

A Note from the Editor

Welcome to my second edition of <mark>Art News</mark>, the official newsletter of Berkhamsted Art Society.

It's the start of the new Membership Year and we have arranged another packed programme for you. Subscriptions are now due and there are a number of ways you can pay this year.

This edition is dedicated to our late Chairwoman, Frances Evershed, who made such a difference to our group over the past five years, and who passed away in April. I have gathered some of our members' thoughts and memories of Frances and included them in a special section below.

Tracy Dudley

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In Memoriam - Memories of Our Late Chairwoman, Frances Evershed



Frances became our chairwoman about 5 years ago, although she had been a part of BAS for many years and was a friend of many of our members. Over the last couple of years, Frances led the Society as it leapt into the 21st Century with the use of the Zoom demos and Coffee mornings that she always supported. Under her leadership, the Society also became a more approachable and a friendlier place for members to explore their Art. Frances was very enthusiastic about our first ever Online Exhibition, which includes three of her encaustic wax pieces, her favourite medium. Unfortunately, she wasn't able to see the final Exhibition, which was launched on 23rd April and which we've dedicated to her memory. She will be sadly missed.

lan Jones, Treasurer

I first met Frances at an art class many years ago, and we became good friends then. More recently, and before the lockdowns started, Frances and I enjoyed a number of happy hours painting with encaustic wax together. She always managed to paint in an orderly and tidy fashion, whereas I usually managed to get hot wax on her floor, despite copious newspapers being put down! Encaustic wax became her favourite medium, and she loved making careful, intricate paintings using a stylus as well as a special iron. Like many of us, I shall miss her		I am so sorry, and this is such a shock to read, as I only read her blog in the on-line show a few days ago and felt she had really inspired everyone the green light to 'have a go' even though they felt they didn't have an arty background. I particularly liked Frances's "posh/bossy/get things done" attitude. She was no wallflower and got stuck in. I admire her for taking on the chairmanship and bringing in new ideas to the society. I bought one of her encaustic pictures of a cat at the first sale she chaired over for my son. It's still in his room, and we will think of Frances every
greatly. Jackie Harbron		time we look at it. <i>Mary Casserley</i>
In her role as chair of the BAS, Frances offered support and encouragement to many local artist groups. She came to the preview of an exhibition of work by members of SouthWestHertsArts held at Frogmore Paper Mill and took a keen interest in the work these local artists were making. As one of the organisers of the exhibition, this gesture of acknowledgement of the exhibitors' work was very welcome, it helped us feel part of the local artist community. Susan Cooke	I am so sorry to hear this news. Although I never had the pleasure of meeting Frances personally, we had exchanged emails about the possibility of an exhibition in St Peter's. My thoughts and prayers are with her family, and with members of the Art Society. If there is anything at all that I can do to be of any support at this time, please don't hesitate to let me know. St Peter's is open most days of the week, and there are candles that can be lit, for any who might find that a source of some comfort in this time of loss. With my prayers and best wishes, <i>Revd Stuart Owen</i> ,	
	Rect	tor of St Peter's Church

Frances Evershed remembered, by James Honour (Vice Chairman)

I became particularly aware of Frances (and her passion for encaustic wax) when she leapt into action to join the committee, in response to the call for new committee members and helpers in 2015. A year later, she stepped-up by offering to fill the vacancy for the position of Chair in 2016.

Frances was not quite the first female Chair for BAS. Julie Young took the role for a short while around 30 years ago. Frances, however, filled the role for nearly five years. There was some discussion about how to address her in these politically correct times – Chairman? Chairwoman? Chairperson? *"This is all getting rather silly. Please may I be introduced as the new "Chair" without the man or woman."* That was her style, as a determined, no-nonsense person, in a nice way. On one occasion when she was unable to communicate via email *"My router was damaged by lightning!"*, she simply travelled to her daughter in Pinner to use hers instead. She also made lovely cakes whenever we met as a committee at her bungalow in Bovingdon.

