



Radlett Art Society

www.Radlett-Art-Society.co.uk

Dear Member,

Now that the majority of Covid restrictions have been lifted, your committee is planning a return to as many of our normal activities as possible.

We have an interesting programme of lectures which will continue online during the winter months with the exception of that on the 14th October which will be our first at the Radlett Reform Synagogue. It will be nice to meet each other in person again!

The August trip to Burghley House and the visit to Shropshire were a great success and future visits will be planned for 2022.

After a very pleasant summer outdoor sketching programme, practising artists will be pleased to know that the Thursday afternoon workshop at the Village Institute is active again. There will shortly be an exhibition of work by participants at the Radlett Centre and the Society's Annual Exhibition is planned for June 2022.

Preliminary arrangements have been made for our Annual Luncheon in early December and further details will be available shortly.

At the beginning of August the Society lost a long standing friend and enthusiast for all the Society's activities. Myrna Sayers was a member for many years, painted in our workshop, organised and contributed to our exhibitions and was our Membership Secretary. She will be greatly missed by all of us.

Finally, we have lost a significant membership this year - for understandable reasons. The Committee are looking at ways to make us better known locally and I do hope that those members who enjoy the activities of our Society will tell their friends!

Adam Lewis

Chairman

STATION ART

If you go down to the station today, you're sure of a big surprise. Well maybe....

The Society was approached in June by Groundwork East UK who were working with **Thameslink** to improve **Radlett Station**. We were asked to invite RAS members to submit their work for a permanent exhibition (up to 4 years) of art on the station platform. The result is that some of our paintings were selected and have been mounted on the external waiting room wall on Platform 2. The collection of paintings are by local artists, 11 of the 20 are by members of RAS.

Anna Cross

FUTURE LECTURES

Thursday 14th October 7.30 for 8.0 pm

at the RADLETT REFORM SYNAGOGUE, 118 Watling Street, Radlett WD7 7AA

Lecturer: Frank Woodgate

The Art and Scandalous Lives of the Bloomsbury Group

The art of the three main 'Bloomsbury' artists ' (***Duncan Grant, Vanessa Bell and Roger Fry***) cannot be separated from their extraordinary lives. They, along with their literary and other intellectual companions (***Virginia Woolf, Lytton Strachey and John Maynard Keynes***, amongst others) were part of a movement, the popular name for which became widely used only after the death of around half its members.



Painted by Duncan Grant - ***Vanessa Bell pregnant***

Thursday 4th November – 7.30 for 8pm – via Zoom Meeting

Lecturer: Julia Musgrave

The Irritating and Influential Mr Whistler



An American artist in London, ***James Abbott McNeill Whistler*** was a leading proponent of the idea of “art for art’s sake”. He signed his paintings with stylized monogram of a butterfly with a long stinger for a tail – as much a symbol of his love of Japanese art as his assertive and sometimes combative nature. Having lived and worked with the Paris avant-garde he settled in London(1859) having created a distinctive Post-Impressionist style at a time when many of his British contemporaries had not

yet to come to terms with Impressionism. **Whistler’s art** moved painting towards abstraction, sparked a renaissance in printmaking and gave us the **Peacock Room**, a masterpiece of interior design. Inspired, influential, and infuriating, his art was full of subtle delicacy. He had a wide social network of friends and family and yet, if crossed, could be a formidable opponent. He mastered the art of making enemies.

Thursday 18th November – 7.30 – via Zoom Meeting

Painting Demonstration - Jake Winkle (Watercolourist)

Jake lives in Dorset and his paintings are a reflection of the world around him. He is inspired by light and movement and is probably most well known for his paintings of animals and horse racing.

He exhibits mainly in London and the South of England, he writes articles regularly for **The Artist magazine**, has been the subject of three instructional DVD’s and has written a book.



