



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FOR 2015

Please could you remember to renew promptly next year - if you don't think you'll be attending the January members' meeting it would be very helpful if you could send your subscription to **Shirley Walton** at

The Eastern Close, Thorverton, EX5 5PS.

Please enclose an SAE to help keep our costs down.

Payment can be by cheque, or by bank transfer to sort code 52 30 42 A/c 43744192, using your name as the reference. If you do pay by transfer, an SAE to Shirley would still be appreciated please. New cards will be issued in January.

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Members,

For the benefit of those who did not attend the AGM I thought you may like to read my report and I apologise to those who have heard it already!

I have been acting president since April on the resignation of Peter Radford. My thanks go to Peter for leaving everything in such good order and helping me with the handover.

Luckily I have also had the support of an excellent committee – thank you to you all. TAS has had a good year. I would like to thank our membership secretary Shirley for her excellent work in tracking all members. A reminder that the membership (£17) is due in January. New members who joined since September will not need to renew and will get their membership card automatically.

Sadly I have to report that we have lost three of our members over this last year: Esther House, a past Chairman of the society, Jean Henshaw and Jane Scott-Fox. We offer our condolences to their families. Charles Scott-Fox has donated a sum of £500 to the Society to be used as a 3D award at the Spring Exhibitions. We will be showing a retrospective collection of Jane's work at the next Spring Exhibition.

The summer exhibition was a success, but the costs of mounting our exhibitions have continued to rise. The rise of membership fees and some cuts in expenditure have managed to almost balance the books. Numbers of exhibitors and works entered have been down and I would remind you that the exhibitions are the showcase of what we do and we need your support. A huge thanks to Keith who masterminds it all and Hilary who organises the publicity for it. I would also like to thank Francis Eastmond who is now storing our exhibition stands – he stepped in at short notice as the building at Castle Primary they were stored in has been condemned. Thanks too to Richard and Virginia who transported them all and will do so for future exhibitions.

I would like to thank Stuart for running our excellent website and editing our Newsletter so efficiently. Please do help him by submitting items of interest. He has also designed our new membership leaflet. Thanks too to Karen for putting TAS on Facebook.

We have, thanks to organiser Wendy, had some excellent speakers and demonstrators including our own Ray Foxell. Some of us have enjoyed and learned from challenging and enjoyable Saturday workshops, organised by Teresa. Unfortunately costs for these tutors continues to rise, so to ensure that we continue the high standard of these the price will go up to £20 for an all-day workshop. This is still very good value as professional artists' workshops are usually twice this.

About a dozen members and some partners enjoyed a painting week in Crickhowell, South Wales back in May. Thanks to Sheila for organising this. Next year a group of us are going to the Lizard in Cornwall. I have three particular targets in progress that I hope to continue to foster:

1. I would dearly like to do more to encourage young artists. We were pleased to exhibit work not only from Tiverton High School in the foyer of the summer exhibition but a screen inside showed work by Castle Primary pupils. Our visitors were impressed by the standard of their work. The spring exhibition will show work from Blundells. We mustn't forget that we now have four Junior members and I would like them to feel we're catering for their interests as well as adult members.
2. Secondly, I sometimes think that beginners who have joined us do not always have the confidence to come to workshops. Since I joined TAS in 2000 I have seen several absolute beginners who now exhibit competent work in our exhibitions. I would urge beginners to join one of the weekly workshops where they will find more experienced artists happy to share their knowledge and offer help to beginners. I would also like to encourage beginners to come to Saturday workshops. These are not a showcase of work but genuine tuition days and experimenting sessions to be enjoyed by all. We will make sure that tutors will cater for beginners.
3. My third target is to ensure Tiverton is aware of its great Art Society. This is already being done through our website and Facebook. TAS helped at the Museum Big Draw - about dozen members went that week and were available to help young sketchers. We have also had a table at the Sunday Art Mart, part of the Mary Portas initiative where although sales were few there was a lot of interest and we gained a few new members. We will participate again on Sunday 7th December, the last before Christmas. We continue, thanks to Karen's organisation, to exhibit at Tiverton Hospital.

The committee has e-mail contact with the whole of Exeter area art societies where we exchange information on speakers and events.

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Your committee for 2015 is as follows. Please note that we are still two committee members short so please contact me if you think you are interested.