She threw all her energy into ensuring that BAS became more contemporary to create a more friendly and vibrant community *"Now is the time to get right into the 21st century. There are new people on the committee who are trying to get the society on its feet again."* She also worked tirelessly to entice more members to help-out in various ways, however small.

Frances was keen to maintain the links with local schools and continue with the school sections at exhibitions to display artworks by children. She also supported the outdoor summer drawing evenings as much as possible.

When by early 2019, it was clear that expenses continued to greatly exceed income, she backed all the suggestions and measures required to reverse the situation to remain viable. These included rethinking the duration of and format of exhibitions, proposing table-top sales, coffee mornings, homegrown speakers and future fund-raising beetle drive social events. The strategies are working.

Frances also fully supported the development of our new website. It quickly became apparent that it was not going to be an easy or simple task *"This seems to be getting very complicated."* Frances knew her limits and was able to delegate to sub-groups with more knowledge and time to get on with things without interfering. I'm glad that she saw the finished website, as it was a key part of her plan for rejuvenation.

She had no interest in life drawing *"Life drawing leaves me completely cold"*, she declared. However, as Chair, she forced herself to visit one of our Hastoe Village Hall Saturday morning life drawing sessions and a Court House Monday evening life drawing session, just to see how they worked for herself. I admired her for that. She did not have to bother, but she did.

I will always remember Frances as a force for good and for progress. She had such a memorable character and voice, that I feel as though she is still around. I can imagine her saying things, especially all her quotations here and I am sure many of you can too. I was proud to be her Vice Chair. She wanted us to be friendly and to have some fun. So, let's do that as we will build on her legacy and continue with her vision.

From old emails, I leave you with some characteristic words from Frances:

"Silly me! How funny!"

"I really must stop thinking about BAS and get on with my Open Studios preparation."

My memories of Frances are 2 times meeting at her local churchyard for Drawing evenings, & enjoying a chat. One time going back to her bungalow, so few [of us] there. Pre-covid. Her village friends will miss her I'm sure, she belonged to an art group there too. <i>Wendy Sage</i>	What terribly sad news. Frances was the reason Jackie and I joined the society. She came to our Open Studio in 2016 and was so warm and enthusiastic when she said "you must come and join us" we agreed we would and it was her positive and friendly personality that encouraged us (not natural joiners) to become more involved. She set a standard of openness we must all strive to preserve. <i>Peter & Jackie Hodgson</i>
Thank you for letting me know this very sad news. It was quite a shock coming s shortly after our last Zoom meeting, wh Frances took part as usual. Yes, she brought a new light into the Art Society and was a keen 'change' campaigner. Frances will be missed & my thoughts a with her friends and family. Terry Mow	I would like to join the Committee in paying tribute to Frances. She was brave to take on the Chairmanship at her age and she made such a friendly Society with the help of the Committee. She was such a lovely lady and brought much joy to everyone. She was very modest about her work, but very interested and encouraging to
 David Satchel and I called on Frances who was running an open art evening to sketch Bovingdon church. The three of us had a very happy time and Frances was making us laugh. It was a shame that no-one else came. It will remain in my memory and possibly in David's as well. I am not sure we ever finished the church sketch. Fondest memories from Sheila Sheila Pumfrett 	What everything Sheila said is exactly right. It was a magical evening with just the three of us. Frances' sense of humour and enthusiasm was infectious. I remember suggested having a sort of 'register' that I would keep so members would always know how many people were to attend summer drawing evenings. She was delighted with the idea and the last time I spoke to her was on Zoom when she said she would attend the evenings if I couldn't make it. I'm looking forward to when we have a club party. She would have loved it. David Satchel
Frances was very keen to introduce and encourage new ideas into our regular activities, including our exhibitions. She was the instigator and organiser of the free refreshments provided at the last few of our exhibitions (<i>right</i>). She was very enthusiastic about the Society and always keen to attract and encourage new members, as you will have seen from some of the comments above. There was no shortage of members wanting to share their memories of Frances, who made new friends during lockdown while being a regular participant in our Zoom coffee mornings and was keen to share her enjoyment of online tuition and encourage others to take part. <i>Tracy Dudley</i>	<image/>

