

Events and Classes

If any members have any exhibitions or events planned and would like to promote them through the WVAS Newsletter, please contact Huw Wigmore (01780 763783).

Please also make sure the you get information to me in good time. Pictures and copy can be emailed to huww@mac.com.

Trip to Russian Art collection Exhibition at the RA

Our next planned Sunday activity is a coach-trip on Sunday 16th March 2008 to the Exhibition of art hoarded in the USSR (you will need to buy a ticket to enter the exhibition) and until recently never to be seen. Coach leaves Oakham (behind the former Somerfields store) at 9 am, and Stamford Bus Station at 9.30. The return trip leaves Tate Britain. at 6 pm.

To book your place on the coach please send your payment for £10 to Mike Alabaster, (cheques to be made out to the W.V.A.S., please).

37, St Leonard's Street,
Stamford,
PE9 2HL.

For further details, ring Mike on: 01780 763806.

Sunday Classes

These are held at Tinwell village Hall starting at 10am and finishing at 4pm with a break for lunch (bring your own or the local Pub).

17th February 2008 - Jane Sharp will present a class on Making landscapes with Tissue and Pastel. Equipment will be supplied for a small charge, but please bring your own pastels.

Life Classes

A number of regular life classes are also held at the Art Centre on the following days.

Tuesdays

Evening tutored sessions 7.30 to 10 pm Portraits & figures with Mike Alabaster

(£7 per session £6.50 for concessions, 10 sessions £65/£60)

Thursdays

Daytime tutored sessions 10 am to 12.30 pm with Joanna Crawford

(£7 per session £6.50 for concessions, 11 sessions £70/£65)

Evening untutored sessions 8 pm to 10.30 pm

(£4 per session)

(for details contact Mike Alabaster 01780 763806 after 6 pm) or Arts Centre (01780 763203)

Sculpture Classes

Regular Sculpture classes are held in the Arts Centre Art room **every Wednesday and Friday**

(for details contact **Jonty Meyer** 07799 048841) or Arts Centre (01780 763203)

(All sessions £8 per session or £80 for 11 sessions)

Wednesday 7.30pm to 10pm

The same portrait head is presented each Wednesday session to allow artists to complete their sculptures.

Friday 10am to 12.30pm

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WVAS Welland Valley Art Society

MARCH 2008 NEWSLETTER



What real artists call bold and witty as they laugh all the way to the bank

WVAS AGM 2008

Tuesday 18th March 2008 (7.30 for 8pm)

Attached you will find the Agenda for the forthcoming Annual General Meeting of the Welland Valley Art Society. To be held in the Blue Room at the Art Centre. Without it's members showing an interest, any society will founder. I hope we will see loads of members in attendance. As an inducement, we will be having drinks and nibbles immediately prior to the meeting.

I know you artists are a taciturn and unsociable lot, who would much prefer your lonely garrets, but, make an effort, you might enjoy it, make and meet friends. Remember in the art world it's who you know, not, what you know. Lots of opportunities to help out on the committee with the following offices becoming vacant:

President Elect
Treasurer
Committee members - 3 off

See you there!

Spring Exhibition May 3rd - 25th 2008

Further to the arguments aired in the last newsletter regarding the selection process for our exhibitions, the great and the good on your esteemed council have been debating the issue long into the night and a certain treasurer who will remain nameless pointed out that in the Rules of the Society clause 2 states that the Objects of the Society are:

"To encourage appreciation of Art: to give mutual help and encouragement to its Members in the practice of fine craftsmanship: to arrange exhibitions of members' work at suitable addresses to enable members to show their work to the public"

So in the spirit of clause 2, for this Spring Exhibition it has been decided to limit each artist to a maximum of three works. This will make the selection of works from as great a number of artists as possible much easier. We would welcome feedback after the show as to the effects of this change and any other comments, offers of assistance, sexual favours, bribes, cries of indignation...

Making art affordable

The Arts Council run an Own Art loan scheme which is designed to make it easy and affordable for everyone to buy original, high quality contemporary art and craft. You can borrow up to £2,000, or as little as £100, to be paid back in equal instalments over a period of 10 months – interest free*

Please ask for details, call 0845 300 6200 or go to www.artscouncil.org.uk/ownart.

Royal Academy Summer Exhibition and a cunning plan!

As a first step in world domination I propose an organised assault on that grand British tradition the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition. Held at the RA 9 June – 17 August 2008. Completed entry forms must be in by 18th March 2008. Entry forms can be purchased on-line till 4th March costs £25 per work maximum of two works per artist. This year's theme is 'Man-made' although you don't have to stick to this theme.

