

# ART

## *February – March 2024 Newsletter*

We continue to explore pencil. Using sketchbooks and HB pencils, we looked at a range of shoes, exploring mark making. This meant we had to consider not just shape, but also tones and textural differences. The results were impressive!

This group is bursting at the seams now!

*Paula Harmer*



## *December 2023 – January 2024 Newsletter*

We continue to meet twice a month and we continue to grow in number. We have looked at ink and oil resist to create abstract landscapes and we are now studying the use of pencil to create still life and figure drawing.

*Paula Harmer*



### *October – November 2023 Newsletter*

We have taken in a number of new members and have to say we are now full to capacity. We resumed in September and looked forward to putting up a display of our work at the September Members' Meeting. We have all been off on various jollies over summer and have made art in various places in the world. I spent two weeks in France, drawing Freddy, a very lovely Staffie, who became my best friend. It was a picture made in ink and wash - a far cry from my usual lovely pastels! We thank you for your kind comments about our work - it is quite daunting to display our work for public viewing!

*Paula Harmer*



### *August – September 2023 Newsletter*

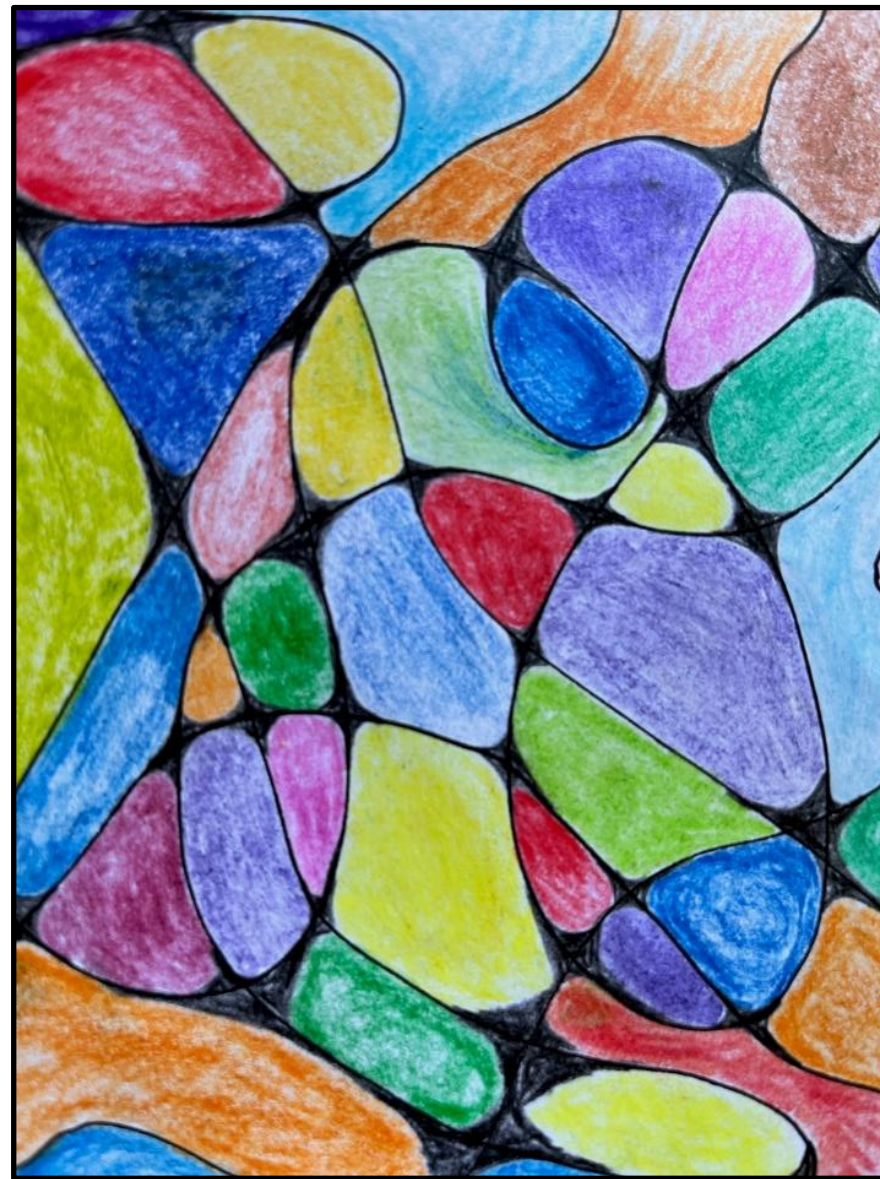
We continue to meet twice monthly and we continue to pick up new members, to such an extent that I have to declare us full now, otherwise people will have to bring their own table! We have enjoyed seeing the reactions of fellow u3a members to displays of our work at Members' Meetings and thank you for the warmth of the comments made.

