



The Townsend Times Spring Issue

February 2015 Newsletter

Affiliated to the Cheltenham Arts Council.

www.cheltenhamartclub.co.uk

NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN. THE AGM

The Club's 2015 Annual General Meeting will be held at 2.30 pm on Saturday 28 March, in the Studio. An important part of the AGM's business is the election of members to run the Club for the following year. It may be helpful if I remind you how this works.

As you know, the Cheltenham Art Club is actually a limited company - the Cheltenham Art Society Ltd. The Directors of the company are the Chairman, Hon Sec, Treasurer and not more than 4 other members of the Society. We must have a minimum of four Directors.

There are normally no more than two Board meetings a year to deal with formalities like the approval of the annual accounts. In practice, the Club is run by a management committee comprising four Officers of the Society, the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon Sec and Treasurer, who are assisted by a variable number of other members. Committee meetings normally take place every two months.

The company's rules require the current Officers and Directors to retire at the AGM although they may stand for re-election if they so wish. It is only fair to tell you at this point that I shall not be standing for re-election. Mary Warner will also be leaving the Committee. We will shortly be posting nomination forms in the Studio. You can nominate (or second) any Club member for election by the AGM; please make sure before you do that the nominee is willing to serve, if elected !

WINTER MARKET 2015

Saturday, 14th March, 10.00 - 12.00

The annual sale of art materials will be held in the studio, all proceeds for club funds. In preparation, can you please gather together any art-related materials you no longer require or have never used and leave in the Annexe or back of the studio from week beginning 23rd February. Bags or items must be clearly marked "Winter Market".

Tickets will be on sale through Group Leaders nearer the date - 50p entry, which will include a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit, so bring your ticket with you.

Otherwise, 60p on the day.

Any queries please contact: Heather Woodward, 01242 862633

Email: heather.woodward@tiscali.co.uk

Published by THE CHELTENHAM ART SOCIETY LTD

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PAINTING IN PAXOS 15-22 Sep 2014

En Plein Air is my weakest subject and, encouraged by my wife, joined John Bailey, a well known Cotswold artist, on a 7-day painting course in Paxos (a Greek island south of Corfu) in September 2014. John Bailey had been to Paxos before and knew the area well. For practice, I attended several En Plein Air sessions with the Club during 2014 organised by Jane Few. Derek Harrison fancied a trip to Paxos as well but thought other commitments would get in the way.

The group consisted of John Bailey, his partner, myself and three others on a special group deal staying in the same hotel and including transfers but self-catering. Derek, who had put his other commitments to one side, decided to join us at the last minute but missed out on the special deal so had to arrange his own flight, transfers and accommodation. He did manage to be on the same flight as us but had to arrange separate accommodation as our hotel was fully booked.

We met at Birmingham airport very early on a Monday morning for the flight to Corfu. At Corfu airport we boarded the coach for a hot, tortuous journey to the port - Derek had to find a taxi. We were due to take the hydrofoil to Paxos and on arrival at the port we found Derek already there sitting comfortably on the hydrofoil's deck with a cool drink. However, high winds in the Ionian Sea meant we had to take the slower ferry to Gaios, the island's capital. After a rough crossing we finally arrived in Gaios where again we boarded the coach while Derek had to find a taxi. After a long, hot and scary ride across country we finally arrived at our hotel in Lakka, a small fishing port, at the northern tip of Paxos. On entering Reception who should be sitting there but Mr Cool, with a drink, and the cheery greeting "Where have you been?" Our hotel was on the edge of town, whilst Derek had secured a swish balcony apartment overlooking the town square, a few minutes walk away from us. The hotel was much as I had feared with rock-hard beds and mosquitoes. Apparently, Derek's apartment had a soft bed and was mosquito free – huh! We assembled for an early evening meal and early bed as most of the group had now been travelling for some 20 hours.