A number of our membership already submit work and some are even successful. Apparently it is a bit of a slog getting your work down to the RA and due to the sheer numbers more likely to end in failure than success. If you thought the selection for our own exhibitions is a bit of a lottery, it is but nothing compared with the insanity of the RA. The selection committee is: - Ivor Abrahams, Will Alsop, Gordon Benson, John Carter, Stephen Chambers, Tony Cragg, Gus Cummins, Anthony Green, Paul Huxley, Mick Moon and Mick Rooney. At least they had the foresight not to put a woman on the committee (I'm only joking) but it might explain the theme, man-made!

So back to the plan, would anyone be interested in pooling resources and getting a pantechicon with a few stout fellows to ship our masterpieces to and from the RA? Collecting the rejects and the broken dreams and giving any successful artist a damn good thrashing. As a group we should be able to provide some moral support, shoulders to cry on or begrudging praise through gritted teeth. Perhaps those of our members who have already been through the experience could give us a talk on problems to avoid?

This year, for the first time, sculptures will be judged in the first round of selection using photos. Which should be a great boon. The RA web site <http://www.royalacademy.org.uk/> provides loads of information.

So contact Huw Wigmore 01780 763783 or email huww@mac.com if you are interested. If you know Trevor and Catherine, twist their arms to find out how much you have to bribe the judges to get in.

Rutland Artists Open Studios 2008

Rutland Artists Open Studios 2008. Here is another calamity in the making but at least someone is trying. Despite the message in the November Newsletter not many (if any) have woken up to the opportunity offered by the Rutland Artists Open studio 2008 Jamboree.

Let me explain, let me know if I'm going too quickly for you. Rutland, yes... it's a county, not very big, but has one of the highest concentrations of the filthy rich outside London and Cheshire. They have a festival of all things Rutish each year June July time. Being small the term Rutland is loosely interpreted as anywhere within a 50 mile radius of Oakham.

A brochure is published listing the studios of any artist **(or group of artists)** who wants to join in, a little background information on methods and media used and a few clues as to how to find them. Then on the four weekends of the festival or during the week if you like, the great unwashed are encouraged to drop in and see the artists, either in action or just hanging around, trying to mug passers-by, in the hope of passing off their daubings as objects worthy of a few hundred quids investment. So in the spirit of capitalism we have rushed out this magnificent organ to give you, yes you, the opportunity to send your details and cash to the organisers before they print the brochure.

And lo! They will come... and praise your efforts with superlatives like, 'ooh that blue will match the curtains in our study' (spare room to you and me), 'I think we should buy it my dear, see if they'll take a fiver and ask the artist what it's supposed to be'.

So for a paltry £30 you can advertise your conservatory/studio, welcome complete strangers in and leave yourself open to ridicule and derision as you lay bear (sic) your very soul in the medium of your choice. On the other hand it just might make you rich beyond the dreams of Avery (who is very rich indeed, have you seen the price of his labels!).

So there we have it, concise and pithy I know, so a quick recap for the hard of hearing.

If you want to enter this is what you do

To enter your 'Studio' with Rutland Artists Open Studio event from June 21st – July 13th you will need to send entry information and a £30 fee. This information is required **as soon as possible**.

Deadline for information is 20th February.

Email and Postal address to send entry to:

rowancanflystill@yahoo.com

Rutland Open Studios
C/o Rowan Dejardin
57 South Street
Oakham
LE15 6BG

Information required

Preferably in this order, anything marked with an asterisk is essential.

- Cheque for £30 payable to Rutland Open Studios*
- Image of your work*, either a real photo or JPG image (300dpi)
- Name*
- Telephone*
- Mobile
- Address*
- Simple Directions*
- Discipline*
- Brief Description of your work (10-12 words)*
- Your E-mail:
- Your Website:
- Please indicate the weekends you would like to open and/or specify week days dates if you plan to open during the week:

June 21-22
June 28-29
July 5-6
July 12-13

- Please indicate if you would like to participate in the taster exhibition at the Victoria Hall in Oakham (Thursday, 12th June – Wednesday, 18th June).

If you would prefer an email form to complete please phone Roy Holley or Mo Gardner on 01572 747639 or email: roy.holley@tiscali.co.uk

The Wednesday Landscape Painting Group and other lost Causes

As ever no-one has come forward to help organise this ancient ritual testing one's metal against the elements. What busy lives we all must lead.

Web Site

If you haven't visited the web site yet, you will be missing a host of delights, from the latest society news to galleries crammed with examples of our members art. For more information on the web site visit www.wvas.co.uk - or contact Jonty Meyer - jonty@wvas.co.uk - 07799 048841 .

