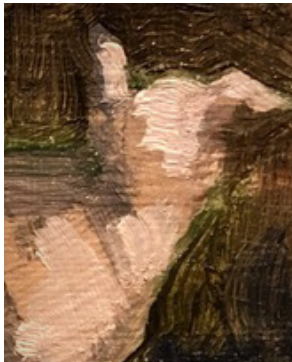


# ArtNews

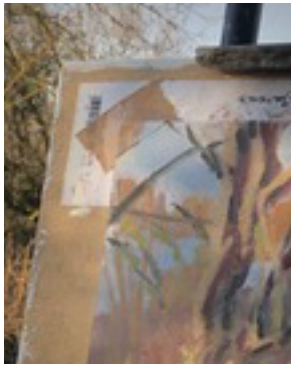
## Berkhamsted Art Society

August 2023 — No. 397

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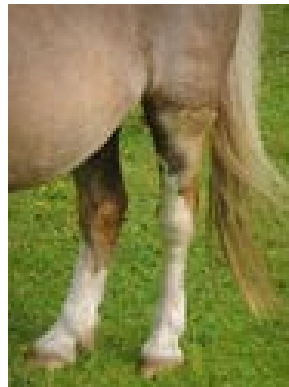


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# Diary - Summer Drawing Evenings 2023

<b>July 31</b>	<b>Broadwater</b> car park by the canal, Berkhamsted. Drawing action at the nearby Bowls Club, if available.
<b>7</b>	Meet at <b>St Peter and St Paul Church, Tring</b> . Main car park on the right, coming from Berko, as you get near the town centre.
<b>Aug 14</b>	' <b>Patchwork</b> ', <b>22, Hall Park Gate, Berkhamsted</b> . 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.
<b>21</b>	<b>Sunnyside Allotments</b> , Ivy House Lane, Berkhamsted. Parking at allotments or on Ivy House Lane.

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



# Spring Exhibition

*A first-timer's view*



This Spring's *Berkhamsted Art Society's Exhibition* was my first experience of being actively involved in an art exhibition and I enjoyed every minute of it.

I spent the final few hours of the exhibition on the till and then helped with its closure. I felt sad that we were dismantling everyone's efforts so soon but there was great comradery, and I would like to thank everyone, particularly Ian and Catherine, who made me feel very much part of the team.

I started by helping with the receipt of all the pictures — this was a real treat as I saw just about every picture submitted and the quality and variety of submissions were inspiring, and it was a privilege to see so many paintings and everyone's efforts first hand.

by Anne Smith

Once they were all received, I tried to help with hanging, but it was clear that other members of the team had the talent for placement. This was confirmed when I visited the next morning to see the exhibition in all its glory. Not only were the pictures looking great individually and collectively but there was also beautiful pottery adorning tables and a fantastic array of cards amongst other things.



Dance With All Your Beauty  
Anne Smith  
Watercolour



Spring Greeting  
Anne Smith  
Watercolour



During the Saturday afternoon, I received a text to say I had sold a painting. It was my first ever and I was euphoric. Seasoned artists told me they would always remember the first picture they sold, and I certainly will.

# Personal Musings

*from a long time member of "the club"*



When I retired some 27 years ago, I was a keen golfer but wanted to balance that with something more creative.

I had played clarinet in a wind band and also spent time, while in the Navy, visiting museums and art galleries around the Mediterranean.

So, what was it to be? Mozart or Monet?

In fact, there was no local band, so I signed up for painting classes with Charlotte Wright in Berkhamsted. She was an

excellent teacher and kept our enthusiasm going during the difficult early days.

Unbeknown to us, she took on a marquee at the Lions Annual Fete and then asked us to fill it with our latest paintings. To my surprise, someone bought one of my pictures.

Although it was probably the charity that generated the sale, it provided sufficient incentive for me to join Berkhamsted Art Society. It was a great decision!

In the early days the demonstrations and figure drawing evenings were particularly useful, but the exhibitions are the real highlights.

The ~~Club~~ Society has had its ups and downs, but I believe it is now as vibrant and exciting as it has ever been!

Over the years, I have learnt that minor exhibitions like those at Berkhamsted are often more enjoyable

than the "block-busters" at the National Gallery or Tate, which are often poorly lit and over crowded (the Mall Gallery is better).