What We've Been Up To... Online Activities Online Exhibition

Ian Jones, the driving force behind our first online exhibition, writes: "As Covid and Lockdown took hold it was evident that the Exhibition/Sale in the Civic Centre was not going to happen. I proposed to the Committee that we hold an On-Line Exhibition/Sale with the theme Lockdown Art. Under the guidance of our unofficial Social Secretary Catherine, the Society had started holding Zoom coffee mornings to replace the in-person ones she had started in 2019. The Zooms started in February 2020 and after a few meetings, which proved popular, themes were introduced for each meeting and members were able to show off their work based on the themes.



A year later we had a Lock down Gallery showing the set of pictures sent in by members fortnightly.

Some of the pictures which were on display in the exhibition

The Online Exhibition/Sale was based on this gallery of pictures and by April 23rd at the start of the Exhibition we had 30 Artists and 90 pictures. This was significant as in December 2019 we were due to celebrate the Society's 90 years.

The exhibition was originally planned for a month but, by popular demand, it was extended to the end of June. The Exhibition raised £300 in funds to help the Society with its Programme of Events, several pictures were sold, commissions were received and a certain member had her profile raised.

Here are a few quotes from the Artists on the Show:

"I was pleased to have the opportunity to join the online exhibition. Good to reach out & test the market"there is just so much online now, easy to not be seen. There are only so many friends & relatives etc one can tell also." WS

... " it was easy for us to contribute. Important for the not-so-technically-minded, such as myself. There was a good variety of work, of a range of styles and abilities which should hopefully encourage new members. impressed with the overall standard. I think the format was clear and straightforwardcertainly be in favour of further exhibitions, helpful in maintaining the society's profile." JL "

Zoom Coffee Mornings

Until the recent lifting of Covid-19 restrictions, Catherine Archer and lan Jones continued to host the popular Zoom coffee meetings, with Catherine reporting back on what people have been doing, and lan posting photos into the <u>BAS</u> <u>Facebook Group</u> as well as sending roundups by email to members. *For the time being we will now meet in real life.*



Zoom Demos and Workshops

We've continued with online demos, and some of us took part in an online workshop by Louise Williams, organised for BAS by Frances Evershed.

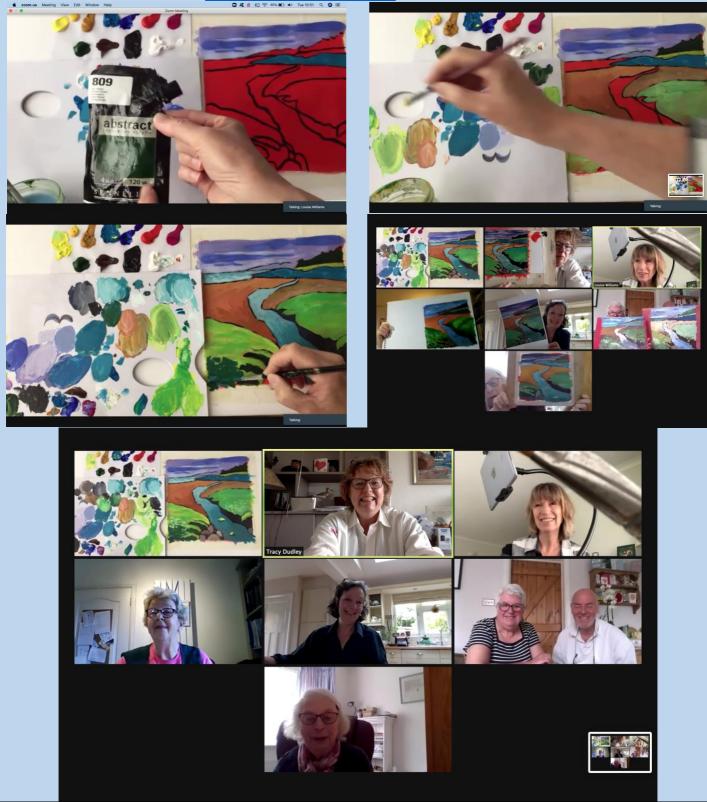
Niki Bell – A Goldfinch in Watercolour, 23rd March 2021

