Rollins workshop booking form Keith Hornblower workshop booking form



SALLY WRITES...

# Following a great Exhibition, the Society is seeking more members to volunteer their time

Our fantastic exhibition was the final event of this year's Society programme. Jan Munro and Sue Bergquist spent a great deal of time and effort to plan and achieve such a great success. This included the private viewing evening where everybody received a warm welcome with delicious canapes (some home baked) and drinks. Huge thanks to Sue and Jan and to the many teams who gave their support. The advance planning started a whole year before the event with bookings, numerous meetings and publicity, including design printing and distributing leaflets, posters, and internet and website information.

The display board screens were delivered and painstakingly erected, exhibits and cards collected, displayed and presented and winners chosen by the appointed judges. The private view with canapes and drinks served, the sales teams started their tasks with different teams continuing all week. At the end of the event all the paintings, pottery, cards sold and unsold were collected, the dismantling and storing of equipment and finally the settling of

accounts by the Treasurer. Sue and Jan supervised all this and were hands on throughout the week, leading the many members doing this work.

It is vitally important that everyone continues to support the exhibition and all our other activities so please keep volunteering or become a new helper.

Please remember that the SAAS has to be run by our Society members who volunteer their time and effort. Members are needed to support the Society behind the scenes with all the activities. We are seeking new committee members and always looking for more people to help in other ways. We now look forward to our great new programme starting in October. If you'd like to become more involved in helping the Society, please contact a committee member or myself. Also please let us have your suggestions for new events or activities you would like to see included in the programme that you are willing to help organise.

Sally Griffiths Chair

Hello everyone, wasn't it great to have an exhibition with a Private View.

I hope you all feel inspired by what you have seen of other members artworks. Time to get cracking on some new stuff for next year now we have shaken off the cobwebs of covid. May I remind you that the membership fees will be due come October 1st 2022 to cover next seasons activities. The fees stay the same as last year £25 for Full membership, £15 Associate membership, and £10 Student membership, but next year this will all be under review in the light of ever rising costs, we hope it won't be too much to bear.

I hope you have a great summer season painting, drawing, and potting, not forgetting the holidays as we all need a break.

My thanks to everyone who helped make the exhibition work because it wouldn't happen without you. We are always in need of volunteers so please be willing to fill a gap if you find one throughout the year, as the Committee can't do everything and you don't have to be on the Committee to help. Do you have any new ideas about what you would like the Society to offer, please let us know?

Margaret Channon Secretary

#### **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

www.stalbans-artsociety.org.uk







#### **Subscription renewal**

The membership renewal forms for 2022-2023 are included in this PRISM.

The renewal date is **1st October** but please return your form by *31st October* if you wish to continue as a member. Please include a

#### STAMPED SELF ADDRESSED ENVELOPE

with your renewal form.

After 1st October, following receipt of your renewal form and ssae, you will be sent your new membership card with details of the programme for the coming year as well as names of committee members.

#### GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION

(GDPR) is a legal framework that sets guidelines for the collection and processing of personal information of individuals. IMPORTANT: if you want to continue to receive information from the Society, you must actively 'OPT TO ACCEPT' how SAAS will hold and use your personal data. Details of this are on the renewal form enclosed. Please tick the box on the form.

#### **YOUR COMMITTEE**

#### **CHAIR**

Sally Griffiths chairman.saas@gmail.com

#### **VICE CHAIR**

Gordon Bridges

#### **SECRETARY**

**Margaret Channon** 

#### **TREASURER**

**Linda Warminger** 

#### **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

**Jane Hollins** 

#### PRISM EDITOR

Janet King

#### **WEBSITE & IT MANAGER**Gordon Bridges

#### PROGRAMME SECRETARIES

WORKSHOPS Sally Griffiths LECTURES Iris Green

#### SUPPORTING MEMBERS

Chris Baker Marialba Hogg

# The Society's 2022 Autumn Programme

www.stalbans-artsociety.org.uk/programme

SANDRIDGE
ROAD MARSHALSWICK
COMMUNITY
CENTRE, THE
RIDGEWAY
WHITH MAPSHALSWICK

#### **VENUE for MEETINGS**

STALBANS

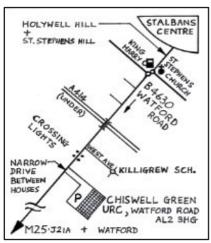
CENTRE

The Society meets for discussions and meetings at **Marshalswick Community Centre**, The Ridgeway, St Albans, AL4 9TU.
Most meetings start at 7.30pm