The group have explored a range of ideas and techniques including, most recently, something called neurographics, which aims to remove the thought processes and introduce random mark making. I think we agreed that as sentient beings we do not think the thought can ever be truly removed, but shoving a penny round your paper with a pencil comes close!

The resulting patterns were very interesting and the activity was certainly engaging!

*Paula Harmer*





*April – May 2023 Newsletter*

Our numbers have risen this year, with around possibly seven new members, which means we must now say we are completely full and can admit no more!

So far this year we have increased our confidence in making speedy marks, sketching dancers in two minute bursts .... And oh boy, were these successful! I am not revealing them here, as they will form a display at an upcoming Members' Meeting.

*Paula Harmer*



*February – March 2023 Newsletter*

We have three new members who have added to the group already and are most welcome.

We spent some time looking at portraits and I encouraged the group to be adventurous and work larger .... Here are a few of our results. (Our studies are now focusing on industrial landscapes.)

*Paula Harmer*



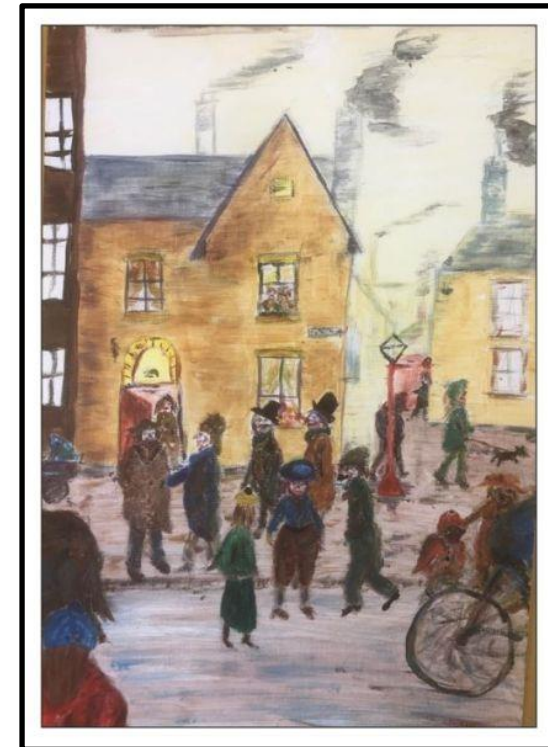


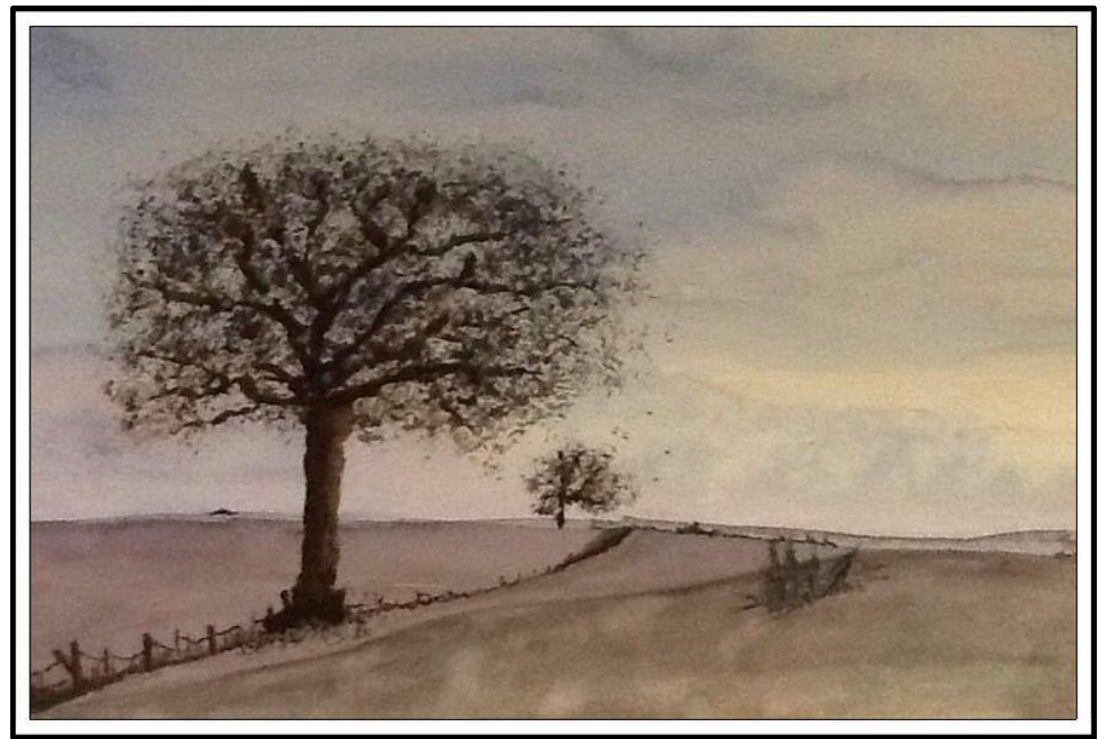
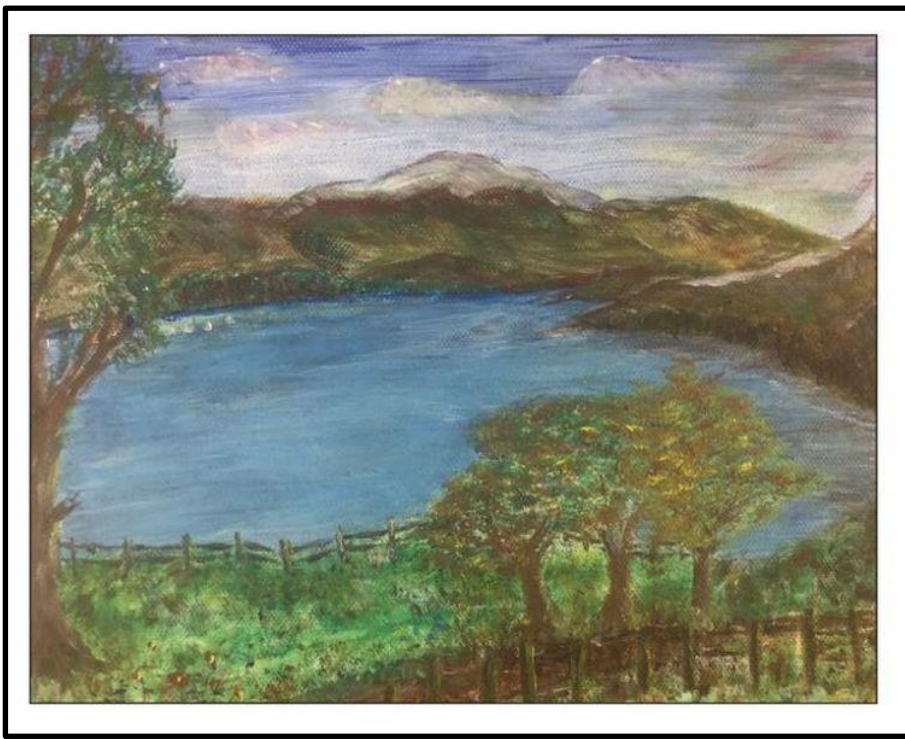
*December 2022 – January 2023 Newsletter*

We have two new members, taking us to seven ..... what on earth has happened to the aspiring artists of Doncaster! Our members began very hesitantly, with a lot less confidence than they have now, but have grown as artists over this year ..... and you could too! All our group agree that it is two or three hours when they concentrate only on the art they are producing, allowing them to forget everything else and immerse themselves in the task - YOU could do that too! Part taught and part exploration, people choose and bring their preferred medium and we share a common theme.