The good number of professional artists at Berkhamsted raises the standard and we amateurs can learn from them. Of course their pictures are not always the most popular and I was delighted to see, a few years ago, that one of my pictures at £75 had more "votes for best picture" than one by a distinguished professional at £1,800!



Maybe this reflects untrained public taste, but also the ridiculous prices people pay for daubs by some famous artists. Even if I were a millionaire, I do not think I could buy a painting that I did not really like!

I think I shall just go on painting my own daubs - it's a great hobby.

by *Peter Leggot*



## Editorial

**B**erkhamsted Art Society gained its 100th Member in June.

If anyone has a suggestion about how a society of artists should be inspired to celebrate... send your answers on a postcard please?

I'm imagining a series of mini mosaics each with exactly 100 tesserae, or a wall of fame in the old police station where an A5 portrait is placed of all 100 members... like mugshots: "art's most wanted".

The milestone member is Sheila Robertson, and that's all I know.

*Brian O'Carroll is a photographer living in Aston Clinton*



# Summer Drawing Evenings

*June 19: Sketching on canal towpath between The Boat pub and the Rising Sun pub, Berkhamsted.*

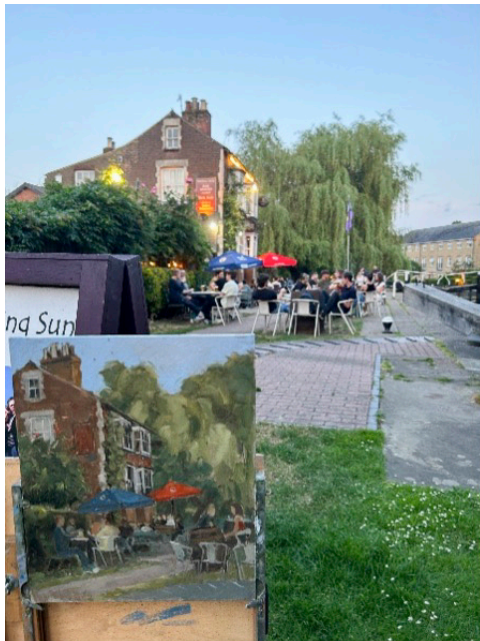
What a perfect evening for sketching on the canal. We split into 2 groups, Andy Lee, Lynda Monk and Jackie Hodgson chose the Rising Sun end, but David, Katie Jones, Angela and I decided on views from the other side of the bridge from The Boat.

*David Satchel*



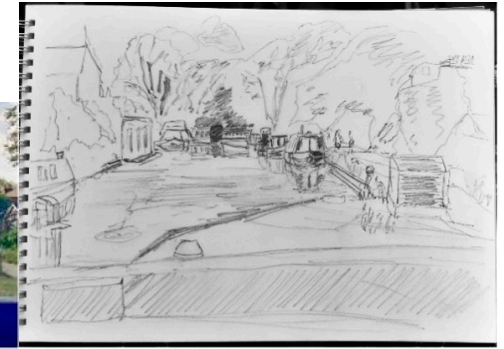
Jackie's watercolour of the Riser lock. Very enjoyable evening relaxing to the sounds and sites of summer.

*Peter Hodgson*



Thanks David and BAS, another nice sketching evening, this was a bit ambitious for the time available so it's a work in progress. About two and a half hours then the light had gone, and they turned their lights on which changed it too much to carry on with.

*Andy Lee*



It was a very dramatic and short time to work. A great thick cloud was covering the sun. I started to do that then the sun came out and almost blinded myself and the other artist in the picture. There you go. That's the real fun of landscape sketching.

*David Satchel*



The temperature and light were perfect. I struggled with a more complicated composition than I normally attempt and stuck with pencil rather than ink or watercolour. I started the view 4 times!

Halfway through the time, the boat on the left, left its mooring, manoeuvred 180 degrees and set off towards Canal Fields. I couldn't get the tone or colour in the available time, but may work from a photo at some point. David drew me and the lock gate I was sitting behind! Angela chose the lock keeper's Cottage and Katie has posted hers separately.

