



Diary

January	17	Demo — Tom Shepherd Wild Life in Watercolour	Zoom
February	21	Constructive Critic Evening among the members	Court House
	27	Life Drawing	Court House
March	21	Demo — Mitzie Green Watercolour Dandelions with the option of painting along with the Artist	Court House
	27	Life Drawing	Court House
April	24	Life Drawing	Court House

Locations

Court House — Church Ln, Berkhamsted HP4 2AX

[///porch.usage.condition](http://porch.usage.condition)

Zoom event details will be circulated to members by email before the event

Call out for a Membership Secretary

Mary Andrews our Membership Secretary is still in situ, but we do not know for how long. Most of the 2022/23 memberships have now been processed. Thanks to all our members new and old for such prompt payment. With the pressure off Mary will be able to show a new secretary the ropes as part of the handover. The membership secretary works closely with the Treasurer who starts sending out membership reminders the beginning of August, receiving most of the funds over the next couple of months. Familiarity with spreadsheets is a help and using google mail. It is optional for the Secretary to join the Committee or they can dip in and out as they feel necessary

If you would like to support *Berkhamsted Arts Society* in this way, please contact me, Ian Jones, on **07867788700** or email Berkhamstedartsociety@gmail.com.

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

AND SPARKLY JUMPERS

About 14 hardy souls made it to the coffee morning. We were all very grateful for the roaring fire, hot coffee and Quality Street compliments of Doreen. A few of us were a little nervous of getting the toffee centre, not the best time of year to lose a filling.

Angela de Winter had been to Matt the framer and showed us her latest acrylic painting in one of his new design edge frames. I shall definitely investigate in the New Year.

We welcomed new member Paul who joined into the spirit of the coffee morning by wearing a Christmas pud bobble hat. Stars and robins featured on many jumpers. Last minute I decided against wearing my antlers, too difficult to negotiate getting in and out of the car in the snow.

Poor Doreen waited 5 hours at the airport for a flight which was then cancelled whilst Brian broke down on the way to the coffee morning and then had to wait ages to get his car fixed. After a visit to the dentist David kindly made a late appearance to wish us a Happy Christmas.

I am happy to report that everyone agrees that the coffee mornings have been a fun way to make new friends and to exchange ideas so if you have not tried one yet, make it your New Year's resolution to come along and meet us.

Wishing you All a Very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year



Editorial

Hot on the heels of the Winter Exhibition and Sale is The Great Freeze!

Unable to cope with extremes England slows down below zero or above 29°C — it's not worth having infrastructure for a few days outside the "Goldilocks" zone.

If fighting to finish a project 'against the odds' also — it's better to bend in the wind a little than to snap in half resisting it. (That's "Tree Wisdom")

Brian O'Carroll is a Photographer living in Aston Clinton, and is Guest Editor for ArtNews.



Facebook Administrator	Tracy Dudley	
Membership Secretary	Mary Andrews	
Committee Member	Catherine Archer	07711 699411
Committee Member	Jenny Habib	01442 873029



Tring Book Festival

Saturday 12th November —
Keith Brymer appeared as part of the
Tring Book Festival Book Launch
“*Boy in a China Shop*”

of his very own clay, along with some pots, for *Tring Book Festival* to auction off

Pictured above with Keith (and our comms manager and pottery fan, Anna) is Ian Jones, who has been instrumental in setting up our *Community Pottery Shed*, for which we're so grateful.

Come and experience the joy of pottery for yourself — check out our classes at...

www.opendoorberkhamsted.co.uk/potteryshed

We have new classes being added all the time. Plus, have a leaf through the *Shed's* copy of Keith's book, kindly donated by the Festival! #tringbookfest

Meanwhile, some of the other *Open Door* team were at a *Ukraine fundraising evening* — more news on that soon!

Two of the *Open Door* team were treated to a brilliant evening with Keith Brymer Jones last night as part of *Tring Book Festival*.

Keith was in conversation with his partner, Marj, about his life and how his dyslexia led to his love of clay. A truly fascinating, inspirational, funny, and emotional evening!

We were delighted to lend Keith a potter's wheel and supply some clay from our *Community Pottery Shed* so that he was able to do some live throwing of pots as he spoke, which was fantastic to watch.

He and Ben from the Festival were so generous with their time and Keith even said he'll send us some

A Letter In Mind — A Success Story

As some of you may know, every year I send 2 pieces of Art to 'A letter in Mind' the fund raiser for the amazing National Hospital for Neurology Queen Square, London. Every piece is sold anonymously and priced at £85.

