



Coventry and Warwickshire Society of Artists

Brushstrokes Bulletin

Editor - Cliff Vince March 2021

Editorial - Cliff Vince

First my apologies for the delay in sending this issue of Brushstrokes. Personally, it's been a difficult few months with my father passing away just before Christmas then trying to organise the funeral over the holiday break, all with the Covid restrictions it was very difficult. Then I have my new job which really is getting quite consuming; making a cheap electric truck for the developing world, which is really grabbing everyone's attention and the demand has just gone crazy. I haven't finished designing it yet, so I'm expecting the year to be a busy one.

Anyway, back to art. It was disappointing having the Case exhibition cancelled, but expected in the current lockdown environment. The second Calligraphy Demo was held due to the positive reviews of the first Demo. For our next demonstration, we have booked Tom Shepherd for Saturday March 13th. Tom has been very busy with Demos lately, so this will be good. More details below.

The CWSA AGM is being arranged for April, once again it will be a virtual event on Zoom, more details to follow.

I am still leaving the details here of how to get on to our Facebook page. We are starting to see more members getting involved, which is great - keep it up!!

I've included the latest in the creation of Jane Powell's Trophy, it has continued to be slow as I've done very little creative work. Working from home, tends to stifle me, my creative work suffers.

This is going to be another challenging year, but we will still try our best to keep you involved in art. We know it's difficult to keep up the creativity in this very depressing time but art does help to focus on an alternative distraction to boring norm. If you can get your creative juices flowing please let us know so we can share with the members. Cliff

Update on current Exhibitions

As of last Brushstrokes nothing has changed. Criterion Theatre <https://www.criteriontheatre.co.uk/> and the Talisman Theatre awaiting an update. <https://talismantheatre.co.uk>. The Talisman Theatre will be closed for the rest of this year, so planned exhibitions will be on hold. But if you go to the website a number of short plays just hit the YouTube links, or try this one out

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_DljsLvCG4&feature=youtu.be Unlocked. There are 3 more on the website.

Littlehurst Nursery Café is closed again and the pictures are still on display, they will stay there for a while until it is safe to do a change over. If you do want your pictures back off display, get in touch with one of the committee members and we will help arrange collection, once we are allowed to! It's amazing how long this has been going on for.. highly likely to be nearly a year on display, if only we could get people to see it!!

CWSA Autumn Art Exhibition – hopefully we will be able to go ahead later in the year, we will inform you once we have any further news.

CWSA Virtual Exhibition online still running! The link to our CWSA Virtual Exhibition on YouTube is now <https://youtu.be/SwbeemOL-4U> Please click, watch, share and buy! If any artist has sold items during this online exhibition, please let us know! Buyers usually contact sellers directly.

Tom Shepherd Zoom Workshop 13th March

Our March 13th meeting will feature a water colour demonstration / workshop by the internationally recognised artist Tom Shepherd. The meeting will start at 11am and will last for two hours. **Please book your place by emailing: susan.k.moore@btinternet.com CWSA members: £12 // Non-members: £15. Wildlife in Watercolours - Saturday 13th March, 11am - 1pm**

Tom will be exploring capturing light and character in a fun and expressive way, with



plenty of colour. The main demo will be a couple of elephants. They will be taken from the left side of the photo attached.

Tom chose this one as we have wonderful patterns of light and shadow on the main subjects, perfect for watercolour. As well as great movement.



Tom says "The reference photo attached is taken from a website called African Reference Photos. I have attached the photo for people to look at more closely and/or have open whilst I am demonstrating. I will have a printout which I will show as best I can too. I have paid for the use of this image and I do ask that if people wanted to use the image themselves, they can pay a small fee of \$2 via the African Reference Website. Plus, there's loads of other great reference photos on there. Here's the link to the photo: <http://www.africanreferencephotos.com/photo/2245/Elephant-art-reference-image.html>

Along with the medium itself we will also be looking at taking a reference photo and turning into a painting with a life of its own i.e., not sticking exactly to the reference. If I get a chance. I hope to! Then we will look at a quicker final demo of 25minutes or so of the water buffalo. Both will be painted on A3 size cold press paper as I like a little extra texture. **Hope to see you there!**

Artists wanted for April exhibition 'Secret Views of Kenilworth'



Local artists and creatives are being invited to register their interest to display their work in an upcoming exhibition in the empty 'Poundland' unit on Kenilworth's Warwick Road.

