

CLEVELAND ART SOCIETY SPRING/SUMMER NEWSLETTER. APRIL, MAY, JUNE, 2017.

President: Ian Lightfoot.

Chairman (currently available).

Vice-Chairman: Brian Collins.

01642 763580

Secretary: Suzie Keith, 4 Colpitt Close, Freshfields, Norton, Stockton-on-Tees, TS20 1TR.

taylorsmillac@gmail.com

07760302153

Treasurer: Daphne Wattis, 45.Park Road South, M'bro, TS5 6LE.

daphnewattis@fsmail.net

01642 813353

Exhibition Secretary & Newsletter Editor: Alan Morley, 53.Rochester Road, Linthorpe,
M'bro, TS5 6QG. alanmorleyartist@hotmail.com

01642 812408 / 07743773471

Website Manager: Jon Sephton. info@jonsephton.com

Committee:

Maggie Harrison; Gill Bradley; Rob Blenkarn; Gillian Spensley & Lorraine Brown.

Meetings held in the Art Dept. (1st. Floor), Macmillan Academy, Stockton Rd, M'bro, TS5 4AG. 7pm-9pm each Thursday (unless otherwise stated). Prospective members are asked to enter the car park via the electronic gates at the end of the green perimeter fence near the athletic club called GOALS directly underneath the flyover. Ask at Reception for directions to the Art Dept., or drop me (Alan Morley) a text, or ring: 07743773471.

Editor's Report on the winter and spring.

. On our return to creative activity after the Christmas break, **Ken Hornby** introduced **Catherine Stokeld** from a N.Yorkshire art group and she immediately became a new member and took part in the set Still Life topic of winter associated things, shapes and bits and pieces brought in by members. Working in monotone was appropriate and the work produced was evocative of the short January days – the cold, the darkness, the mood, and working with charcoal was perfect - all good stuff! Our representative in France, **Jon Sephton** and wife Sue, paid a flying visit to their Stokesley house to assist in its sale before returning to the warmer temperature of their French village. I met them and took possession of some paintings and prints for exhibitions this year. **Jon** is our Website Manager, so remember to contact him if you want to take advantage of the Art Society FREE website! Why not include the website on your artist business cards as well?! www.clevelandartsociety.co.uk

. **Daphne Wattis** transformed herself into a “lady in blue satin” as our costume model, and didn't she do well! Terrific studies in drawing media and in paint were again achieved. Our stock of clay (preserved in plastic and kept damp) seems to last forever. We had consecutive weeks with clay modelling and lined up finished work for Macmillan Art Academy to kinOur September return to HQ and the commencement of the Autumn/Winter Programme saw us working with clay – always great fun – and also working with a well contrived Still Life. Our “Sale or Swap” evening at the close of the month enabled a great exchange of extremely cheap art books, magazines and materials. October gave us our President's Talk on important aspects of the human form in art (this is in-line with historic talks and lectures delivered by a succession of quite expert officers and members down the years, all of which have been unrecorded and lost to history). Religion, mythology, politics, war, love, etc were all spot-lighted, and it has to be remembered, these talks are free contributions to the Society by some of the most knowledgeable people

A Message to the full Cleveland Art Society Membership

Please do not feel excluded by all the unfamiliar names mentioned in the Newsletters if you are not a regular Macmillan Academy Thursday evening attendee. We hope you can find the information we provide a useful offering of knowledge to the wider CAS experience. We value you all as practising artists in your own right and we are always here to offer help and support in your chosen fields of creative making.

TIME TO PAY YOUR SUBS, you lovely artists! Our 2nd. spring exhibition is announced here in this Newsletter together with forthcoming events.

Members News

Kevin Palmer proudly informed me of his painting, "Foundry Men" winning the local Hobbycraft painting completion last year and then going on to actually winning the national Hobbycraft competition as well! He was awarded a £350 art materials hamper and a £150 gift voucher, which will last him for years he admitted with a smile. Customers were asked to vote for their favourite picture in stores at local level and the winning pieces were then entered into the national judging stage. His picture went onto be displayed in the Stockton store. Kevin is our expert painter of locally themed subjects populated with figures involved in work, rest and play. His greetings cards are always in fun competition with **Dennis Roddam's** popular wildlife cards as to who will sell the most in our exhibitions. It's worth noting **Dennis** is always reluctant to tell me of his success at exhibition level; he quite regularly shows work at the country's top wildlife art "opens", some in London, some in the Midlands - well done! **Lorraine Brown** meanwhile, continues to be involved at administration and organising level with Platform A. She has been a leading officer with them for some years now and is quite a star for the art scene.

