

A Note from the Editor

Welcome to my third edition of Art News, the official newsletter of Berkhamsted Art Society.

It's the start of the new Membership Year and we are well into our packed programme of events! If you haven't yet renewed your membership, perhaps our schedule, and the imminence of our first real-life Exhibition since before the arrival of Covid-19, will encourage you? This year we are sticking with the short-format exhibition and increasing the range of items accepted, as well as collaborating with Swing Gate School and encouraging children's interactive art-based activities.

Tracy Dudley

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What We've Been Up To... Real-Life Activities AGM, and Talk by Mary Casserley

Our AGM, in the Courthouse in September, was a fairly short one, but we concluded the normal business, including voting in the members of the Committee. James Honour, who has been our vice-Chairman since the late 1980s(!), and who has ably fulfilled the role of Chairman since Frances passed away, was confirmed as our new Chairman. We wish him every success in his new role. Ian Jones remains our Treasurer, Bernadette Duffy our Secretary, and Tracy Dudley our Newsletter Editor. (These are their main roles, but they all contribute much more than that!). Mary Andrews continues in her role as Membership Secretary.

We were also very pleased to welcome Catherine Archer and Jenny Habib to the Committee. Their contribution will be (and has already been) much appreciated.



One of our members, Jennie Saunders, produced a press release about it, which was published by The Gazette, and then picked up by the National Press. It even featured briefly in 'Have I Got News for You'!

Mary went on to describe how she later decided to produce a painting of Buckingham Palace and send a card to the HM, the Queen. She was thrilled to receive a lovely reply from the Palace. *Tracy Dudley* After the business of the AGM was concluded, Mary Casserley gave us a brief, but highly entertaining, talk on how she decided to produce a painting of Chequers, adding in the figures of Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, his wife, Carrie, their child and dog. She then sent a card of the same design to 10 Downing Street and was pleased to receive a reply from the PM requesting to buy the original!





Coffee Mornings

COFFEE MORNINGS ARE BACK AT THE WHITE HORSE After all our Lockdown Zooms it has been lovely to be able to get back to our coffee mornings at the White Horse in Bourne End. All being well we hope to continue through the Winter months. **New members please do come and join us for a chat and a coffee, it is a good way to meet and get involved in our friendly society**. We meet on different days of the week. If you would like more information please don't hesitate to give me a call. Hope to see you soon. **Catherine [Archer]**







Hastoe Life Drawing Morning, 16th October

Fourteen artists, including new members, recently metup at the spacious and picturesque Hastoe Village Hall for the latest BAS Saturday life drawing session on 16th October. The sun only briefly appeared but everyone had a great time.

Starting with shorter poses and ending with one long pose after the break, there were some great pictures created in various styles and mediums, as seen below.

Holly, the model, first modelled for us in 2014 in the Court House when a hibernating queen wasp, awakened by the warmth of the fan heater, landed on her tummy. This time another flying insect landed on her tummy. The perils of modelling!

The next session at Hastoe will be on Sat 7th May 2022.

Some comments from participants:

"I absolutely love the Hastoe sessions!" S.We.

"Yes, I did enjoy the session - I only produced some sketches and I'm very out of practice but here's a few - I don't mind sharing I'm looking forward to the next one!" K. W-E.

"We both enjoyed ourselves :-)" S.Wi.

"The Hastoe life drawing morning was really good (as always!)" L. M.

"Very enjoyable) life drawing at Hastoe!" A. L.

James Honour



Above: A selection of images from the session from some of the participating artists, including: Jackie Henderson, James Honour, Mary McDowall, Lynda Monk, Brian O'Carroll, Wendy Sage, David Satchel, Sylvia Webster, Sara Williams and Kate Wynne-Eyton.

The Art Society Online

Social Media

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.

We are also now on Instagram: www.instagram.com/berkhamstedartsociety/

Please use the hashtag #berkhamstedartsociety when you make a relevant Instagram post, as well as tagging @berkhamstedartsociey

Zoom Demos

Due to the continuing Covid-19 epidemic and uncertainty of control measures required, we're continuing with online demos for the time being. The first of these was the talk by Kate Malone.

Thanks to Susan Cooke for volunteering to help by reviewing some of our events.

Kate Malone, 19th October 2021

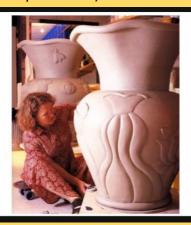
Berkhamsted Arts Society was joined by Dacorum and Chiltern Potters Guild (around 40 in all) for this Zoom talk by Kate Malone, the internationally known studio potter and ceramic artist, also well known to the British public as a judge on the Great Pottery Throwdown TV contest.