Tuesday was a beautiful sunny day and after the mandatory hotel rep's morning briefing the group had lunch and later met up at our first location which was a small pebble beach with a view of Lakka across the bay. It was difficult to choose what to paint such was the vista, so I chose something simple, an olive tree set against a white wall of a taverna. Unfortunately, some way into the painting a group of tourists arrived and camped under the tree completely blocking my view. John Bailey was busy giving instruction to each member of the group but all were bothered by the tourist factor – this was a popular little beach. I think it fair to say we did not achieve much that afternoon. That night we dined at the Alexandros Restaurant in town and John Bailey announced that this would be our next location on Wednesday.



Figure 1.

Wednesday was another sunny day and by 10 o'clock we had positioned ourselves in the narrow street by the restaurant. I used pen and wash for the first time and my sketch is at Figure 1. Derek (being a yachtsman) had noticed that a tall ship had entered Lakka Bay and it was the Rhea. This ship has attended the Tall Ships events in Gloucester docks so after lunch we returned to the beach visited yesterday with the intention of painting the Rhea. Derek produced an excellent pen and wash sketch. It could be titled The Rear of the Rhea! Another fine day on Thursday saw us at a quiet beach on the other side of the bay sketching rocks, beach and clear blue water. We had the afternoon as free time and I sat myself down at an old Greek church overlooking the bay and the yachts and fishing boats moored there. The drawing covered two A4 sheets of my sketch book and is something I could turn into a water colour in the future.

John Bailey had organised a trip to another fishing village, Logos, for Friday. This required the group to take a local Greek bus, early in the morning, for about a 1 hour journey. It was a 'white knuckle' ride as the roads were narrow with many hair-pin bends, not to mention other traffic. On arrival at Logos the first action was to have a strong black coffee and then to find a good spot to sit. The day was sunny with a fresh cool breeze. I

re-positioned an old bench on the harbour-side so that I had a view of the village opposite with a background of trees and hills. Derek sat a few yards to my right. I didn't do too well but Derek really captured the scene with his colour wash. After a couple of hours the cool breeze had developed into a freezing cold wind and my back was beginning to stiffen so I moved to a sheltered location and did another quick sketch of the buildings and harbour-side working with a water soluble 8B pencil and water brush. The return bus journey was equally scary to the outward journey but we arrived back safely to Lakka.

John Bailey had earlier arranged an evening meal at a cliff-top restaurant in order to paint a sunset scene before our meal. We assembled at the hotel entrance to board a mini-bus and if we thought the bus ride was scary it had nothing on the mini-bus ride which was done at night with no street lights. As we rose higher the roads narrowed even more until at one point the wing mirrors of the mini-bus only just passed between the buildings. The restaurant was huge with a hundred plus customers - we had been expecting a small taverna. Anyway, the spot remembered by John Bailey to observe and paint the sunset had been screened-off to extend the restaurant and allow for more tables. We were stumped but found another point from which we had a limited view of the sunset and in the event only four of the group decided to 'have a go'. The sunset lasted just a few minutes from this viewpoint so my picture was finished later in the hotel, right.



Saturday saw us once again early in the morning on the local Greek bus to the capital, Gaios. Another 'white knuckle' ride over the mountains with wonderful scenery – if you could bear to look out of the window. The bus station was on the edge of town so we had an interesting walk through the alleyways to our painting location which was a back street off the port's main road. Once again I tried pen and colour wash and produced the scene, left,

Sunday was a free day and I used it to return to the small beach we visited on Tuesday. There was an excellent view of Lakka across the bay and I tried a blue monochrome watercolour of the scene. It didn't turn out well and again I was plagued by tourists and mosquitoes alike. After lunch it was time to pack my bags as there was an early start on Monday to return to the UK.

At crack of dawn on Monday, I boarded the mini-bus for Gaios (Derek a taxi) and the ferry to Corfu from where we caught our flight back to Birmingham. The remainder of the group stayed another week to enjoy the Island. It was a good trip and, with no domestic distractions, allowed for a concentrated effort in painting under the guidance of John Bailey. Derek took the course in his stride but I found painting En Plein Air to be difficult. However, it is an important part of a painter's trade and something I must try to master.