SAND PIT-LANE

#### **VENUE for WORKSHOPS**

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



The Society is very pleased to be able to offer a full programme this autumn. However, there will be no refreshments provided on any Wednesday evening session, so please bring your own.

#### **SPEAKERS AND DEMOS**

at Marshalswick Community Centre.
Please bring your own refreshments.

#### Oct 5 Art in the St Albans Museum By curator Sarah Keeling

Sarah looks after Museum collections from the 15th Century to the present day and will be coming to give us a talk on the art held at the museum

#### **Nov 2 Portrait in Pastels**

Demo By Tony Jackson

Tony's demonstrations and workshops on portraits, landscape, still life and studies of life in India are mostly about the use of acrylics and pastels. His technique can be summed up as "producing a tonal painting in blue and white which is turned into a full colour image with washes of primary colours".

Most of his work has been naturalistic, though recently he has done many abstract works and taken on a number of portrait commissions. He has exhibited in Hertfordshire, London and Calcutta.

#### **Dec 7 Watercolour paint-along**YouTube demo by Dermot Cavanagh

This session will be held via Youtube live streaming and will only be available to SAAS members - you will need to download the YouTube app. We can rewatch it after or paint alone during the session. Dermot will send out a picture of what he's painting a few days before hand, in case we want to paint along.

Dermot Cavanagh can bring out the artist in anyone. He is the artist, tutor and broadcaster behind the hit BBC learn to paint TV series 'Awash with Colour'. During 74 episodes he taught a host of celebrities to paint.

**TWO WORKSHOPS** At United Reformed Church. Please note: we will be using the main church for the venue. On arrival, use left hand door.

#### Oct 15 Autumnal Landscape in Acrylics Tutor Mike Rollins

Create a quality, loose, autumnal scene in this exciting acrylic workshop run by Mike Rollins a landscape painter winning many awards as well as an experienced acrylic tutor with the ability to develop artists of different abilities from those new to acrylic to the more experienced.

Mike's vast knowledge of the use of acrylic paints along with advice and suggestions for development will all add to the participant's skills. His personal approach to the development of the individual and attention to their progress will culminate in the artist producing a final quality piece of work.



Mike has featured in various publications, in particular Leisure Painter magazine, for which he is a regular contributor of articles on how to paint in acrylics.

#### Nov 19 Buildings in the Landscape Tutor Keith Hornblower

After a brilliant Boats and Harbours workshop a few years ago, Keith is back to do a Buildings workshop.



The aim is to paint an individual masterpiece using simple colours and strong tonal values.

There will be a demonstration showing techniques to be used. Participants will then paint following Keith's series of demonstrated steps which will inform the group of colours used and ways to apply the paint. The artists will then proceeded to develop their picture in the same style.

Participants will learn how to paint dynamic watercolours with freedom and lose the fear of white paper.

More details are on the BOOKING FORMS inserted in this PRISM

#### STUDIO DRAWING SESSIONS at Marshalswick Community Centre

PLEASE NOTE: due to rising costs, the fee for drawing sessions has increased to £8 per session for full members and £5 for student members.

NB: November 16 TUTORED session fee is £10. The committee believes the increased fees still represent very good value.

Karin Friedli, right, has kindly agreed to run the life drawing sessions for us this season. Dates for your diary...