Her talk was titled Earth, Air, Fire and Water, but when Kate started her presentation, she added Hand and Heart to this list and it was very evident that these two additional elements were core to Kate's work. Kate amused us all by wearing her trademark bobble headdress at the start and she shared pictures of both her work and her family as she explained how the four elements represented the process of making ceramics. The Earth section of her talk was linked to the making, Kate likes to make pairs of things, she tends to make the form then add the embellishment; she showed some faux baskets, plant, seed and tree stump sculptural forms and vessels and some of her amazing very large pots. Kate delights in these big large pots (example below).

Making an Artichoke









Air represented travel, an essential component of the creative process for her, gathering shapes and decorations from around the world. Kate visits India frequently and told us about her involvement with young people in the Khadi and Village Industries Commission there. On her travels Kate gathers resource material by drawing on scraps of paper and collecting baskets and little artefacts which catch her eye. Kate said she feels this is a way of feeding her creative subconscious and so during lockdown some of these elements burst into the wonderful Singing Ringing Tree sculpture, *shown on the left and below (glazed)*

Fire related to the firing and glazing. Kate said the making was her favourite activity, but the glazing is her main interest. She is a glaze research expert and keeps an archive of her glazing experiments and recipes that she can draw on, she particularly enjoys the way crystalline glazes travel down a form and can seed and grow on a surface.

The **Water** section of her talk explored how water binds the clay particles and Kate drew from this the analogy of the community which binds potters. She spoke appreciatively of her team in the studio, the team at her art dealer's and the team of her family. Kate believes that pottery has always served the community: in the past by making domestic items such as teapots, and now by making public art & helping



community groups such as Onside Youth Zones with her fundraising campaign FiredUP4 which hopes to equip the charity with pottery studios.

Kate's warm and engaging personality shone through this talk, her love of clay was clear from the slides of her work and she was generous in giving time to answer the many questions at the end of her talk. This was an evening to inspire all artists, whether potters or not. *Susan Cooke*

At the end of each of Kate Malone's Talks she has a tradition of raffling one of her pieces among the participants. Congratulations to Jackie Hodgson whose number was chosen. She has since received a white mug with a yellow design, which she's apparently very pleased with! So, you can see it is well worth attending these Zoom events. **Catherine Archer**

George Winter – Interactive Charcoal Drawing Session, 9th November 2021 A really interesting, fun and educational evening – review coming up in the next ArtNews...

Coming Up... Dates for Your Diary

Events At A Glance

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

Date	Event	Venue
Mon 22 nd November	8-10pm Life Drawing	Court House
Fri 26 th /Sat 27 th Nov	Winter Exhibition & Sale 9am-8pm Fri, 9am-5pm Sat	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

Winter Exhibition

This is our first exhibition at the Civic Centre since this time in 2019. Let's make it a good one!

In response to requests from members, this year's exhibition will include a wider range of artist-designed small items. Alongside the usual cards and books, members will now be able to offer small items such as bookmarks, gift tags, coasters and tea towels featuring their own original designs. Each item offered for sale must be individually wrapped in cellophane and clearly labelled with the artist's name and the price.

We have over 30 artists taking part this year, with about a dozen selling cards and other items as well as framed and unframed art.

To paraphrase a well-known expression, there are three things which will help make the exhibition a success:

*** Publicity, Publicity and Publicity! ***

To that end, please make sure that you:

let all your friends and family know about it – tell them, email them, text them etc...;
put flyers up in your windows and car rear passenger windows;

- distribute flyers in local places you know, such as cafés and coffee shops;

- post on social media if you can, sharing our <u>Facebook Event</u> and Posts on your own Timeline, Public Page and/or Local Groups you belong to and/or reposting our Instagram Posts. We aren't on Twitter yet, but it's only a matter of time...!

The New Membership Year:

We 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, not to mention two exhibitions, the first coming up very soon.

Subscriptions this year are being held at the pre-Covid rate of £25, which represents amazing value! Where else can you enjoy 4 demonstrations, a critique evening, 4 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? Not to mention two exhibitions a year!

