

Newsletter October 2025

Edited and produced by David

FORTHCOMING CLUB EVENTS

Friday 24 October – Brian Smith Art Surgery! Brian has a list of subjects and tasks that club members have suggested for advice. See page 2.

Friday 7 November – Indoor Painting at Walton Evangelical Church 9.30-2pm.

Friday 28 November – Worknight: Markets

CLUB NOTES

A new Constitution and Members Guide has been circulated via email. Have you got yours?

Presentation evening

The presentation evening held at Beeley, has had a very poor attendance in recent years. There is a thought that this could be moved to the review night at Chesterfield. There are implications of course, such as the Polyanna Prize and food and drink celebration so we are seeking opinions.

Committee members needed

Terry, Sue and Lynda are stepping down at the AGM, so we need you to put your name forward. If you would like to join the Committee we would be delighted to hear from you. So don't wait until next year, please let Helen know now! (It will take the pressure off.)

Making Mosaics by Ian Geary

Probably the simplest way to start making mosaics would be to buy a kit with all the bits that you would need. These provide the small pieces, the tesserae, ready made and sometimes already coloured.

If you wish to get the tesserae yourself, these can be got by cracking off pieces from old ceramics like crockery, vases, tiles, mirrors etc. Special plier-like cutters called 'tile-nippers' should be used, (with care! ie use goggles).

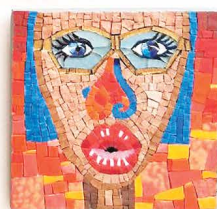
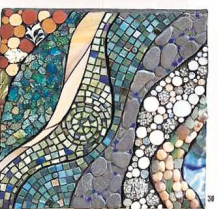
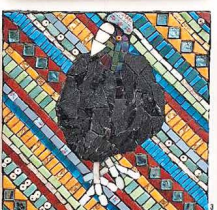
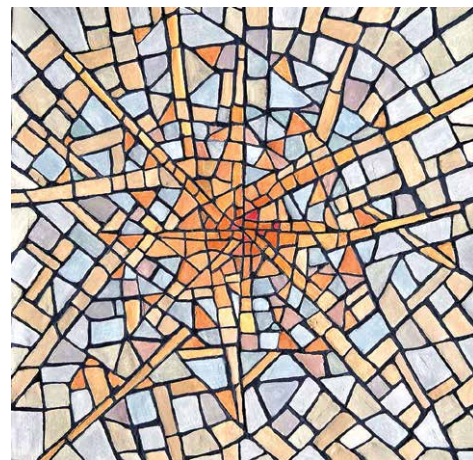
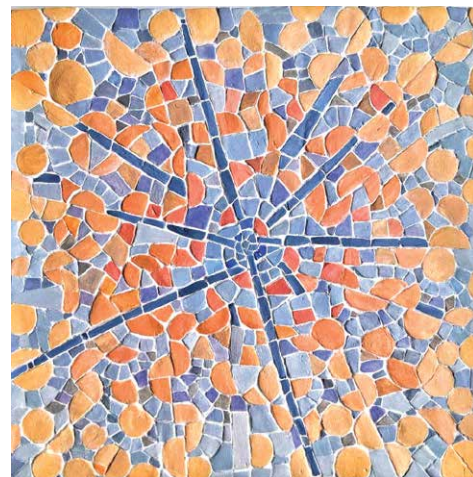
I decided to make the tesserae from air-drying modelling clay, eg DAS, from Hobbycraft. This is available in white, terracotta and stone colours.

First roll out a lump of clay to the desired depth of the tesserae and before it starts to dry (in about 30mins), cut the clay into the required shapes and leave overnight to harden. The tesserae can be painted at this stage however I did not as I wanted to paint them later when the design was complete.

The type board that the mosaic is to be assembled on will depend on the ultimate intended location, if this is to be outdoors then waterproofing will have to be taken into account. I have not looked into this in detail as mine were to be for indoor display, so I have used 6mm MDF (Medium-density fibreboard).

I did not think it necessary to prime the board but went ahead and made a rough pencil design of the mosaic on it then attached the tesserae onto the board with Hobbycraft 'Mosaic Glue'. When set, I painted them with acrylic paint and then filled between them using white tile grout.

(Right) Two examples from Ian and (below) his tesserae created from DAS air-dry modelling clay.



Part of the exhibition (left)

BAMM(bamm.org.uk) is the British Association for Modern Mosaics and is the site for all things mosaic. They have an exhibition 'Piece Together' at the Woodend Gallery in Scarborough, which runs to the 14 November. The exhibition consists of 64 small (30cmx30cm) mosaics on the theme of 'Collaboration'. I was most struck by the very diverse mixture of styles and concepts. Many included 'attachments' that pushed the boundaries of what could be called tesserae to the extremes!

