

Newsletter January 2024

Edited by Annie, Shaz and David

FORTHCOMING CLUB NIGHTS

DEMONSTRATION

Friday 12th January – David Johnson (DJ)
A demonstration of Mountain Landscape in oil. DJ has demonstrated for us and returns due to popular demand.

Friday 26th January – AGM & Open Forum.
Please attend. It is your club and this is the opportunity to put forward suggestions and ideas and concerns you may have.

INDOOR PAINTING

Unfortunately, there will no indoor painting this month due to that lack of availability at the venue.

PROGRAMME AND COMMITTEE!

Don't forget to return your forms regarding ideas for the programme in the coming year. We also need volunteers to step up to the Committee please, so please complete your Nomination Form and return to Andrew ASAP.

BIOGRAPHIES!

Getting Club members to participate in the autobiographies is like pulling teeth! Although it is on a voluntary basis, I was surprised that I didn't receive more replies especially as the standard of Artwork in the club is amazing. I have now returned the albums back to Andrew but if anyone gets the urge, please email me on ann.johnson32@btinternet.com. I just need an A4 document in Word, with a photo of yourself, your name, a paragraph about your art, preferred medium etc and a few samples of your work. Thank you.

WHAT ART EQUIPMENT WOULDN'T YOU BE WITHOUT?

From Kevin our technical wizard.

Proportional Dividers: An effortless way to scale your photograph to your drawing, making it larger or smaller.



CHRISTMAS PARTY

A fun time was had by all at this year's Christmas party on 8 December. Thank you to everyone who brought food for the delicious spread, it was truly exceptional.

There was time for circulation and chat this year, something we rarely have time to do at meetings, and it did create a better party atmosphere. There were a couple of quizzes to get our brains in gear, then we played the Art Club version of "Secret Santa" hosted by Andrew and Sabina. I have personally never known a secret Santa like it – quite hilarious and cutthroat at times! If you have never attended the Christmas party before it is worth it just to experience this treat.



ANASTASIA'S LAZY APPLE PIE

Everyone has been raving about the wonderful cake Anastasia baked for the Christmas fuddle. So she has shared her recipe.

Mix:

1 cup of sugar (250 g)
1 cup of flour (250 g)
1 cup of semolina (250 g)
Pinch of salt
Teaspoon of baking powder
Teaspoon of vanilla sugar
Divide the mix in 4 equal parts (4 cups)

For filling:

Grate the apples (without skin) around 10 apples.
Add cinnamon and Christmas spices,
Juice of half a lemon
Mix and divide into 3 equal parts.

How to assemble pie:

Cake tin round 21 cm

1. First layer is one part of dry mix (flour, sugar, semolina, salt, and baking powder)
2. Second layer one part of grated apples,
3. Third layer is a second part of dry mix,
4. Fourth layer is a second part of grated apples,
5. Fifth layer is a third part of dry mix,
6. Sixth layer is third part of grated apples,
7. Seventh and the last layer is a fourth part of dry mix.

On top of the last layer grate chilled butter (approx. 100 g)

For baking:

Preheat oven to 180 degrees (gas mark 4) and bake for one hour.

Your own card at Christmas

Only three Members took-up the opportunity to have their own Christmas card design produced and printed professionally – and with their own logo! This was surprising considering how cheap it was and there is no doubt that all three could have sold in shops. They were THAT good so well done. I would love to know what feedback they received.

Greetings cards ARE NOT anti-environment so ignore the naïve and ignorant critics, paper is an infinitely renewable resource and they do provide work for artists worldwide plus, a postage stamp is a lot cheaper than a visit and the pleasure lasts longer!

I will try to make the same arrangement in good time next year to give you all another chance (David)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS/WORKSHOPS

Straight Curves Art and Crafts

Untutored Life Drawing Sunday 21st January so book now. At just £25 it is unbeatable. Five artists per class only. Session runs 10am – 12.30pm with a tea break and parking is easy on a Sunday. 104 Saltergate, Chesterfield. (01246) 807575 or 07976 845662 See www.straightcurves.co.uk for their full range of Art & Craft Classes for adults and children. Look for the icons.

(If we don't support them we'll lose it and it is a particular favourite of the Chairman!)

Flowers in the Garden, watercolour workshop by Pam Smart: **11 May and 29 June 2024**

The venue is Chatsworth House Garden. £125 per person which includes garden free entry, tea, coffee, and a deliciously sourced graze box lunch from the Chatsworth Estate Farm Shop. For more information contact pam@pamsmaert.co.uk or education@chatsworth.org

Bonsall Art Trail 2024

Artists across Derbyshire and surrounding counties are invited to apply to join the Bonsall Arts Trail, which will take place over the weekend of 29-30 June 2024.

Hundreds of visitors are expected to attend the art trail, which will be housed in large marquees and in homes of Bonsall residents. It will showcase the work of around 90 artists including painters, sculptors, printmakers, and many other creatives.