- October 19 October 26 November 16 TUTOR Bridget Tompkins
- November 23

# SUMMER EXHIBITION 2022

Sue and Jan took on the role of Exhibition Organisers for the first time and have made this year's Summer Exhibition a fabulous event!

## A great team effort!

It was fantastic, finally to get round to the organisation of the 2022 Art Exhibition having shadowed Janet King and Janet Blackham during 2021. The Janets provided us with an excellent basis on which to start our planning and we are grateful for their support and encouragement.

One significant and very positive development for 2022 was the sponsorship of our exhibition by The Maltings. This very generous arrangement provided the cost of hire of the hall, a space to store our display screens and the drinks that were served at the Private View. It is hoped that this is a partnership that will continue and grow

moving forward. A total of 181

> MALTINGS ST. ALBANS

Sponsored by The Maltings

framed and 188 unframed paintings were submitted by 64 artists along with 37 pieces of ceramic and a significant number of cards. A new layout of the exhibition hall was well received and supported the efficient management of the large crowd during the Private View. This allowed drinks and canapés to be served whilst invitees perused exhibits at their leisure.

Approximately 150 people attended the Private View which was characterised by vibrant talk about the displayed pieces

artists sharing their work.
There was a strong interest in the annual competitions and Sally Griffiths, our Chairman announced the winners during the Private View.

and a shared joy of local

The judging was carried out by Niki Bell, a local artist and tutor (Challenge Trophy), Phil



Corrigan, the General Manager of The Maltings, (St Albans Trophy) and the public voted for the Terry Biggs Best in Show Cup.

Congratulations are due to Jim Morgan who won the Challenge Trophy, Georgia Sweeny who won the St Albans Trophy and Susan Chester who won the Terry Biggs Cup.

Overall the exhibition was a fabulous success with numerous positive comments and feedback that reflects the appreciation of viewers for the work shared by SAAS members. A total of 52 art works were purchased along with numerous cards.

We would like to extend our thanks specifically to Phil Corrigan of The Maltings, the SAAS Committee and SAAS Members who helped with the organisation of the exhibition. Finally and most importantly, we would like to thank everyone who supported the exhibition by submitting work and attending the exhibition.

Sue Bergquist and Jan Munro Exhibition Organisers

#### TROPHY WINNERS









#### BEHIND THE SCENESI

#### **Members volunteer to prepare the hall**









The artwork arrives and the hanging team gets to work







**Guests arrive for the Private View and the first sales are recorded** 







unsold work

#### THE WINNING ARTWORK

#### **Terry Biggs Cup**





Both by Vivien Bailey



**Above: Green Light** Below: Lockdown Chic - Karen



**SECOND** Cottage Collage Jan Munro



#### **FOURTH EQUAL**







Crazy Cottage Path Janet King



#### **St Albans Trophy**

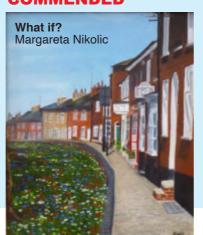


#### **HIGHLY COMMENDED**

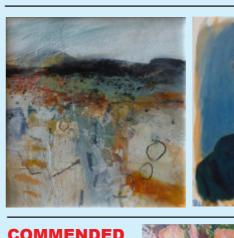


November Fog Verulamium Gina Dunstan

#### **COMMENDED**









#### **HIGHLY COMMENDED**

Far left: **Capture the Wind** Jan Munro

Left: Lockdown Chic - Karen Vivien Bailey

#### **COMMENDED**

Right:

**Ornamental Poppies** Susan Chester

Far right: Blue Bowl Jane Hollins





#### **JUDGING**

Images of all the artwork are on pages 12 - 13

#### **CHALLENGE TROPHY** Judged by Niki Bell

#### **WINNER**

Water Meadows on the Stour Jim Morgan What a wonderful use of soft confident bold brush marks set against delicious scratched in textures. The paint and marks on the trees along the meadow were sublime and by leaving the trees/bush on the left as a suggestion showed confidence in composition. The serenity of the river contrasted beautifully with the textures of the land and sky. It was the minimal use of the strong yellow light on the horizon that pulled this piece together. So much atmosphere projected through such few marks.