James Bailey.



Painting group



Logos



The Rhea

Demonstration

John Bailey Watercolour Demonstration, 6 Dec 2014

John Bailey loves watercolour for its fluidity, transparency and unpredictability. He likes to build up washes, using pure colours for transparency and then glazes. He begins with a tonal sketch in charcoal which helps to sort out composition and contrast problems and then works from the sketch, only looking back to the actual scene for information about colour.



Using charcoal, John sketched a barn in snow, using the rule of thirds to help position the eye line and focal point (the barn). Tree trunks were lifted out with a putty rubber, small marks indicated the wall and barn, and long shadows cast by the trees gave an idea of the lie of the land. When finished, he fixed the sketch with hairspray.

Working on khadi paper, using a rigger and dilute paint, he positioned the main features on the paper. Then working wet in wet, he laid down loose washes, allowing the colours to mix on the paper. Using a flat brush he lifted out dark paint to reveal tree trunks just as he had done with the putty rubber in the sketch. He mixed a shadow colour in the palette and used it for foreground shadows. While ensuring that the light was preserved, he built up the scene using the chisel edge of a flat brush for the barn roof and fence posts, a rigger to add tree branches and a large brush elsewhere. Warmer colour was placed in the foreground and grasses were the final addition.



At the end of a most enjoyable and instructive demonstration a bright, loose painting of a barn in the snow emerged.

Kathy Webb

A visit to Bath including a visit to Victoria Art Gallery

Thursday 19th March 2015

The visit will include a guided tour of the Victoria Art Gallery followed by free time to visit places of interest in the city of Bath. The Victoria Art Gallery has a collection which ranges from the 15th Century to the present day including works by Thomas Gainsborough and Walter Sickert. Canaletto's work "Regatta on the Grand Canal" is currently on display.

The Holburne Art Museum is close by and offers free admission. Here you will be able to see a temporary exhibition "Gwen John to Lucian Freud". There is a £5.50 concession for this.

The Swanbrooks coach will leave Six Ways bus stop at 9.15am and call at Royal Well at 9.30am. We will leave Bath for our return journey at 4pm. Arrival in Cheltenham will be approximately 6pm.

The cost for the trip will be £15.

Contact Mick Walsh Tel: 01452553643 or

Closing date: 11th March 2015

email: mnwalsh@hotmail.com



PAINTING COMPETITION

2:30pm Sat 28 March (at AGM)

Prizes in 4 categories:

1. **Watercolour**
2. **Acrylics/Oil/Other**
3. **Portrait and Life**
4. **Beginners (painting less than 3 years)**

One entry per category per member. Winners decided by vote of those present at the AGM.

Prizes: £20 Strand Arts Vouchers (*Our thanks to Strand Arts for sponsoring this event*)

Doors open at 2pm for early browsing.

How to enter

Just sign up next to the competition poster in the studio. Or, email patricia@patriciaemery.wanadoo.co.uk saying which category you wish to enter.

Submissions

Paintings will be allocated a number for voting purposes. Please stick a label on the **back** of the painting giving name, title and category entered. All paintings should be mounted and ready to hang.

Drop-off and collection

Information will be provided nearer the time.

Spring Exhibition in the Gardens Gallery 15th to 21st April.

It's that time of year again when members are busy preparing their best works for exhibiting at the Club's Spring exhibition at the Gardens Gallery.

This exhibition doesn't just happen. People are needed to prepare and distribute entry forms, to hang the pictures, to attend the gallery as stewards and to clear up when the exhibition is over.

Volunteers are urgently required for all of the above tasks so if you feel you can help please send details of which of the tasks you are willing to assist with and what days you are available to help, to John Boxall, either via e-mail at jay.dor@blueyonder.co.uk or telephone 01242692348. Please let John know as soon as possible so that we can get on with the planning of this event.

Remember, this is a public showcase for the club so we need to make it look as professional as possible. Many hands make light work so the more volunteers we have the less each of them will have to do.