In March, Niki Bell showed a Zoom audience how she paints a goldfinch in watercolour. In a very structured and detailed demo, Niki took us through the whole process. From where to get royalty-free images, which materials she prefers and how she organises her palette, through how to simplify the shape of a bird into geometrical shapes, to facilitate drawing the image, to how to plan the painting, reserve whites and apply the paint in several layers, Niki was very generous in sharing her knowledge and experience. She also advised us to let the paint do its own thing, to "paint-to-form", and showed us how to 'knock back" colour, as well as some interesting techniques to add texture, how to mix really dark darks, and how to add the all-important finishing touches. The demo was very well received by the Zoom audience, some of whom painted along. **Tracy Dudley**



Acrylic Workshop by Louise Williams – Tuesday 20th April 2021

Just the day before she was suddenly taken ill, Frances joined several other BAS members for a workshop which she'd arranged for us with Louise Williams, who teaches classes at the Open Door, in which Frances was taking part. The subject was a Scottish landscape in a semiabstract style. Louise had supplied us with a reference photo and instructions for preparing the surface before the workshop (by painting a red background and drawing the basic outlines of the image), so that we could achieve more during the workshop, which was in a paint-along style. We all learned some new techniques as Louise explained and demonstrated, answering any questions as we went along. *Tracy Dudley* You can contact Louise at <u>gocreate123@gmail.com</u>



In Real Life...

Summer Drawing Evenings This year, fifteen drawing evenings were arranged on Mondays, from May 10th until August 23rd. The list of venues was drawn up by Frances and David Satchel was usually on hand in the afternoon to register those intending to go so that members could avoid being on their own.

Fewer attended this year because of unsettled weather and zoom life-drawing etc on the same evenings. Even so, there is a core of keen and hardy members who have enjoyed the occasions (with great humour) making lively sketches and watercolours. The Sunnyside allotments always provide the most subject manner. The most unusual evening was at Broadwater Canalside when we invited ourselves to a nearby bowls match, where we were very welcome and players were happy to be drawn in action. The weather forecast looks good for the next few weeks so let's hope more members will come. It is often said that, as well as the sketching, there is great pleasure in just sitting in a landscape forgetting all nagging thoughts for an hour or two! Best wishes, David Satchel.



Margaret Young, Wendy Sage, Brian Gazer and Jennie **Saunders** in Potten End.



David Satchel by Martins Pond in Potten End



Sheila Pumfrett with her award

Coffee Morning at the White Horse

Even the awful weather could not dampen the enthusiasm of the 15 BAS members who turned up at the White Horse Bourne End for the first 'In the Flesh Coffee morning of 2021' We all greeted each other like long lost friends and soon the sound of our chatter and laughter filled our corner of the pub. A little bit like speed dating I encouraged people to swap tables and chat to as many people as possible. David asked for nominations for the best Zoom speaker of 2021. It was unanimous; Sheila won the award for bringing so much laughter to the Zooms and David presented her with a silver cup. The staff at the White Horse were as welcoming as usual. Hopefully at our next coffee morning we will be basking in sunshine in their garden. Watch this space! Catherine Archer

Coming Up... Dates for Your Diary The rest of this season:

Summer Drawing Evenings Continue throughout August, thanks to David Satchel		
Where	Parking	
Chipperfield Common	Church Car Park	
Broadwater Canalside	Car Park	
Gadebridge Park: meet at white bridge	Car Park	
	Where Chipperfield Common Broadwater Canalside	

Please contact David Satchel during the afternoon to enquire if others are intending to be there so that you are not on your own.

Bring your own chair and equipment, abide by the current Covid restrictions and remember this is all weather-dependent.