#### **Highly Commended**

Capture the Wind Jan Munro
This beautifully composed painting held a slight departure from the artists usual style of work. The contrast of gloss against matt, soft against textured and the use of muted complimentary colours all come together to create this perfect magical piece of work.

#### **Highly Commended**

Lockdown Chic-Karen Vivien Bailey
What a portrait! Everything a portrait
should have...total expression and
personality in paint. From seeing this
painting I can imagine that everyone
would want Karen as their friend. So
much information about the sitter is
shown through the artists sensitive brush
work, use of light, understanding of the
structure of a face and wonderful flesh
tones and colour.

#### Commended

**Ornamental Poppies** Susan Chester An intriguing dynamic watercolour. The bold confident marks and how the artist has let the watercolour perform its magic in the blooms and textures it creates when not overworked make this a precious painting. The dynamic composition keeps you hooked.

#### Commended

Blue Bowl Jane Hollins
What a magnificent textured bowl. I couldn't tell if it was coil built or thrown on the wheel and then altered but the dynamics of the rim are great. There is a wonderful ruggedness to the patterns all of which have been enhanced with the magic of the glazes. The deep blue edge of the rim closes this piece off beautifully.

#### St ALBANS TROPHY

Judged by Exhibition sponsor Phil Corrigan, manager of the Maltings shopping centre.

#### **WINNER**

**West Entrance - St Albans Cathedral** *Georgia Sweeny* 

This immediately caught my eye, the reflective calming nature of our usually busy Cathedral, it's very meditative and atmospheric.

#### **Highly Commended**

**November Fog Verulamium** *Gina Dunstan* 

A different take on an oft painted or photographed aspect of St Albans, very moody and peaceful.

#### **Commended**

What if? Margareta Nikolic
What if indeed, an instantly
recognisable St Albans Street even
with the addition of flowers.

Well done to the winners of this year's St Albans Trophy. It is always a pleasure to see so many different aspects of our city.

#### **EXIT SURVEY**



#### 'Pick the Winner' for the best in show is back after a three year gap caused by covid!

One of my enjoyable tasks is collecting the 'Pick the Winner' slips from our Annual Art Exhibition. It also gives me a delightful reason for going in every day and enjoying another look at so much wonderful inspirational and creative art!!

I had wondered how, or whether, covid and Lockdown etc might be impacting on members creativity. I know I am not the only artist who was completely unable to paint for a considerable period of time. Certainly many familiar faces are missing. And a lesser number of welcome new faces have appeared. Perhaps impact also shows up in the number of slips returned. I was surprised to find these well down - 264 compared with the pre pandemic 2019 total of 483. And only 88 included any information or comment. Yet the comments were, as usual, mainly full of praise - "superb exhibition with a very high standard of work". "It's all good, thank you." "Excellent." "Super." "Amazing display, great painters." "beautifully curated."

However – It does appear that most people heard about our Exhibition through friends and members. The need, and desire, for more and better publicity, including visible advertising in the town centre, was pointed to. The venue is even more hidden away by the road barrier pedestrianising the market place end of Upper Dagnall St.

#### A surprising theme

Back to my daily count – what were people painting and visitors looking for and enjoying this year? Were global events impacting? A surprising theme was visible from the start – cottages!! Sometimes the Saturday visitors change the direction – but this year they reinforced and confirmed the clear winner – Susan Chester. Susan's 'From the Beck' is a view of old dreamlike cottages

with a warm inner glow, completed by a delightfully wonky clothes line! Second place goes to **Jan Munro's** 'Cottage Collage' – another glorious dream of cottages, in part abstract mark making, and with a beautiful subdued colour scheme. In third place are **Vivien Bailey's** two dramatic, intense and superb portraits 'Lockdown Chic – Karen', (yes – Lockdown!) and 'Green Light'. The runners up are **Janet King,** with yet another delightful fantasy dream of cottages entitled 'Crazy Cottage Path', and **Yan Yun Gao's** exquisite, calm, larger than life, 'Oranges'.

