

June 2022

Berkhamsted Art Society

No. 393

ArtNews



SKETCH
2020

Diary

Summer Drawing Evenings, 6.30 pm [YELLOW]

Other Dates [PINK]

May	16	Great Gaddesden Cottages and Church. Park near the school.
	23	Aldbury Pond. Parking in village centre.
	30	Gadebridge Park. Free parking by the iron bridge.
June	6	St. Peter's Church, Berkhamsted.
	13	Rectory Lane Victorian cemetery and wildlife haven, Berkhamsted. This hidden gem is behind the Rex cinema. Parking in the town centre, access on foot via Rectory Lane off the High Street.
	15	Coffee Morning, 10.30am, White Horse Pub, Borne End, HP21 2RH
	20	St. Peter's Church, Berkhamsted.
July	2	St Peter Church Clay Build 11.00am
	4	David Satchel's house, Puddingstone, Leighton Buzzard Road, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 3DL. Parking by the house or on the verge if full.
	11	Sunnyside Allotments, Berkhamsted. Park there or on Ivy House Lane
August	1	Broadwater car park by the canal. Drawing action at the Bowls Club if available.
	8	Meet at St. Peter and St. Paul Church, Tring. Main car park on the right, coming from Berko, as you get near the town centre.
August	15	"Patchwork", 22, Hall Park Gate, Berkhamsted. This is a beautiful garden opened especially for us. £5 each but well worth it with free tea and coffee . Park in Hall Park Gate.
	22	Sunnyside Allotments, Ivy House Lane, Berkhamsted.

Berkhamsted Art Society Committee Members

Chairman, Events Programme and Life Drawing Organiser	James Honour	01442 879632
Treasurer & Website, Assistant ArtNews Editor	Ian Jones	01442 876034
Secretary	Bernadette Duffy	01442 864373



Coffee Morning Diaries

WEATHER! The joys of living in England. Our March coffee morning we were basking in the sunshine in the garden at the White Horse. In April we were in front of a blazing log fire.

The Coffee morning was very well supported with about 15 artists. We were also joined by new members Rosemary and Doreen and prospective member Hannah.

As I moved around the group topics of conversation included hairdressers, copyright, grandchildren, embroidery and bluebells. So, if any of these topics are close to your heart please join us at the next coffee morning. Another topic of conversation was the Berkhamsted Art Exhibition. Christmas was such a success so let's see if we can build on that to make the Spring Exhibition even bigger and better. Unlike the RA Summer Exhibition we encourage all artists to exhibit!

Stay well,
Catherine and Ian

Editorial

Closing a case is Inspector Morse's tenacious talent. He also once declared "I don't belong to things", referencing the Masons, no doubt.

Membership of Berkhamsted Art Society (BAS) on the other hand is **open** for all people who **do** belong to things. Like 'belonging' to a group of open air Summer Sketchers, taking coffee with an open agenda, entering your work for the open exhibitions and openly living an artist's life at the organised life drawing sessions. If you want to potter about a bit read about the *Open Door Pottery Shed*: It's a great beginning.

If Morse did want to join BAS that would be OK — there's always an **opening**.

Brian O'Carroll is a Photographer living in Aston Clinton, and is Guest Editor for ArtNews until normal service can be resumed!



ArtNews Editor, Facebook Admin (on a 6 month Sabbatical)	Tracy Dudley	
Membership Secretary	Mary Andrews	
Committee Member	Catherine Archer	07711 699411
Committee Member	Jenny Habib	01442 873029

BAS Spring Exhibition and Sale

Berkhamsted Art Society's Spring Exhibition and Sale was held in Town Hall on Friday 20th and Saturday 21st May.



Swing Gate School children's artwork celebrating 800 years of St Peter's Berkhamsted



Harvest and Christmas Carol Concert. We are thrilled to be a part of the celebrations of 800 years of St Peter's Church and cannot wait to see a variety of artwork inspired by our local area."

Many of the artists' friends and family members dropped by to give support and admire the wonderful art!

The children's creative table was a popular attraction and drawings continued to be added to the display that already featured art by *Swing Gate School* pupils – inspired by pieces in the exhibition, the 800th anniversary of St Peter's church and the children's amazing imaginations.

It was lovely to chat to visitors to find out which were their favourites and why, and to talk about all things art. The visitor book is testament to the range and quality of the pieces, with many commenting on how very impressed they were.

The big sellers were ceramics and cards – perfect for giving to others to share the creative love.