David Satchel Mobile 07749 038148 Email <u>davidsatchel@hotmail.com</u>

The New Membership Year:

We've worked very hard to provide you with a full programme of events and activities in the past year, despite the restrictions in place, with many on Zoom, and for a reduced subscription.

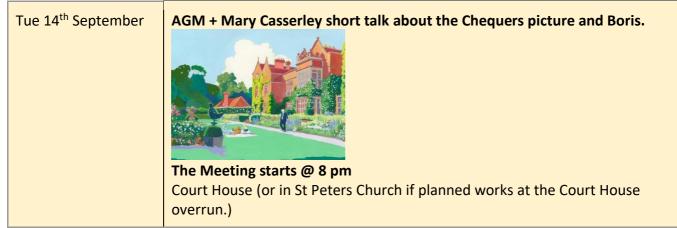
James has put together a fantastic <u>programme of events</u> for 2021/22 (below), both on Zoom and in real life, and added to that will be the coffee mornings and summer drawing evenings, with dates still to be published.

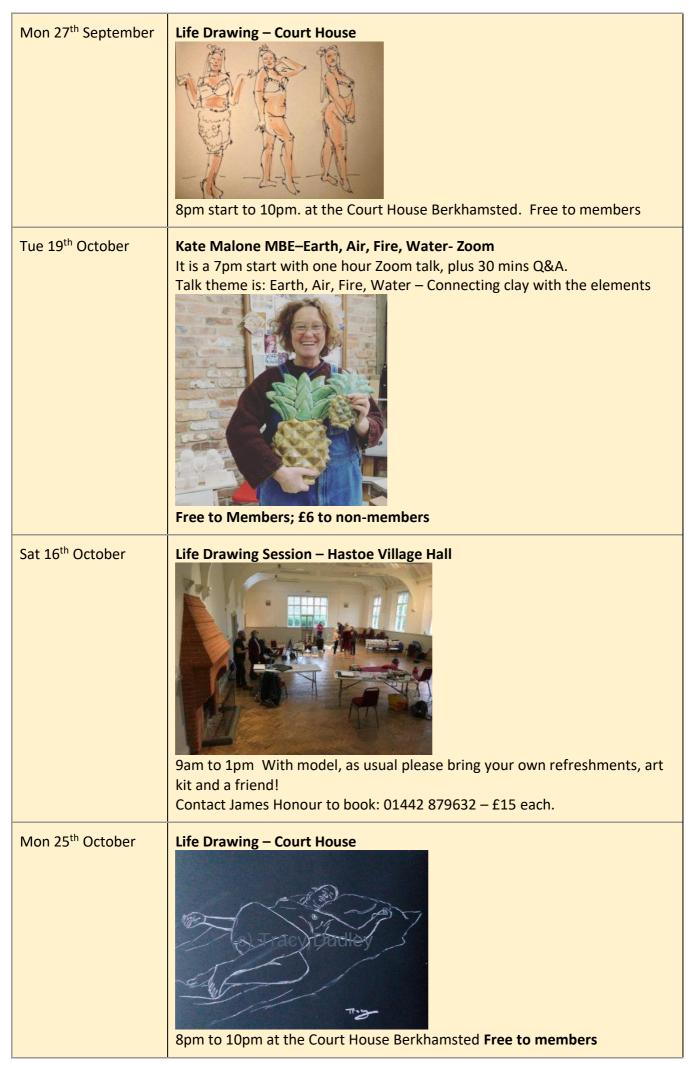
Subscriptions this year are being held at the pre-Covid rate of £25, which represents amazing value! Where else can you enjoy n demonstrations, a critique evening, n evening life drawing sessions, two full-morning life drawing sessions (for a small extra charge), around 26 coffee mornings, 13 summer drawing evenings, a website, private Facebook Group, and several packed newsletters a year, as well as being part of a friendly, supportive and active community of fellow artists, all for £25?