#### **Inner dreams?**

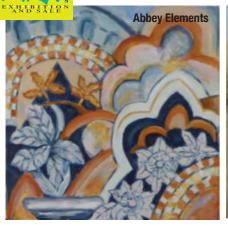
So what might the theme of 'cottages' in particular be suggesting? Maybe part of a desire to escape from too much worrying reality in our world today? – perhaps a hint of inner dreams that can sustain, bring hope, and nourish our creativity? I looked around and was really struck by the often strong and bright glowing colours, many paintings of flowers in all their guises – nature – the living world around us, including the powerful colourful inner essence of people as portrayed by Vivien Bailey and others. Our responses are many and varied.

I know that, if I can paint, I can 'lose myself', completely absorbed in 'another world' - of exploration, play, possibilities and challenge, frustration, disappointments, surprises, discoveries, when I start painting. It is a gift being able to paint and draw and mould and create, then bring others in to share with and enjoy such varied creativity.

A big thank you to Sue Bergquist and Jan Munro who, this year, have taken over running the Exhibition. It was welcoming, beautiful and enriching.

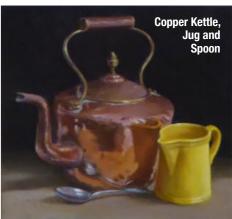
**Gina Dunstan** 

#### FDWARD BEVIN'S CRITIQUE OF OUR ANNUAL SHOW









### The Exhibition proved to be its usual colourful blast

rt exhibitions are a great escape from the entanglement of life as we know it today. They shut out the doom and gloom which surrounds us and in so doing tells us that we share a universal human experience. It's therapeutic to the point where it tells us that nothing else matters and this year's Society's annual summer exhibition was the perfect antidote. There are umpteen reasons why art is also the most

wondrous of human inventions: it has the capacity to surprise.

Although entries were slightly down on recent exhibitions, the exhibition proved to be its usual colourful blast and showed us the different ways in

which art can be excellent. Once again acrylic was the most popular medium with more than 50 canvases on view. There were 36 mixed media. 36 watercolour paintings and 26 in oil among the total exhibits.

**Water Meadows** 

on the Stour

At the top end of the scale we saw some brilliant productions, with rolling

landscapes, and seascapes as well as spectacular floral paintings with members rising to the challenge of entertaining the viewer. Some bordered on the sublime while others were so quirky that we were left with questions buzzing about our heads. But it has to be said that no show would be complete without a bit of controversy and I suspect that some of these could well have been completed at the height of Covid.

> For once I agreed with the judges with the Challenge trophy winner. Jim Morgan's oil painting of 'Water Meadows on the Stour' had me returning to study it over and over again. He chose an idyllic spot depicting a

bend in the river with reflections on the steady flowing water with a cluster of half a dozen trees to the left, complete with various splashes of green and a cloudy but sunny sky beating down. This is high English summer at its best and is tranquillity personified.

'West Entrance to St Albans Cathedral'. won her the St Albans Trophy. This is painted with such delicacy and precision that the result has all the appearance of a professionally taken photograph. Noticeably she uses artists' licence and introduces reflections of the great doors, stained glass windows and columns which are never seen in reality.

However in the same category we had 'Abbey Elements' by Jennifer Steele in mixed media. The artist had clearly studied the ancient building with its cluster of architecture since 1077, showing its mighty arches that support the great Norman Tower, outlines of fleur-delis with floral images in relief. This is a perfect example of conceptual art where the idea or concept is the most important aspect of the work itself.

Chris Baker's scene entitled 'Harvest Time' was delicately drawn in soft colours of pastel and was about as peaceful a scene that artists through the ages have

West Entrance to St

**Albans Cathedral** 

drawn, particularly in this country and from The Netherlands.

