

Celebrating 125 years ESSEX ART CLUB

PRESIDENT: JOHN TOOKEY PS.



Writtle village near Chelmsford

Chairman's Choice

Mary Springham

CHAIR'S FAREWELL FEB 2024

Dear Members

This year is the 125th anniversary of Essex Art Club and we are mounting a painting competition to celebrate. Details are in this newsletter.

As mentioned in my note for May 2023 I do not plan to stand for election as Chair at the AGM in March, when I will have been in post for five years. Currently I have not identified a successor.

I will be offering to undertake the roles of both treasurer and membership secretary. Irene Thomas has kindly carried on with both these functions although she resigned the posts in March 2023.

As I write this the membership numbers have fallen again and many are having to be chased for their subscriptions which were due on 1st January.

At the last AGM in 2023 an amendment was approved to provide for the eventuality of winding up the Club and this is becoming a serious risk in the absence of volunteers to join the committee and new members to support the activities.

- Chairmans Choice
- Club News
- AGM details
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- John King
- Chingford Ex
- Entry Details

THE ESSEX ART CLUB

Founded 1899. www.essexartclub.co.uk

London Borough of
supported by **Redbridge**

Club Dates

Sunday Painting Sessions

Try our **St Barnabas painting group**.

**Need more space to paint ?
Need some dedicated time away from home ?**

Sunday afternoon once a month, plenty of space and a quiet welcoming atmosphere and a cup of tea.

A lit still life is set up each time as well.

Think of it as your extra studio...!!!

At St Barnabas Church Hall near Woodford Station. There's free parking on site accessed in Snakes Lane East while Woodford tube station is only a couple of minutes walk away and the 275 bus stop is even closer.

2.00pm-4.30pm with a break for tea, coffee and biscuits. Please bring all necessary equipment, NO turps allowed in the hall.

Members £4.00 Non-members £5.00

Sunday dates for 2024

3 Mar, 7 April, 12 May, June, July & Aug no booking,

8 Sept, 6 Oct, 17 Nov, 8 Dec.

Details are on your membership card, our new club website www.essexart.club or Contact John Woolliams for more details 0208 504 1709

Visitor numbers have dropped since lockdown and we need to see more members coming along to keep this going.

Spring Ex at Chingford Visitor Centre

A Forest Theme

To run from 9 April to 12 May

Hand in on Sat 6 April

see pages 7 & 8..... for details

Club News

Christmas Party 2023

Painting prize winners

1. Irene Thomas
2. David Jennings
3. Pam Mulholland and Hiliary Warren

SUNDAY DEMONSTRATIONS

Wanstead House Hall

The Green, Wanstead E11 2NT

members £3.50 non-members £5.00

2024

25 February

Pauline Hazlewood Horner
Steam Engine with People
in Gouache

24 March

AGM before Demo

Melanie Cambridge
Cornish Seascape with Cliffs
Oils with Palette Knife

28 April

Marie Antoniou
Wildlife in Acrylics

Help Needed.

The club has several vacancies now on the committee and it would be a good time to offer your help. Times are changing and with falling numbers in the membership the work required is also falling on a smaller number of people.

If we are to survive as a club we need some help taking on some of these tasks. An occasional few hours is all we ask.

Important Essex Art Club AGM

1-30pm before the 24 March Demo

2024 Subscription Reminder:

For members who do not renew their membership, this newsletter will be the last one they will receive.

ESSEX ART CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held on Sunday 26 March 2023 at Wanstead House Hall.

