



Coventry and Warwickshire Society of Artists

Brushstrokes Bulletin

Editor - Cliff Vince Christmas 2024



Editorial - Cliff Vince



Hi, welcome to this festive edition of Brushstrokes.

This Brushstrokes sees me playing a bit of a catch-up with 2-3months of news and events.

We have the sad passing of our ex CWASA Chair, Edith Whatling and I've put a few words together to remember her by and her impact on our society. Looking back when the society was struggling to get volunteers to help with the committee, Edith stepped up to help out and secured the foundation of our society and allowed us to stabilise and improve it. She will be missed. There's a high degree of festive content in this issue, plus art opportunities and links to online art education session. Also, I'm retiring next month, so you will be getting more frequent Brushstrokes newsletters from now on. This year has been very difficult with a heavy work commitment and family concerns. I have to thank Susan and Tina putting art news out directly to you members.

As I won't have any work commitments, I will be doing a number of workshops early next year, these will be based around the specific types of sculpture modelling and relief carving; more details to follow. Plus, I'm looking to see if I can get some workshop facilities closer to Coventry, as travelling to the other side of Stratford is very time consuming. So, if anyone knows of a large garage or outbuilding that can be rented, please get in touch.

So, from all of the CWASA committee we wish you and your families a happy Christmas festive holiday. Cliff

Christmas Greetings from our Chair

On behalf of your committee, I would like to thank all of you who have participated in the many events we have put on this year. It is only with your support that we can do what we do. We are all volunteers, and passionate about the arts and its many forms.

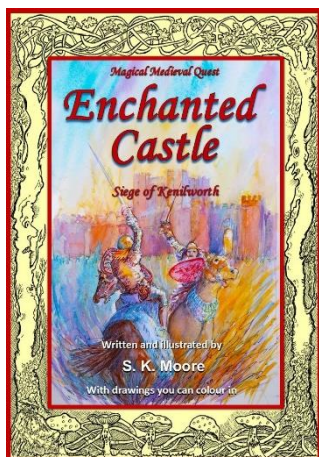
The highlight of the year was our CASE Exhibition at the Herbert in February. It was probably the most popular exhibition the Herbert had put on for years, and looked like the Summer Exhibition at the Royal Academy, with paintings floor to ceiling, and amazing sculptures and crafts. (About 50% of the work was by CWASA members.)

The next CASE Exhibition is due in 2026. (Look out for the Herbert Open 'details' which runs alternate years, if you want to have a go at exhibiting in this exhibition.)

As there are few art galleries now available for 'main' exhibitions, we have been experimenting with putting on weekend, 'pop-up' exhibitions. These involve more work, as artists are responsible for their own displays. They are proving to be popular, and a good social event where artists get together to chat and sell work. I have also noticed that some of our 'new' emerging artists are having a go and exhibiting for the first time.

As with all organisations, we need to attract young members so that the society continues well into the 21st century. Membership is free for 16 - 21-year-olds. (And only £15 for adults). Please think to encourage young and emerging artists to join us.





On a personal note, I have just re-published the Enchanted Castle. It was awarded 'Best Children's Book of the Year'. Copies available in the Herbert, Kenilworth Bookshop (or from me). £10. (These are higher quality books printed on 120gsm paper for local people, friends and family.)

I am also in the process of publishing it on Amazon Books for 'national' sales. (Printed on 100 gsm paper) Priced at £7.95. When everything is set up, all the profit from sales will be donated to BBC Children in Need.

The book has been designed with dyslexia in mind. (I am dyslexic). Page borders depict whether the story is in the country, a castle, or the witch's wood. Lots of illustrations that can be coloured in. Chapters are divided into exciting episodes with headings. Local (horrible) history, woven into a magical, medieval tale.