The exhibition is being organised by CWSA member **Nicola Bagga** who helped to put together the [gallery of Kenilworth Castle paintings at the start of 2021](#).

Such was the success of January's exhibition she has decided to help display some more Kenilworth artwork throughout the year. "Every time I went past [the exhibition], there was always someone looking in the window," says Nicola. "There have been lots of responses; many of the artists sold their works and lots of them have had commissions on the back of enquiries from seeing the work in the window. "It is definitely helping to make Kenilworth artists more visible."

This second exhibition organised by Nicola will be focused around the theme 'Secret Views of Kenilworth'. "We wanted to keep it Kenilworth-centric, whilst there will be artists from Leamington, and Warwick and the surrounding areas, it will still be Kenilworth orientated, so it will be Secret Views of Kenilworth." For now, Nicola is asking for anyone who may have an interest in taking part to contact her via email on nicolabagga@hotmail.com – no commitment is necessary at this stage.

The April exhibition will form part of a calendar of events scheduled for the unit. Currently there is an exhibition organised by 'Kenilworth Artists', this will be refreshed at the beginning of March for a display curated by 'Made in Kenilworth'.

Following Secret Views of Kenilworth, there will be a photography exhibition, before another selection from Kenilworth Artists. Nicola, is working alongside Becky Webb of Kenilworth Arts Festival and Jacqui Smithson to put together this program of exhibitions.

Exhibitions Secretary Role/s



I think most members will have heard that Jacqui Smithson will no longer be our Exhibition Secretary, due to her busy lifestyle and family commitments. Jacqui has been very popular, always helpful, with words of encouragement to all the artists who exhibited.

It is a 'big' job to be Exhibition Secretary, and with that in mind, we want to divide it up between various artists, each one looking after one venue. In this way, the CWSA could take on more small and local exhibitions, in cafes, theatres, pubs, shop windows etc. The 'smaller' role of an Exhibition Secretary should be a pleasure, and not too big a job. If you would like to volunteer, please let me know.

There are no exhibitions (due to COVID-19) yet planned for 2021 but with restrictions supposedly easing during the summer this may well change.


Facebook CWSA – a reminder on how to join us

Assuming you have a Facebook account....

1 Sign in to your Facebook account, the new look Facebook should show a group of icons at the top of the page – the first being the  icon and the second  being the search icon.

2 Click on the search icon and the top left area should show Search Facebook

3 Click in the search area and type **'Coventry and Warwickshire Society of Artists'** and return

4 The groups area will show and the first on the list is our group. Ignore the links below and click on the first name **'Coventry and Warwickshire Society of Artists'** 

You are then able to ask to join the group. One of the admins will see your request and will invite you to join once you have answered some basic questions (to keep the trolls out!)

The CWSA committee is delighted to welcome new members to our Facebook group. We would like to invite anyone to become a full member. The benefits of which include:

1. Opportunities to exhibit your art at prestigious local venues.
2. To be involved in the creation of CWSA public events. Planning, participating, whichever you prefer.
3. Monthly meetings where a variety of topics are demonstrated and discussed. Some may be free of charge and we use high quality presenters.
4. Attend group visits to interesting local venues and En Plein Air painting sessions.
5. Opportunities to engage with the local community.
6. You would also be eligible to join the committee who organise and initiate all the above!

See our website www.covwarsocart.co.uk for more information.

Becoming a Facebook member does not give NOT full membership of the CWSA

2nd Calligraphy Workshop – Sheila Smith



We were fortunate to have Sheila Smith for a second time, (on zoom), to expand our knowledge of calligraphy. Sheila explained and demonstrated how to decorate Lombardic letters, using ink and watercolours for the design and working into them with either 22ct gold, foil stickers, or a metal.

It's a fascinating process with endless possibilities and some of it could be used to decorate watercolour paintings using a hot-pressed paper. At the same time, Sheila showed us a variety of fonts, explained techniques and some of the history. For those who want to learn more, when we are out of lockdown, Sheila will be running various workshops at the Pen Museum in Birmingham. <https://penmuseum.org.uk/>

City of Culture 2021 – Latest News

At the beginning of March, we will be making our next programme announcement.