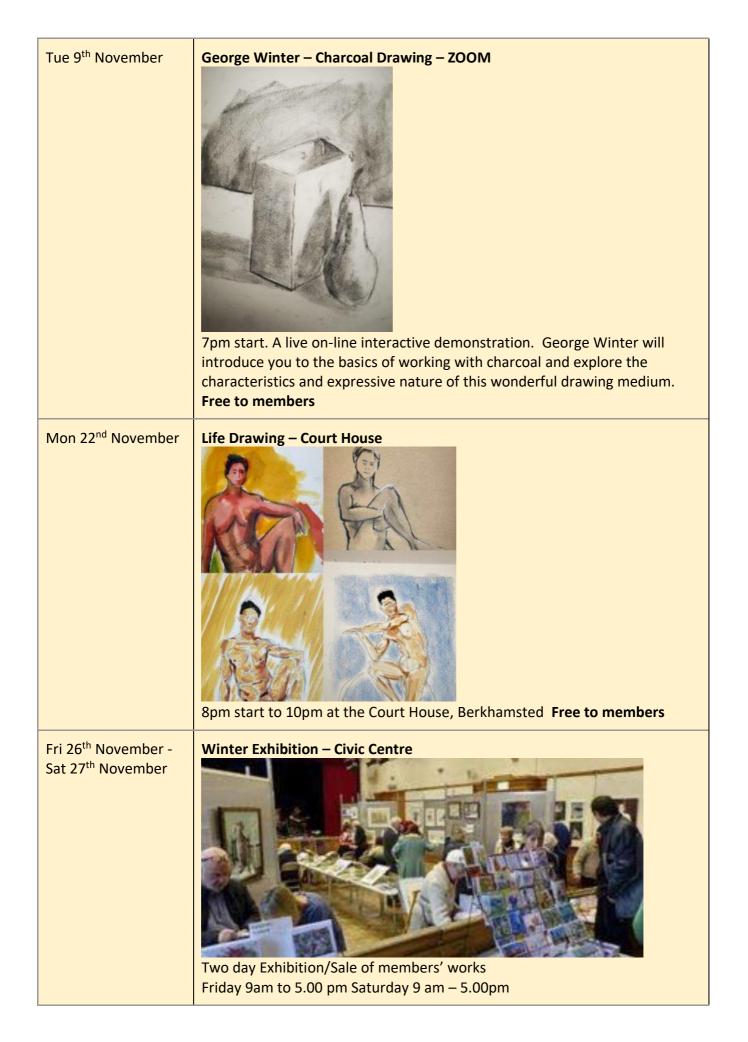
Subscriptions are now due and there are several ways to pay – full details are on the email accompanying the initial distribution of this newsletter and you can now pay by cheque, bank transfer or PayPal/Credit Card! <u>https://berkhamstedartsociety.co.uk/joining/</u>

Programme of events for 2021/22, both on Zoom and in real life:

All Zoom events run from 7pm; all real-life evening activities run from 8pm All events are free to members except the Hastoe Life Drawing Sessions







Tue 18 th January	Peter Keegan – Still Life in Oils – ZOOM from 7pm Image: Start Star
Mon 7 th February	Life Drawing - Court House Find the Court House, Berkhamsted Free to members
Tue 22 nd February	A Constructive Critique Evening via Zoom, among the members Provisional – 7pm start to 9pm. Show some of your finished or unfinished artwork for feedback from other members Free to members. Contact James for the Zoom Link
Tue 22 nd March	Zoom Demo by Hashim Akib - Trees in AcrylicsStart at 7pm to 9pmImage: Start at 7pm to 9pm <tr< td=""></tr<>

Fri 8 th April	Beetle Drive in Court House
	Image: Additional systems of the system o
Fri 22 nd April - Sat 23 rd April	Spring Exhibition and Sale Image: Spring Exhibition and Sale
Sat 7 th May	Life Drawing Session – Hastoe Village Hall 9am to 1pm With model, as usual please bring your own refreshments, art kit and a friend!
	Contact James Honour to book: 01442 879632 – £15 each.