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

Mon 22 nd Nov	8pn	Drawing – Court House n start to 10pm at the Court House, Berkhamsted e to members
Fri 26 th - Sat 27 th Nov	Winter Exhibition – Civic Centre Image: State of the stat	
Tue 18 th January	Peter Keegan – Still Life in Oils – ZOOM from	n 7pm Peter Keegan is an award-winning professional artist living and working in Buckinghamshire, specialising in portraiture and landscapes. Working in oils, Peter follows traditional techniques but uses them in a way to depict the scenes he meets in a modern and original style. Free to Members

Mon 7 th February		•	t the Court House, ree to members
Tue 22 nd February	A Constructive Critique Evening via Zoom, among the Provisional – 7pm start to 9pm. Show some of your finished or unfinished artwork for members. Contact James for the Zoom Link		other members Free to
Tue 22 nd March	Zoom Demo by Hashim Akib - Trees in Acrylics Start at 7pm to 9pmImage: Tree to Start at 7pm to 9pmHashim Akib was born 1967 in England. Before becoming a painter Akib worked as an illustrator in the UK for over 15 years where he lay the foundations to his drawing and learned about conceptual ideas and various painting techniques. His clients included NHS, British Airways and the Financial Times Free to MembersImage: Tree to Members		
Fri 8 th April	Beetle Drive in Court House Details to be confirmed		4 6 4 6 4 3 3 3 3 5 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
Fri 22 nd April - Sat 23 rd April	Spring Exhibition and Sale Two day Exhibition/Sale of members works Friday 9am to 8pm & Saturday 9am to 5pm		
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:– £15 each.		

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

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

Several of our Members took part in Herts Open Studios this Autumn:

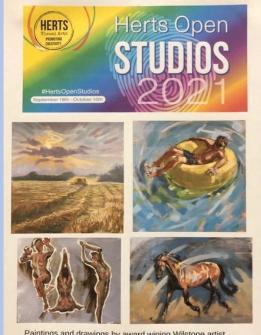
Mitzie Green

"Herts Open Studio took place during the second half of September and as usual I participated from my studio at home. I was delighted to be able to greet old friends again and welcome visitors after 18 months of abstinence due to covid. And what a treat it was. We exchanged views about art, exhibitions, courses, framing, materials and of course I could show my recent work and demonstrate techniques.

These past 18 months made a great change to my painting as I had no interruptions, no classes, no phone calls, no appointments and no friends or family to cook for. Was it boring? Not a bit of it. It gave me a great opportunity to develop my painting style and free up which is an ongoing development. Due to



the pandemic the publicity for the OS had taken a different format and we were not able to distribute our lovely comprehensive brochure. Much advertising was done online, Facebook and Instagram and I had a reduced number of visitors compared to the stream that normally comes along. However, several people asked about classes and when my next workshop was going to be held. As a result, I will be giving a Collage with Acrylics workshop in December. It will include all sorts of papers as well as patterns. They may be stamped, painted or stencilled or produced on a gelli press. What Is a gelli press? Wait and see!"



Paintings and drawings by award wining Wilstone artist Open weekends 2.00-6.00pm 7 Wilstone Wharf HP23 4PX

Jackie Henderson

"From my home studio near Tring:

It is a privilege to write about my experience of Herts Open Studios 2021. It is a privilege to be an artist. It is a privilege to live in these days and in this beautiful land. How could I not be enthused to paint my surroundings and other subjects and show them to the public?

Well, it was a very very quiet month!!

So, Open Studio expectations aside, I work, draw, paint and repeat. My few visitors to HVAF OS '21 were treated to my normal day to day practice where I put my money where my mouth is and talk like an artist, work like an artist and produce prolifically like any of the best of artists. That's me, busy being me.

The positive side of sales was that 60%+ of visitors bought major works and there were a few commissions too. My work is also available in a couple of local shops and a Pilates Studio. Would I do it again? Yes, the only thing I had to do was pop up a few bright yellow signs, do a bit of community activity with other artists and carry on as normal!!

My recommendation to others thinking of opening in the future is to really know yourself, as an artist, a creative, a maker. As an Art teacher myself, I can probably say that the expectation of making sales was not why one ever begins making some form of Art!"

Sally McIver

...took the plunge in being part of Open Studios for the first time and was delighted to sell 9 paintings and lots of cards. She says her key learning points were to take part in a more accessible location (probably at home in Berko next year), and to realise that a painting you have had for some time is just like an orphan waiting to find its adoptive parents... one day they will come along and be a perfect match. She was thrilled at being able to fund a sewing machine for vulnerable women escaping prostitution in Burundi - a project she has personally visited and been involved in for some years and knows makes a massive difference :)'





Terry Mower

Emerging from the restrictions of the Pandemic and being invited to join seven talented artists to showcase our individual and diverse art at the Henderson Hub in Abbots Langley for this year's Open Studios, came as a most welcome breath of fresh air and an incentive to paint again. It was a joy meeting new talented artists with skills ranging from Jewellery making, Textile art, Mixed media, Acrylics and Silk painting to my own Watercolours.

