

Lichfield Society of Artists Newsflash December 2023

Chair's Christmas Message

Christmas Greetings

On this very cold morning, I've just been looking back over the past few years and what has been accomplished by our Society and its members. Lockdowns are now a thing of the past and although things will never be quite the same, we have a lot to be grateful for.

We have enjoyed some very successful exhibitions recently with so many members taking part, record sales and an impressive footfall. There is no doubt that the quality of work is outstanding and covers more art forms than ever before. It was wonderful to see glasswork, enamel work, ceramics, painting, drawing, textiles, stone carving, digital art and sculpture.

Next year will be our 80th Anniversary. That is amazing in itself and The Committee has already started planning events to celebrate that achievement. There will be exhibitions including a special Anniversary Exhibition in October 2024.

We also plan to make a more impactful presence at the Fuse Festival next year where we can share our skills and enthusiasm with a very wide audience. There are many people out there, young and old, who are probably thinking they'd like to 'have a go' at what we do but don't have the confidence, don't know where to go or how to start. Who knows, we may inspire some to come and join us. Sharing is uplifting and your work may well be inspiring to others.

In order to help with this venture a bid was made to The Community Foundation and was successful. £500 is being granted to us to help us on our way. Now the real planning part starts, and we will be needing the support of our membership to ensure the workshop sessions run smoothly. Look out for news of what is happening and how you can help.

The Committee has all sorts of ideas and plans for events next year and if any of you have something you would like to see take place, then please get in touch. We are definitely open to your thoughts.

A few years ago, I posted a Christmas message, and I thought it would be fitting now too. The sending of Christmas Cards started in 1843 apparently. Henry Cole, a prominent civil servant, inventor and educator and first director of the V&A, found Christmas an especially busy time so asked an artist friend, John Callcott Horsley RA to illustrate his time saving idea. The Christmas Card was born.



Since then, the simple idea has become a tradition that encompasses many forms apart from the traditional Christmas Card.

So, this is my version on behalf of the Committee to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Wednesday 13th December 2023

Christmas Quiz and Social Evening

7.30 pm @ Lichfield Social Club, Netherstowe, WS14 6TS.

We're having a party!

To celebrate the end of 2023, and to welcome in 2024 with all its promise of artistic opportunities, we will let our hair down in style! Your committee is putting on a celebratory buffet with a Christmas tippie (or two).

Valmai Bowden will be entertaining us with an "Arty" quiz, and we are asking you to bring in your own Christmas card design for a competition. In print form or original work.

Friends are welcome, a small charge applies.

Check out Facebook for more updates from Jan, and a Happy Christmas.

Christmas Art Exhibition, The Hub at St Mary's. 2nd Dec until Christmas.

Seven of our members are displaying their work in a special Art exhibition in the Hub over the Christmas period. It's a chance to show the breadth of their artwork and gives them the space to show wider examples. Therefore it is entitled, "As wide as our imagination."

Artists involved.

Barbara Weaving. Paintings, embroidery, Mosaics, Creative writing and illustration work.

Jenny Speck. Modern illustrative art.

Pauline Astle. Landscape and floral paintings in oil.

Ray Blundell. Atmospheric watercolours in Ray's inimitable style.

Sue Crudgington. Ceramics and pottery. A larger collection of Sue's lovely work.

Elaine Hendon. Gentle nostalgic watercolours with a "sea-side" theme.

Janet Turner. A collection of painterly art in her own imaginative style.

Pop in for a coffee and a browse.

The International Watercolour exhibition.

Lilleshall Hall May 15th to 24th , 2024. 10am- 4pm.

We'd like to arrange a coach trip. The Italianate gardens should be lovely, with three international watercolour demos a day, lovely food in a beautiful setting. Check out Lilleshall Hall on their website.

Contact Tony to express your interest. Tbarabcewicz55@hotmail.com

We expect that this will be booked up soon, so don't delay!

November 8th Carole Baker Demo and Awards Evening

On Wednesday 8th November we welcomed Carole Baker to give us a demonstration of Landscape in acrylics. Before the demo began Carole kindly agreed to give out the trophies and certificates to those members who had won awards at our recent autumn exhibition at the Guildhall. All the pictures from the exhibition are now on our website.



Members Questionnaire

You may remember that last month the committee sent out a questionnaire. I would like to thank those members that took the time to complete and return the questionnaire we had a total of 37 replies 18 via the online form 18 were returned at the demonstration evening in November and 1 by post. One of the questions related to where members would prefer to meet for the monthly demonstration/social evenings although some members indicated they were happy to meet at either venue there was a lot of members that did not like the social club whereas only 1 member indicated that they did not like Saxon Hill as a venue. Most members prefer Saxon Hill to the Social Club and a result we will be resuming meetings at Saxon Hill School in February 2024. * PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MEETING IN FEBRUARY WILL BE THE 3RD WEDNESNES OF THE MONTH DUE TO THE HALF TERM BREAK*

Below is a breakdown of the results from the questionnaire.

Questionnaire Results

Have you consistently attended recent meetings? Yes (18) No (19)

If "No" please tell us why

1. I do not wish to be out at night (4)
2. I do not like the venue (7)
3. I cannot get there (0)
4. The topic for the meeting has not appealed to me (1)
5. I have no interest in such meetings (0)
6. I am concerned at the risk to my health (5)
7. Another Reason (10)

Venue

I am happy to continue meeting at the Social Club. Yes (16) No (19)

I would like to meet at Saxon Hill School. Yes (28) No (1)

Please tell us what you want from your membership.

1. Conversations with like-minded people. (35)
2. Workshops to develop skills and techniques. (26)
3. Meetings to provide time and space to paint. (19)
4. Meetings to explore different media. (21)
5. Exhibition opportunities. (34)
6. Sales opportunities. (25)
7. The status of belonging to a society. (14)
8. Meetings addressed by authoritative speakers. (29)

Our recent meeting was devoted to making "A Quick Sketch". This enabled people to mix, and newcomers to move around amongst those attending. Has this been a welcome idea? Yes (20) No (7)

Current practice is to ask members for an Annual Membership Fee. Speakers are expensive. Would you be prepared to pay more in your annual fee? Yes (32) No (5)

Dates for your Diary

13/12/23	Christmas Social and Quiz	7.30pm – 9.30pm	Lichfield Social Club, WS13 6TS	
5/1/24	Flower Painting Group	1.30pm-3.30pm	Holy cross Community Room, Lichfield, WS14 9DX	£2
2/2/24	Flower Painting Group	1.30pm-3.30pm	Holy cross Community Room, Lichfield, WS14 9DX	£2
21/2/24	Demonstration Evening	7.30pm-9.30pm	Saxon Hill Academy Kings Hill Road Lichfield WS14 9DE	