The editor.

En Plein Air Venues 2015

- Thursday 7th May :- c/o Mrs Iona Birchall, Cotswold Farm, Duntisbourne Abbots. GL7 7JS
- Wednesday 3rd June :- c/o Mrs Shirley Sills, Sandywell Barn House, Nr. Whittington. GL54 4HF
- 1st or 2nd week of July :- Cotswold Lavender, Hill Barn Farm, Snowhill, Broadway. WR12 7JY
NB: Exact date will be finalised in June, so that we can catch the lavender in flower
- Wednesday 5th August :- c/o Dr Frances Wilson-Copp, Tynings Farm, Shurdington. GL51 4XF
- Thursday 3rd September :- Highnam Court Gardens, Highnam, Gloucester. GL2 8DP

Please let me know if you are coming, and for directions:
01242 245887 or 07711 369 423 or email jane.few@gmail.com

Jane Few



Duntisbourne Abbots



Sandywell



Lavender field

Wednesday Afternoon Group with **ART SHAPE**

Art Shape runs a countywide programme of arts courses and projects with a specific focus on disability issues and social inclusion. They target their activities at providing opportunities for adults and children facing disabling barriers, particularly learning disabilities, physical disabilities, mental health service users and survivors, victims of domestic abuse and older people.



Arts Council England funded Art Shape to develop and offer 'Art Bridge', a tailored, supported, professional, high-level programme of artistic and professional training and mentoring, delivered over 2 calendar years. Fifteen participants were recruited onto the full programme in 2012 which finished in December 2014. The artists have received tutoring, mentoring and access to supported studio time. They are currently touring their work through a series of exhibitions around the county, including the Wilson Gallery.

Seven of these artists have now joined Cheltenham Art Club and have formed their own Painting Group, meeting in the Townsend Street Studio on Wednesday afternoons. The Group Leader is Becky Hands. (From February 11th. If you have a Wednesday afternoon free why not drop in and meet the artists and join them for an afternoon's painting. I'm sure they will welcome the company. Editor)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION Keep this page handy

Cheltenham Art Club 2015 Programme

Spring Session

Monday 23rd February	Studio Display - Monday Afternoon group
Saturday 28 February	Workshop - Ruth Campbell
Saturday 7th March	Demo - Roger Jones - Seascape in oils
Monday 9th March	Studio Display - Monday Evening group
Saturday 14 March	Winter Market
Thursday 19th March	Trip to Bath
Saturday 28th March	AGM
Tuesday 24th March	Studio Display - Tuesday Morning group
Wednesday 8th April	Studio Display - Wednesday Morning group
Saturday 11th April	Demo - Christine Russell - Pastel still-life
Wednesday 15 April	Exhibition - Gardens Gallery (ends 21 April)
Friday 17th April	Spring Session ends
Saturday 25th April	Workshop - Robin Gray - Caran D'Ache

Note: The 15 week painting sessions include bank holidays for the Monday and Friday groups. Those Groups may make their own decisions about session length and set fees accordingly.

Summer Session

Monday 4th May	Summer Session begins (15 weeks)
6th or 7th May	En Plein Air
3rd or 4th June	En Plein Air
TBA July	Art in Action
1st or 2nd July	En Plein Air
5th or 6th August	En Plein Air
Friday 14th August	Summer Session ends
August date tbd	Summer Lunch Party
August date tbd	Studio clean followed by pub lunch
2nd/3rd September	En Plein Air
Saturday 5th September	Demo - Rupert Aker - Light and atmosphere in the Cotswolds

Autumn Session

Monday 7th September	Autumn Session starts (15 weeks)
Saturday 3rd October	Demo - Darlas Hunter - watercolours
Wednesday 21 October	Exhibition - Gardens Gallery (ends 27 October)
Saturday 31 October	Workshop - Charles Evans
Saturday 7th November	Demo - Jenny Westbrook – abstract
Saturday 12th December	Christmas bring and share party (tbc)
Friday 18th December	Autumn Session ends