I am thrilled that this year I sold my 2 pieces on the first day. The artists name is only revealed once a piece has sold. All the works can be viewed on the Letter in Mind website. To add to my excitement, the purchaser of one piece took the time

to text me to say how much she liked her purchase. She also told me she bought the piece because it reminded her of a happy holiday. Lovely to receive positive feedback.

Art is a marvellous thing on so many levels with the pleasure it brings and the good it can do.

I shall definitely be looking out for next year's fund raiser.

Catherine

Hi All

We are making a few amendments to our website.

The *Members Link* page will now be renamed *Art Classes*. Several new members have asked on joining, where they could get additional tuition.

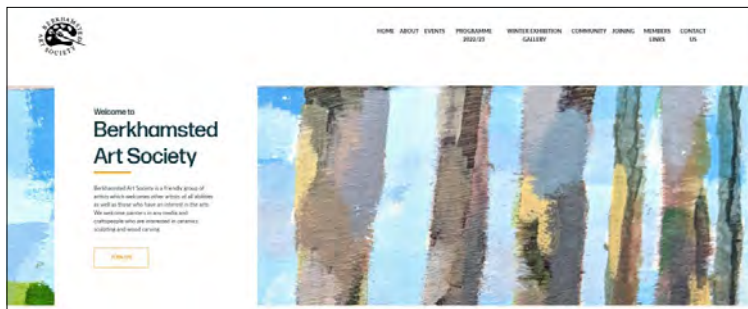
The renamed page will include links to members and non members that provide regular art classes and workshops.

If you would like to be included, or could refer a local workshop or class that you have enjoyed and would like to let other members know about, then email a lead picture, a brief write up on what is on offer and a website link.

It is hoped that this will be available early in the New Year.

Also, the current *Gallery* has been re-listed as the *Winter Exhibition Gallery*. It is populated mainly with pictures that members have sent in from the last exhibition.

I would request that Artists please have a look and check I have spellings and titles



correct and confirm that you are happy to have your picture on display. I can add or replace a picture if you wish.

All the best, Ian Jones

Contact:
berkhamstedartsociety@gmail.com
to respond to the requests above.

Winter Exhibition 2022

Among the first visitors to Berkhamsted Art Society's Winter Exhibition and Sale 2022 were a group of children from Swing Gate School Reception.

Small in stature, but huge in enthusiasm, escorted by teachers and parents, they sat to listen to some of the artists explain and describe their paintings. Questions were asked and answered and opinions freely given.

Small in stature,
but huge in
enthusiasm

They viewed the exhibition, armed with helpful worksheets guiding them through the details and subjects of the art on display and to draw from a favourite work.

Thanks to the artists who created the worksheets and talked about their work. The children really enjoyed their experience of the exhibition and some came back with

their family during the weekend.

During the day other groups from our local primary schools came and this gave the exhibition a lively and welcoming start. Children visiting the exhibition could paint at an art table and much enjoyed this organised activity during the weekend.

These children may be future Berkhamsted Art Society members and will help it to flourish. For now, it showed how vital it is to have art as a part of school life.



Sue Forster



Winter Exhibition 2022

A First-Timer's Perspective

There were a number of firsts for me this year at the Winter Exhibition. I joined BAS in September to extend my knowledge, meet other artists and share creative experiences, and I certainly did all those things during the three days of the exhibition. I should add that I'm a relative newbie — like many people, I took up painting in lockdown and attended painting classes on Zoom. I became hooked.

It was interesting to see the wide variety of subjects, styles and media on show. When I visited, the atmosphere was lively and the sales desk busy, with children's art activities clearly popular with young visitors. I thought

the folders of drawings from recent BAS events were a good idea as they gave a flavour of what I can expect next year.

I met several exhibitors and bumped into old friends who were visiting. Jackie Henderson gave an excellent talk on plein air painting, and brought along her easel, chair and paints to illustrate how she approaches painting out of doors.

Watching the children from Swing Gate and Bridgewater schools enjoy their visits was a real highlight. I caught some of their comments; one little boy said, with great conviction and authority, that there was

Members New & Member News

I have always had a appreciation of all things arty and creative. In retirement I went on to study with Open University for a BA, specialising in art history.

Since then, over the years, I have taken up my art brushes and participated in a number of art classes, mainly acrylic and/or watercolour.

Having recently moved to Hemel Hempstead from St. Albans, and a creative lull of a few years. I would like to get involved with a local art group to get creative again, and meet new people with a keen interest in art.

Berkhamsted Art Society looks like a good place to start and I look forward to being involved with the group.

Rose Papai

definitely a dinosaur in the landscape he was looking at. Well, who knows, maybe there was?!