*Tracy Dudley*

# The Old Normal

## RA Summer Show

Our first visit to an Exhibition since Covid, it felt like visiting an old friend. All the same names Tracy Emin, Barbara Rae (I am a big fan), Norman Ackroyd and Yinka Shonibare and of course the 'amateurs'. Ian and I started with a visit to the Keepers Lodge, you cannot appreciate Art without coffee and a cake.

The first thing which I noticed about the hang was how bright the rooms were, no dramatically coloured walls just neutrals as a background for the Artworks, I soon discovered however that wearing reading glasses on top of my head was not a good idea as so much Art was hung too high and to see it you had to tip your head right back. It did become quite frustrating as a lot of the very high paintings were the small ones and therefore difficult to

appreciate the techniques used. On a positive, the way the colours of the paintings were grouped and then merged was lovely as you moved through the colours of the rainbow.

As usual the 'amateur' paintings were a real mix of themes and techniques and some humour. Animals as ever were very popular and sold well. When it came to the Royal Academicians work there were quite a

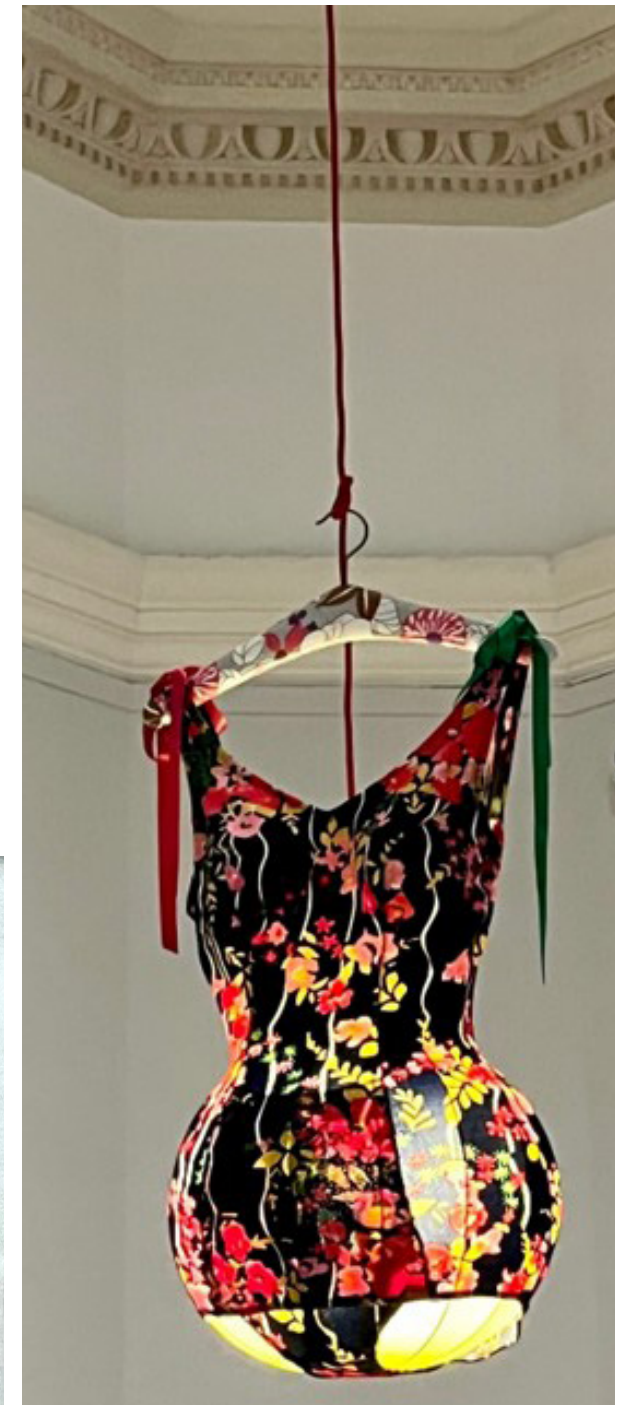
few gasps and HOW Much ????? from Ian. Without being too controversial I felt a few RA's had rummaged through the bottom of their cupboard, stuck on a high price and hoped for the best. The comedian Joe Lycett in the style of Hockney painted himself in a pool watched by Gary Linekar. Price £1,354,999. We think it was his mobile number and we think it was a joke!!