1. Apologies : Derek Springham.
2. The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting had been circulated and were approved.
3. There were no matters arising from the minutes.
4. In the absence of the Treasurer the Chair read the Treasurer's accounts notes and club finances.
5. The Chair reported the deaths of Agnes Kelly, known to all as "Ginge", and Nina Wilson, long term members and invaluable helpers and supporters. Sadly we also reported that our Patron and previously long term President Ken Howard died. He had recently been ill, but had been a wonderful supporter of the Club for many years.
6. The amendment which had been proposed to the constitution was passed by 19 votes with no objections.
7. John Leyton again agreed to act as Reviewer of the Annual Accounts
8. The Following were re-elected to the Executive committee –
 - Mary Springham – Chair
 - Valma and Frank Cheffins Exhibitions - London
 - Amanda Tibbits - Demonstrations
 - Julian de Camillis Newsletters
 - Derek Springham - website
 - John And Gillian Woolliams – St Barnabas Group
 - Gill Woolliams – DVDs
 - John Woolliams – Wanstead Exhibition and Committee Secretary
 - Vacant – Treasurer, Deputy Chair, Workshop organiser and publicity officer
9. Other business. The Chair thanked the committee members for their support over the year, particularly the retiring Treasurer Irene Thomas who had tirelessly held that thankless task for many years, and had volunteered to assist for a short time until a replacement is found. Volunteers were requested for all vacant offices. She also mentioned that the club will be 125 years old in 2024 which might be the occasion for some celebration, or special event, and ideas were requested.

ESSEX ART CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Agenda for Sunday 24th MARCH 2024 at 1.30pm Wanstead House Hall

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE 2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES 4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 5. TREASURER'S REPORT and ACCOUNTS 6. APPOINTMENT OF REVIEWER OF THE ACCOUNTS 7. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Current members are willing to be re elected except where shown as not standing: | <p>Mary Springham Chair, not standing
 Mary Springham Treasurer & Membership Sec, standing
 Valma & Frank Cheffins, Exhibitions London on sabbatical
 Amanda Tibbits, Demonstrations
 Julian de Camillis, Newsletters
 John King, Website
 Gill Woolliams, DVD'S
 John Woolliams, Committee Secretary, Wanstead Ex and and St Barnabas Group
 Vacant Chairman
 Vacant Deputy Chairman
 Vacant Workshop Organiser
 Vacant Publicity</p> |
| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS |

ESSEX ART CLUB – CONSTITUTION AND RULES

1. The name of the Club shall be **ESSEX ART CLUB**.
2. **Objectives.** The Essex Art Club shall be an association of Artists, Students and others in the study and practice of the graphic and plastic Fine Arts. The works of Members shall be publicly exhibited from time to time. It shall be the aim of the Club to foster and encourage artistic interests and to give active support to the enrichment of the experience of Art, particularly within the County of Essex.
3. **Membership.** Membership shall be open to past and present residents of the County of Essex (including those parts of Greater London formerly therein) and to those employed or studying therein. The types of Membership shall be as follows:-
 - (i) **Honorary Members** who may be elected honoris causa by vote of the Members at an Annual General Meeting.
 - (ii) **Members** who must be persons aged 18 years and over who satisfy the residential qualification and whose applications are endorsed by an existing Member.
4. **Subscriptions.** Annual Subscriptions, the amounts of which shall from time to time be fixed by the Executive Committee, shall be payable to the Honorary Treasurer on the first day of each year. Members whose subscriptions are in arrear shall not be entitled to any of the privileges of membership, and the name of any Member whose subscription has not been paid may be removed from the register at the discretion of the Executive Committee. Honorary Members shall not pay a subscription.
5. **Management.** An Annual General Meeting shall be held at which the Officers of the Club shall be elected. The Club shall be managed by an Executive Committee comprising annually elected Officers. The Officers shall be: Chairman (or Chairwoman); Vice-chairman (or Vice-chairwoman); Secretary; Treasurer; and additional members of the Executive Committee with designated duties and responsibilities for Demonstrations, Exhibitions, Publicity, Newsletters, Website Management, DVD Library, Outings, and Workshops. The number of Committee Members may vary from time to time but all are to be elected at the Annual General Meeting and six shall form a quorum. The Committee shall also have the option of co-opting additional Committee Members as necessary. The Annual General Meeting shall be presented with the Treasurer's Accounts for which a Reviewer shall be appointed.
6. **Patron and President.** The Club shall invite a respected figure in the art world to fill the honorary position of President of the EAC for an indeterminate period to advise on and support the Club's activities. When appropriate, the Club shall invite an eminent member of the art world to become Patron to reflect the Club's distinguished history and longevity.
7. **Exhibitions.** At least one public exhibition shall be held each year, regulations for which shall be issued by the Secretary under the authority of the Executive Committee. Such submission fees as may be fixed by the Executive Committee may be charged.
8. **Selection Committee.** The Selection Committee shall be the sole arbiter in the choice of works for exhibition with powers to reject any work without stating their reasons. It shall consist of ten Members elected annually by postal ballot, of whom the first seven in order of voting shall serve and the remaining three act as reserves. The Member receiving the greatest number of votes shall be the Convenor of the Selection Committee responsible for supervision of selection and arrangement of entries for exhibitions and for calling meetings of the Selection Committee as and when required.
9. **Amendments to the Constitution.** The Constitution shall be amended only by a majority vote of the Members at an Annual General Meeting. Proposed amendments, duly seconded, shall be sent to the Honorary Secretary not less than twenty-eight days before the meeting.
10. **Dissolution of the club.** The committee may decide that the Club should be wound up and the net assets after settlement of any outstanding liabilities transferred to a suitable third party such as a charity or other organisation preferably in Essex or for the benefit of Essex residents. In these circumstances the committee shall call an extraordinary general meeting and seek the approval of the members. Proper notice of the meeting minimum 28 days shall be given. A clear proposal for the procedure and the destination of the funds shall be provided in the notice. Members shall be able to submit alternative proposals for consideration by the members, provided such are sent to the secretary 28 days before the date of the EGM and duly proposed and seconded. 75% majority of the members voting at the meeting is required for any proposal to be carried.

