

Newsletter January 2025

Edited and produced by David

FORTHCOMING CLUB NIGHTS

Friday 10th January – Worknight - Celebration. Bring your own materials.

THE AGM January 24th

No one likes AGMs but we have to have them. The official stuff can be done very quickly so come along, enjoy the chance to chat with working and help the Committee. The opinion of a good number of Members is needed to make the right decisions – and there are a few to be made!

Friday 7th February – Indoor Painting at Walton Evangelical Church 9.30am to 2pm

The Newsletter:

I hope you are all enjoying the Newsletter, which we cannot do without your help and support. If you have attended or seen anything that you think would be of interest to the group, such as Galleries, exhibitions, workshops etc, or even if you would like to share a project you are working on then we would love to hear about it. It is a way of learning about each other and our passions for art. Email davidtheartist@gmail.com

DIY Watercolour Block By Terry Pashley

You will need suitable watercolour paper: 300gms is a good weight. Stiff card for backing, and plain or decorative paper for a cover. Clear silicone sealer. (White probably works just as well).



Stage One

Cut the backing card and watercolour paper to the same required size and clamp together. Make sure all the paper is right side up. Aim for a smooth edge all round.

to fit the whole of the block plus an overlap to fit around one edge onto the back. Do not choose the same edge that has the gap in the silicone.

Stage Two

Keeping clamped, spread a good even layer of silicone along the edges of the paper and card, making sure not to smear any over the sides onto the front of the paper. Leave a two inch gap in the silicone along one edge. This allows you to slide a knife into the block and remove one sheet at a time.

Glue the cover paper onto the back of the block.

Leave clamped to dry fully – overnight preferably.

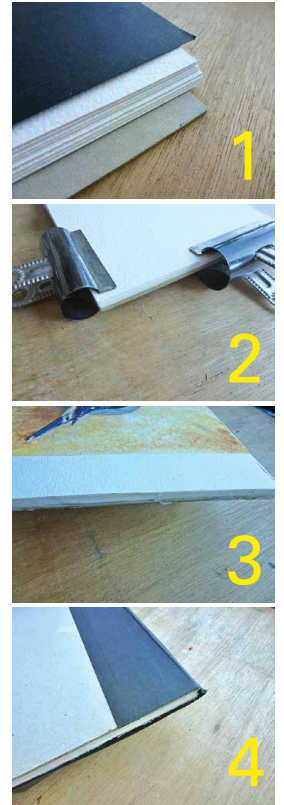
Watercolour Blocks are better than standard pads in that the paper is held taught similar to being stretched on a board.

Stage Three

Cut your cover paper big enough

The main advantages of a DIY block over a bought block is that you can use up materials you may already have, and make a personalised pad to any size you prefer. However, buying all the materials from scratch may not be particularly cost saving.

(Right) Terry's four stages



Lizzy Alageswaran demonstration

"At the beginning we didn't know how it was going to develop as a demo of a "portrait in mixed media". Just one of the comments about our latest demonstrator. "You can come to demos with preconceived ideas".

Her main techniques of building up the understructure of portraits then using glazes was very interesting and well demonstrated. Sue and Terry Pashley both thought Lizzy did a good job as a demonstrator. "We were particularly impressed with her thorough in depth preparation for things she couldn't do on the night. People we spoke to seemed to enjoy it, and definitely a good booking".

Lizzy is a mixed media artist working in a variety of materials including oil and acrylic paint, willow and textiles. The medium she chooses for an artwork is determined by her ideas so, as she says, "I am always learning new techniques and there is a cross-fertilization between different media which I find very exciting".

She has been teaching art theory and practice with the WEA for seven years enjoys sharing her learning and techniques. Lizzy is also an experienced project development and management consultant for local authorities and other organisations on strategic development, community and public art.

(Below) A time-frame set showing the development of a portrait. Note her final (and correct) decision to change the background



FORTHCOMING EVENTS/WORKSHOPS

Straight Curves Art and Crafts

Untutored Life Drawing Sunday 19th January so book now. At just £27.50 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!)

Hunloke Art Club

Friendly group of artists who meet regularly at the Quad in Chesterfield to learn and share knowledge. Sessions are most Tuesdays, from 10am to 12pm, and 1pm to 3:00 - £12 per session with professional tutor every other week. Open to all.

Held at the Quad, Dock Walk, Chesterfield. If memory serves, I think this was the former Wheatbridge Hotel. For more details contact Hazel at: Info@hazelmoney.co.uk

Field Breaks Art at Barlow

Field Breaks offer a wide range of instruction for artist through workshops at their studio in Barlow amongst beautiful countryside. The courses range from Botanical Illustration to mixed media to a variety of subjects - something to suit everyone. It is a great way to spend a day and the prices are very reasonable. You can see the full list of workshops by logging into their website and looking at the list of workshops and dates. Booking can be made online or by telephone which is 07984 887133. It is run by Hazel Money who has been to our club to demonstrate in the past. <https://fieldbreaksart.co.uk/>

Members' Corner

Ian Geary

EQUIPMENT I COULDN'T DO WITHOUT

I am basically a studio painter and have always used daylight bulbs. Daylight bulbs emit a cool light that is close to the sun's natural light.

For a good balance of warmth and coolness go for bulbs with a CCT (Correlated Colour Temperature ie how much blue or yellow it emits) of 5500 Kelvin degrees (K). If you prefer a cooler light, akin to a north light, choose ones rated at 7500K.

My flexi clamp-on light, I think it is called 'Professional Artists daylight worklamp' came from The Daylight Company (E33200) and has 2x 18w tubes.



Around the Members Spotlight on Anastasia Paskova

How long have you been in the Art Club?

A. I joined around 2021.

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

A. I found Chesterfield Art Club by a Google search on the internet and it felt like the right place for me. During these years Chesterfield Art Club became my family. I have met a lot of interesting and talented people and made friends for a lifetime.

When did you become interested in art?

A. I have been interested in art as long as I can remember. Drawing and painting were my favourite activities during my childhood and I always wanted to be an artist. I went to the art college in Estonia and years later I completed my Masters Degree in Fashion Design at Birmingham City University. When I moved to Chesterfield in 2017, I wanted to find an art community to be around people with the same interests and hobbies.

What do you like about the Chesterfield Art Club?

A. Being a member motivates me to keep going with my art career. I have received a lot of support and inspiration from my colleagues in the Art Club. Moreover, all the demonstrations and work nights have helped me to develop new skills and ideas. I am so very grateful to be a part of such a great community.

Tell us about your career

2016/7 I worked at Thermotex in Chesterfield, as an engineering designer. From 2018 I have worked as a freelance graphic designer. From 2022 I have also been running 'creative wellbeing' workshops and retreats for women. I describe myself as a UK based visionary artist and illustrator – art is the best way of meditation for me. When I begin to draw, I feel like I am dancing with the universe. Most of my paintings are magic infused, they are a mix of femininity and spirituality. I draw inspiration from my thoughts of imagination, symbolism, mythology, fairy tales and the natural world. I love experimenting and trying new things without knowing the outcome of it all. I work with mixed media, acrylic and watercolour but I am always happy to leave my comfort zone. I am still open for commission work, collaborations and any creative projects.



My latest painting "Praying for Peace", reflects my thoughts and feelings of Ukraine. It was auctioned on-line and raised £500 for Rotary charities working with Ukrainian refugees in neighbouring countries. It was auctioned on-line and raised £200 for Rotary charities working with Ukrainian refugees in neighbouring countries.