We meet twice monthly at Prego, on the first and fourth Monday of the month. On the first Monday we meet at 12 'til 1.45 and on the fourth Monday we meet at 11 'til 1.45. We would like to add a few more members but we will limit the numbers to make it comfortable .... Please do get in touch with me if you would like to join this very pleasant group of people. Meanwhile enjoy some of the art that our group have produced this year.

*Paula Harmer*





### *August – September 2022 Newsletter*

Well, we have moved AGAIN! This time it is forever. We now meet on the first and fourth Monday of the month at Cafe Prego. On the first Monday we meet 12.00 - 2.00, the fourth Monday 11.00 - 1.00 (with potential to run over until 2.00). Well, Prego does serve a very fine coffee!

Our group goes from strength to strength and members are developing preferences for media and a personal style.

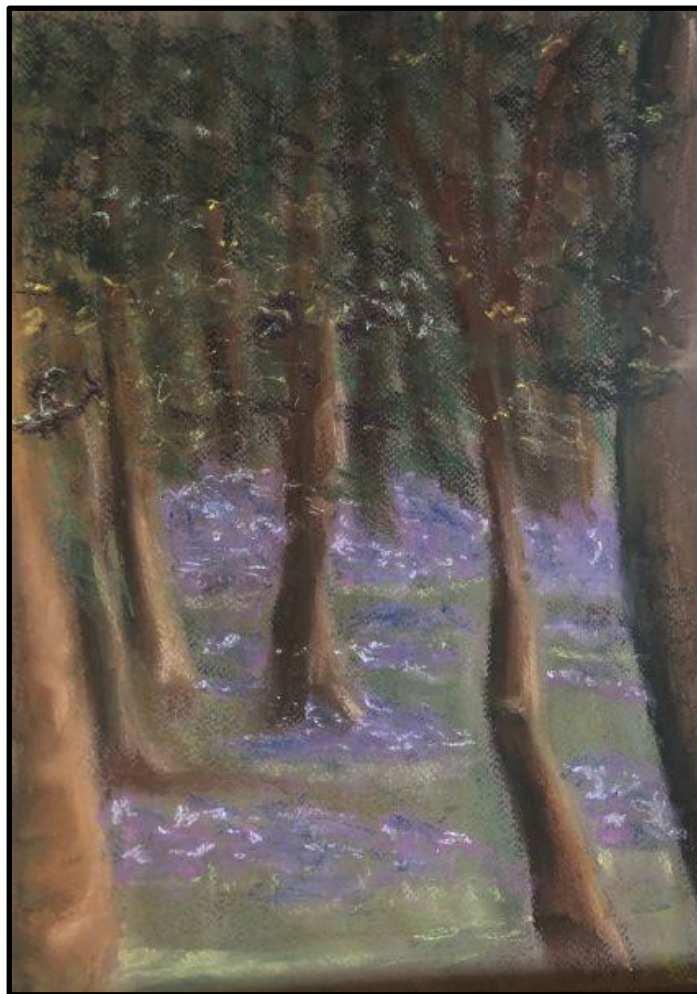
Last month we looked at a bluebell wood and a country landscape. Next we will look at water in various forms.

I continue to be impressed by the artists' perseverance and creativity and developing skills.

If you would like to join our group, please contact me as space, therefore number, is very limited.

*Paula Harmer*





#### *April – May 2022 Newsletter*

Hurray! We have a splendid new venue at Parklands Sports and Social Club off Wheatley Hall Road behind the big garage at the lights. We have now got a lovely light, airy, big room for three pounds per person per session.

Our new way of working is that everyone brings their own choice of materials but we share a common theme. In addition I always bring pencils, charcoal and pastels so people can try those if they prefer. This allows some exploration of new materials without any financial outlay.

Our theme for March is animal portraits, followed by landscapes in April and people in May.

