

**Newsletter 1st August 2020**

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**Message from the Chair:**

Hello everyone,

I thought it time that I gave a heads up on your Committee’s thinking in relation to our current programme and activity.

First of all many thanks to Sue for the continuing newsletter keeping everyone in touch.

I am pleased to tell you that your Committee actually met face to face on Wednesday last- although we were met at the entrance to Liz Littlefair’s barn door with hand sanitiser and led to tables and chairs placed at least 2 metres apart. It was good to talk together although the gloom and need for loudhailers gave an unusual ambiance!

However - that was Wednesday the 29th July and now 3 days later many things have changed yet again in regard to COVID-19.

Our AIM is to get back to meetings as soon as practical - Sue has outlined in the newsletter that our August meeting will once again be an ‘open air’ activity.

The Art Gallery is due to open to the public on 1st September 2020 and our next club night is EXPECTED to take place at the Art Gallery on the 9th September. Our programme will change as needs must but you will be kept fully informed.

On October 14th our club night will be the delayed AGM for 19/20 along with a talk.

Alys will be sending due notifications But you will (May) recall that all nominations for Officer roles are already received- however we will take nominations for Committee up to and on the evening itself.

You may not yet appreciate it but in 2021 the club will celebrate with TWO annual exhibitions! One commencing January and the second will be our more traditional spot commencing November.

As you will appreciate many aspects of normal club life have been affected this year - can I close by assuring you that when we do ‘open’ for business we will be following all the necessary rules and including sanitising, social distancing and face masks or whatever future rules are given - your safety is our concern.

Thank you for your forbearance in these strange times!

Best wishes, stay safe

**John Mennear**

**Club meeting: Wednesday 12th August 2020**

Although we are still unable to use the Gallery this month for meetings **we are going ahead with a get-together on August 12th.** Our outdoor session last month in Hart Village Churchyard was a success in spite of a cold wind, so we’re suggesting a similar approach this month, again (hopefully) led and supported by the friendly advice of our own Roy Carless.

This month, we will meet in the car park of **St Hilda’s Church** on the headland, before selecting suitable vantage points on the Headland for sketching/painting.

Parking is free, but we cannot offer any facilities on site. **We suggest members arrive any time after 6.15pm** to take advantage of the evening light. As with last month, we can expect the temperature to drop so our meeting might not last until the usual 9.00 pm. Bring whatever art materials you would like to work with, something to sit on and an extra layer or two of clothes! This meeting is weather-dependent and, again, is informal so none of the usual club business will be dealt with.

**Visitors are welcome at a charge of £5**

**Next month’s meeting: 9th September 2020**

This is likely to be our first club meeting, since lockdown, in **The Gallery, Church Square, Hartlepool**. Details are still to be finalised but will involve a change to the published programme.

**Golden Lion changeover**

**The next changeover is going ahead on Wednesday 5th August**. The pub is now open for business (under the Government’s social distancing and hygiene requirements) and we are being welcomed back by staff and management. A separate note will be sent in the next day or so to those members with artwork still in place since February. If you haven’t exhibited a painting in the Golden Lion before, bring one along at about 10.30 and we’ll find a spare hook. All artwork must be labelled on the back or underside with the artist’s name, the title, medium and price and must be adequately framed for sale.

**73rd Annual Exhibition – change of date**

Because of the closure of the Gallery during the Covid-19 lockdown, Hartlepool Council has had to reschedule its exhibition programme for the rest of this year and into 2021. As a consequence, for this year only, our Annual Exhibition is being moved from its normal November – January slot. We are still in discussion with the Council about the take-in and finishing dates, but **the exhibition will start on** **Tuesday 26th January 2021** and run for approximately 7 weeks. This change will affect our club’s meeting programme as well as our usual dates for returning entry forms. Members will be advised as soon as more information becomes available.

**Drink and Draw at The Causeway**

For further details about the resumption of regular Tuesday meetings (unlikely at the moment) please contact Keith Robson.

**Lockdown Art Quiz**

A few members managed to complete all or most of the picture quiz and send in their answers by 24th July (I think some others had a go but didn’t manage to get round to sending them in!) **Alys Delafield** was the only member who got all the answers right! She wins a set of Derwent drawing pencils. Answers to the quiz are attached.

**Daisy & Bea’s**

The café opens again this week. Members have the opportunity to exhibit 5 paintings in this bright and lively venue catering especially for mothers and toddlers (but open to all for a drink and a snack). We are waiting to speak to the owners about resuming our programme. Meanwhile, if you are interested in exhibiting here, please contact Sue Osbon for further details.

**Other activities**

You will be advised as soon as we have more information about the following regular activities:

Salvation Army Painting Day – we hope that the monthly Saturday meetings will resume as soon as we get word from on high!

Dabble in Art – Resumption of Dabble will depend on the re-opening of the Art Gallery and any new rules which might apply to groups and young people.

With best wishes to all of you.

**Sue Osbon**

**Exhibition Secretary**

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