Wishing you all a lovely Christmas, and a happy, artistic New Year,

Kind regards Susan Moore Chairman

Local Exhibitions

Criterion Theatre <https://www.criteriontheatre.co.uk/>

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 you have visited a recent /current art exhibition, please write a short review and send it to our News Editor, Cliff Vince for the next edition of 'Brushstrokes' Email: 313vince@gmail.com

Exhibitions

Wren Hall, Wroxhall

This was another first occasion for the CWSA to exhibit artwork at this, fairly remote, village hall. It did appear that there were sufficient passersby – it is on a busy main road – and informed friends and family visitors to make the occasion worthwhile. After all, we did raise £3,132 in total sales – thanks for Uthaya's bookkeeping – not an amount to be sniffed at and the total raised for Myton Hospice (after expenses): £490.



The water boiler (for teas/coffees) decided to spring a 'leak' so we arrived to a flood in the kitchen on Saturday morning. However, it was soon fixed due to Wren Hall's excellent volunteer/s.

Another problem was getting our credit card readers to work! Eventually, the problem was resolved. Saturday was the 'busiest' day with lots of visitors. Sunday, quieter.



It was very successful (although a little pricey to hire the hall) for us. **Please let us have your feedback, whether you would like another exhibition here next year.**

In setting up the exhibition it was noticed that the purlons (my spell checker keeps changing this to purlins – a roof horizontal timber beam) – that is vertical hanging cords for displaying artwork – were notoriously fiddly and difficult to attach to the aluminium tracks on the wall. It would have been better to have an alternative system for hanging artwork, but we managed in the end. The bright shiny white painted walls did help in making for pleasant surroundings in

which to display our artwork.

The CWSA are fortunate to have received the redundant display boards from Kenilworth Rotary, and I store these in my workshop the other side of Stratford. On Friday evening prior to the exhibition, I delivered the 'white' display boards and then assembled them, a bit like a giant Meccano kit.

The exhibition looked great when it was all assembled with some exciting displays, arts and crafts. Conversations between exhibiting artists flowed, a bit like the teas and coffees. The cakes donated by members of CWSA were particularly good and we donated £490 to Myton Hospice. A spiffing event, all-in-all. Thanks to all those who helped set up the displays and those that tied up and cleared away on Sunday late afternoon. Cliff

Kenilworth Artists, St. John's Church

A one day only exhibition of art was displayed at St. John's Church, 205 Warwick Road, Kenilworth, on Saturday 23rd November. This was put on by Kenilworth Artists – at least eighteen of them – and a couple, or so (e.g. Jacqui Smithson), who display with the CWSA.

When I visited the church the nave and aisles were packed with displays of art, mostly on tables, and quite crowded with visitors. A wide range of art genres were on display, from watercolour and oil paintings, through coloured glass, to sculptures.

A very pleasant atmosphere was felt here, and it was well worth a visit. Apologies, but I was enjoying myself so much I forgot to take photographs of the event. It is the sort of venue that the CWSA could use for exhibition, as the church has its own carpark and is situated in a busy location; although, there are no displays boards in the church. Another consideration would be the fact that this was a one-day event on Saturday as I understand it has other uses on a Sunday – well, it is a church! So, maybe not the very best of venues for a CWSA event, but could be considered for a Friday/Saturday event in the Summer?

Trevor Bendell, BA (Hons), M.Arch

2025 EXHIBITIONS

Glass House Studio Room, Jephson Gardens, Leamington Spa.

We have provisionally reserved 2 weekends in May, and one in August.

More details and booking form later.

BURTON GREEN - ART IN THE HALL

9th - 10th August.

This could become an annual event. It is a lovely venue and we all enjoyed our weekend last year.

More details and booking form later.

CWSA Workshops

IAN RIDLEY watercolour workshop, painting trees.

Google: Ian Ridley artist - and you will see images of his paintings of trees.

Members £22. // Guests £28.

25th January. 10 - 4pm at Stoneleigh Village Hall.

BOOKING FORM has been emailed to members. Your contact: Anna Poynter

email annapoynter@btinternet.com and also copy in Uthaya (Treasurer) to say that

you have paid email: uswoboday2002@yahoo.co.uk



VIRGINIA MURPHY Needle felting Workshop. (includes materials).

Members: £16. // Guests £25.

