

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

Hello Everyone

I hope you are all keeping well during this awful time. As you know, we have had to cancel both the AGM (see *new-look AGM*) and our Spring Exhibition at the Black Swan Arts Long Gallery this year.

We will be setting the new AGM date as soon as the lockdown information allows, and hope that our Autumn Exhibition at Black Swan Arts Round Tower Gallery will go ahead as scheduled. We are also hoping that open-air painting will begin in July, but we will keep you posted on this.

Amanda Bennett, one of our long-time members, has kindly written a piece for us on Isabel George, together with Russel Coates and Hilary McFarland. Isabel is a founder member of Frome Art Society, who celebrated her 100th birthday on April 8th. The FAS committee sent a bouquet of roses and lilies to Isabel and the photographs taken by care home staff show that she clearly enjoyed the day.

Finally, if you enjoy a good laugh (don't we all!), 'Dad's Army' will be on stage at the Merlin Theatre, Frome, from Tuesday 20 October to Saturday 24 October. Rumour has it that yours truly will be playing Private Godfrey, before returning to brushes and paint.

Stay safe, and my very best wishes to you all.

Alan Overton

CHAIRMAN, FROME ART SOCIETY

REMINDERS

AGM 2020

The AGM has been postponed until all restrictions are officially lifted, but, when we have a date set, the evening will go as follows:
SHORT FILM **7.00pm**
INFORMAL AGM **7.30pm**
WINE AND NIBBLES **8pm**
See *New-Look AGM* for more info.

WORKSHOPS & DEMO

Our March demonstration with Paul Oakley and Workshop with Amanda Bee was postponed. They will be held at a later date to be confirmed.

OUTDOOR PAINTING DAYS

This year will hope to start our ODP on **Friday 3 July** and will keep you informed of any developments via email, our Facebook page and website.

HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY



Isabel George has recently celebrated her 100th birthday and we, at Frome Art Society, would like to wish her every good wish on this auspicious occasion.

Many of you will know Isabel; she is a founder member of Frome Art Society and has provided invaluable support through her relentless commitment to the Society over the decades.

Isabel trained at the Bristol School of Art where she learnt, as she would say, to draw "properly". She went on to become a skilled potter, learning her trade from Harry Stanton, a famous modeller from Doultons, in Stoke on-Trent. She worked alongside famous potters such as Hans Coper and Lucie Rae and taught pottery at Frome College where she also organised the Adult Education. During this time she transformed the pottery department by obtaining an array of kilns, gas, electric, test, Raku and electric wheels creating one of the best pottery facilities in the country. This was entirely Isabel's achievement and a tremendous

legacy to the College. Isabel retired from full time teaching in the early 1980s but continued to teach adult education classes part-time.

Isabel has lived and worked in Frome throughout her life. She has always drawn and painted and her many works form a veritable history of the town in which she grew up.

Come rain or shine, Isabel never missed an outdoor painting day and was always willing to give a helping hand to anyone needing help. Something of which I was fortunate enough to be on the receiving end as well as a kit-kat which she would always produce from her bag!

Isabel continues to have a great sense of humour. Until lockdown, she was visited every week by her next-door neighbour's cat, whom she partially adopted! Although she was unable to share her birthday in person, her many friends and admirers remembered her, as can be seen by all the cards she received.

We all join in wishing Isabel a very Happy 100th Birthday.

Contributed by Amanda Bennett

EXHIBITIONS 2020

SPRING EXHIBITION

In line with advice on keeping safe during the current pandemic, the FAS Spring exhibition at the Black Swan Arts Long Gallery will, sadly, not now take place. The committee is discussing exhibition options for the future and we will keep you informed of any developments via email, our Facebook page and website.

AUTUMN EXHIBITION

Scheduled to take place at the Black Swan Arts Round Tower Gallery, **21 September to 5 October 2020**, we will confirm details nearer the time.

MEMBERSHIP

Our Membership Secretary, Eve Knowles, would like to thank all of you who have renewed this year and for your continuing support. We hope you will enjoy what the society has in store for you in 2020. We will endeavour to provide as full a programme as possible within the confines of the COVID-19 restrictions and thank members for bearing with us.

