

Registered Charity: 1038457



Stray News

July 2023



2 "Arts and Crafts"

Calligraphy is the Art of Beautiful Writing.

CALLIGRAPHY

This is a practical course in which we learn different alphabet styles, Eg FOUNDATION, ITALIC, GOTHIC, UNCIAL and many others. We also learn how to space each word so that it looks good on the page. Our sessions involve some formal teaching and plenty of practice, with help given on an individual basis. We provide our own materials (calligraphy pens, paper, inks, etc) With photocopied handouts given out to support our learning.

If you want your dream to be take your time go slowly,

Do few things but do them well, Heart felt work grows purely.

Personal tuition given by Richard Jackson.

The Art of Beautiful Writing? Well, sometimes!

Our tutor, Richard, has patiently introduced us to a variety of alphabets – so far, Foundation, Gothic, Celtic and Carolingian – and has also taught us how to set out our work on the centre line, to write around a circle and how to embellish work using decorative techniques such as Celtic knots.

Two of our class members dared to take their newly acquired skills to the Harrogate Competitive Festival of Music, Speech and Drama in March, where they acted as scribes, writing out competitors' certificates. Apparently, they did not disgrace themselves so may be invited back next year.

There was a time when meadow, grove, and stream
The earth, and every common sight, to me did seem
Apparelled in celestial light,
The glory and the freshness of a dream
It is not now as it hath been of yore
Turn wheresoe'er I may by night or day
The things which I have seen
I now can see no more



Ive a man a fish and you feed him for one day
each a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime



Shall rank corruption pass unheeded by
Shall flattery's voice ascend the wearied sky;
And shall no patriot tear the veil away
Which hides these vices from the face of day?
Is public virtue dead?— is courage gone?

Percy Bysshe Shelley
1792 – 1822

Painting and Drawing Group Activity Summary Sept 2022 – June 2023

It has been a busy year for the group which has met regularly at Community House on Tuesday afternoons for three eleven-week terms since the middle of September 2022. My main aim for the year was to welcome new members as well as old ones, and to encourage those who aspired to take up painting and drawing to join those with more experience. We have had quite a few changes in membership over the year for a variety of reasons and numbers have dropped off in the summer term, so we are looking to welcome some more newcomers in mid-September when we hope to start again after the summer break.

Each term has been loosely based on seasonal topics, with underlying themes relating to the medium used, composition, colour and mark making. Members of the group have used a variety of media including pencils, colour pencils, soft pastels, oil pastels, watercolour and acrylic paints. Some people like to stick to their preferred medium whilst others are more willing to experiment with a variety of media, rendering the same topic in different ways as illustrated by the Shell series of images here



In the **autumn** term suggested topics included **Autumn Colour**, **Ripening Fruits**, **Seed Heads**, **Bonfire night** and **Christmas**. Examples of the work produced are here.



The **spring** term suggestions were **Snow** and Ice, **New Life**, **Spring Flowers** and **Easter**



whilst for the **summer** term, **Seaside**, **Shells**, **Holidays**, **Flower show** and **Carnival** were offered as possibilities.



equipped with images to work from and their preferred medium to work with whilst others gained inspiration and support in their endeavours from the group!



However, the group is not just about producing art works as we also have plenty of lively discussion and not just about art-related topics! There are also opportunities to look at books and newspaper cuttings describing different art techniques and artists, and to discuss local exhibitions and those just a bit further afield. Some of our group will be joining the Painting Group's coach trip to Holmfirth Art Week at the beginning of July, an outing we are looking forward to as an alternative to our usual "End of Term" lunch.

Looking ahead to next year, we hope to have enough members to make a viable group and to meet from mid-September to late November/early December 2023. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Susan Huskins via the u3a website as soon as possible, for further details.