BAS's Exhibition was busy and buzzy, with lots of Berkhamsted shoppers being alerted to the event by the signs outside and the flyers that were handed out around town.

Children from *Swing Gate School* were invited for a less impromptu visit on Friday to look at artworks and meet the artists. Prior to their visit the children had produced art related to *St Peter's Church*.

Sarah Stone, a teacher at *Swing Gate School* wrote..

"We are delighted to once again be part of the Berkhamsted Art Societies Spring Exhibition. Our Year 2 classes were full of joy after the Winter Exhibition and we are sure this one will be just as fantastic. St Peter's Church holds a special place in Swing Gate School's heart as it hosts our annual

by Susan Cook and Katie Jones

d Sale

at Berkhamsted



Brian Bennett Exhibition

Brian Bennett celebrated his 95th year with a recent exhibition of over 50 small paintings of largely local Chiltern landscapes. These included all the things he is famous for: poppies, skies, rivers, streams, cow parsley, views across the Vale of Aylesbury, autumn mists, coastal scenes from the Scilly Isles, snake's head fritillaries and bluebells at Ashridge.

His exhibition followed on immediately after the Berkhamsted Art Society exhibition and ran from Monday 23rd May to Wednesday 25th May in Berkhamsted Civic Centre. All profits went to *The Hospice of St Francis*.

Brian Bennett has served *Berkhamsted Art Society* since the 1960s on the committee, also as Chairman and in more recent decades, as President. He is also a former President of the *Royal Institute of Oil Painters (ROI)*, now a Fellow of the ROI.

Brian says this could be his last exhibition. Let's hope not. He still pulls in the crowds!

by James Honour

Brian Bennett
attending his
Exhibition



Summer Drawing Evenin



Pixies Mere fishing lake near Bourne End proved to be a perfect place to get the art society's summer season of outdoor sketching and painting evenings under way.

The dozen or so members who made it to the Mere on Monday 9 May spent a tranquil couple of hours sitting beside the lapping waters where fish jumped, mayflies hovered and ducks gently paddled past.

The landscape inspired plenty of sketchbook studies of reflections, trees, waterfowl and splashes of late evening sunlight bouncing off the water's surface.

As dusk eventually started to fall and everyone packed up their bags and fold-up chairs, many said how much they had enjoyed the peaceful surroundings — despite the occasional trains passing on the nearby railway line and the honking geese.

And it was clear that everyone had also enjoyed spending time together informally painting and drawing 'en plein air' locally in the company of others. It was great to see such a strong turnout for the start of the new outdoor summer drawing evenings — not just familiar faces from the society, but new members too.

Our thanks to *Boxmoor & District Angling Society* for allowing us access to the Mere, which was a new venue on the summer drawing evening programme, drawn up by David Satchel assisted by Wendy Sage, Mary Andrews and Jennie Saunders.

The angling society has generously said we are welcome to return to the Mere at some point, or alternatively visit their other fishing lakes at Westbrook Mere or Durrants Hill Fishery. Watch this space for more information.

In the meantime, we followed Pixies Mere with further well-attended Monday evening get-togethers at Great Gaddesden, Aldbury and Gadebridge Park. Future dates are on the calendar (inside front cover).

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 dependant.

by Jennie Saunders



Summer drawing evenings get under way at picturesque Pixies Mere.

Summer drawing Monday evenings will be May 9 until August 22 at 6.30 pm, weather permitting.

Please call David Satchel on 07749 038 148 or e-mail him on dauidsatchel@hotmail.com earlier than Monday to find out how many others are going. This should avoid members sketching on their own.



St Peter's Church 800th Anniversary – June

As part of the 800th anniversary of *St Peter's*, please join our special drawing evenings at *St Peter's Church* this summer and draw, or paint, any aspect of the church (inside or out) that appeals to you in whatever way you choose.

We are also inviting people of the town to join us, especially beginners. If you can help with offering a little guidance and encouragement to them, please let James Honour know.

The church is being kept unlocked every Monday evening in June to allow us all access to do interiors (and of course, if wet).

Please meet James Honour at 6.30pm on the steps of *St Peter's Church* on the 6th, 20th and 27th June and at the entrance to *Rectory Lane Cemetery* (above the *Rex*) on the 13 June with something to draw with — pen, biro, pencil... and paper, plus a chair if needed.

For more details contact James on 01442 879632 or janethonour@btinternet.com

Artworks can be displayed inside the church from the end of June into July. Details to follow.