We meet on the first and third Tuesday of every month. If you'd like to join us please contact me. You do not need any experience, just an interest in having a go or perhaps developing further in a particular medium.

It's a very pleasant, supportive group!

*Paula Harmer*





### *February – March 2022 Newsletter*

Again we find ourselves homeless but I am hopeful that we are onto a new home for January, so by the time this reaches you we should be back in full swing!

We have had some successes with our exploration of acrylics and people are building their confidences in handling the medium. Next stop is my absolute choice of medium - soft pastels, which I hope everyone will grow to love!

If you would like to join us please get in touch with me, through my details at the back of the newsletter.

*Paula Harmer*

### *December 2021 – January 2022 Newsletter*

The first meeting of the art group was held at Priory Place Methodist Chapel on the first Tuesday in October. Eight people came along to experience acrylic paint. We used a limited palette to create a background ranging from deep to pale blue. On this we built up three layers of tree trunks to create a woodland scene, showing depth of field. To this we added tiny details of leaves and twigs. The members of the group were all very motivated and concentrated very hard on their creation!

At the next meeting we will build on this experience to create an acrylic picture showing hills disappearing into the distance.

Our third experience of acrylics will be to create a wild animal picture developing what we have learned in the previous two sessions .... with a twist!

The group is almost full but there are a couple of spaces left ..... if you would like to join us, please contact me as soon as you can, to be sure of a place.

We meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month, 1.00 p.m. 'til 3.00 p.m.

*Paula Harmer*



### *June – July 2021 Newsletter*

The art group continues to meet on Zoom every fortnight, first and third Sunday of the month. So far we have looked at gesture drawing, faces and flowers, with the latest subject being a real stretch - to which we all rose admirably!

Our next meeting, at the time of writing, will be the first Sunday in May, when we will be looking at trees and this will continue at the meeting on the third Sunday in May, to which anyone is cordially invited.

I am hoping that we shall be able to meet in person later in the year, but life is still up in the air and a home for an art group is not proving very easy to locate just yet. When we can meet in person, it will allow people to try materials without buying them as well as sharing work and ideas and seeing demonstrations. That will be a very different prospect from creating in isolation and though there are some benefits in not having to go out and travel to a group, I think the benefits of actually meeting as a creative endeavour will outweigh them.



Here is a lovely, creative picture by one of our members:-

*Paula Harmer*



#### *April – May 2021 Newsletter*

We have a new art group! The “art on zoom” group meets fortnightly, on the first and third Sunday of each month at 2.00 p.m. There is a shared focus and often a starting point of a video on a topic. The range of experience matches the number of people in the group ..... many are absolute beginners. I make a really serious point from the outset that no one has to show their work if they don't want to, no one will be put on the spot and everyone will feel safe to embrace their failures as well as their successes - we do, after all, learn from those failures.

So far, at the time of writing, there have been three meetings, where people worked using their own choice of medium, to create a pair of red cherries and a shiny red pepper. We then joined to study gesture drawing, all using pencil or pen, to look at capturing gesture in human forms in more than twenty very quick sketches, taking 20 and 40 seconds, then 2 and 5 minutes. A pencil sharpener proved an essential bit of kit here!

People are using a range of materials, including assorted types of pencils, pastels and watercolours. They are moving from absolutely not sharing their work to being rather brave and showing their work on the U3A Facebook page - you HAVE signed into that, haven't you??

We go from strength to strength in skill AND confidence.

It is my hope that we will be able to continue as a group when we are ever allowed to meet in person again, though the day will have to change ... Would you like to join us? Do you like the idea of forgetting everything and concentrating on drawing or painting for two hours?

You can email me for the login details and as long as you are familiar with Zoom, or able to download it to your machine, you will have no trouble at all accessing the group. The ninety minute session is divided into two forty minute spots with a ten minute break between, to capitalise on the free Zoom of forty minutes. So we work, break for P and T (work it out!) then sign back in for forty minutes more.

Here are a few of our members early works, showing the same subject in three different media ....

Join us! Or email me if you want to ask a question, no matter how small.

*Paula Harmer*

