



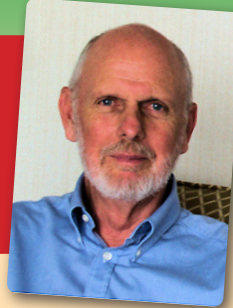
The Sketch

The newsletter of the
Cambridge Drawing Society

Number 10, March 2023

From our President, Paul Rodhouse

NORMAL SERVICE RESUMED!



On the 20th February we had our first in-person AGM since 2019 and elected our first President Elect, Susan Abbs, and new committee member, Jackie Duckworth. A warm welcome to you both! Susan will take over as President at our 2024 AGM and Jackie has replaced Colin Barker as Graphic Designer on your committee.

The last three years have been extraordinary, and for some very difficult. Covid caused our exhibitions, and most other activities, to be cancelled in 2020 and the Society became almost dormant. Our president, Lizanne van Essen, Secretary, Steve Ashman, and your committee, continued with meetings online and arranged live-streamed talks and demonstrations so the Society continued to function. Our members remained loyal and thanks to our treasurer, Brian Holley, who allowed all members a subscription holiday, there was little change in numbers as we entered 2021.

Once again, we were unable to hold an in-person spring exhibition in 2021 so we ran an online exhibition. Thanks to Yvonne Jerrold and Brian Holley's hard work, this was a tremendous success. So too were online evening events in

spring and autumn, which attracted above average numbers. We were unable to hold a garden party, but we did hold an autumn exhibition at the Pitt Building because the Leys was unavailable due to the school's Covid arrangements.

As 2022 dawned we went ahead with exhibitions at the Pitt Building in the spring and the Leys in the autumn where, for the first time since 2019, we were able to hold a private view.

At last, we can cautiously look forward to a full return to our usual activities in 2023. Covid has changed the way we do things, in some cases for the better, but it has not changed what we do. Our talented members are producing stunning art and we continue to attract and accept new members. Our finances are sound and your committee is dedicated to taking the Society forward successfully in a changing world.

Thank you everyone for your art, your loyalty and support. Thank you, committee members for your hard work keeping the Society moving forward. Special thanks to Colin Barker who has done all our design work and edited the Sketch for us, and who after five years, will now rotate off the committee.

Special thanks to our Honorary Secretary, Steve Ashman, who has served us so well for so long and through all the trials and tribulations of the last three years. Steve has decided to stand down in 2025. Work will start later this year to find a successor, with the aim of voting on the new Honorary Secretary Elect at next year's AGM.

CDS Sketching Group

The Sketch Group has a long history as can be seen from Gwen Raverat's 1932 wood engraving of artists painting by the river. I joined in 1990 when it was run by Pamela Hughes. Most venues then were in Cambridge as she didn't drive.

Today, not so green, we travel to surrounding villages, usually to large private gardens. Some artists like to draw the flowers, others the buildings, though we try to have a bit of both. We have also sometimes visited the Cambridge college gardens. Pamela Barrell and Ann Tossell are very good at finding suitable venues.

The group is oversubscribed and we hope that not everyone turns up on the same day but it usually works out OK. We have a core of regulars and others who come occasionally. Some bring easels and others just sketch books. We try to carry on whatever the



weather, but sometimes it is just too wet or cold.

We meet on Wednesdays in June and July, from 10am until up to 3pm, with a break for a picnic lunch. If you are interested in joining, we will try to fit you in. For more details contact fran@godwood.com or 01223 561849.



Alice Thomson wins wildcard place at LAOTY 2023

When I won a place as a wildcard for LAOTY 2023 I was thrilled to have the opportunity to paint plein air all day amongst a film set! We were given a choice of locations, and mine was Ascot races, because I love colour and movement.

The rules included dressing up appropriately for the occasion! My large straw hat proved very handy on the hottest day in June.

We were allowed to bring a guest so my husband came along and drove us there at 5am with strict rules to be at the picnic area by 8.30am. Once we'd be checked in and given a wristband we then had a rather long walk to our destination with all our heavy kit plus a pack lunch!

We were placed in front of the end of the horse track with a view of the enclosure tents. We were also part of



the crowd in front of the 5 contestants to use as part of the scene!

I found a spot and set myself up by 10am start and got going. Despite the distractions of people, noise, judges and everchanging moving scenery of carriages and audience, I got fully immersed in the scene, sketching and painting. I finished two pieces in the 4 hours, presented as a diptych. We barely



saw any horses racing until the very end, by that time I had completed my artwork. I'm pleased a managed to include the royal

Carriages as well as the men and ladies of Ascot!

There is always a hope that one might be chosen out if the 50 wildcards, but it didn't matter! I had a great challenge, I met many lovely artists and was very tired by the end!

Cambridge Drawing Society Summer Party 2023



After three long years of absence, I'm very happy to announce that the Cambridge Drawing Society Summer Party will be held again this summer. Member Pamela Barrell has generously offered the use of her wonderful garden for the event.

The party will be held on Sunday 11th June at 19 Sedley Taylor Road, Cambridge, CB2 8PW from 2.30-4.30pm. A light buffet and drinks will be available. It's a long overdue opportunity for members and friends to catch up and socialise. Let us hope the

weather is as beautiful and warm as it has been in recent years! More details will be emailed to the membership early May.

Tracey Ashman

For your diary:

THE SOCIETY'S AUTUMN 2023 EXHIBITION WILL RUN FROM SUN. 22ND - SAT 28TH OCT. AT THE LEYS SCHOOL IN CAMBRIDGE

Obituary Hazel Watson

It is with great sadness we report that longstanding CDS member Hazel Watson passed away on Saturday the 26th November 2022 at the age of 92. Hazel joined the Society in 2000 and had been a very active member of the society for many years but sadly as age crept in she couldn't anymore do what she had loved doing. Our condolences go to Hazel's family and friends.