800 Years Old!



The main features such as windows and doors will have been marked in the clay so that on the Saturday at 11.00 am the general public (adults and children) can start to provide all the finer detail using additional

clay and modelling tools. Children especially will be encouraged to add their own personality to the model by creating small clay figures.

This is a collaboration between the Art Society, Open Door Community Space and the Dacorum and Chiltern Potters Guild.

The aim is to promote the soon to be opened Open Door Pottery Shed and bring a full range of Ceramic activities to Berkhamsted. We may even get a few more potters to join BAS.

by Ian Jones

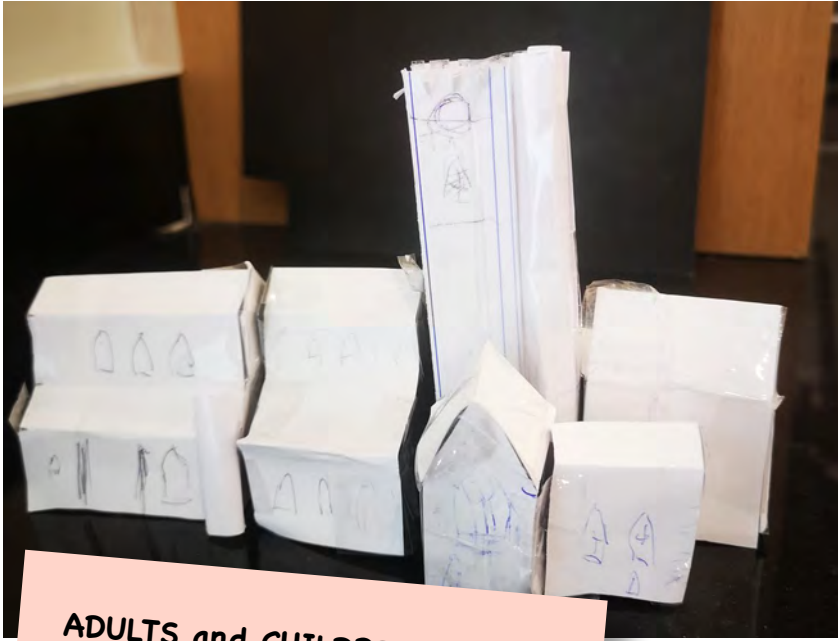
Berkhamsted Art Society is supporting the St Peter's Church 800 year celebrations. Inspired by the clay builds in St Albans created by the Dacorum and Chiltern Potters Guild (of which I am a member) over the last couple of years I thought it would be an ideal event for Berkhamsted to celebrate this occasion.

They may not look much, but this is the start of the formers for the Clay Build to be held on 2nd July inside St Peters Church starting at 11 o'clock. The dimensions of these maquettes are in inches taken from a print out the floor plan and will be translated into feet. The final model will be 6 feet long and 4 feet high.

There will be six full-sized formers that will make up the model and they will be built individually in Cardboard (Thank you Neal Bros Packaging in North bridge Road) They will then be covered in plastic sheeting (courtesy of dry Cleaners Clean and Sew and Johnsons) and left until the evening of the 1st July when they will be set up in St Peters Church on six tables and covered in slabs of Clay and covered in more plastic to keep the clay damp overnight.



Peter's Church Clay Build



Maquettes to plan the full-sized build

ADULTS and CHILDREN Welcome

**St Peter Church Clay Build
11.00am Saturday 2nd July**



BAS Members...

It would be appreciated if members could volunteer their assistance to the Project to help with the former build at the Courthouse on 18th June , the slab covering on 1st July or the stewarding of the event 11am-4.00pm on the Saturday 2nd July. Please contact Ian Jones at berkhamstedartsociety@gmail.com

The Open Door Pottery S



Well, here it is the Open Door Pottery Shed – *Open Door* has been negotiating the lease on this workshop in Park Street. New utilities — electricity, water and sewage — have been connected as well as a kiln room and a toilet being built. Electric lights and points have been installed, together with the connection of the Kiln purchased with a Community Grant from Dacorum Borough Council. I have donated to the project, on loan for two years, three pottery wheels and another local resident Sarah Marsden has donated a fourth pottery wheel.

I am currently working with *Open Door* and Edwina Wilkes to prepare for the Shed to open in July. Tables and chairs and other equipment have kindly been donated by *The Pottery Project* — thanks Naomi and her sister. The final effort over the next few weeks will see the flooring being painted throughout, equipment tested and located including a clay trap plus the creation of loads of shelving and work spaces.