- Lindsay Wall – Chairman
- Stuart Fowle – Vice-Chairman, Website manager and newsletter editor.
- Les Tosdevin – Treasurer
- Shirley Walton – Membership Secretary
- Keith Benge – Exhibition Secretary
- Karen de la Harpe – Minutes Secretary, Hopital Pictures co-ordinator and Facebook organiser.
- Hilary Tosdevin – Publicity officer
- Wendy Vlasto – Monthly programme organiser and tea-rota organiser
- Teresa Grant – Workshop organiser
- Virginia Holme – Peter Wickham archive orgniser
- Richard Holmes – Exhibition screens organiser

In addition to the committee there are people running the weekly workshops and summer sketching groups, the painting week and the numerous helpers at exhibitions. An organisation like TAS relies on its volunteers.

Lindsay Wall



Pastel Workshop pics



Pastels Workshop (November)

Saturday, 22nd November saw the gym at Old Heathcote Community Centre full to the brim with members eager to participate in the outstanding **PASTELS WORKSHOP** given by our Claire Bainbridge and Keith Benge. Superbly presented, with the greatest professionalism and immaculate attention to detail – their commitment to the day and to teaching us was 100% and the balance between demonstrating/teaching and time for participants to do their own work was excellent. It was unanimously agreed – a top-class workshop!

Claire and Keith had gone to an enormous amount of trouble with their preparation and brought in carloads of materials for demonstration and use, including an array of flowers, vases, bowls, fruit and veg for still life subjects, masses of their own pastels for us to try out, as well as examples of pastel paintings, framed and unframed. On each work desk was a plastic sleeve containing examples of pastels' papers, a box of two Unison pastels to try out and a long-stemmed grass as a subject for the first exercise. This was to make marks using the pastels and paper provided. Later on in the morning we progressed to choosing from the fruit and veg to make and paint a composition.



In the first half of the day, amongst much else, Claire demonstrated the different effects pressure can make. Different pastel brands and their qualities was discussed, the harder pastels with less pigment are good for 'drawing' and the softer, more pigment rich ones, such as Unison and Schminke are good for intensity of colour, they also tend to last better and the painting retains its colour and vibrancy better. One drawback of the softer pastels is that they break easily.

Keith advised regarding which pastel paper was suitable to which subject e.g. a smooth paper for a flowing river scene; a textured paper if one is painting old, stone buildings.

Water-colour paper is good for mixed media, but sugar paper is not recommended at all. Experimenting with different grounds/gessos/textures is fun and can produce some interesting marks.

The second half of the day was devoted to painting another composition of our own choice – either using the materials Claire and Keith had brought, or from our own photographs etc. Claire and Keith circulated the whole time, imparting advice and giving help when needed. They have a wealth of knowledge and tips about all aspects of art/artists and painting!



As Virginia Youens said on Facebook "An inspirational workshop . It's nice to experiment . Techniques and ideas which will be used in future work in different mediums and different bases. Thankyou."



Keith's demo of a scene in Provence - he had pre-sketched out his composition and various darks/lights in watercolour. Then worked on adding pastel during the workshop. <<<<<<



Claire's demo apple showing 'how to' make marks, and use colours. <<<<<<<<

Speakers for 2015		
Date	Speaker	Subject
14th January	Phil Creek	Talk/Demo - placing figures in a composition
11th February	Thorie Hinds	Line, Land & Sky
11th March	Clare Du Vergier	Critique of Members' Work
13th May	Roy Lang	Colour, Shadow & Light on Water
10th June	Lucy Large	100 Tiny cuts' - Pictures in paper
8th July	TBC	The Reg Cull Memorial Award
9th September	Sue Wyllie	Talk about her work inspired by science & Alan Rigby award
14th October	Linda Hampson	The Joys of Coloured Pencils
11th November	AGM	AGM and Quiz
9th December	Andrew Gordon	Talk on Cornish Artists - Late 19th & Early 20th Century
Workshops for 2015		
Date	Artist	Workshop
28th February	Rebecca Mendonca	Pastel Portraits
6th June	Jane Leitch	Still Life - Oil (& any other medium)
September	Sue Wyllie	Drawing
14th November	Linda Hampson	Life Coloured Pencil - Christmas theme