They are keen to attract "high quality artwork from the community of artists. It's a big event and we aim to provide an exciting platform for the full range of artistic skills."

Artists have until January 31, 2024, to apply and can find more information on the website bonsallartstrail.org, or by emailing bonsallartstrail@yahoo.com

Members' Corner

Lydna Brown

For the past couple of years, I have been taking part in Zoom classes over the internet with Sally Pond, she is an extraordinary talented Botanical artist and an incredible teacher as well. Until I started her classes I thought I was observant, my last class with her was to paint the humble carrot, I had no idea carrots had so many colours, nor did I know the scar marks were made by the machinery taking them out the ground.

For more information check out: <https://www.sallypond.co.uk/>



The Carrot by Lydna Brown

Around the Members Spotlight on Julie Nixon

How long have you been in Art Club?

Since 2008

Why did you join/how did you hear about us?

My friend Linda Garten and I were going to Dave Coupe for watercolour classes, and we wanted to widen out into other mediums. We looked around and found the Art Group. Our first meeting was at the AGM.

When did you become interested in Art? What is your preferred medium?

I have always been interested in Art, from a small child. My sister is an artist, and my cousin is an art buyer for a gallery in London. My preferred medium is acrylics.



David's links with India and Darjeeling

Most Members know of my interest in old railways and India and were perhaps not surprised at my absence from the November meetings through me getting back there for the first time since the Pandemic. Usually I go alone but this time I took my wife Lyn and my friend Jayne – a designer who worked for me 25 years ago on the early India books and had wanted to go ever since.

My trips to India now include meeting wonderful people who are now friends: Some of my paintings illustrate gifts at the National Railway Museum in Delhi, and a warm welcome is always received there, and other friends that share the same passion for preserving heritage arrange dinners for us to meet up.

In 14 days, I had included four flights, seven long-distance trains (4 hours, 8 hours and 10 hours) and seven hotel check-ins. The end result was two exhausted ladies but ones that had experienced the real India first hand, searching for the right train, arguing with station porters and hailing auto-rickshaws and taxis, all without a cruise ship or tour guides. They had dinner at The Gymkhana Club in Delhi, the Calcutta Club in Kolkata and lunch at The Elgin Fairlawn with my wonderful lady friends 'Pushy', now elderly but a former Princess, and Nimmi (Oberoi) who owns The Elgin Group of Hotels. In West Bengal it was elephant rides, fording rivers, VIP visit to a large tea estate and dinner with an ordinary family, who's house we got to by motorbikes, Ranjit on his with Jayne, and me riding his mate's bike with Lyn. Pitch black night, dodging cows, dogs, rickshaws and trucks on the main road to Assam – no helmets and no insurance, awesome (although Lyn did NOT see it that way). For me at least, another trip will be planned for later this year - 2024!



Ranjit, Jayne, Lyn and David after a blast around Siliguri (a helmet was found for Lyn's return trip).

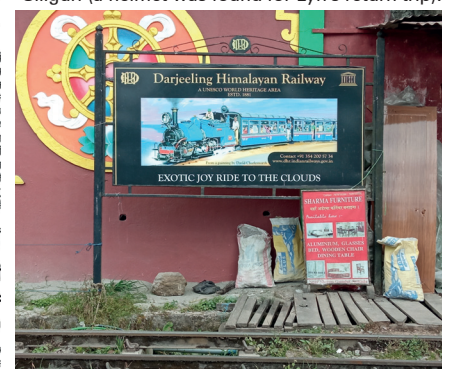
जरूरतमंद ग्रामीण बच्चों को ट्वाय ट्रेन में करायी गयी ज्वाय राइड



दार्जिलिंग (निज संवाददाता)। विद्युत् प्रेरित वर्षे दार्जिलिंग हजर बहौल विद्युत् परिवार के विद्यार्थी बच्चों को जर्नीकरण के अन्तर्गत बच्चों के लिये ट्वाय ट्रेन में करायी गयी ज्वाय राइड।

"In the News", one of the reasons I have to take a suit and tie. Each year the Darjeeling society sponsors an underprivileged school to a train ride with picnic, new school rucksack and a book. The event is timed to my visit so I can meet the children and teachers. It is a huge honour to be there.

जेल के मुलाकात निम्निक, कर्मि परिवार, ग्रेस परिवार, संसु मौर्य किलि नि न गंग विष्णु डेम ने कर्मि के कर्तियों से दीपन प्रतिनि जेल को सन खावील करे से सनक हुर जर्नीकर सौ किया। इसको जा हथ वृद्धाश्रम सि महात् सिंगटेक। पूर्व पुलिस जेलो का नि जन्कारी के



This painting has welcomed everyone to Darjeeling for over 10 years, one here alongside Sonada Monastery, the other at Darjeeling. With signs like this, 25 years of writing the Darjeeling Mail magazine and connections with UNESCO's work there, it still amazes me how many people know my name.