*** Please check the <u>website</u> for the latest information. ***

Events At A Glance

All Zoom events run from 7pm; all real-life evening activities run from 8pm

Date	Event	Venue
Tue 14 th September	8pm AGM, plus short talk by Mary Casserley	Court House or Church
Mon 27 th September	8-10pm Life Drawing	Court House
Tue 19 th October	7pm Talk & Q&A by Kate Malone MBE	Zoom
Sat 16 th October	9am-1pm Life Drawing Morning (£15 each)	Hastoe Village Hall
Mon 25 th October	8-10pm Life Drawing	Court House
Tue 9 th November	7pm Demo: George Winter – Charcoal Drawing	Zoom
Mon 22 nd November	8-10pm Life Drawing	Court House
Fri 26 th /Sat 27 th Nov	Winter Exhibition and Sale	Civic Centre
Tue 18 th January	7pm Demo: Peter Keegan – Still Life in Oils	Zoom
Mon 7 th February	8-10pm Life Drawing	Court House
Tue 22 nd February	7pm Critique Evening, among other BAS members	Zoom
Tue 22 nd March	7pm Demo by Hashim Akib - Trees in Acrylics	Zoom
Fri 8 th April	Beetle Drive	Court House
Fri 22 nd /Sat 23 rd April	Spring Exhibition and Sale	Civic Centre
Sat 7 th May	9am-1pm Life Drawing Morning (£15 each)	Hastoe Village Hall

What Some of Our Members Have Been Up To...



Mary Casserley

Further to Mary's success in selling the original of this painting to Boris Johnson earlier in the year, the painting was featured in the local & national press and even made a brief appearance on the BBC's "Have I Got News for You?"

Jackie Henderson

Following on from her full-page splash in Artists and Illustrators December 2020 issue, Jackie reached the last 50 of the Artists and Illustrators' Viking Cruises British Art Prize with this painting. With 2,455 entries, this was a real achievement!

https://www.artistsandillustrators.co.uk/JackieH52

To see some more of her paintings, see

Members' Recommendations

Our member Mary Casserley contacted us about her visit to Obsidian Art.

"My friend took me to a local art gallery yesterday, **Obsidian Art** in Stoke Mandeville (15 minutes from Tring). I thought I'd pass their details on as despite living in Berko for the last 50 years I had never been there, or even heard of it! Have you?

Layby Farm, Old Risborough Road, Stoke Mandeville, Bucks. HP22 5XJ. On Sat Navs just look up 'Obsidian Art'.

The gallery is open Tuesday to Saturdays from 10am to 4pm and on Sundays from 12noon to 4pm (closed Mondays).

"Obsidian Art Gallery opened in 2002, and is one of the largest art galleries in Buckinghamshire, England. We specialise in fine art and designer craft by British artists and makers, showing a wide range of select hand produced items."

There was a cafe, art / craft shop, also Bucks goat centre and Bucks Print guild plus other shops and things ALL in one place. It was a HUGE gallery, really varied, prints, jewellery, watercolours, crafts, oils, ceramics, outdoor sculpture, books etc ...Very enjoyable! I am ashamed to never have visited before so thought you might like to pass this on to our members. They are having a summer show running until September. Perhaps members can apply for their winter show? Or how about a group visit?" *Mary Casserley*

https://www.shop.obsidianart.co.uk/

An Urgent Plea for Help

Dear BAS member,

With the sad and sudden death of our Chair, Frances Evershed, in April, Berkhamsted Art Society lost a valued committee member. We had been discussing with Frances how we should urgently recruit more helpers as we had a mere 6 committee members back in the Spring, due to natural retirements and/or ill health in the last year or two. Most art society committees have between 8 and 10 members to share the load comfortably and reasonably.

Much more recently, long-standing committee member Jackie Harbron indicated that she wished to leave the committee after many years of service. We are very grateful for all she has done with her time and support for the society. She will still be around and has kindly offered to continue to assist at exhibitions where she can.

