



Radlett Art Society

Dear Member

Christmas is coming and the lights are being switched on in the streets up and down the country, helping us all to get into the Christmas spirit.

Once again we have organised our annual Christmas lunch at Porters Park Golf Club on Wednesday December 4th -set in beautiful parkland. It is a lovely venue for our Christmas celebration. As I write this report the details, cost and menu choices for the lunch will be advised shortly.

In August a small number of our members had a most enjoyable and successful 5 day trip to the Isle of Wight. A similar 5 day trip has been arranged for September 1st next year to North Wales. The details are posted on our website, but I do have some hard copies available if any of you prefer that format.

There are plans afoot for further day outings in the New Year.

The Thursday afternoon workshop has attracted new members to our Society. We welcome them and hope they enjoy all the other lectures and activities that we offer.

In September we were privileged to have Elaine Delmar to sit for us for an afternoon of portraiture, while early in November we have engaged Jake Winkle, a watercolour artist and excellent teacher, for a full day workshop.

Many of you will see, several times this year, our members' art work exhibited in the lovely Harpenden Building Society window as you walk along the High Street and in October we had a large exhibition of our members' work in the Radlett Centre foyer

All of the above is put together by a hard working committee of just eight people!! If anyone would like to be more involved with the Society please speak to either me or anyone on the committee. You would be most welcome.

Finally I would like to wish you all A Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Best wishes
Chairman

Gill Cooper



FUTURE LECTURES

Thursday 21st November 7.45pm for 8.00pm on Zoom Lecturer: Ian Swankie

'Great Railway Stations – Evoking the Spirit of Romance and Adventure'

Ian Swankie is both an art history lecturer and London guide, familiar on both counts to RAS members over the last few years. We welcome him as he returns to give a lecture on: **Great Railway Stations, art and architecture in the UK, NY and Paris.**

'If you think of St Pancras International or New York Grand Central you imagine long romantic journeys. You know they are special places promising excitement and adventure. But there are dozens of other glorious stations in the UK and abroad. We will take a journey around some of the most evocative and splendid stations in the world. We will look not only at the magnificence of the architecture and the brilliant engineering but also discover artworks within the stations and examine many depictions of stations in art – like **Claude Monet's Gare St Lazare** or **William Powell Frith's Paddington**. (both shown below)



Thursday 16th January 7.45pm for 8.00pm on Zoom

'Frans Hals; from riotous drunk to modern idol.' Lecturer: Julia Musgrave

Hals enthralled 17th century Dutch audiences with his pioneering style for the time, which showed relaxed lively sitters, often smiling or laughing. His brushwork was unparalleled and he changed portraiture forever. The lecture will cover his portraits, group scenes and marriage portrayals as well as his famous Laughing Cavalier of 1624.

Self Portrait 1650s



Young Man and Woman in an inn 1623



Exhibition News

Throughout October there has been a very successful Exhibition by 21 members of Radlett Art Society in the Foyer and Cafe at The Radlett Centre.



Local Artists

Anna Cross &
Inga Armstrong

1st - 30th November

Free Exhibition
in the Foyer at
The Radlett Centre

The variety of work has excited a great deal of interest and as I write, two paintings have been sold. Many congratulations to those artists.

Throughout November, two of our Society's artists, Inga Armstrong and Anna Cross, have been invited to exhibit a body of their work in the Foyer and Cafe at the Radlett Centre.

Please do come along between the 1st - 30th November, bring your friends too.

The Radlett Centre is open to the public from
10am - 5pm weekdays
10am - 4pm Saturdays

The exhibition is free to visit.



Mixed Media Art

Mainly inspired by
Landscape,
Nature & Animals

Two blockbuster exhibitions currently running in London

Monet in London - Courtauld Gallery until 19th January

A truly beautiful collection of Monet's Views of the Thames series of paintings. These are displayed as Monet intended that they should be seen. It was evident that he was inspired by the ever-changing effects of sunlight on London's foggy and polluted atmosphere. Each individual painting is a jewel but, in my view, the effect of the whole is greater than the sum of its individual parts. For me, this exhibition is a glorious display of Monet's Impressionism at its best and may also be the only chance to ever see so many of his London paintings gathered in one place.

Van Gogh, Poets and Lovers - National Gallery until 19th January

A collection of over 60 paintings from 1888-89 from his short time in The South of France at Arles and Saint-Rémy. This features many favourite paintings including Starry Night, Van Gogh's Chair, two versions of Sunflowers and The Yellow House.