On a sad note, illness struck the Society in three ways, of which we know, this winter/spring: **President, Ian Lightfoot's** son has been hospitalized this year and has undergone a very important operation. This forced **Ian** to cancel a Leven Art Society booking he had as tutor and a similar event for another art group too. He did not cancel his workshop with us though at Linthorpe Community Centre, and we are deeply grateful for that – his loyal duty to us gave rest-bite from his hospital vigil in Liverpool where his son is situated. **Gillian Spensley** became very poorly in Norway where she had been staying with a relative and was hospitalized also for quite some time. For a while we lost contact with her and we were very worried. She said she was lucky to survive. Both **Anna Jasinek** and **Margaret Pear** are on the mend from their medical procedures and we send all our very best wishes to every one of them for full recoveries.

Communications over the years with former Secretary, **David Blower** who lives in Birmingham, has kept me informed of his life after CAS. I want to highlight he is Treasurer to the "Midland Painting Group".

New Members

Warm welcome to **Catherine Stokeld**, as mentioned at the head of the N/L; she hails from the Stainton Art Group in North Yorkshire. And, to **Harriet Jane**, a teacher and sports activist who is currently part of a lady's rugby team – wow! **Val Bell** joins us also, another teacher and daughter of the late Sketching Club/Art Society member, **Jack Grainger**. **Val** incidentally, is a fellow artist with **John Reed**, **Maggie Harrison**, **Sandra Hill** and **myself** at Gallery TS1 and she has taken part in the "Members and Models" exhibition at Gallery TS1 with those of you who entered also. **Harriet** took part in the successful **Ian Lightfoot** led Weekend School and created the largest study of the whole weekend – a big canvas on the biggest studio easel in the room. I'm very pleased to report **Denise Thompson** returns to us after

taking a one year spell out. She is **Mike Featherstone's** and **my** opposite number as Admin Officer for Hartlepool Art Club's Facebook page, and brings back her talent to CAS whilst continuing her HAC role.

Programme

For the benefit of prospective members who are issued with this Newsletter, our HQ at Macmillan Academy gives us the nitty-gritty of classroom practical exercises where we work with a range of materials and media and venture sometimes into directions outside our comfort zones and preferred disciplines. Members wanting to learn a skill can look to us for guidance also.

April Programme

6th. CAS Library Book Sale.

In an attempt to reduce our stock of books and free up our Macmillan Academy Art Dept. filing cabinet we want to offer our books at bargain prices. This library has been built up over decades and houses some gems!

13th. Costume Model.

Adam will pose for us this month and it is back to the test of looking carefully at the figure and proportions. Large drawing boards, easels and tables are plentiful.

20th. Spring Flowers.

Yes, that art society classic, but wonders can be achieved with this old favourite. Some of my best modern Still Life paintings involve pretty flowers, hah! especially juxtaposed a vivid or complementary background - think!

27th. Artwork Critique.

For those of you who have not enjoyed one of our critique meetings, these are great! It is a form of a "working social evening". We all look at members' problem artworks and offer opinions on how to proceed or improve. If you have a problem piece, please bring it along and be brave; we are always very kind but objective and can often see things with fresh eyes. I brought 3 pieces last year to one of these evenings and came away delighted!

May Programme

2nd. A.G.M.

Don't be frightened to come along – you won't get co-opted into a role. Indications to date are things are settled at the top, as they have been surprisingly without a successor to **Janet Waller**. The officer and committee group have had no trouble in directing CAS operations. We do have in mind an interesting "cabinet reshuffle" though which we believe will produce an extremely strong leadership team for some years to come; BUT, this is your moment to air your thoughts, suggestions and nominations! We welcome all your ideas.

11th. The Heritage Gallery Exhibition Preview.

Tonight's usual Macmillan Academy meeting cancelled! Please meet at The Heritage Gallery at 4.00pm for the opening of Part 2 of our "Members and Models" exhibition – see Exhibition Schedule accompanying this N/L. This is the main event to this two pronged Spring exhibition. Gallery TS1 is currently showing, "Members and Models" (small works) and the May – June exhibition at The Heritage Gallery will present all sizes even the BIGGEST you can throw at us! (Gulp)... well, you know what I mean... within reason. If in doubt, get in touch!

13th. & 14th. Seaton Hall.

The first of the 2017 sketching excursions. This ancient farmstead site with its holiday development out-buildings and art barn complex is a North Yorkshire surprise on the outskirts of Staithes. We have drawn and painted here for many years and we have access to the whole of the gardens and fields. There is a host of very sculptural plants and idyllic situations to work with and be inspired by. We hope William Kidd is available to give us his usual

tour of the grounds. If you have not been before, please contact a CAS officer for directions. Let us make this a car-share w'kend. Bring your own art materials, stool, easel and refreshments. We usually have the use of a kettle and kitchen. Meet anytime after 10.30am.

18th. Water-based Paint and Collage Workshop, led by Lorraine Brown.

Exploring the basic layering process and creation of form through glazing white and black over coloured and layered surface. This workshop will be about technique and experimental effect which might prove useful when developing your own work. Materials: Watercolours and acrylic, including white and black paint; PVA and strong paper or primed board. Tissue paper will be provided, but oriental papers if you have any, are effective. Bring a simple image to work from, i.e., still life sketch or image from a magazine or photograph. If you do not bring all of these materials, we can help. Questions to **Lorraine** please: 07717248928.