Art Exhibition Dates

in London and the South East

29 February to 9 March

Royal Society of British Artists Annual Ex at the Mall Gallery SW1

11 to 16 March

Society of Graphic Fine Art Annual Open Ex at the Mall Gallery SW1

28 March to 13 April

Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours Annual Ex at the Mall Gallery SW1

8 to 24 March

Royal Watercolour Society Open Ex at Bankside Gallery SE1

29 March to 28 April

"Transparency" RWS Spring Ex at Bankside Gallery SE1

Until 7 April

Women in Revolt, 1970 - 1990 at Tate Britain Millbank SW1

22 February to 7 July

Sargent and Fashion at Tate Britain Millbank SW1P

Extended Until 28 April

Capturing the Moment, Painting & Photography at Tate Modern Bankside SE1

18 April to 21 July 2024

The Last Caravaggio, Free entry at National Gallery WC2

Until 7 April

Impressionists on paper Degas to Toulouse-Lautrec at Royal Academy of Arts W1

Until 2 June

Soulscapes at the Dulwich Picture Gallery SE21

Until 21 April

Turner & Bonington Watercolours at the Wallace Collection W1U

6 to 22 March

Chloë Lamb, Recent Works at the Portland Gallery SW1A

27 March to 12 April

Gordon Mitchell, New Paintings at the Portland Gallery SW1A

6 to 23 March

"Caledonian" Scottish Artists at the Thompson Gallery Harpenden AL5 2TW

30 March to 14 April

Hashim Akib & Harry Brioche, Town & Country at the Thompson Gallery Aldeburgh IP15

Essex Art Club on Instagram

Search [essex_art_club_](#)

Contact Mandy Tibbitts

Club Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/essexartclub>

Contact Sue Mayne

sue.mayne@btinternet.com

Members website

www.essexartclub.co.uk

Contact John King

Members can send in material for these club sites, recent work, exhibitions, Gallery info, painting meet ups/ locations etc

Spring Ex at Sir James Hawkey Hall 8-13 March 10am-16:00pm

Some of our members have paintings on show at this spring event along with members of the Woodford Arts group.

It's all an Illusion

For many years Western European artists have used the techniques of depth, luminance and solidity to create the illusion of a 3D world on a flat surface. To achieve this a realist painter has to lie, colours and tones are altered to give an illusion of distance. But there is also a tradition of flatness in both ancient and modern art. Artists like Matisse and Picasso were taught to paint in a realistic style but then rejected this and chose a more decorative flat style. Many modern artists use a mix of both to depict their view of the world using shapes, mark making, brushstrokes and colour in a variety of ways.

I discussed this while looking around a recent exhibition in the Mall Gallery with artist friends after reading a blog by the artist Martin Kinnear titled "Flat Earthers and Illusionists" with the starting statement "Paintings are flat and the world isn't".