Over all we really enjoyed being back. We spent over 3 hours wandering around and then as anyone who really appreciates Art knows, you have to go for a posh lunch afterwards!

*Catherine*



Unlucky Strike by Elsa Marsh — I do like Humour in Art



Recycling at its best

# RA Summer Exhibition

## *A personal experience*

Just as summer bird-song, bright sunshine, long daylight hours, pick-your-own strawberries, and of course tennis at Wimbledon are synonymous with summer-time; for me, so too is a trip to the Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition of art, a cultural highlight of the year.

This year's trip to London was on a less than sunny summer's day, with temps only reaching 18 degs. Nonetheless, on entering the beautifully-lit, high-ceilinged, yellow and golden décor of the Wohl Central Hall, all was sunshine and light inside. Stepping into the first gallery for the first time each year never ceases to take my breath away; the joy of seeing so much art displayed in one place by so many different artists, and in a variety of media throughout, is heart-warming and inspiring. The smell of painting oils still permeates the air as a few hours of walking through the eight galleries begins.

There are always big names displaying their works, as well as the many Academicians past and present, but that the exhibition is open to everyone from all walks of life and free to enter with any subject of their choosing is encouraging to all budding artists,

architects and sculptors alike. The opportunity for artists to have a go at entering pieces of work from year to year, and if they pass the selection process, a chance to see their work hung and displayed in the gallery for all to see – is an opportunity not to be missed.

Although, at the end of the judging process a theme does emerge depending on the curating Academician for that year, although it is not always clear to see a connection in the works to the theme. However, this year I found the theme — Only Connect — was quite obvious throughout. With this topic in mind it was enjoyable to go around the various galleries to try to spot the subject connections in many of the pieces. And as with all art, the longer you stop and stare, the more you see and connections are made.

On leaving the RA and stepping outside, this summer's treat over for another year, the sun still had not shown its face but I had sunshine in my heart from an afternoon of immersion in some weird and mostly wonderful works of art at the RA Summer Exhibition.

by *Rose Papai*

# Clay Build

In April we applied for a grant to support the St Peters Church Clay build in September and to up grade the kids offering at the Winter Exhibition in November. Last week we received confirmation that the Grant had been approved and we have been awarded the £250 applied for.



# Heritage Open Days

## Free Berkhamsted Tours

Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society (of which I am chairman) run a series of FREE local history events over 10 days in September, amongst tours of the Castle, Boys School, Ashlyns school (Foundling Hospital), Berkhamsted Place, Henry Rew (Architect), Canals, Baptists in Northchurch, Graham Greene's Common, Church Clay build, Crusaders, murderers and Ghosts to name a few.

I am leading an art tour of Berkhamsted on two days Monday 11th and Friday 15th Sept 2023 1pm.

We walk around Berkhamsted as I show you where past famous local artists lived with examples of their work and a potted biography

We include: Reg Butler, Brigid Marlin, Eric Gill, Brian Bennett, Harry Sheldon amongst many others.



Book your free place via Eventbrite which opens for bookings 4th August.

*Mary Cassatt*



Link to search for events:  
[www.eventbrite.co.uk/d/  
united-kingdom--berkhamsted/  
heritage-open-days](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/d/united-kingdom--berkhamsted/heritage-open-days)





# En Plein Air and Glasto

Oil paint has the ability to provide me with a flexible, luscious and colourful vehicle which I apply to canvas.

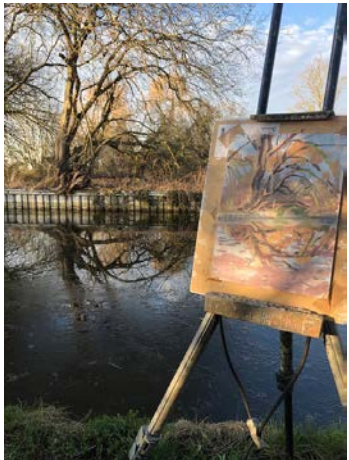


It's viscosity and smell touch my senses.

My days are spent planning outings near my home in Wilstone to paint "En Plein Air" through all the seasons, collecting

memories that are unique to only me while immersed in Nature.

As a full member of the Society of Equestrian Artists I used to take groups of artists to outdoor events, Polo matches, Cavalry events, race meetings



etc, and where there was a horse there were people.....many colourful subjects amongst the paraphernalia involving horses. I loved the confusion of activity and making sense of a vision in paint.