Susan Huskins. Group Leader



Painting at Pannal

Leader Brian Graham. Artistic Mentor Peter Kearney

Should we have a Silver Jubilee as we enter our 25th year of activities? It has been a year of events during which we had to move from the convent but found a comfortable venue at the Chapter House, St Roberts, Pannal. Peter has stepped back from the mundane organisation but continues to encourage us with his comments and advice.



We set a monthly theme for our paintings but members are free to choose alternatives. Recently we have covered seascape, cafe scene and the Coronation.

During October we had an exhibition of paintings at the Central Library. The other 2 Harrogate U3A painting groups also provided works. We changed the exhibits weekly as only 30 paintings could be hung at any time. In all we exhibited over 100 paintings. The library management felt that the decor of the upper floor was much improved by our exhibition which attracted plenty of interest.

Planned activities during the summer include sketching in Valley Gardens and a visit to the Holmfirth Art Week in July.

For further details of our group, contact us by email brigram@yahoo.co.uk



Painting for Pleasure

Liz Frederiksen

The Painting for Pleasure group have kept numbers up despite people leaving and we have 15 members at most meetings. Though it did drop to below the number to make the group viable but now we have managed to involve more people in the group. At present we have recruited two more people therefore we have a waiting list. The members either follow a monthly painting theme or do their own art work.

The group have an oil table where paintings of animals, flowers and buildings have been produced and some have been displayed in the exhibition we have in Woodfield Library. The mixed media table covers watercolour, acrylic or any other medium and encourage each other in producing good art work based on the monthly theme or their own choice.

Pat leads the drawing group and this has shown the members improving week by week. At present the drawing group are trying pen and ink and great art has been created especially on trees and rural buildings.

Nigel Overton from Ilkley led a workshop on watercolour techniques. This was appreciated by the members who supported the workshop and learnt new techniques in drawing and using watercolours.

Also had a cream tea which helped to make the workshop very successful.

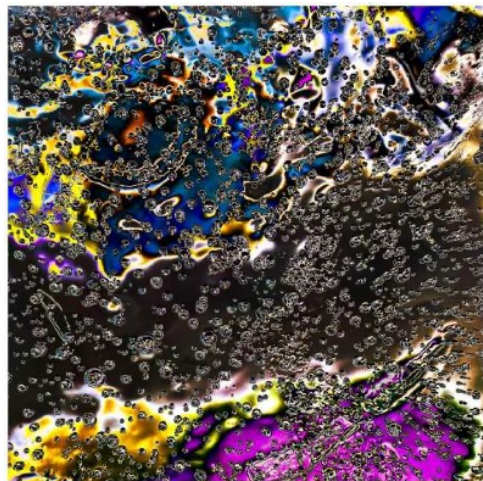
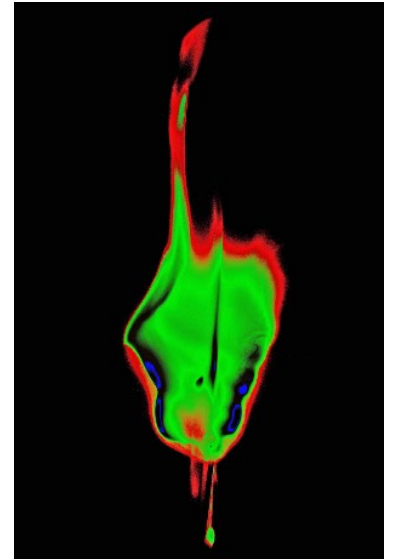
Another exhibition is planned by Greta in August at Woodfield Library and gives group members a chance to display their paintings and sell them.

The Painting for Pleasure group is a social art group with no formal tuition. It gives members a warm cosy place to meet, to draw or paint and chat to each other and this encourages members to share their art experiences and meet others.

I would like to thank everyone in Painting for Pleasure group for supporting me and keeping the group going and making it a pleasure at each session.