While looking at the array of styles on show the question was how do we artists sort out seeing in a 3 dimensional world and decide how and what to put onto a flat piece of paper or canvas, and did it really matter what methods were chosen if the artist liked the result and someone enjoyed looking at the work?

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.....

J de C

John King's thoughts on his Recent Exhibition "The Spirit of the Forest" at Epping Forest Visitor Centre, Chingford.



Hi y'all. Despite my fears that an exhibition opening just after Christmas, when everyone is broke, cold and miserable would be a flop, it's actually been rather successful, though I say it myself. I sold 18 paintings. These tips are all common sense and in no way intended to offend or upset anyone but might just be useful.

1. Develop a following on social media in the locality. There's no point having followers in New Mexico or zingpong on Instagram for an exhibition of paintings in Chingford. I use Nextdoor, which is full of people complaining about fly-tipping, feral yoofs snorting evostick and mugging old people or door cams of thieves stealing Mercs from posh people's drives. So a few pics to lift the spirits goes down a treat. Keep your followers on board with regular bits of wisdom about your paintings. Invite them to the preview.
2. Paint pleine air and engage members of the public in chat. You will be surprised and interested to hear what they think. Give them a card with your contact details on. Sell from the easel, by far the most cost effective modus operandi. Invite them to the preview.
3. Steward when you anticipate most visitors. Don't just sit there like a sack of spuds, get up, smile chat, be nice to their children (the little snotty numbers that trail along like lost sheep).
4. Barter, a time-honoured east end dialogue where one party offers to sell at a blindingly stupid price and the other intakes lungfuls of air through clenched teeth, which, by the way is a good indicator that the price is right. Then the mind-blowingly minimal climb down on the part of the vendor comes as mana from heaven. A quick clench of the digits should do the trick. Do be sure to secure a sizeable deposit or the full sp using on-line banking. Very swish.
5. Unfortunately, collection is not so easy to arrange but if they are local they can easily 'swing by' on the last p.m. to collect their Mona Lisa, corrugated cardboard from Amazon makes for easy packaging.
6. The browser is by far my most effective piece of equipment. It's amazing how the absence of a frame or even a mount with a lower than £100 price tag tempts people to purchase.
7. So, in conclusion: painting, framing and hanging your masterpieces is just the beginning. Of course art galleries do all the above and more for you but they take at least 50% commission which puts your work beyond the reach of the very people you are trying to reach; and, more importantly, takes you away from your audience.

To celebrate 125 years of the Essex Art Club.

Formed from several Art Groups and Sketch clubs just before 1900 in the Walthamstow area it eventually became the Essex Grosvenor Art Club, with the Grosvenor being dropped in 1933 to become Essex Art Club. At one stage the club had nearly four hundred members including many well known artists along with several RA's as Presidents over the years.

I put forward the suggestion of a sketching outing to celebrate our 125 years as it harked back to the joining up of the sketching clubs, and was also the working practices of many of our original club members and presidents plus a nod to the summer coach trips that the club used to run.

Our President John Tookey liked the idea and suggested Writtle village for a location as it wasn't too far away, it was in Essex and had some interesting old buildings to sketch/paint. Unfortunately the tearoom on the green has now closed (last Oct) but the Tiptree cafe near the college is about 10 minutes walk away and the pub at the end of the village green also does food. It has several old buildings plus the church and a duck pond so lots of possibilities. A small free car park with loos and some extra parking around the green.

The proposal is a painting competition with work to be shown at this year's Wanstead House exhibition with £125 worth of prizes, based on "a day out in Essex" with the subjects being around the village of Writtle near Chelmsford.

I also thought we might suggest a couple of dates around early summer (details in the April newsletter) to cover weather and give members several opportunities to get together for a group visit (like a mini flash mob) and/or visit as they wish. No particular rules will apply other than a connection to Writtle Village.

(With thanks to the excellent history booklet by Sandy Connor for the details about the club).

J de C

EAC Forest Theme Exhibition at the Visitor Centre Chingford 2024

6 Rangers Road Chingford London E4 7QH
Tel 020 7332 1911 or eppling.forest@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Ex runs from Tuesday 9 April to Sunday 12 May

Normal opening hours - 10am - 5pm Tuesday - Sunday

Call for Entries

This years exhibition at The View calls for two entries per member and should have an **emphasis on Epping Forest**. Any aspect of life in the forest including landscapes, leisure pursuit, fun, play, enjoyment, refreshment etc, and can include realism and abstract work in any medium.