It will be a most entertaining and inspirational demonstration

Artist's Challenge

Dear Artists & Painters,

We have had 2 months break from our Artist's Challenge but as the days get shorter perhaps it is time to resume them. I emailed all those who have taken part in the Challenge over the previous 10 months about the future of this initiative and was met with an overwhelmingly positive response to keep going - so here we are again.

Submit by 5.pm October 17th - **Everyone's a Winner**

Submit by 5.pm November 14th - **Magical Moments**

Submit by 5.pm December 12th **All's Well That Ends Well, or What You Will**

As ever, please send your submissions to me anna.cross@me.com

New, as well as long standing exhibitors are extremely welcome to join the challenge

Over the previous 10 months it has been so exciting to see the great variety of paintings and artwork that about 20 of our members have exhibited.

Thank you to all who have embraced the Challenge - not least of attempting to adapt their paintings to my purposely vague titles. To others, please pick up the gauntlet and join in.

Anna Cross

Art Exhibition at The Radlett Centre

October sees our **Annual Radlett Centre Exhibition** from 1st - 29th in the downstairs exhibition area. This is usually open to all members of the **Thursday Workshop**. However, due to the difficulties of the past year, the Workshop has only been able to meet '*en plein air*' during the summer this year. So the committee decided that we would invite paintings from the en plein air painters and all those artists who have been so busy entering the **Artist's Challenge** over the last year. It is sure to be an interesting and varied exhibition and it would be great if you could pop in to have a look. **The Centre is open 10.00-4.00**

Monday-Saturday and when Shows are on at other times.

Anna Cross

THURSDAY WORKSHOP

The Thursday workshop started again September 2nd after 18 months of "lockdown" due to the pandemic. It will run, all being well, until the beginning of December. The Workshop has been painting "en plein air" during the Summer in different interesting locations around Radlett organised by Anna Cross including Members' gardens,

Grimsdyke, Letchmore Heath, Radlett allotments and beautiful tranquil havens by the rivers in Bricket Wood and Radlett. They were a wonderful opportunity to chat and paint together in the fresh air and we were fortunately blessed with good weather - our grateful thanks to Anna. 10 members came along to the first workshop at the Village Institute from 1.30 – 3.30 and were very happy to be "getting back to normal" We are a happy welcoming group of mixed painting ability and if any member relishes the idea of "having a go" please get in touch. It will cost you just £4.00 a week and we have a different still life each week which can be painted or drawn if one needs some added inspiration. I look

forward to welcoming more members back in future weeks as we all gain more confidence in our ability to cope with this Covid virus.

Gill Cooper

MYRNA SAYERS

Dear Member,

It is with much sadness we report the recent death of Myrna Sayers, a long standing member of our Committee. She was our Membership Secretary for over fifteen years and brought administrative as well as creative abilities that benefited the Society in a number of ways. Despite suffering a long standing illness she was always cheerful and positive, friendly and helpful to everyone. We will miss her greatly and extend our sincere sympathies to her husband Alan and family.

Current acting Membership Secretary :

Anna Cross – email address – membership@radlett-art-society.co.uk

PAST LECTURE

Below, please find links sent by Laura Reiter of another jug demonstration she has done which is available on U tube.

<https://youtu.be/QbB4cZ0kL88> - part 1

<https://youtu.be/TD4FzeBFFwU> - part 2

PAST VISIT

At 9:15 on Sunday 26th August twenty-six of us left Radlett for a day trip to Burghley House in Lincolnshire. Because of the pandemic this was the first Radlett Art Society day trip since October 2019. After a short stop we arrived Burghley at 11:30. Initially most people went to the gardens where there is an outdoor sculpture park with more than 30 sculptures. There was also a ‘Garden of Surprises’, an Elizabethan water garden inspired by the garden built by the 1st Lord Burghley. A picture



of one of them – with the watery ‘Exit Gate’ is shown here. Burghley house was the home to Lord Burghley (William Cecil) who was the Lord High Treasurer to Queen Elizabeth I and one of the most powerful men in her court. There was a delayed, since last year, exhibition marking 500 years since his birth. The house has a lot of art and other objects that had been collected by Cecil and his ancestors. These included an altarpiece by Veronese and paintings by Gainsborough, Cranach and Angelica Kauffman. Pictures of some of the rooms and their contents can be seen at <https://virtualtour.burghley.co.uk>

Gary Harding

We have decided not to have any further day trips this year. Next year we hope to have at least five day trips starting in April and another holiday. Look out for details in future newsletters and on our website.