Beginner courses will be introduced to start with as well as small workshops for groups of 10 to 14 for pottery handbuilders and

throwers. The Shed will be able to provide kiln firing of work created in the studio (at a chargeable rate) and all pottery tools and clay (courtesy of a £500 grant from Dacorum and *Chiltern Potters Guild*) are available free to use by participants.

Edwina Wilks will have a programme of beginners' courses and I will be taking a beginner's course in throwing once a month at the studio and we are encouraging other tutors to get involved.

So look out for the grand opening details and if you want to have a go get in touch with *Open Door*, Edwina or myself.

by Ian Jones



Shed



Art For Ukraine

Several artists from *Berkhamsted Art Society* donated artworks to *Open Door* for an exhibition and sale to raise funds for Ukraine.

We all appreciate that art can be fun and therapeutic but it is also good to know that as artists we can use our talent to help good causes.

Catherine Archer

Little Heath Tea room

For Tea and Cake or a lunchtime snack why not try the Tea Rooms at Little Heath Farm in Potten End where BAS has a mini exhibition from the following local members:

Tracy Dudley, Gill Master, Catherine Archer, Jackie Habron, Lynda Clarke, Gareth Evans, Viki Ahearn, Jane Lee and Jenny Saunders.

A Letter In Mind

Every year I submit a piece of artwork to '**A Letter in Mind**'. This exhibition raises valuable funds for *The National Hospital for Neurology* in Queens Square, London – the leading hospital for the diagnosis and treatment of neurological illnesses.

Artworks are submitted on envelopes and sold anonymously. Over the years, famous artists and actors have supported the charity. In previous years the exhibition has been held in the *Oxo Tower*, London.

For more information and how to submit artworks or support the charity go to their website.

Main website: nationalbrainappeal.org

Art for Sale: nationalbrainappeal.org

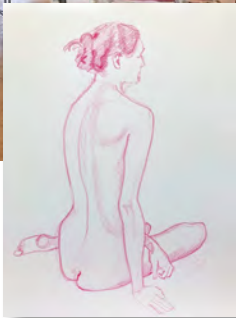
Catherine Archer

BAS members taking part in Bucks Art Weeks 2022

Be sure to look at full details of exhibiting times on the website before planning a trip

Hastoe Life Drawing

Eleven artists attended the first Hastoe hamlet Saturday morning life drawing session of the year on 7th May.



Our model, Gabriela, came all the way from Huntingdonshire for us. With 3½ hours of art time, we had the luxury of some short poses and some longer ones.

As always, there was a good variety of styles and mediums used and the morning just whizzed by.

The next session at Hastoe is Saturday 15th October 2022, 9am to 1pm.

Hastoe Village hall, on the hill above Tring, is the venue and is an attractive and spacious Arts and Crafts style building in secluded countryside, with a horse paddock at the back and loads of parking.

by James Honour

76 Hannah Heys

Combining her passion for contemporary design and detailed craftsmanship, Hannah Heys uses tufting and latch hooking to create beautifully finished rugs, wall hangings and cushions. Hannah's range of hand-crafted, eco-conscious homeware is set to brighten interiors through bold colours and plenty of positivity.

Queens Park Arts Centre, Aylesbury

www.bucksartweeks.org.uk/open-studios/2022/hannah-heys

126 Nigel Brigden

Nigel's paintings are appearing as part of an exhibition of 8 diverse Aston Clinton artists.

St Michael and All Angel's Church, Aston Clinton

www.bucksartweeks.org.uk/open-studios/2022/art-st-michael-all-angels-church

199 Sally Bassett

Sally's paintings are lively and bright, trying to catch the 'nowness' of the moment.

Landscape paintings follow the seasons of the year through meadows, woods and orchards. Seascapes endeavour to capture the wild seas round West Country coasts.

www.bucksartweeks.org.uk/open-studios/2022/sally-bassett

201 Mitzie Green

Mitzie is a professional artist working from her studio gallery in Berkhamsted. She develops work based on feelings and that there has to be something unexplained, mysterious, enigmatic to keep the mind working. Her approach is intuitive, spontaneous, and loose. Her subjects are based on landscapes, townscapes, flowers, and abstracts.

14 Meadway, Berkhamsted

www.bucksartweeks.org.uk/open-studios/2022/mitzie-green