22nd February. 10 - 12.30. Stoneleigh Village Hall

For those of you who have not tried needle felting - it is great fun.

(No actual needles involved). You build up layers of wool to create a picture on a felt background by 'hammering' the wool in.

Outlined below is some brief information about more courses being organised by CWSA Members

If you are organising workshops or demonstrations, please let CWSA know so we can inform our members.

TANYA KOZIN. Email: tatiana.kozin@gmail.com

A variety of classes and groups in Earlsdon and Coventry, including Life Drawing, Sculpture, and Portrait Workshops.

CLIFF VINCE - STONE CARVING WORKSHOPS

Location - near Stratford upon Avon.

For more information about Winter workshops, (Provisional dates, 18th Jan, 8th Feb 1st Mar)

Contact Vince: email 313vince@gmail.com

Tahmineh is a new member to CWSA. Her home country is Iran.

She creates beautiful '**Iranian**' embroidery and would like to organise a workshop group in Coventry.

If you are interested or know anyone else who would like to do embroidery,

Contact Tahmineh: email tahmin100@yahoo.co.uk

Edith Whatling



Edith a long-time active member of the CWSA spending many years on the committee with a couple of stints as Chair, was made a life member for her contribution to the society.

As I've said in the Editorial, Edith stepped in when we struggled to get volunteers to help and she kept the society going, which really spoke volumes for the person she was.

She was a very colourful lady born in Malta and trained and worked as a teacher, then in 1976 initially moved to Coventry, before then going with her husband to work in Nigeria. She then returned to Coventry in 1981 to complete a degree in Italian. She re-trained so she could teach in the UK and once achieving her goal, taught junior and primary school children – a job she loved.

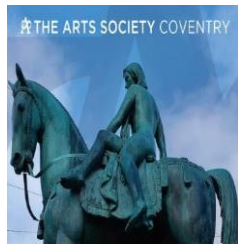
Edith contracted breast cancer which she managed to beat and get the all clear, then a little while later she contracted cancer of the oesophagus which she defeated again. However, she needed an operation which initially went well, but there were complications with that procedure that eventually defeated her.

One moment I remembered about Edith was when we both had our paintings rejected for the CASE exhibition at the Herbert, I had already discussed the rejected pictures with the selection panel and understood the reasons why they were rejected. But I then spent quite some time trying to calm Edith down as she was quite angry and insulted that her pictures had been rejected. Ultimately, I did manage to calm her down, but it did show how passionate she was about her work.

A donation to the Macmillan Nurses has been made on behalf of all at the CWSA.

The Arts Society Coventry

The Arts Society Coventry



The Arts Society Coventry is a great way for people to connect with the arts and each other. Our 2025 series of exciting monthly talks by prominent speakers commences on Tuesday 10 September 2024. All talks are held in the theatre at Barr's Hill School, Radford Road, Coventry, CV1 4BU on the second Tuesday of each month. Free parking is available on site. Doors open at 6.00 pm so you can meet other members over a complimentary glass of wine or soft drink before the talk starts at 6.30pm.

Tuesday 14 January 2025 Jonathan Conlin: The Nation's Mantelpiece: A History of the National Gallery in Ten Paintings. Founded by parliament in 1824, the National Gallery in London's Trafalgar Square houses one of the world's finest collections of European paintings and it remains reliant on public funding. Dr Jonathan Colin, official historian of the gallery, will show highlights from the gallery that reveal the cultural beliefs and battles that determined how the vision of the 'ideal' public art collection evolved over time. Contact: membership.coventry@theartsociety.org Website: <https://theartsociety.org/coventry>

Book Review by Trevor Bendell Art Materials/Book Revue

I had recently purchased the book **'The Colour Mixing Companion'** by Julie Collins. It is a hardback small pocket-sized book – useful if you are an en plein air water colourist – that is intended to help artists mix paint colours.

The book has three main sections: one for mixing watercolour paints; one for acrylic; and one for oil paints. I found this an invaluable aid in painting – my colour mixing skills, as a self-taught artist, are dire – and would recommend all artists to have a copy (it is not expensive) along with your colour wheel.