* Two entries per member - Maximum size 30"x 30" Due to Gallery space it cannot be guaranteed that both works will be hung

* Hand in at the View foyer Saturday 6 April 2024 between 10-30am - 12-30pm

* £5 per entry payable to EAC + commission on sales of 15% payable by the artist to the visitor centre at the information desk in the Visitor Centre Shop

Collection of work Sunday 12 May from 12-30 - 5pm.

Contact Irene Thomas: 020 8989 5143

[Email:irene.thomas5656@gmail.com](mailto:irene.thomas5656@gmail.com)

Exhibition Forest Theme 2024 at “Visitor Centre”

Tuesday 9 April to Sunday 12 May

Please read carefully.

Conditions

- Only members who have paid their annual subscription by **21 March 2024** are eligible to enter.
- Members can each submit **two** piece of work. However due to Gallery space **it cannot be guaranteed that both works** will be hung in the exhibition.
- Submission fee: £5.00. Please make cheques payable to Essex Art Club.
- All work must be in line with the **Exhibition theme “Forest Images”**. **Any aspect of life in the forest including landscapes, leisure pursuit, fun, play, enjoyment, refreshment etc.**
- Acceptable media: Paintings, drawings, pastels, original framed prints (see permitted work).
- **Works should not be larger than 30 inches along the longest framed dimension.**
- Minimum price per work is £50.
- All sales will be conducted solely by the artist. Please make sure you provide the necessary contact details so this can be passed on to any interested purchasers.
- The sale of any work exhibited or commission arising from the exhibition will be subject to 15% commission and must be paid to the venue.
- Hand in at The Visitor Centre foyer on **Saturday 6 April 2024** between 10-30am-12-30pm
- **You must collect your work from “The Visitor Centre” Sunday 12 May between 12-30am - 5pm or make arrangements for someone to do this for you bringing with them a note of permission signed by the artist. This will make it easier for the steward who may not know the person collecting the work.**

Permitted work

Original paintings, framed **limited edition** print (Original prints include relief prints, intaglio prints, lithography prints, silkscreen prints, collagraph prints, and monoprints. computer generated pictures are permitted.

Presentation of work

Work must be framed, except that of unframed oil or acrylic works which may be presented on canvases. These no longer need to be deep canvases but edges must be neat with no staples. A **taut** wire or cord must be attached to the back of the work for easy hanging. Please use **D-rings (or other devices which lie flat and do not project from the rear of the picture) not O-rings or any sort of hook.**

Pictures framed with glass must be sealed with framing tape at the back. Two labels must be supplied. One fixed securely to the back of your work and the other hanging by a string. (The latter will be removed and used to make up a numbered catalogue.) Enter a **short title**, your **name**, the **medium**, and the **price**.

Works unsuitably framed or presented will not be accepted.

Terms

The Club’s insurance policy does not cover loss or damage to paintings at this exhibition. All works are submitted at the owner’s risk, and owners should arrange their own insurance if required. The Essex Art Club can accept no responsibility for loss or damage. Work copied recognisably from pictures, photographs, illustrations, the internet etc. by another artist is **expressly prohibited**. In the event of it being hung inadvertently, it could bring about an action for breach of copyright.

It shall be a condition of entry that the artist agrees to indemnify the Essex Art Club and Committee members against any legal penalties resulting from infringement of copyright.

Entry to the exhibition is conditional on the exhibitor accepting all the above provisos.

Queries : Irene Thomas (020 8989 5143)

Entry Form for EAC Exhibition at Visitor Centre Chingford

Hand in at The Visitor Centre, Chingford foyer on Saturday 6 April 2024 from 10-30am - 12-30
 £5 per entry payable to EAC + commission on sales of 15% payable by the artist to the venue.

TITLE	MEDIUM	PRICE
1 _____		
2 _____		

I have read and accept the Essex Art Club’s entry conditions above for the exhibition.

Artist’s name _____ (Please PRINT)

Address _____

_____postcode _____

Telephone _____ email _____

Signature _____