

## Newsletter May 2025

*Edited and produced by David*

### FORTHCOMING CLUB NIGHTS

**Friday 9 May** – Nominated Subject: Local Beauty Spot. (Bring a piece of work you have created that fits the brief.)

**Friday 23 May** – Worknight: Floral Extravaganza. (Or do you own thing!)

**Friday 6 June** – Indoor Painting at Walton.

### 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.

Email [davidctheartist@gmail.com](mailto:davidctheartist@gmail.com)

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS/WORKSHOPS

#### Straight Curves Art and Crafts

**Untutored Life Drawing Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May 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](http://www.straightcurves.co.uk) for their full range of Art & Craft Classes for adults and children. Look for the icons.

### CLUB MEMBER LAUNCHES THIRD VIDEO

Life member Hilary Broad has completed another video – with a little help from her son Andrew. "*Hilary Makes a Fabric Collage of St Ives, Cornwall*" is available on Youtube @hilarybroad or on her website [www.hilarybroadart.co.uk](http://www.hilarybroadart.co.uk). You can watch while Hilary uses scraps of fabric from various sources to build a picture of one her favourite places. With almost no "jump cuts".



St Ives Warren, Fabric Collage 24" x 18" by Hilary Broad

## DERBYSHIRE OPEN ARTS OPEN STUDIO with Colin Haliday

Hi there as part of this annual open studios event I would like to invite you to our fantastic Gallery and studio with lots of original Art available. Free drinks and refreshments served all day.

As a professional Artist for 25 years I have sold work to many people and shown in many galleries but the open studio events are something special where you get to meet and talk to the Artist.

We are open:

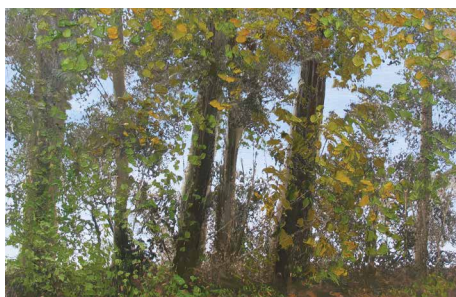
**SATURDAY 24TH MAY 10AM - 4PM**

**SUNDAY 25TH MAY 10AM - 4PM**

**MONDAY 26TH MAY 10AM - 4PM**

You can find us using Google Maps - Birchwoodmoor Art Gallery

Situated just off Roston Common outside Ashbourne. Set in tranquil countryside in the grounds of a beautiful 17th Century Farmhouse, so come along and enjoy all we have to offer, a warm welcome to all. my number in case you need it is 07759 595294





# Life Drawing – that was nothing like I expected! by Janet Webster

I just got home from a life drawing session at the Millennium Gallery Museum in Sheffield. What was I expecting? It was a two hour session in the morning so I thought I would be taking two hours to draw a pose of a live model. There was indeed a live model, but there were no two-hour posing.

I am a landscape painter in oil so what brought me to here? I bought a sketchbook in January inspired by someone in our club. I bought some fine liner pens at the same time and gave pen and ink drawing a go, starting with a little sketch of Chatsworth Hunting Tower. It didn't look too bad. I decided to try a few more images related to things we did over Christmas. That brought me to attempting an image of two footballers (we went to the Man City Everton match on Boxing Day) I think one is Jack Grealish. Jack came out alright but the other one who I think is a Man United goalkeeper, I just couldn't figure out what was wrong with him. Well, not him, but the drawing of him. That led me to doing some research into figure drawing, and I did a 10-day free online course on a website called Love Life Drawing and learnt a lot from that. It also made me realise how much more there is to learn. I don't have a huge store of photographs of naked or scantily clad models, so I searched online for life drawing sessions and found that the Millennial Gallery in Sheffield has one every Friday.



The session had about 20 people there who are probably regulars from what I could tell. I think I was the only newbie. But they were very friendly and helpful. I met a guy called John who said he had been figure drawing for 50 years. From what I could see John and everybody else were pretty good. Most were drawing in pencil or charcoal, but they were also artists using parcels, watercolour, and acrylic.

They have lots of easels and as you go in, you grab your sheets of paper and clips to fix them to your easel. Or you can get a board to put your paper on and sit down resting the board on a seat in front of you.

There's a tutor, but she doesn't really have much time for tutoring. She is mostly setting the time for each pose and working with the model on the poses. So rather alarmingly we started with two minute poses. As you can see, I wasn't great at that. I think the shortest time I've ever done a figure drawing was in two hours when I was practising for this session. That was followed by five minute poses, then some 15 minute poses then some one minute poses, finishing with a 20 minute pose. For me as a beginner, none of the poses were at all easy. I was amazed at what others could achieve in two minutes.

I must say, I'm not very impressed with my efforts, but one of the seating poses which was a five minute drawing was described by the tutor as "like a Matisse". I'm not sure what made it look like a Matisse, but I was more than prepared to take it as a compliment. There was also one that we both agreed had just gone wrong. That's the one where the model sitting down with her leg straightforward and I just couldn't figure out the for shortening, that aside from getting the proportions all wrong. I did ask her about my final 20 minute drawing which was in the model was sitting cross-legged in a chair. She said it was nice but not like a Matisse.

For a beginner like me, it was a bit of a leap into the deep end, but definitely a learning experience, and I think an inspiration to keep trying to improve my figure drawing skills. I'm practising five minute poses now, so I can work my way back down to two minutes then one minute. Some newsprint paper is on its way for me to practice on. I feel like I need to improve a lot before the next session.