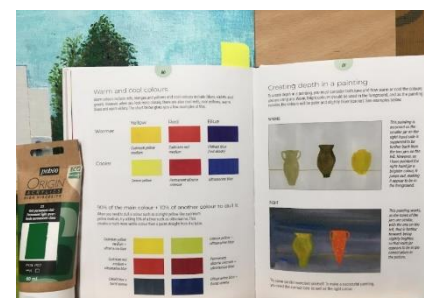
'Architects of Light' by Thomas W. Schaller is a large hardbound book by an American artist who specialises in water colour painting. Schaller was originally trained and worked as an architect – something that I can relate to – when later in life he realised that his architectural visualisations were very well received, and so he decided to reinvent himself as an artist.

The book is very well illustrated with large colourful painting of the many places that he has visited in the world, not just the US, and people that he has encountered on his journeys.

Although the painter is using water colours, these illustrations would serve as a useful guide and inspiration to those, in particular who like to paint/draw/sketch the built environment and landscapes, even if your medium is not watercolour. He does also explain a certain amount of the technique he uses and other areas such as story, composition, values and colour. Schaller's style of painting is similar to that of John Salminen, another well-known US water colour artist.

Pébéo Paint

Is a new product made by a Pébéo, a French company who make a mid-range price/quality of paints and materials for artists. They have made a range of paints that they describe as an "Eco-designed high-viscosity acrylic" paint, and they go on to say it is a "high quality formula with a rich, dense, nervous texture [err, are they sure about that – es-tu sur?]" and having "a thick consistency".



It is said to be 'Eco-designed' because it uses a 100% recycled binder and is in an eco-tube made from FSC certified PE paper. Certainly, its eco qualities sound impressive. I purchased, from Hobby Craft the Permanent light green – vert permanent clair – which is opaque. It certainly, has a fairly heavy texture in application on the canvas, and a strong colour lightfastness.

Overall, a good product and good value for money – c'est bon. Trevor Bendell, BA (Hons), M.Arch

Art Opps

Coventry Open 2025: A showcase of work by West Midlands artists.



An 'Open' is an exhibition in a gallery where the local communities can enter their work; it does not matter what your previous art experience is.

In Coventry, the Open is shown at the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, is held every two years and is a free-to-enter competition with prizes

You can sell your work commission-free if you choose. There are two artist categories to enter work in: a) Young artists aged 15-18 years 2) 19 and over

This is where you will find it online:

<https://www.theherbert.org/userfiles/pages/files/Access%20Guides/Coventry%20Open%20Accessible%20Guide%202025.pdf>

Festive Events

**Lower Shuckburgh Church
Christmas Fete**
Saturday 14th December,
2pm-4pm

Craft stalls: Chocolatier,
Hand in Hand crafts, Artist,
Painted flower creator,
Wood Engraver, local village
goods, wooden gifts, candle
Maker, jewellery maker,
Napton Ladies Knitting
Group, wax melts and more

Fantastic Tombola prizes
Plus Fabulous Raffle too!
Refreshments and cake of
course!

Everyone welcome!

In aid of St John the Baptist
Church, Lower Shuckburgh
NN11 6DY.

Christmas fair

Stalls
Kids crafts
21st December
2024
1pm till 4pm

Refreshments @ C3
coffee shop

**Cheylesmore Community
Centre**
111 Arundel road
Coventry

Contact Claire
07473166886

**THE
MAGIC
STARTS
HERE**

Join us for our
**Christmas
Craft Fairs**

**30th-1st
Nov/December**

**7th-8th
December**

**14th-15th
December**

**21st-22nd
December**

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It all starts at West Orchards

Discover the magic of handmade treasures at our Christmas craft markets, every weekend with 32 enchanting stalls to explore, you're sure to find something special!

30th November – 1st December

7th December – 8th December

14th December – 15th December

21st December – 22nd December



BACK TO EVENTS

For the latest information visit: <http://www.covwarsocart.co.uk> CWSA Contact:
07929849290 or e-mail 313vince@gmail.com

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