We're looking forward to sharing with you the hard work that has been taking place across Coventry, by so many of our partners, to deliver on our promise of an extraordinary 12 months starting from 15 May.

We've spent the last few weeks reviewing our plans, in line with current and potential future restrictions, to make sure we can invite you to fantastic events as soon as it is safe to do so and will be sharing more detail very soon.

COVENTRY DIGITAL

NEW DIGITAL ARCHIVE

One of our Principal Partners, Coventry University, has recently launched **Coventry Digital**. This fantastic archive brings the city to life with images, videos and archive materials. We'll be adding to it throughout our year as UK City of Culture so be sure to sign up for an account today.

WINDOW WANDERLAND

20 FEBRUARY - 19 MARCH 2021

In February and March 2021, streets across Coventry and Warwickshire will transform into beautiful walking trails. Join in the fun! Find out [which week your area is taking part](#) and make a display for your front window or garden.

COVENTRY ARTIST FEATURES IN UNLIMITED FESTIVAL

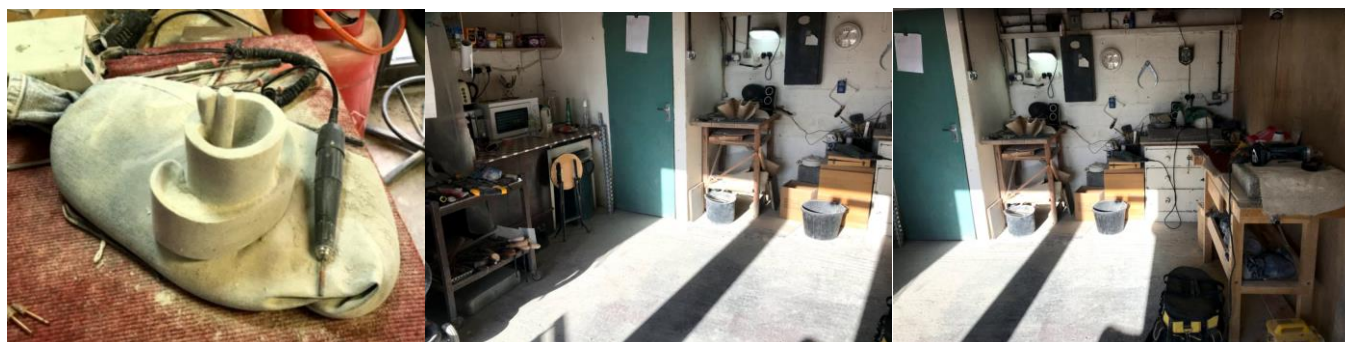
Local Coventry Artist and Reform The Norm micro-commission awardee Hayley Williams-Hindle had her work **In Praise of Fidgeting! Portraits over Zoom** programmed to appear at the Southbank Centre's Unlimited Festival. Find out more about her work in the link [here](#).

Commissioned and supported by Coventry 2021 and Unlimited, celebrating the work of disabled artists, with funding from Arts Council England.

Jane Powell's Trophy Update & New Stone Carving Workshop

Very Slow on Jane's Piece, but back on it now in my new workshop.

I will be setting up workshops when I'm allowed to. I can only accommodate 6 people with the socially distancing workstation settings, in the workshop there's a small kitchen area and toilet facilities. The costs are likely to be £30 and £5 for the stone, there's a very wide selection to choose from. I will be there most Saturdays so if anyone that does the course would like to continue with their piece, they are welcome to join me for the day carving, with a charge just £20. More details to follow!



Local Art and Craft Classes

Susan Moore, Art Classes and Workshops Tel 07745 144 922 www.susan-moore.co.uk

Tanya Kozin, Art Classes and Workshops mail: Tatiana.kozin@gmail.com www.tanyakozin.com

Jacqui Smithson, Felting Workshops. mail: Jacqui.a.smithson@gmail.com www.jacquismithson.com

Virginia Murphy, Felting Workshops <http://www.viriniamurphy.co.uk> 07833 353872

For the latest information visit: <http://www.covwarsocart.co.uk>

CWSA Contact: 07929849290 or e-mail 313vince@gmail.com