I'm glad I found the confidence to enter the exhibition. It felt good to see my three little paintings on display; better still when a visitor occasionally stopped to take a closer look. Best of all, I even sold a painting: the icing on the cake!

Penny Clifton



Hello! — I have been painting, drawing and making things for as long as I can remember: model railways and all the scenery, every kind of aeroplane, model murals, landscapes, brochure covers, cartoons and so on.

Currently I am learning how to do portraits and likenesses — several courses with Peter Keegan and every zoom session going during lockdown.

I wander between water colours, acrylic, multimedia and oils. I enjoy using Zorn palette as much as going mad with free splattering and colour pouring.

My heros are Bridget Riley, Sorolla and Zorn, JMW Turner, David Hockney, Peter Keegan, and Peter (the Street) Brown

I look forward to meeting you soon,

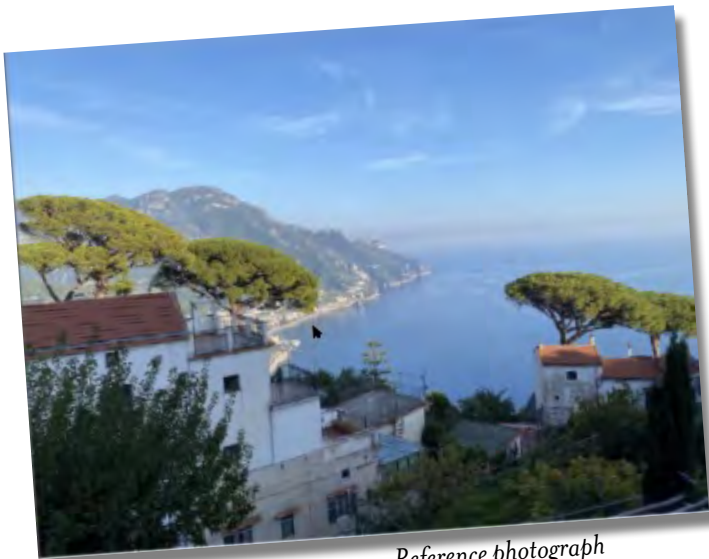
Best Wishes, Richard Clarke

Vicki Norman demo

In Vicki Norman's oil painting demo (via "Zoom"), she emphasised the importance of planning before starting any painting. Vicki had recently been teaching in Amalfi and used a seascape scene she had photographed there to demonstrate her technique. She had made a preliminary 'plein air' oil sketch of the scene and explained how she modified the composition by eliminating some elements so that the viewer is drawn into the painting, explaining that she was aiming to make a painting not document the view or copy a photograph. Vicki had also made a number of monochrome sketches and pencil



drawings on site so that she could easily identify where lights and darks needed to be in her final painting.



Reference photograph

An important part of the planning was identifying colour, Vicki chose to rely on the original oil sketch for this rather than the photograph. Vicki used a very large glass palette and developed the colours using the Munsell system. This colour system classifies each colour according to hue (basic colour), chroma (colour intensity), and value (lightness). She keeps colours of the same



value together on the palette and used the palette as a value scale, with dark to the left and light to the right. The Michael Harding oil colours used were Lead Tin Yellow Light, Cadmium Yellow, Indian Yellow Red Shade, Transparent Yellow Oxide, Cadmium Red Light, Alizarin Crimson, Ultramarine and Indanthrone Blue (a new colour). Vicki used Titanium White, but said it was not usually a good idea to start any mixing from the white, it's best to find the colour then add any white needed. Each colour for the image was built from the last so that the colours harmonised with each other. She advised us not to let the mind confuse the eye, and to do the complete colour-matching journey on the palette, almost starting the painting there.

Vicki started with a dry stained board in Sunshine Ochre. She suggested choosing a ground which will enhance the image if it

shows between colours. Vicki started with a N^o 10 flat brush, saying that she found it best to start with any dark coloured forms, then use the colour you are most confident with — remember to keep the balance of the painting's design, make sure that each element is considered as part of the whole and move round the whole painting, coming back later with a N^o 4 flat to add any detail.

Watching Vicki's great skill with colour matching and then seeing the image develop was mesmerising as she continually adjusted and moved paint around the board.

Vicki's website lists her news, work for sale and short courses.

www.vickinormanstudio.com

Sue Cooke

Mixed Media Workshop

with
Mitzie Green

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

**Saturday 21 January 2023,
from 10 - 4pm**
Gadebridge Community Centre,
Hemel Hempstead, HP1 3LG

***acrylic with collage,
introducing gelli printing
and other techniques***