25th. continued.

June Programme.

1st. Life Model. Members ONLY!

Male Life Model, Peter from Sunderland is scheduled again for this session. Please observe our Life Model classes are the cheapest in the whole region (£2) and therefore restricted to members only as a benefit to your membership. Again, the Academy's Art Dept. comes into its own with the ready supply of easels and boards.

8th. Committee Meeting.

Members are welcome at the academy as usual, and are encouraged to proceed with their own projects whilst the Committee sit down with Trump, May and Merkel via satellite link to sort out the world.

9th. & 10th. Skelton Castle.

This Friday and Saturday combination will be the first of our summer sketching outings. Skelton Castle has replaced Ormesby Hall (not by design) as our annual grand manor house and gardens plein-air location. Google Skelton Castle – very interesting! If you have not been before, please contact a CAS officer for directions. See Seaton Hall notice above for similar outdoor requirements. No kettle or kitchen available however this time; this is a picnic basket occasion. Please meet at or after 11.00 am. Take my phone number in case of problems.

15th. Working in Miniature.

An exercise in working small on parchment (we supply) led by **Lorraine Brown**: Bring an old photo of family member or friend and we will attempt to follow how the old masters approached fine brush miniature painting. If you have a magnifying glass, that would be helpful, and of course very fine brush/s.

22nd. South Gare.

Another of our favourite annual locations. Truly splendid for its big vista. Not only have we got its unrivalled seascape aspect with sand-dunes, fishing boats and passing ships, there is the distant industry with all the tonal values such distance offers, and crucially, there is the dead blast furnace and adjacent structures to capture before it is too late. Same applies to this out-and-about trip - see Seaton Hall and Skelton Castle notices. Meet anytime after 6.00pm. The main body of us usually hang out around the building with CAFE painted on the roof.

29th. The Barrage – Stockton-on-Tees.

Please note of course, all these outdoor arrangements dispense with meetings at the academy. The Barrage has only been visited by us once before; President, **Ian Lightfoot** led a group of us years ago here. It provides unusual buildings and a water course for canoes. I suggest in advance, we might be able to utilise the pub overlooking this pretty amazing river facility, if we need a break.

Exhibitions and Future Events

* **"Members and Models" (small works). CAS exhibition at Gallery TS1. 11th. March – 21st. April, 2017. Portraits and figure studies.**

Still running at Gallery TS1! If you have not been to this M'boro town centre gallery and viewed its

Member's Services

President, Ian Lightfoot - Personal and group art tuition / painting demo's / workshops / lectures.

Exhibition Secretary, Alan Morley – as above, plus picture framing.

Tutored art holiday groups.

Sue Ford (Paper and email copies of her art workshop holidays on request).

Future Newsletter notices & inclusions

Please inform me of your exhibitions, services, news, etc. Find my contact details in the officers section on this Newsletter heading. Any information you can provide will be welcome for inclusion in the next N/L even if your news is old, it is still of interest to members. The N/L can look back on what has been achieved and also forward to up-and-coming events.

Are you on our website?

Follow the site links to be included, or contact **Jon Sephton** for assistance.

Are you on Facebook?

If you are, LIKE our page in the first instance, then send **Mike Featherstone** or **myself**, via email or via our personal Facebook timelines, your desired notifications for the CAS Facebook page. If you attempt to share or post things directly on to it, your notification will get lost to the margin of the page and will not be seen! We need to post it onto the page timeline ourselves as admin' officers. I quite often share things from my personal page onto it. The CAS Facebook page sometimes appears on Twitter, so your Facebook posts can have a far greater audience reach on the CAS timeline than posted simply on your own.

My promised online Newsletter!

Last year my intention had been to launch the first 2017 N/L as an exciting online, full colour, illustrated version. It would have amounted to a quantum leap from this familiar black typed style, which has served us well but is basically a modernised 20th.century typewriter type edition. I had the idea when **Jity** assisted me with writing the N/L a number of years ago, but I had not the time to master the digital technology. To bring everyone up to speed, **Suzie Keith** is working on one of the many digital options for such a N/L. We hope to bring you it soon.

I want to remind some, and tell those many members who do not know, a monthly N/L was created in 1960 during the time **Ken Cozens** was Chairman, but we do not know what form this N/L took; at the moment none have been uncovered, but it is likely to have been a small printed card with the scantest of info'. The next progress occurred in 1967 when **Margaret Hoggarth** introduced the typewritten paper version, and all the subsequent N/L Editors have thereafter delivered communication for our journey in that way. I regard that 1967 leap forward by **Margaret** as much a quantum leap then as the next will be for us in this evolving story of the N/L. By reading this Cleveland Art Society "newspaper" as news has unfolded, you have participated in a system which has driven and steered artists for 50 years.