Cvnthia Clark's 'Sunflowers' in acrylic were sparkling, alive and so realistic that one felt one could move forward and pick a few. By contrast, John Jarratt's 'Copper Kettle, Jug and Spoon' painted in acrylic, would enhance any room in the house. The old

Victorian like kettle, with a small bright yellow milk jug and silver spoon is reminiscent of country life with the rustic. gleaming copper kettle, allowing the artist to show his skills at depicting reflections. Still life eventually became much more of a genre later in the 19th century, although this type of still life had actually appeared many years earlier but on a lesser scale.

The church hall at Upper Dagnall Street Baptist Church, a couple of minutes from the city centre, continues to host these exhibitions, and this year the show had an added bonus, with its sponsorship by The Maltings shopping centre.

Georgia Sweeny's acrylic painting of the

#### MEMBERS FORUM

#### Harpenden Arts Club Annual Exhibition 2022

28th - 30th October



# Art Exhibition

Friday 28 October, 10am - 5pm Saturday 29 October, 10am - 5pm Sunday 30 October, 10am - 4pm

#### **Harpenden Trust Centre**

opposite the Plough and Harrow, Southdown

Parking nearby

www.harpendenartsclub.org.uk

Returning this year to the spacious rooms at the Harpenden Trust Centre, 90 Southdown Rd, Harpenden AL5 1PS opposite the Plough and Harrow pub. Parking is available nearby. There will be around 250 original artworks on display in all media, and SAAS members are warmly invited to submit original work. Full details of submission requirements will be on the HAC website from September. To exhibit your work you would have to join Harpenden Arts Club and pay the annual subscription of £25 as well as hanging fees. Free entry

www.harpendenartsclub.org.uk



Several members of St Albans Art Society are taking part again in this year's Open Studios. See poster on the back cover



#### watercolour classes

#### Mitzie Green

Thursdays 10 – 12am, Gadebridge Community Centre, Hemel Hempstead HP1 3LG

Fridays 10.30–12.30 Redbourn Village Hall, AL3 7LW

from 22/23 September 2022

mitzie.artist@gmail.com 01442 862978 www.mitziegreen.co.uk



#### Member Linda Cavill at the Collective Gallery

#### Art on the hill

An exciting and diverse group of artists

16th - 30th September

#### Collective Gallery

18 Holywell Hill, St Albans AL1 1BZ Open Tuesday to Sunday 10am -- 5om

#### We are pleased to welcome the following new members

Iris Whitehead St Albans
Hasu Kathuria St Albans
Walter Herbert St Albans
Anne Hignell Harpenden
Jim Paterson St Albans
Seonaid Parnell Shenley
Angela Sobell Radlett

Irene Foster Milton Keynes

#### **WORKSHOP REVIEW**

#### Big Hairy Animals Tutor Lynne Davis

Programme Secretary, Sally Griffiths, reviews an inspirational workshop

Finally after 3 years of delays, Lynne was able to deliver her excellent workshop and it was well worth the wait. Lynne commenced by showing her beautiful paintings and explaining how she chose her subject, emphasising the importance of a good quality photograph to work from. Demonstrating how to start the painting and sharing techniques as the day progressed, Lynne's calm clear approach was very much appreciated. There were numerous short demonstrations delivered throughout the day whilst allowing participants time to complete each step. Lynne was constantly supporting, guiding and helping individuals enabling them to complete a spontaneous, exciting looking painting instead of a direct copy.

The aim for everyone was to put their own individual stamp on their work which was achieved by the end of the session. Participants' comments described Lynne as being an 'enthusiastic tutor who provided careful guidance that allowed everyone in the



group to succeed in their own way'.

'Fantastic! Lynne Davies gave an insightful art class.'

'A very well planned day I thoroughly enjoyed it.'

Everyone had a great fun time which was one of Lynne's aims and the final display of paintings was really good. Definitely another one for the future.



FREE entry to artists studios, events and exhibitions across hertfordshire