Gary Harding

Holiday to Shropshire – 19th to 22nd September 2021

After it being postponed from 2020 due to the pandemic thirty-two of us set off on a four-day holiday to Shropshire on the morning of Sunday 19th September with our driver Alan Marsh. Our first stop was at Wightwick Manor (pronounced "Wittick") - a Victorian manor house located on Wightwick Bank, Wolverhampton. It is one of only a few surviving examples of a house built and furnished under the influence of the Aesthetic movement and Arts and Crafts movement. The house has a remarkable collection of Pre-Raphaelite paintings by Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Edward Burne-Jones, Marie Spartali Stillman, Elizabeth Siddal and many others. The Manor also has the work of 13 professional female artists on permanent public display including notable examples of works by Lizzie Siddal, Lucy Madox Brown, Marie Spartali Stillman, and May Morris. There was also a separate gallery dedicated to the work of 19th-century painter Evelyn De Morgan and her husband, ceramicist William De Morgan, on loan from the De Morgan Foundation. Unfortunately, due to a lack of staff not everyone managed to see this. We then went on to our very nice 4* hotel, the Mercure Shrewsbury Albrighton Hall Hotel & Spa where we had excellent evening meals during our stay.

Day 2 – this was a day in Shrewsbury which started with our knowledgeable guide Dorothy Nicolle meeting us at the hotel and talking about and showing us the various sites and locations in and around the town. This started with the battle of Shrewsbury which was fought on 21 July 1403, waged between an army led by the Lancastrian King Henry IV and a rebel army led by Henry "Harry Hotspur" Percy from Northumberland. It was the birthplace of Charles Darwin where he lived until he was 27. The morning ended in Shrewsbury Abbey with Dorothy highlighting some of the key things to see there. The afternoon was at our leisure in the town trying to see some of the things that she had mentioned. Highlights for me were St Mary's Church with its beautiful ancient stained glass collected from various churches around Europe (see example here), the Museum & Art Gallery and the Quarry particularly the Dingle, a floral masterpiece cultivated by world renowned gardener Percy Thrower, who served as Parks Superintendent for 28 years.



Day 3 – a busy day with two places to go to, slightly delayed on route to the first as our coach could not fit under one of the bridges on route! We started at Powis Castle a grand country house near Welshpool just over the border in Wales. The interior was a little dark in places but we could see what they called their treasures which included 17th century Italian busts of the Twelve Caesars, a portrait of Lady Henrietta Herbert by Joshua Reynolds and a View of Verona by Bernardo

Bellotto. However, perhaps even more splendid than the castle were its gardens including its 300-year-old yew trees, some of the oldest and largest in Britain. Here is just one of them.



The second visit of the day was to Attingham Park was built in 1785 for Noel Hill, 1st Baron Berwick and added to by John Nash. It has a magnificent picture collection and there were some special ‘by my guest’ house party additions, including a table laid for dinner but with some modern touches including music and cans of 7up!



Day 4 – on our way back to Radlett we stopped at Hanbury Hall, again a nice house and gardens but it again had problems with a shortage of staff so some people didn’t get to see all of the house. They did have an apple orchard where you could go and pick your own apples fresh from the trees. We were slightly delayed in getting back to Radlett by problems on the M25 but overall I think everyone found it an enjoyable and interesting trip and are looking forward to next year’s holiday!! **Gary Harding**