Consequently, we are now at 50% strength, down to only <u>4 people</u> on the committee, so we are short of 3 or 4 members, meaning that those of us remaining are performing two, three or four functions, which is not sustainable.

If you have ever been thinking (or have just thought) of helping in any way (not necessarily as a committee member), then please, please do get in touch in our hour of need! We can show you what to do and assist you all the way. We are a team. The more people who help, the more we can do and of course, vice versa.

3 or 4 General Committee members, **Programme Secretary** Organising speakers for our 5 or 6 winter evening including Vice Chair sessions. We have lists and a company that supplies For wisdom and support. speakers and demonstrators, as well as There are only 5 meetings per year recommendations from the committee and members, so lasting a maximum of 2 hours. not too onerous a role! (4-5 hours per year) (10+ hours per year) **Poster Design Publicity** Do you have Graphic Design or other Can you help us by organising our publicity activities skills to design an eye-catching poster and producing publicity material, generally and on or flyer to advertise our exhibitions? social media, to help us get noticed? (1-2 hours per month, ad hoc) (1-2 hours per year) **Reviewer**

Schoolchildren's Coordinator

To help with children's involvement in our winter exhibition. *See panel below* (3-4 hours per year) Would you like to write a brief review of one of our demos, workshops or other activities, for inclusion in the newsletter?

Non-committee roles do not need to attend the committee meetings but are always welcome to do so where relevant. Please consider if you can help us in any way over the summer, before or at the AGM on 14th September. *The sooner we know the better, so if you are willing to help or would like to discuss the possibility, please call me on 01442 879632 after 7pm on weekdays, or anytime at weekends. Alternatively, email berkhamstedartsociety@gmail.com*

As Vice Chairman for Frances, I stepped up to fill the role of Chairman. I have been on the committee since 1987, not because I'm nuts, but because I have always found it interesting and rewarding. I have always looked forward to the laughs and humour at committee meetings and I have made many good friends over the decades.

We crack on. We have some exciting plans for the future. Thank you for your continuing support. Best wishes, *James (Honour), Chairman*

Schoolchildren's Coordinator

As you may be aware we are hoping to hold an Art Exhibition and sale of work in November. As part of this exhibition we will be offering opportunities for local children to get involved in Art by visiting the exhibition, meeting the artists and taking part in various activities.

If you have any links to local schools, governors, teachers and Parent Teachers associations we would love to hear from you.

We are also looking for members who would be happy to help us run these activities especially the 'Meet the Artist 'session.

Please contact Bernadette if you can help: <u>bernadette.duffy28@gmail.com</u>

Regards, Bernadette, Lynda and Catherine

Our Committee

Chairman, Events Programme and Life Drawing Organiser	James Honour	01442 879632
Treasurer & Website	lan Jones	01442 876034
ArtNews Editor, Facebook Admin. & Website	Tracy Dudley	01442 874756
Secretary	Bernadette Duffy	01442 864373
Membership Secretary	Mary Andrews	

Welcome (Back) to our New Members

Welcome to the following members, who	and welcome back to the following members,
have joined us since the last newsletter:	who have re-joined us this year:
Angela Bowen	Micky Graves
Jean Houston	Mitzie Green
Debbie Shrimpton	

Facebook Page and Group

Don't forget that we have a <u>Public Facebook Page</u> & a <u>Private, Members-Only Facebook</u> <u>Group</u>, where we can share our art, have discussions, ask for advice etc. There may be a slight delay after you request to join the Group, while we verify your membership.

The next Art News will be published in November 2021.

If you have any news or an article you'd like included, please send it, by 15th October, to tracydudley@aol.com.

Art News is an independent Publication of Berkhamsted Art Society and is not affiliated to any other group or organisation.



Berkhamsted Arts and Crafts

During the lockdowns, Jo and the team at Berkhamsted Arts and Crafts have kept going, supplying local artists with all their art materials.

It's been a really tough 18 months for our local, independent businesses, so please support our local art shop by buying all your art supplies there!

Please mention this article when you order.

https://bacshop.co.uk/

