



Newsletter and Words of Art

April 2024

No.18

Dear members,

LAS AND OXFORD OPEN STUDIOS 2024

Some years ago Lechlade Art Society had an Open Weekend as we joined Swindon's Open Studios week-long activity. As we all know LAS is based in Gloucestershire but Gloucester Open Studios is always held around the Stroud area. Swindon agreed to take us "under their wing" although they are Wiltshire based. Our weekend proved a successful venture with a reasonable footfall, sales of pictures and cards, and a profit from the cake and teas.

I thought LAS should try again and I had a conversation with Lord Faringdon, our patron. Buscot Park is in Oxfordshire so joining Oxford Open Studios for their open studios session is an ideal opportunity for LAS to be involved. He readily agreed that we could have a week-long Open Studios sale and working session at Buscot Park so ten of us will be showing work and demonstrating from the 4th-12th May. Our venue will be next to the main house opposite the theatre, and we will be open 2pm-6pm every day.

Please come along and see us. Park in the main car park and follow the signs to the venue. Please note parking is free as is the venue but if you want to wander the grounds or visit the house then please pay at the car park as this is all National Trust property with admission charges.

This is a link to the Art Weeks' festival guide:

<https://www.flipsnack.com/oxfordshireartweeks/oxfordshire-artweeks-festival-guide-2024/full-view.htm>

Brian Britton

Our second Pop Up Art Sale

Last year we tried a Pop Up Sale and, despite this being two days before Christmas, it was quite successful. Our second Pop Up Sale was on Easter Saturday and all involved agreed that once again it was a success.

Seventeen of us set up the Pavilion and were ready to receive our first visitors at 10 am. A steady stream kept the place buzzing and compliments came thick and fast. Several sales were made and cards proved very popular once more. Everyone kept saying that we have a high standard and lots of talent. I think they enjoyed the event as an exhibition. Hopefully they will come back for more for our real exhibition in August.



Easter Saturday at the Lechlade Pavilion

In House Workshop Day

An enthusiastic band of members hired the pavilion for the first ever in house workshop day. This was a workshop style day without a 'tutor' where we used the space to practice observational skills. Three still life groups were set and we all tried to be adventurous in our approach. Whilst the final results may not have been stunning the consensus was that it was a truly successful day and we all want more. You might consider joining the next one perhaps?



A 'pin drop' moment



Comments on the day:

"Working in a familiar venue with friends made it a relaxed experience. Bring on the next one." Bob

"This wonderful well-organised workshop was a complete chill-out, creative, fun day." Barbara

"A friendly and relaxed atmosphere with absolutely no pressure to produce a masterpiece." Jenny

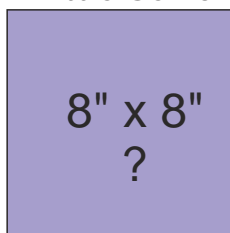
"It was fun to do this informal workshop with friends." Ipek

"What a wonderful morning..we all had the time to learn, talk and observe others too." Michelle

"An inspiring day more please and a big thank you." Beryl.

"It was an excellent way to explore with mediums and subject matters I do not normally use - without any pressure regarding the end result. A 'play day' I guess." Rosemary

Little Gems



Roger Jones says 'Get inspired now.'

Come along on a Thursday morning and collect some paper or board. Create a 'Little Gem' to be sold at the exhibition.

All proceeds will go to Prospect House Hospice.

He has paper 8" squares for water colours and panels for oils and acrylics for the Little Gem charity project. (Home Bargains do sell some lovely 8" x 8" stretched canvases in packs of 4 for less than £5.) Roger says 'It's early but doesn't time fly.'

THURSDAY GROUP PLEASE NOTE

There will be NO meeting in the Pavilion for the Thursday Group on 2nd May as it has been booked for the local elections

Workshops

Polly Woolstone's workshop "Make your Own Concertina Sketchbook" took place at the Pavilion on Saturday 17th February, with 13 members of the Lechlade Art Society.



Polly and participants

The brief was to create marks and impressions and to apply materials into the many facets of your concertina paper with no intention of forming a painting. These sketchbook results are for drawing over to create a different piece of artwork.

After a tiring and satisfying day of work, all concertina sketchbooks were completed with confidence and thought. It was an excellent workshop once again. For more information and fabulous photographs go to the LAS web site.



Sketch books in the making



Demonstrations

Gill Cox

Still Life to Abstraction in Oils. This was a change from the previously advertised programme - Bill Mather "Portraiture".



Gill explains her work

This demonstration was very well attended for such a wet day with an audience of 38 members and guests. Gill started by priming the canvas with a watery brown acrylic solution applied generously with a sponge. Before this had fully dried, Gill lifted some paint in areas which were going to be lighter and applied more paint in areas which would be darker.

While waiting for the primer to completely dry, Gill demonstrated how to stretch a canvas over a wooden frame using clamp bars and a ratchet stretching device. Continuing the demonstration, Gill roughed out the image with a chalk pen.

When is a picture finished? Gill says "Underwork is better than overwork - don't be tempted to just keep going".

Gill's oil paintings are bold and colourful, incorporating aspects of abstraction. Her painting method is strong, impressionistic and lively. It is observational from life.

See the LAS web site for a more detailed report.



Gill's still life composition

Demonstrations continued

Chinese Painting - Maggie Cross

Maggie Cross gave a very skillful demonstration of her work. She is very knowledgeable having lived in Hong Kong in the New Territories district. She learnt to speak the Cantonese dialect and to write Chinese characters which she later developed into painting. She regularly returns to China to update her knowledge and stock up on materials. She gives talks and demonstrations to groups and also exhibits her work.

Her web site says:

Chinese Painting is an ancient and fascinating art. It has developed from the calligraphy which is an art form in its own right. The technique is to hold the brush in a particular way and using different pressures create strokes which become flowers, birds, animals and landscapes. Traditional Chinese painting has a simplicity which appeals to many people. Symbolism plays a large part in the art. Beware - it can be highly addictive.



Maggie with her magnolia demonstration



Some of Maggie's materials

Next Meeting Tuesday 9th April 2024, 2.00 - 4.00pm - Wildlife with Colour Pencils - Rachel Anders

Please note, our calendar of demonstrations is now complete up until the AGM on 10th September

May 14th - Water colour painting - Tom Kane, artist, composer and musician

June 11th – Oil Painting - Abigail Waddell

July 9th – “Mono-printmaking, the most painterly form of printing” and other printing processes - Brian Britton

August – No demonstration, Annual Art Exhibition (24 - 27 August)

And finally on a very sad note it is with deep regret that I report that two of our members have recently died. Yvonne Ayoub and Joan Tyrell joined LAS not long ago and were just getting involved in our activities. Our sympathies go to family and friends. Cards of condolence from us all have been sent to the families.

Kind regards

Brian Britton

