

## Newsletter December 2025

*Edited and produced by David*

### FORTHCOMING CLUB EVENTS

**Friday 9 January – Work Night.** Winter Scene. Bring your own materials and reference OR your own project if you prefer.

**Friday 9 January – Indoor Painting.** Walton Evangelical Church 9.30am to 2pm.

**Friday 23 January – Work Night.** Animals. Bring your own materials etc.

**Friday 6 February – Indoor Painting.** Walton Evangelical Church 9.30am to 2pm.

**Friday 13 February – The AGM and OPEN FORUM.** These meetings are important, please try to attend.

#### Committee members needed

Don't wait until next year please. Let Helen know if you are interested – you are needed.

#### Untutored Life Drawing.

**Straight Curves Art and Crafts**

**Sunday 11 January, 10am – 12.30pm (£27.50)** with a tea break and parking. With only five artists per class this is an unbeatable session. If you are unsure, David will be there.

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

# Merry Christmas

from the committee  
Hope to see you on at the  
Christmas party on Friday



Illustration by David Charlesworth

## HILARY INTRODUCES PIXEL SILK

The story began a number of years ago while I was stewarding at an Art Club Exhibition. A fellow member saw me colouring-in an outline drawing of a flower, Morning Glory, and declared "Hilarry, that would make a brrrilliant design for a silk painting". More than that, could she have a copy to reproduce on silk. And I'm thinking, if Vera can make a silk-painting out of one of my designs, so can I. And the blue touch-paper had been lit.

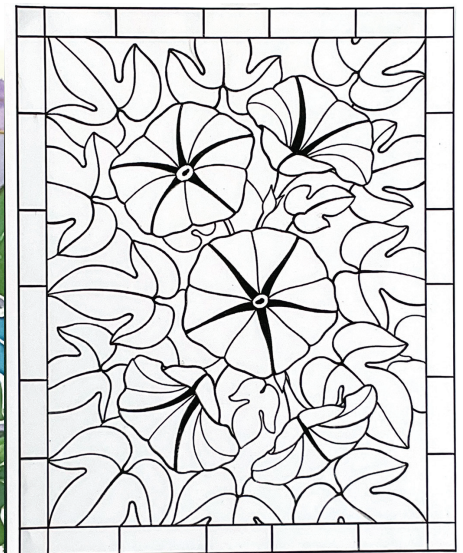
Fast forward a few years and I have developed the method for converting my line drawings into gutta outlines (the blocking medium for silk) . . . through screen-printing, using gutta as the printing medium. Filling in with silk paint becomes pure delight, seriously (but harmlessly) addictive. "Even grown-ups can do it!"

The next stage in my story was the production of a GRID for making PATTERNS, based on half-centimetre squares – the same size as your standard squared paper. And patterns similar to those from "cross-stitch" and weaving. And I've called it PIXEL SILK. This Sunflower picture (yes, picture) is one of twelve that I have produced this year.

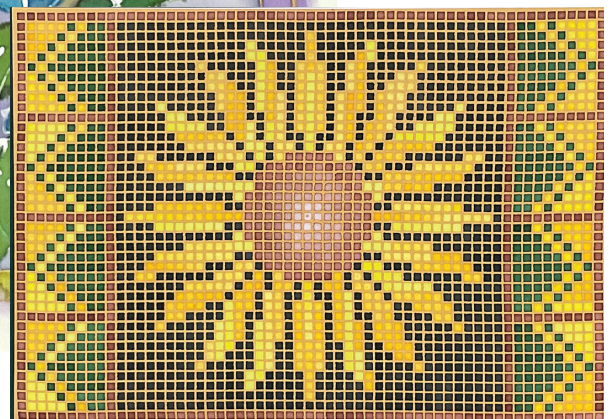
And you can watch the whole story on my latest video, Hilary Introduces Pixel Silk, either by visiting my website [www.hilarybroadart.co.uk/videos](http://www.hilarybroadart.co.uk/videos) or on Youtube@hilarybroad. Enjoy!



Above: "Vera's Silk Painting"  
Right: "Sunflower Picture"



Above: "My drawing"



# Anastasia Paskova at Arkwright's Christmas Fair

An absolutely superb display was seen at Arkwright last Sunday, unfortunately visitors were light and Anastasia had no sales. This happens too often these days but we have to keep trying because surprises still happen. Valuable assistance was provided by her daughter, Heimdall.

**If you have Facebook, try the QR code, the video clip is truly delightful.**



# A living from Art by David Charlesworth

It is not a criticism to suggest that the majority of "Professional" Artists today are those that have retired early or have supporting partners, it is to point out that the security of a regular income does make a huge difference to your ability to work, that said, fear is a great motivator and I have probably produced more work and a lot more variety because of it! I had no such security when I turned self-employed and still don't have sufficient. In 1988 we bought a house big enough to work from as there was no way I was paying rent so that the owner could play golf. My mortgage went up by four times the previous cost and my Council rates the same, I had a two year-old daughter and a wife looking after her full time – and I handed in my notice. Which looking back was incredibly stupid but I was down to less than four hours disturbed sleep to keep up with the Derbyshire Time's pressure and my Freelance work – and I was not coping.

No redundancy and no government assistance; In those days there was a "start-up business" help scheme but I did not qualify. Apparently it was only available to the unemployed and new businesses and I had been selling art and design part-time since I was 11 years old. Humm!

I certainly would not recommend that today. Before computer graphics a lot of equipment was needed and, dare I say, a lot more skill and knowledge. However, there was a lot of work to be found locally backed-up by regular painting commissions and places to actually exhibit.

**As it is the season, have a go at "spot the difference" below. This was done for London Overground in 2013, a good customer for a number of years.**



Note: There are six differences to find. Answers next issue.