MEMBERS' PROFILES

Susan Abbs

"You're smart. Get your degree and you can always go back to art."

That's what my father said to me forty years ago in Singapore and that's what I did. I had my first career in publicity and events organisation across Singapore and London, and after leaving the BBC to look after my children, I embarked on my second career. An art course at an adult college eventually led to me becoming the first artist-in-residence at Orleans House Gallery in 2012.

Shortly afterwards, we moved to Cambridge where my husband became the director of genetics labs at Addenbrookes. Naturally I had to join THE local art group - Cambridge Drawing Society.

I like to work in various mediums - traditional as well as iPad art. I am currently working on my monochromatic Light on the Horizon series which is about hope and better things to come.

I teach art in my studio in Cambridge as well as life drawing at Hills Road College. I have exhibited in various fairs, exhibitions and galleries such as Cambridge Contemporary, and my work can be found in the Cambridge Art Book.

I believe that if one is part of a voluntary group, one should always contribute what they can. As President elect, I hope I can do my bit.



Jackie Duckworth

I am a printmaker and illustrator who moved to Cambridge 40 years ago. Originally a hospital scientist, in 2006 I joined a life drawing class, which led to the Access to Art course at Cambridge Regional College and then to studying illustration at Anglia Ruskin. I

am now a full time artist.

I chose illustration rather than fine art because of my love of story - my linocuts are inspired by history and mythology, usually with added

birds and

beasts! I also enjoy textile arts and experimenting in other media. My illustration work is created digitally and ranges from theatre posters to science fiction magazines. I love a challenge!

I joined both CDS and Cambridge Open Studios in 2015, and have been a regular exhibitor ever since. I live in Fulbourn with my family, two dogs and six chickens.

I'm looking forwards to contributing to the CDS committee both generally and by using my digital skills to produce our publicity material and The Sketch.



SOUTH

...t'he weather cleared and we had a good view of the coast of South Georgia as we moved under steam and sail!...

Paul Rodhouse's painting of Shackleton's ship 'Endurance' leaving South Georgia in 1914 at the start of her ill fated passage towards the Antarctic. Exhibited during the recent event at the Scott Polar Research Institute by the expedition leaders who found the wreck of 'Endurance' last year 3000 metres below the ice in the Weddell Sea: <https://endurance22.org/the-expedition>



Emily Jolley

Swallow

Artwork is Work

Emily is a secret Northerner, who migrated to Bath for her Fine Art Degree, then onto Hackney in London, built a career in Business Development, and now she has landed in Huntington where she is a senior manager at a tech start up, runs a Gallery, maintains her art practice and is a parent. She manages these numerous aspects with a focused mind and rapid enthusiasm.

Why did she become a Friend of the CDS? When she moved here she wanted to meet local artists and locate the local art. In the process she also joined and has volunteered for Cambridge Open Studios. She is convinced that art is for everyone, that it's good to make art and it's good to see it, and she wants to give local people opportunities to participate.

In October 2022, she took the leap to opening the Huntingdon Art Gallery (huntingdonartgallery.com) as an on-going platform for local art, and which donates a % of all sales to the local mental health charity, Arts and Minds. Ingeniously, she's working alongside established local businesses, Cambs Lock if you have an urge to buy a 'collectible', and an on-site café Toasterly Awesome, so her Gallery is becoming the place to be. At present she says it is small scale while she pulls the threads



together, connecting artists and giving them support in making their work available to the public.

And along with this, she keeps a day free for her own art practice. Her motto, as a reminder to herself, is 'Artwork is Work' and she has painted it on the back of an office chair left behind in her studio. She remains clear that her practice is not 'all about me', and that she is balancing her own artwork with getting

involved with other people who enjoy art and contributing her skills to the community. Growing Reflections:

Flight © Emily Jolley
GreenStorm © Emily Jolley

If your curiosity is triggered, follow Emily on Instagram [atemilyjolleyfineart](https://www.instagram.com/atemilyjolleyfineart) and [@huntingdonartgallery](https://www.instagram.com/huntingdonartgallery) and via emilyjolley.co.uk

Spring Exhibition Update

The Spring exhibition is just around the corner and we are in final planning stages, of what promises to be another excellent exhibition. The call for entries closed on 3rd March and I am pleased to report that we will have 112 members exhibiting this time. In addition, we have attracted submissions from 44 new candidates. The selection panel again have a challenging path to walk. The panel will sit for a digital selection of members works on 15th March, followed by the new candidates physical selection on the 22nd March.

For this year's Spring exhibition we have had to make some significant changes, to work around the loss of all parking facilities at the Pitt Building. One of the changes was to introduce an additional hand-in/collection location outside of the city, to serve our members who previously relied on parking being available at the Pitt. It proved extremely difficult to find a suitable facility, but we finally managed to book the new village hall in Cottenham, which ticks all the boxes for what we need.

Having two hand-in/collection locations does introduce some new logistical challenges, and will require more helping commitments from exhibitors to ensure things run smoothly and we avoid delays to our members when delivering and collecting work. Thank you to all of you who have offered to help.

I look forward to seeing many of you during the exhibition and wish every success to all our members who are participating this year.

Edited and designed by Colin Barker

Further information about the Cambridge Drawing society can be found by checking in to

<http://www.cambridgedrawingsociety.org>

Note. All website URLs in this newsletter are active. Just click on them to open.