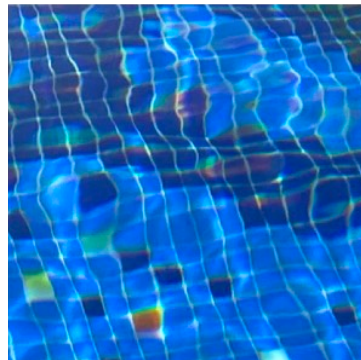
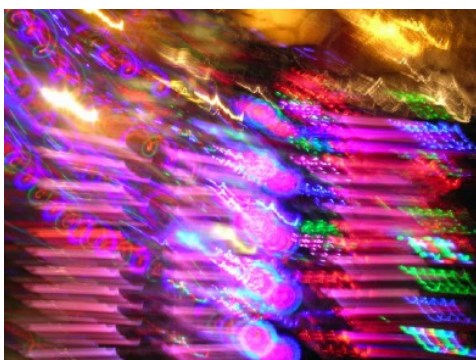
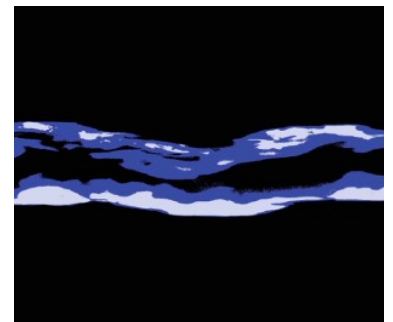
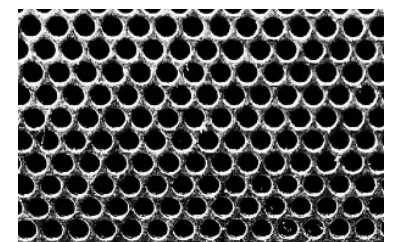
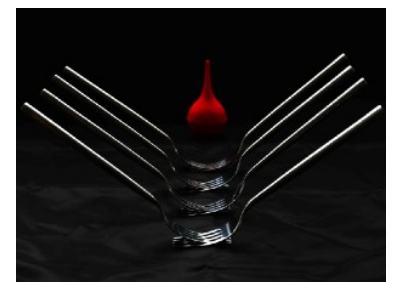
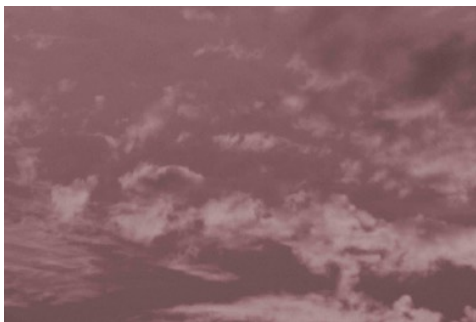
Photography "Going Abstract"



These photos were selected from the images submitted to our March 2023 meeting on the theme of. "Going Abstract".

Each month the Photography Group has a topic for which members submit images for discussion and comment. These images were the "Going Abstract" topic for March of this year, with "Geometric Shapes and Abstract" previously appearing in our programme in 2018.

The images were produced in several ways, with some done completely in camera whilst others made use of the digital darkroom. Gary Gudgin





The **Social and Talking about Sewing Group** is held on the fourth Wednesday of the month at Horticap upstairs café, from 10am till 12.

Our group has 8 members. We are all interested in crafts, sewing, art and in general making things, and I would like to add that the things that the ladies bring to display are made to a very precise standard, so instantly we have a talking point about what they are all working on.

I like this because it creates a lot of conversation and we have all got to know each through our craft conversations ...and this brings a healthy and joyous social morning.





Our **Social and Craft Group** is held on the second Wednesday of the month, also at Horticap, from 10am till 12. It is the same good social occasion and friendships have evolved because of an easy talking point in the many crafts the ladies do. One lady makes mosaic tiles, and weaves cloth ...

Both groups are very joyous, interesting and fun – we talk a lot and laugh a lot and at times it's a fight to get a word in, which is great!

Valerie Colley

