



## Newsletter 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020

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[www.facebook.com/hartlepoolartclub](https://www.facebook.com/hartlepoolartclub)  
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## Message from your Chairman

I am sure most of you will currently be receiving communications from organisations and retail establishments outlining what effect and implications the Covid 19 virus is having on daily trade and business. Your Art Club is no different and I write to explain how we are currently affected and what the immediate future holds.

**Your monthly Club meetings are now cancelled for the immediate future** - definitely April (AGM) and May. Your March meeting was held on the cusp of developments and whilst the demonstrator cancelled, the meeting proceeded with sterling efforts from Brian Nunn and Keith Robson to a reduced audience.

**Club activities are suspended** due to Government guidelines on club gatherings and of course the fact that our meeting venue at Hartlepool Art Gallery is also closed. Indeed we now have the closure of The Causeway pub and the Salvation Army venue will not be far behind. Of course, any member over the age of 70 or with underlying health conditions or with close relatives showing signs of illness would be most unwise to be doing anything but self isolate and social distancing!

So, what next?

Your Committee 'met' via email on 18<sup>th</sup> March and confirmed the above and following arrangements:-

- > The AGM will be held over to a future date.
- > Your current Committee will remain in position until a future AGM.
- > The Station exhibition at Richmond has also closed and Sue Osbon will communicate with exhibiting members regarding return of paintings and a partial refund of entry fee.
- > The earliest Club meeting will possibly be June 2020 but please be prepared for a longer break.
- > Your club finances remain healthy and as we are not meeting then we are not expending funds on Gallery hire and Speaker expenses.
- > However you will be wondering about 'value for money' in regard to your Annual Subscriptions, your Committee have therefore recommended an automatic extension or 'roll-over' for as long as this national crisis exists. Please allow the Committee to finalise this detail in due course.
- > **You will be kept up to date with developments via the monthly newsletter and information will be uploaded onto the new Club website and Facebook page.**

Thank you and I trust everyone stays well and healthy in the coming weeks.

With best wishes

**John Mennear**  
**Club Chairman**

**Please see overleaf for further details about the cancelled or postponed activities this month, and some future possibilities when things improve....**

**Golden Lion** – The changeover on 1<sup>st</sup> April will not go ahead. The venue is closed, so paintings and other artwork will stay in place. The situation will be reviewed before the next scheduled changeover on 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

**Visit to JMW Turner exhibition** in Harrogate – the visit planned for 2<sup>nd</sup> April is cancelled.

**Drink and Draw at The Causeway** – The Tuesday meetings (next one scheduled for 7<sup>th</sup> April) are cancelled until further notice. The venue is closed.

**Club Meeting / AGM** – This month's meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> April has been cancelled. Hartlepool Art Gallery is closed.

**Exhibition at The Station, Richmond** – The venue was closed after only one week of this exhibition. We will not be able to gain entry in order to remove paintings on the planned 'take-down' day of 9<sup>th</sup> April, so they will remain in place until further notice. Payments for sold work and partial refunds of entry fees will be organised in due course.

**Salvation Army Painting Day** – The meeting scheduled for Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April has been cancelled.

**Dabble in Art** – The scheduled sessions for 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> April are cancelled.

**Daisy & Bea's** - The café is closed until further notice. The planned changeover of paintings on 20<sup>th</sup> April will be rescheduled.

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**Some sunshine on the far horizon....**

**NHS Exhibition** – when all the restrictions are behind us, we're aiming to put on an exhibition of our paintings as a 'thankyou' to front line NHS staff who have been working so hard. The idea is that members (this is entirely voluntary) will donate a picture for the exhibition and all paintings will be raffled or auctioned at the end. Early stages of planning...need a venue...still a lot to do but watch this space.

**Club website and Facebook page** – A lot of work has been going on behind the scenes to update and improve our social media offering. If you have photographs of your paintings, especially if you have any of the stages of 'work in progress', you can share these on Facebook at Hartlepool Art Club or email the pics to Nichola Miles ([nichola\\_miles@hotmail.com](mailto:nichola_miles@hotmail.com)) so they can be added to FB or the website.  
**It is more important than ever to keep connected these days, so why not use the power of technology to stay in touch and talk about what we love – Art.**