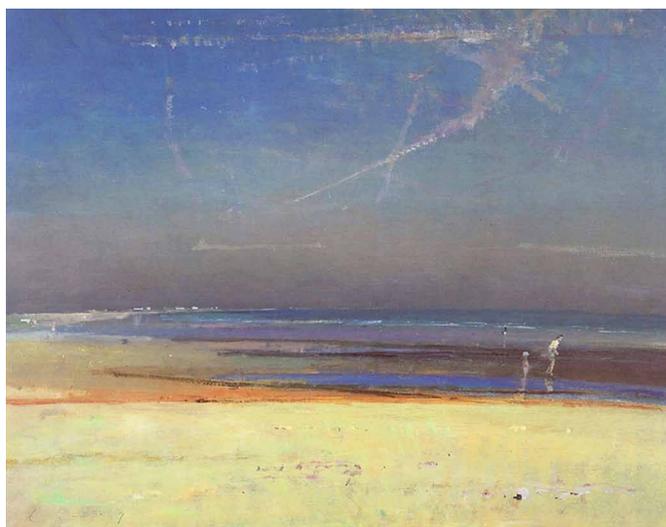
FACEBOOK

We now have 120 followers on Facebook and four members have been 'Artist of the Month'. We would love to hear from other members who would be interested in sharing their work – this always provides good publicity as over 200 people see some posts. If you are interested please email our Facebook Manager, **Liz Spurgeon**, at [lizbeth_s3@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lizabeth_s3@yahoo.co.uk) with 3 images and up to 75 words.

NEW-LOOK AGM | Date TBC

GREET NEW MEMBERS **6.30pm** | SHORT FILM **7.00pm**
INFORMAL AGM **7.30pm** | WINE AND NIBBLES FOR ALL **8pm**

We are inviting members who have joined the Society during the last year to come along at 6.30pm for a 'meet and greet', whilst enjoying refreshments. It would be lovely to say hello. For all non-new members, please arrive at 7pm, in time to see the short film we have planned, 'The Art of Fred Cuming RA'. At 7.30pm we will have a brief slot for AGM business (in a more informal setting than usual), and finish off with wine and nibbles for all and a chance to chat. All members are extremely welcome. **Please come along – we'd love to see you!**



FRED CUMING RA

Fred has devoted his life to expressing the fleeting impressions of his surroundings, often painting the South Coast of England around Hastings and Rye where he lives.

Fred Cuming trained at the Sidcup School of Art between 1945 and 1949. After National Service, he studied at the Royal College of Art for four years. In 1974 Fred became an RA member. At that time, he was the youngest member ever elected. Fred has also been a member of the New English Art Club since 1960. Fred has exhibited widely and has work in private and public collections internationally. In 2001 he was given the honour of being the 'Featured Artist' in the Royal Academy of Arts Summer Exhibition, with an entire gallery of his own. In 2004, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of the Arts at the University of Kent in Canterbury.

FAS OPPORTUNITIES

WEBSITE MANAGER

Gill Harry has been managing our website at fromeartsociety.com for the last six years and would now like to hand it over to a new volunteer. Updates are twice a year, with all information supplied by the committee. Also, there are occasional uploads of FAS members' paintings to the online gallery.

Gill says she is very happy to work with someone new towards a gradual changeover – so do get in touch with her by emailing fromeartsociety@gmail.com

OUTDOOR PAINTING ORGANISER

Apart from a short break, David Reeves has planned and organised our outdoor painting days since 2013 and feels it is time for some new thinking. This year's days have been planned, but we are looking for

someone to take over the organising from next year.

Do step forward – this is an enjoyable job and an ideal one to share with a friend or colleague. We already have over 50 venues on our books to choose from (of course, new ones are always welcome), so planning is straightforward. If you might be interested, please contact **David Reeves** on **01373 471152** to discuss.

MEETINGS SECRETARY

A vacancy still exists for a Meetings Secretary. This is a straightforward role sending out agendas for meetings, taking minutes, and keeping records. We would be most grateful if someone would consider volunteering. Again, this could work as a job share. Please contact FAS on fromeartsociety@gmail.com for more information.

Thank you

OUTDOOR PAINTING DAYS



JULY TO AUGUST 2019 | FRI & WED | 10AM TO 4PM

We hope to start this event in July. Please keep checking for updates. We will keep you informed of any developments via email, our Facebook page and website. Another great range of venues is on offer this summer (for members only). For directions and more information please see the Outdoor Painting Sheet attached. Any queries please call **David Reeves 07720 038411 HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

UPPER ROW FARM Fri 3rd July | Donation



A working farm, very old barns, an archaeology dig on site and small reconstructed Roman garden with plant information.

THE OLD RECTORY Fri 17th July | Donation



House, wild and tame gardens, vineyard, views of church and countryside.

GRANDON MANOR FARM Fri 31 July | Donation



C15th manor house, working farm, trout lake and waterfall. Wellies suggested if wet.

SOMERSET LAVENDER Wed 8 July | Donation | Café



Wander at will through 5 acres of Lavender fields with views. Shop and café. The village is also worth a visit.

MELLS PARK HOUSE Wed 22 July | Donation | Shop/Café



Large country house with grounds, lake and woodlands, views of surrounding land.

