

Welcome to the first edition of the Weald of Kent Art Society Newsletter

Dear members,
2020 saw most of the society's meetings at Highbury Hall cancelled due to Covid restrictions. However, during lockdown your committee organised a very successful online exhibition of over 100 paintings by members and set a regular series of painting challenges designed to encourage all our members to remain active. The response has been excellent with a wide range of interesting and very creative work being submitted, which can all be viewed on the WOKAS website.

We will continue to set regular painting challenges – open to all members regardless of experience and ability* – until we can start holding meetings again at Highbury Hall. Our Spring Art Exhibition, which may have to be online again, should provide another great opportunity to enjoy the work you have produced during lockdown.

As soon as we are able to meet up again, we will contact all our members with a full programme of events for 2021.

Clive Dand Chairman



***AM
I GOOD
ENOUGH?**

A question most of us have asked ourselves at one time or another. Am I good enough to join an artists' society? Am I good enough to exhibit my work? Am I good enough to call myself an artist? We have seen some amazing and inspiring work submitted for our online challenges, but we'd like to say to all our members out there: don't be shy, contribute your work too!

**YOU ARE
GOOD
ENOUGH!**



INTRODUCING YOUR COMMITTEE



Clive Dand
Chairman



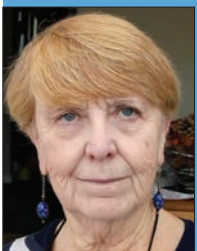
John Hamilton
Vice-President,
PR & Set-up



Graham Lock
President



Kate Rundell
Website
(Our lockdown
hero!)



Pat Lock
Treasurer
& Exhibition
Coordinator



Alison Chandler
Newsletter
& Programme
Coordinator



John Robson
Exhibition
& Meeting
Support



Wendy Phillips
Programme
Coordinator



Gunda Cannon
Profiles & PR



BRING & BUY EVENT!!

If, like me, your studio/painting area is full to the brim with materials, magazines, art books and, equipment, now is a good time to clear out all the stuff you never use! For example, I have a set of water soluble oils that I tried once, which is just gathering dust in a corner now that I have moved on to using acrylics. I'm sure someone else would like to try them out! So let's all get a big box and label it "WOKAS Bring and Buy". You will be surprised how quickly it fills up and how good you will feel to have created more space to work and store all your favourite, cherished things. As soon as we can, we will hold a belated AGM at Highbury Hall and combine this with a "Bring and Buy" event to raise a little extra money for WOKAS.

John Hamilton

Message from the treasurer

Your committee has decided to extend your membership beyond the renewal date on May 1st 2021. We've had a strange year, unable to meet, except in small groups outdoors, so we feel you haven't really had your subscription's worth. We will continue our



online challenges and will be organising another exhibition, but, until we can restart a full programme of events, we will not be asking you to renew your subscription. I'm hoping that when we do eventually meet, at our next AGM, someone will come forward with an offer to take on the role of treasurer. **PLEASE, PRETTY PLEASE!!!** Pat Lock (Treasurer)

Artemisia Gentileschi exhibition

Before the latest closures, I was lucky enough to see this beautifully presented exhibition at the National Gallery. In her lifetime (1593-1654), Artemisia was admired as the most celebrated female artist of Italian Baroque Art. This wonderful exhibition covers forty years of her career from working in Rome, where she was trained by her artist father Orazio, to Florence, Venice, Naples and London, where her father was painting the ceiling canvases for the Queen's House at Greenwich.

Inspired by Caravaggio, her large-scale paintings, often featuring heroic female subjects, were recognised for their dramatic power and originality.

If you missed the exhibition, it can still be viewed online in the curator-led tour (£8).



Artist Profiles

You may have noticed our new series of artist profiles on the WokAS website. These introduce our members in greater detail – exploring how each of them came to art, how they paint and what art means to them. Former WokAS President David Aspinall, long-standing member Joan Palmer

and our current president Graham Lock have already been featured. It's always fascinating to look over a fellow artist's shoulder – there's usually a little useful tip to take away. So look out for future profiles on the Member Profiles section of the website.



Woe is me! I feel like a fraud in this group. I have lost my inclination to pick up a paint brush. I wonder if anyone else is having this problem.

I would usually find inspiration in my surroundings - buildings, trees, landscape. But now nothing, nothing appeals. Nothing moves me to pick up a pencil. Part of my problem is the weather. I have only ever found inspiration in being outdoors. I have never been one to copy photos or other paintings. Plein air painting is my thing. I like to feel the sun on my back and the wind in my face. I find it a truly 'mindful' activity. When I get home and look at my dubious output I re-live the day, the

sound of the birds and the heat of the day. Obviously in late January this is impossible.

So what to do? I really can't get my paints out – help I can't!!! So I picked up a pencil, got out my mirror, sat on the sofa (where I am to be found most of the day) and drew what I saw – me. So I have started. Who knows I might get out my paints and try to transpose this image into paint – I might...

Artist's block



Wendy Phillips

PS If you would like an "artist buddy" to share your art with and help you get "restarted", let us know, and we will find you someone to work "alongside" you.

LET'S HEAR FROM YOU!!!

Tell us some of your thoughts about WOKAS, the art world and your personal experience of producing art. We welcome your contributions to our next newsletter. In particular, we would love to hear from you if you have found any helpful demos or courses online. Please let us know so that we can share them with all our members.

Send your contributions to a.j.chandler@hotmail.co.uk



PAINTING TRIP TO CRETE

Ten people have shown an interest in our September painting trip to Vamos in Crete. We will be painting in the local villages, monasteries and countryside surrounded by the White Mountains. Vamos is only 10 minutes' drive from the beach at Kalives, and we will also be visiting the historic town of Chania and driving through the White Mountains to Loutro. If you are interested, please contact me at clive@danddesign.com



See the world's greatest art from your armchair!

Many of you will have already discovered the online collections of our famous art galleries, and some will have taken advantage of the virtual tours where you can click your way round the gallery rooms just like Streetview. If not, just google the name of your favourite gallery adding "online collection" or "virtual tour" and have a look what's on offer. But why limit yourself to the collections you already know? I can recommend a virtual tour of **The Museu de Arte de Sao Paulo in Brazil** with its iconic display of works on crystal easels, and **The J Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles**, which not only offers a great collection of art online but has also put much of its exhibition material and many talks online. And if you're a fan of Degas, have a look at the **Washington National Gallery of Art's** virtual tour of its recent **Degas at the Opera** exhibition. There are hours of enjoyment ahead of you!