The Woodend Gallery was a most interesting place as it was the seaside home of the Sitwells from 1870-1934. It is a Grade II listed 'Marine Villa' situated next to the main Scarborough Art Gallery overlooking the Valley Gardens which lead to the South Bay.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS/EXHIBITIONS

Straight Curves Art and Crafts

Untutored Life Drawing Sunday 19 October 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.

From 23 October they are starting a **Thursday evening session from 6-9pm.** Price increase to £31.00 but still good value for a closed group.

104 Saltergate, Chesterfield. (01246) 807575 or 07976 845662 See www.straightcurves.co.uk and look through the icons.

Halloween Artisan Market

Saturday, October 18th. 12 - 4 pm

The Arkwright Center, Hardwick Drive, Arkwright Town S44 5BS.

"A world of magic, mystery, and handmade wonders. A spooky and enchanting day filled with alternative artisans showcasing unique handmade goods and delicious seasonal food & drinks". Our Anastasia will be there with her paintings and prints.

Study drawing and painting for FREE in Mansfield!

West Notts College Adult Education have just announced this new event at their Derby Road Campus, Mansfield NG18 5BH

Wednesday 10 September 2025 to Wednesday 24 June 2026

35 weeks but there is no obligation to attend every session. Course is only available to students aged 19+.

A small, adult-only group, to introduce popular contemporary artists and their techniques while giving you the chance to experiment with various painting and multimedia applications. Although many of the courses start in September, they offer flexible start dates and you may be able to join at different times throughout the year.

Cost: FREE (Subject to eligibility) or £10 per session. There may also be a small fee to pay for material costs.

Contact 01623 413602 for more information.

Stealing the show!

There is no doubt in my mind that Shelley's sea shore drawing, shown at the Nominated Subject evening, was a show stopper. Created to meet the "Rugged Coastline" brief, this and her Acrylic Ink piece, had both been painted on the day!

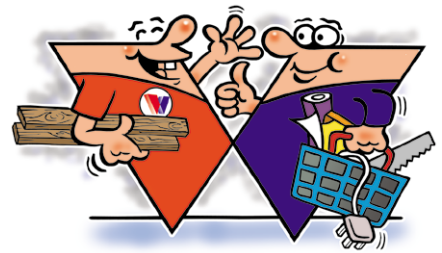
Attendance was low, but the selection of paintings was of a very high standard, helped with valuable contributions from Barbara and Kevin Patterson who had thankfully brought extra pictures!



A living from Art by David Charlesworth

Art has been my interest from a very, very early age, certainly by three years old where I was apparently drawing recognisable aircraft and knew, even then, enough to know that the wings can't be seen in a side view! We had some books on art, but I loved the Thomas Tank engine stories and the illustrations. I still remember vividly the old lending library in Chesterfield and being so small I could barely see over the counter as my Grandma got them stamped. By the age of seven I was attending junior classes at the Art College on Saturday mornings. At that time the college was at Penmore in Hasland. However, this was the early 60s and the "art" of that time simply did not appeal to me; I wanted to know *why* I could not draw like Augustus John or paint portraits like John Singer Sargent and *why* could they not teach me? I remember asking "What is an oil painting" at the age of five. I knew about oil, it went in cars, on my bike and my Mecanno motor, but HOW did you paint with it? The reply was "it's lumpy". It was two years before I saw a real oil painting and understood – it was at Penmore and it was just an abstract which barely helped!

What I was interested in, was art that did a job; it illustrated books, magazines, posters, the back of a cereal packet, an LP sleeve or adverts. Unfortunately these artists were all unsung heroes even though they were amazing illustrators. Their drawing and figure skills surpassed any of the contemporary 1960s *artists* that received all the acclaim. I was also interested in other commercial artists, the figure painters like Degas and William Russell Flint and the man who painted the covers for my model railway catalogues, the Queens favourite artist and my hero, Terence Cuneo. They were all my influences. (To be continued next issue.)



FOLLOW THE DRESS CODE
put your customers first **Wickes**

ART DOING A JOB! I didn't design the original concept for Wickes, but had to create the artwork and take it to another level for their customer service campaign.



Brian Smith's workshop/demo night

On Friday **24th of October** we have something a little different. Brian is a Sheffield artist working primarily in watercolour though enjoys sketching from life in multiple media. As a former architect, buildings and what goes on in the spaces around them are of particular interest to him. He runs courses and contributes to Leisure Painter.

Using the notes you have put forward, he will attempt to demonstrate solutions and is keen that Members interact and ask questions to get the most out of the evening. Light and lighting, emphasising lighting effects to create more atmosphere

- **Emphasising colour for more impact, contrast, colour temperature, etc**
- **Simplifying detail in complicated subjects to retain its essence (confidence to leave stuff out from a photo)**
- **Landscapes**
- **Avoiding overworking**
- **How to increase tone (high range of tone) and Sketching**
- **Colour theory**
- **Composition**
- **Realistic figures**

He is very keen that Members interact to get the most out of the evening and he welcomes questions. Don't miss it.