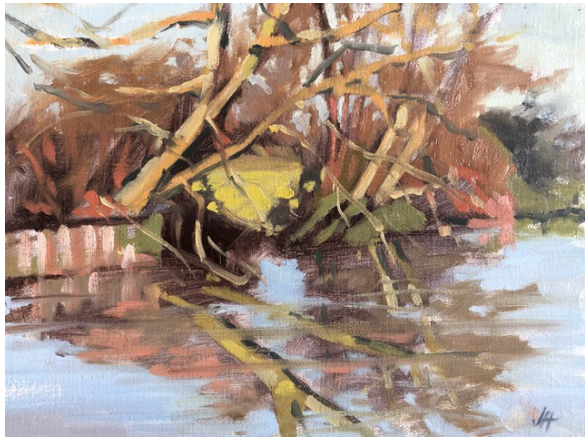


Bath and, recently, the Queen's funeral followed by the King's coronation. This year all his festival works have been sold out sold at commanding prices, because people want a slice of

the fresh excitement his hand and vision make. Other artists painting there are full or associate members of the ROI, the Royal institute of Oil Painters, for whom our departed and beloved Brian Bennett was president.



In those days I did not go to Glastonbury, but these days I follow (with much admiration) several great artists making the most of a hot summer's brilliant musical entertainment, while painting through the day and night at Worthy Farm's world famous festival. Check out "Pete the Street" Peter Brown famous also for his paintings of



So, fame or no fame I continue to get out there to find my own slice of fresh excitement in the ever changing nature of the land. Find me in a paint-out at Rectory Lane Cemetery on 10th September during Berkhamsted's Heritage Weekend.



*Jackie Henderson*

# A Day Trip Out

## *A Treasure Trove of Old Masters are housed at Kenwood*

Kenwood is the neo classical building built to Robert Adams's design in 1764 to house the renowned Old Master Collection of Lord Iveagh, and through his philanthropy left for the nation in the Iveagh Bequest in 1927.

The collection reflects new ideas about innocence, mortality and family as seen through the art of the Georgian Age.

The collection includes paintings by Constable, Gainsborough, Reynolds, Rembrandt and Turner,

It houses one of the painting by Vermeer, *The Guitar Player*, (one of only 136 paintings by him), a wonderful Rembrandt self-portrait, and a Turner seascape, to name just a few of my favourites.



by *Sally Bassett*

More information on the English Heritage Website at:  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/kenwood](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/kenwood)

# Bucks Art Week

## *What happened? What's next?*

Visiting local art events can be really inspiring. This is the first time that I haven't taken part in *Bucks Art Weeks* for 20 years and therefore I had time to visit a number of venues. And what a treat I had in store!

*Bucks Art Weeks* and *Herts Open Studio* are much the same thing. Local artists open their studio/garden shed/gazebo to the public and sell their work or get feedback on their art. I got much inspiration from visiting fellow artists and my head was full of ideas. One person had done fabulous abstract work and



it made me rethink my approach. Another introduced me to oil painting with cold wax and I immediately ordered the materials and then had a good play with varying results. One Open Studio took place in a huge barn and was shared with 12 others. The variety of ideas and talent was amazing and I could ask the artists where their inspiration had come from or how they had executed their work. There was glass work, jewellery, pottery, felt, paintings and other unusual things. And I did buy a few things!

In September it will be *Herts Open Studio* again. If you haven't ever visited, you will be in for a surprise. It might even spurn you on to take part

yourself.

by *Mitzie Green*

All 2023 Venues: [www.bucksartweeks.org.uk/open-studios/venues](http://www.bucksartweeks.org.uk/open-studios/venues)

Direct links to the websites of some BAS members' who participated

Sallie Miller #65 — [tringtrio.co.uk](http://tringtrio.co.uk)

Sally Bassett #68 — [www.sallybassett.co.uk](http://www.sallybassett.co.uk)

Kate Wynne-Eyton #124 — [www.katewynneeyton.art](http://www.katewynneeyton.art)

Jackie Henderson #266 — [www.instagram.com/paint\\_jackieh52](https://www.instagram.com/paint_jackieh52)