LAKESIDE AND FONTHILL GARDEN CENTRE Fri 7 Aug | Donation | Café



Lake with wildlife: duck and geese, woodlands, good views over fields. Café.

RECENTLY ENJOYED

WORKSHOP | 'The Development of Abstract Thinking in Landscape' with CHRIS TKACZ | November 2019



Chris gave us opportunities to explore abstraction of the landscape with mark-making as the first prompt. He explained his artistic influences, including Ben Nicholson, Patrick Heron and Jackson Pollock to name a few, whose abstracted work was based on observation of the natural world. Chris was encouraging a 'What happens if?' approach. The results were full of exploration, discovery, and a process we could use to further our own work. His critique was excellent, helping us understand how some paintings were developed into strong and engaging images.

Chris left us with a quote for the day: *'I want my work to have the essence of a child'* - Picasso AND two thoughts:- Be conscious of words such as *'I like it because...'* Good pieces of art = engagement

WORKSHOP | 'The Sea - Painting Water, Waves and Light' with MELISSA WISHART | January 2020



My car boot seemed ridiculously full as I placed the final item on top, a Tupperware box containing a rather strange salad. But despite my misgivings regarding the amount of equipment I was bringing (and my dubious lunch), I was very excited to be attending my first FAS art workshop, especially as the artist was Melissa Wishart.

Melissa had brought along a few of her lovely paintings for us to study at close quarters, which was very helpful and interesting. We started with a demonstration of how

to mix a tonal palette of colours, which was fascinating, and produced a limitless range of subtle tones of greys. I normally wouldn't pre-mix any colours but I have to say that it's something I will definitely be exploring in the future. Melissa then took these colours and using a palette knife started to work on an actual painting.

Prior to the day, we had been asked to prime our canvases with a thin coat of Burnt Sienna and also to bring some inspiring sea/coastal photographs. Again this was quite new to me but I found the challenge interesting and in some ways very helpful.

After the demonstration, we headed back to our tables eager to try out this new colour palette and once the colours were mixed and the images chosen a hush fell as we all painted away.

Before lunch, the work was set out and we all had a chance to see everyone's work as well as hearing a short feedback from them about their morning's efforts.

The afternoon started with a demonstration on how to capture the effect of light on water using diluted paint and an old toothbrush or small patches of paint. When smeared, the patches can create a wonderful effect of light shimmering on the water (and if you know Melissa's work, you will know how effective this can be). Once again, we returned eagerly to our tables to try out these new techniques.

I thoroughly enjoy my day and left with new skills and challenges that I will continue to use back in the studio. Melissa was engaging, funny, knowledgeable and a great tutor. Contributed by Alex Howell

Thank you to Sue Orgill and Sarah Ball for organising the workshops.

RECENTLY ENJOYED

TALK | 'Edward Seago' with JAMES RUSSELL | January 2020

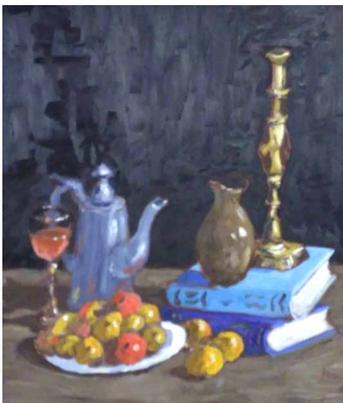


James Russell, an art historian, curator and author, gave a very interesting and impassioned talk about Edward Seago in January. The talk was full of many illustrations of Seago's work and life – from running away with the circus as a young man to his experiences during the Second World War to his latter days – charting, all the while, Seago's artwork and links with members of the aristocracy and royalty.

It was an impressive, chronological lecture about this painter from Norfolk who was disdained by art critics and suffered from poor health, but who rose to become one of Britain's most well-liked and stylish artists; an artist that was mainly known for his oil paintings, but who also painted wonderful watercolours.

James got over to the audience a real flavour of Seago's unusual and adventurous life and character, which was full of contradictions, and showed us his book about Edward Seago, commissioned by Portland Press. He has also written books on Edward Bawden, Eric Ravilious, Paul Nash and others. A thoroughly engaging session.

DEMO | 'Still Life Painting' with COLIN ROSS JACK | February 2020



DEMO | Colin Ross Jack | Feb 2020

Colin travelled down from Worcester to give us a demonstration on the art of 'Still Life' painting. As well as being a very competent artist, Colin was most entertaining and created a very humorous two hours, which the Society members greatly appreciated. Of Scottish descent, Colin has spent quite a few years south of the border but has lost none of his dry Scottish wit. The picture was painted in oils from a still life display of fruit, glass and metal tableware which all received the appropriate treatment with a well-aimed brush!