Everyone worked together to create a colourful and diverse exhibition, which attracted over 500 visitors, despite a fuel shortage. Stewarding was enjoyable and

often entertaining with visitors keen for you to engage with them about the works on show. I even managed to sell a personal record of 83 Art greeting cards, necessitating a quick reprint.

This year's experience has re-ignited a desire to produce more paintings which will hopefully give the viewer the feeling of wellbeing and a sense of place, much needed after the confines, restraints and often pain imposed by the Covid 19 Pandemic.

Hopefully next year's Herts Open Studios will be an even happier event.

Mario Lautier Vella

"Herts Open Studios 2021 was the first local open studio event I participated in. I have previously taken part in a similar event with some of my students in Ealing and so a key objective in taking part in Herts Open Studios was to meet more local artists. It was great to show my work alongside 15 other artists in a great space - a former large shop in Hemel's Marlowes Shopping Centre. The exhibition looked fantastic with a very



eclectic display of drawings, paintings, ceramics, photography, textiles and more on show. I really enjoyed welcoming our visitors and gauging their reaction to the show. I also ran a collage and mixed media workshop which was a lot of fun and a great way of encouraging visitors to tap into their creativity too."

Catherine Archer – A Letter in Mind



For several years I have contributed Artwork to a Letter in Mind in aid of the National Hospital for Neurology. Pre Covid the sale and exhibition took place at the Oxo Tower, London. Now the online gallery opens on the 2nd November at 11am for the preview and at 11 am on the 4th of November for sales. Each piece is priced at £85 and will remain anonymous until sold. All proceeds fund projects at the amazing National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery. Each year well known artists and celebrities as well as amateur artists contribute works. **You could grab a Grayson Perry !!!!!**

Why don't you take a look at <u>aletterinmind.org</u> *Catherine*

Members' Courses/Workshops/Classes



Acrylic + Collage Workshop

with Mitzie Green

Townscape with collage and acrylics. Can use your own image Suitable for beginners and more experienced

Saturday 4 December 2021, from 10 - 4pm

at Gadebridge Community Centre, Galley Hill, HP1 3LG

Cost: £65

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

Andy Lee

Hello Artist of BAS 🥩

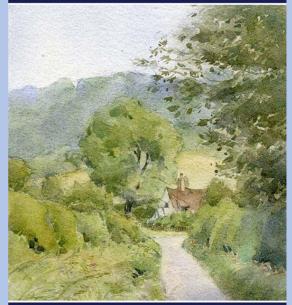
I resumed my classes on 16th September, and have a couple of places available in the Thursday afternoon class: 2-4pm at the Temperance Hall, Christchurch Road, Tring HP23 4EE

(Sorry, the evening class is now full.)

If you're looking to improve your knowledge and technique, and would like to join my small and friendly class, please contact me for more info.

andy@aleegallery.co.uk http://www.aleegallery.co.uk

Sketching, Drawing & Watercolour with Andy Lee



Beginners and Improvers Weekly class, Thursday afternoon 2.00 – 4.00pm Temperance Hall, Christchurch Road, Tring HP23 4EE For more info: andy@aleegallery.co.uk | www.aleegallery.co.uk

Can You Help?

Thank you to those members who came forward and offered to help with the running of the Society and/or specific tasks. We could still do with help in the following areas, so if you have ever been thinking (or have just thought) of helping in any way (not necessarily as a committee member), then please do get in touch! 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.

Programme Secretary

Organising speakers for our 5 or 6 winter evening sessions. We have lists and a company that supplies speakers and demonstrators, as well as recommendations from the committee and members, so not too onerous a role! (4-5 hours per year)

General Committee members, including Vice Chair For wisdom and support. There are only 5 meetings per year lasting a maximum of 2 hours. (10+ hours per year)

Publicity

Do you have Graphic Design or other skills to design an eye-catching poster or flyer to advertise our exhibitions? (1-2 hours per year)

Poster Design

Can you help us by organising our publicity activities and producing publicity material, generally and on social media, to help us get noticed? (1-2 hours per month, ad hoc)

Non-committee roles do not need to attend the committee meetings but are always welcome to do so where relevant. *If you are willing to help or would like to discuss the possibility, please call me after 7pm on weekdays, or anytime at weekends. Alternatively, email berkhamstedartsociety@gmail.com*

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

Our Committee

Chairman, Events Programme and Life Drawing	
Organiser	James Honour
Treasurer & Website	lan Jones
ArtNews Editor, Facebook Admin. & Website	Tracy Dudley
Secretary	Bernadette Duffy
Membership Secretary	Mary Andrews
Committee Member	Catherine Archer
Committee Member	Jenny Habib

Welcome (Back) to our New Members This Year...