Both these exhibitions have brought together paintings from around the world. How lucky we are to live so near to London.

PAINTING DEMONSTRATION

PETER KEEGAN

Thursday 7th February 7.45pm for 8.00pm on Zoom



We welcome Peter for an evening zoom painting demonstration in oils. He has demonstrated previously for us on zoom, doing a portrait from a photograph and achieving a fantastic likeness. Portraiture is his specialist subject but on this occasion it will be something different which will be decided

nearer the time.

Peter lives and works from his studio in Buckinghamshire. He follows traditional techniques but uses them in a modern and original style. He also finds time to organise interesting painting courses at home and abroad.

In addition to portraiture. He paints local landscapes, still life and figures. He exhibits widely in and around London



PAST LECTURE

THE NOT-SO-STILL LIVES OF BEN NICHOLSON

This lively and interesting lecture was given by **Jo Walton** on **19 September**.

Nicholson can be regarded as a pivotal figure of mid-twentieth century British art. Always open to new ideas, he was fascinated by developments in Europe and the USA and was instrumental in introducing them to the more traditionally-minded art community of the UK. Part-abstract and part-theoretical, he had great interest in geometrical shapes and patterns.

He was born 1894 into a family of artists. He entered the Slade School at the age of 16. Unfit for war service in 1914-18 due to asthma, he spent time in California. His brother was killed in the war and his mother succumbed to the 'Asian Flu'. He fell for Edie Stuart-Wortley whose husband was missing in action on the Western Front but when it transpired she was widowed, she married not him but his father. Such triangular relationships were a feature of his entire life.

Jo Walton explained that he successfully formed relationships with women who provided for his changing needs and developing circumstances.

His first wife, Winifred, had independent means which enabled him to make art his career. They married in 1920. Living on the Swiss/Italian border he re-learned painting and now influenced by Cezanne, Braque and Picasso he got to know the artistic community in Paris.

In 1924 he travelled to St. Ives. There, the light, colour and landscapes were a revelation. He discovered an influential local 'character' in Alfred Wallis a painter of naive images without perspective using almost any surface. His own portrayal of Porthmeor Beach used layers of colour which varied with a change in the light. 2 - 3 years were spent adopting new ideas there until he found it was necessary to return to London.

In 1930 Nicholson was invited to Norfolk, where he met Barbara Hepworth, the sculptor with whom he rapidly formed a lasting relationship, extraordinarily still supported financially by Winifred, for four years. They married in 1938.

The next strong influence came from Mondrian whose focus on geometric images promoted a level of spiritual harmony. (N.B. your correspondent has experienced difficulty distinguishing their works!)

War in 1939 saw his return to Carbis Bay near St Ives. His second marriage ended in 1949. He attracted a wide range of assistants, in particular Felicita Vogler a photo-journalist who became his third wife in 1957. They lived an international life based in Switzerland. When they separated in 1971, he returned to the UK.

His work became increasingly abstract through the 1960's. It sold well and with it, widespread recognition came. Having declined a knighthood and Companion of Honour, he accepted the Order of Merit. He died in 1982.

Jo Walton showed many vivid examples of his work which disclosed many recognisable influences, notably Cezanne, Mondrian and Picasso. But he was able to incorporate these trends into a style recognisably his own.

Some familiar characteristics included the use of still life and landscapes viewed through windows, angular shapes and structures, intense multi-layered and rubbed-down colours with lines gouged in the deepest coat. Another characteristic style lay in angular wood reliefs such as *White Relief* (1933).

Edward Cross

Membership Renewal Radlett Art Society

Dear Member,

Your annual Radlett Art Society membership subscription for 2025 is due on the 1st January. The subscription for the year is maintained for the sixth year – £35 for an individual, (full time students - £10).

There is likely to be an increase next year.

You can pay online by Direct Bank Transfer to **Radlett Art Society,**

Nat West Account 50902571

Sort Code 60-17-14

Reference Your Name.

please confirm your payment to me at membership@radlett-art-society.co.uk

Or by cheque which should be made payable to the Radlett Art Society and send to

Anna Cross, Membership Secretary,

Radlett Art Society

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Tel: [07538 518704](tel:07538518704),

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Membership - the sum of £35 per member or £10 per full time student
Please let me know of any change in your details here – for our records.

Date:..... Name:

Address

.....

Tel:..... Email:.....

If you would like your membership card sent to you, please send a Stamped Addressed Envelope.

Otherwise it can be collected from lectures or the workshop.

This year, the calendar and membership card are combined into 1 document