Thank you to Peter French for arranging the Talk and demonstrations.



NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGING WITH ART

FAS is pleased to introduce **Joanna Cobb**, Somerset based independent art historian, researcher and lecturer, who will be contributing to our programme of talks next year as well as providing a range of online resources and other art-related activities in the meantime.

Joanna is a retired history teacher who lives on the slopes of Wearyall Hill in Glastonbury with her husband Eric, a guide at Wells Cathedral. She studied History of Art at Birkbeck College in London, achieving an MA with distinction. In addition to her independent talks and lectures, she has been invited to speak for a wide range of organisations, including Dillington House, Bruton Art society, Somerset Multicultural Association, Wells Cathedral School, ArtsLink Sherborne, the U3A, the WEA, and Somerton Artists' Group.

Joanna's initiative, 'Talking Film', in partnership with Wells Film Centre, continues to attract large audiences. She is also an award-winning gardener who opens the garden which she has renovated and designed at her home in support of the NGS and St. Margaret's Hospice.

Joanna looks forward to sharing her knowledge of and enthusiasm for art with us. To discuss her activities, and/or be added to her (blind copied) distribution list she can be contacted on **01458 832178** or **ericjoanna@waitrose.com** This includes access to her newsletters and the free online resources which she has prepared during the coronavirus crisis. More details of this and the range of subjects covered will be available soon on the FAS news emailer.

Look out for Joanna's talk '**Renaissance Women Artists**' on **Wed 17 February 2021 at 2.30 pm**

WEBSITE www.fromeartsociety.com
EMAIL fromeartsociety@gmail.com
FACEBOOK facebook.com/fromeartsociety

CHAIRMAN
Alan Overton 01373 466326
alanovertontartist@gmail.com

TREASURER
Chris Galpin 01373 836227
chrisgalpin@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
Eve Knowles 01373 813246
epona5@hotmail.co.uk
Failands, Tadhill, Leigh on Mendip,
Radstock, Somerset BA3 5QU

WORKSHOP ORGANISER
Sarah Ball 01373 831037
m.ball281@btinternet.com
16 Frome Road, Beckington, Somerset
BA11 6TD

TALKS & DEMO ORGANISER
Peter French 07504 325696
pete@eaglestone344.plus.com

WEBSITE MANAGER
Gill Harry 01373 464898
gillharry4884@gmail.com

FACEBOOK MANAGER
Liz Spurgeon 01761 239073
lizabeth_s3@yahoo.co.uk

NEWSLETTER MANAGER
Hayley Cove 01373 831769
hello@hayleycove.co.uk

PUBLICITY COORDINATOR
Carol Hayslip 07720 287791
hayslip@btinternet.com
16 Warminster Road, Beckington,
Somerset BA11 6SY

OUTDOOR PAINTING ORGANISER
David Reeves 01373 471152
djwesterlands08@btinternet.com
Mobile contact on painting days
07720038411

EXHIBITIONS SECRETARY
Averil Morrow 01373 830686
averil.morrow@yahoo.co.uk
12 Marsh Road, Rode,
Somerset BA11 6PE

*With thanks to everyone
who has helped in the making
of this newsletter.*

*The Summer 2020 Newsletter is
due at the end of August 2020*

WHAT'S ON AT HOME?

by Dr Chris Davies

ONLINE VIRTUAL TOURS - Many museums and art galleries are streaming live tours of their collections and current exhibitions. For instance:



The **Jan Van Eyck Exhibition** introduced by its curator Till-Holger Borchert is available on **YouTube**: search **The Stay at Home Museum**.

The **Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam** is streaming live tours every **Friday at 2pm**, available afterwards on **Facebook** and **YouTube**.

Google Arts and Culture, Google have teamed up with over 2,500 museums and art galleries around the world to provide virtual tours. Search **Google Arts and Culture** or download the free app and explore. I recommend **Explore > Collections** for entry to global museums and **Artists** for images and information on hundreds of artists.

TELEVISION AND SOUND - The BBC is providing a range of arts programmes during the lockdown period.

Visit bbc.co.uk/arts for their **ARTS > Culture in Quarantine** schedule. Also available on catch-up television, via **BBC iPlayer**, are several current and from 'their collection' programmes. These are a selection of some currently available:

- Stephen Smith **A Day in the Life of Andy Warhol**
- Alastair Sooke **Soup Cans & Superstars: How Pop Changed the World**
- **Scandal and Beauty: Mark Gatiss on Aubrey Beardsley**
- **Titian- Behind Closed Doors**
- James Fox **Age of the Image**
- Arena **Six Days in September** - Showing John Hoyland making a painting in his studio. Part of the 'Abstract Art' Arena series, there are 6 programmes available to watch.