Welcome to the following members, who have joined us since the last newsletter.				
Rachel Astor	Jasmine Hassan	Rosemarie Jefferies	Louise Thompson	
Katherine Benson	Moira Hunter	Brian O'Carroll	Mario Lautier Vella Kate	
Rosario Carder	Rachael Iannucci	Lindsay Stillwell	Wynne-Eyton	

We ask all new members if they'd like to tell us a little about themselves:

Rosario Carder

"I have been painting in oils for 5 years, although art has been of interest to me all my life. I particularly like contemporary art, botanicals, nature and portrait painting."

Mario Lautier Vella

"Making art allows me to explore a long-held fascination with the curious, esoteric and uncanny in our everyday lives – when the familiar becomes unfamiliar, when we look and are looked at, speculation, suggestion and second guessing – and how all of this is experienced, recorded and recalled. Daily life in British suburbia, my Maltese roots and ideas around presence and absence, invasion and evasion, surveillance, cinema, identity, intimacy and the space between our public and private lives shapes my work. Snatched glimpses, fleeting images, murmurs, memories and a sensation of constant flux all leave their mark.

Whether combining automatic techniques with a controlled hand, exploring the effects of construction, destruction and reconstruction or experimenting with notions of unfinished, interrupted or damaged work, my practice plays with both figurative and abstract approaches, often settling in a space in-between. Figurative work presents characters, personas and alter-egos in transient encounters, sticky situations and playful reverie that prompt further narratives and interpretations to emerge. Abstract work take further cues from the human body and its environment, as line & colour mark, stain, clash & confront their space. An award-winning, cross-disciplinary artist, my practice incorporates drawing, painting, collage, photography, video, sound, sculpture, installation, book arts and performance, with work being exhibited across the UK and around the world. To date, my work is held in private collections in the UK, Malta, the Netherlands, the USA, Canada and Australia.

I am also a qualified art tutor and have been teaching since 2011. I am the founder and managing director of The Fine Art Room – a UK-based art school offering weekly courses online, across London and abroad. I enjoy teaching art classes to students of all ages and encouraging them to discover, explore and develop their own ideas and practice." <u>www.mariolautiervella.com</u>

Kate Wynne-Eyton

"I'm a painter, trained in the 80s and 90s, with additional interests is sculpture and land art, keen to meet other artists in the area - already enjoyed my first life drawing session with the group"

...and a Final Farewell to

Roger Silverton (ex-BAS treasurer)

Many of you will remember Roger, who stepped up as treasurer when Frances became the new Chair. Roger served as our treasurer for three years and retired from the post a couple of years ago.

Sadly, he died in August, following a fall in his flat in Lower Kings Road, where he lived alone. He was 76.

He was an ex-Civil Servant with an amazing memory and an eye for detail.

Despite his ailments, he made the effort to attend BAS talks and demonstrations, often welcoming members at the door and supporting the exhibitions.

He was well-known in the town beyond BAS and could often be seen sitting outside cafes chatting to locals and café staff.

He liked jazz and was keen on bowling, often travelling around southern England by train to play in matches.

I gave Roger lifts to and from the BAS committee meetings and after arriving back outside his flat (usually well after 10pm), it was not unusual for him to still be chatting away for over an hour. He enjoyed talking to people when he



could, so I always let him carry on until he would eventually say; 'Well, I suppose I had better let you go home!' It was a pleasure, Roger. Thanks for the memories. *James Honour*



Pamela Short (Committee Member)

I first met Pam, or Ella, when we sat together on the desk at an exhibition. I was attracted to her lovely paintings of boats and intrigued by the fact that some were signed 'Pam' and others 'Ella'. It turned out she liked to use both. She joined the Committee for a few years around the time Frances became Chairwoman, and was probably best known for championing the visitor vote for Favourite Painting. She created the 'postbox' to contain the votes and counted the votes at the end of the exhibition herself. Pamela passed away in October, at the age of 92. **Tracy Dudley** Susan Cooke reviews George Winter's Interactive Charcoal Demo David Satchel on the recent Orchestral Drawing Session

The next Art News will be published in February 2022.

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

I'm thinking of doing a 'Meet the Member' section, along the lines of the new member profiles. If you'd like to be included, send me a short biography/piece about your artistic interests, projects etc, with a photo or two if you like.

Other items to look forward to...

Berkhamsted Art Society's part in St Peter's 800th Anniversary Celebrations

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Berkhamsted Arts and Crafts

