



THE HUDDERSFIELD

ARTIST

SUMMER EDITION 2025

NEWSLETTER OF THE HUDDERSFIELD ART SOCIETY



FEATURED ARTIST: KAREN DEWHIRST

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SOCIETY NEWS...



A general round-up of the group activities and other news involving members

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As part of the ongoing discussion on what sort of society we should be Jo Sykes reports back from the focus group held in June

MEMBERS' EXHIBITION



David Whiting reports back on the members' exhibition

EVENTS...

Some future dates for your diary



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GROUPS

PORTRAIT GROUP:

Maggie O'Keeffe

maggie@deadgoodmusic.com

www.facebook.com/groups/haspg

SATURDAY PROGRAMME:

David Whiting

davidwhitinghas@yahoo.com

www.facebook.com/groups/satprog

LIFE DRAWING GROUP:

Carol Wood

carolwood303@gmail.com

ABSTRACT GROUP:

Louise Heptonstall

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OUTDOOR EVENTS:

Linda Downs

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PRESIDENT'S
LETTER

ENABLING THE SOCIETY TO CONTINUE AS AN ACTIVE AND VIBRANT ELEMENT OF ART IN HUDDERSFIELD

Well, the summer has begun, and we have had the first of three outdoor days. We are all getting accustomed to fine sunny weather, but the forecasts, on which we rely so much, were worrying leading up to June 14th. On the day however we were shown how wrong the forecasts can always be – a fine day with just a few showers enabled 18 members to enjoy the event – see the re-

ported online exhibition in September/October, replaced a public Annual Exhibition – probably the first time this will not have been held, apart from war years and Covid 19 in 2020, since the Society began in 1890. It has not been possible to locate a venue in the town where there is more than minimal footfall, but even if we accepted the low footfall, as we did last year, the very small number of us who have man-

but was supported throughout by Shirley Waddington and Rachel Sykes, while Glen Williams provided posters.

It may well be decided in future years to hold a similar event, at least until there is an art gallery again (2029), but this will depend on one essential factor: one or more members willing to take the coordinating role. My term as President will be over by March 2026 so I will not be available.

I appealed earlier this year for further members to join us on Council. We are delighted that Britta Atkinson has done so as a future Treasurer to replace Carol Wood after many years service. Britta has also joined the Conversion Steering Group working on possible conversion to a co-operative. If or when the management structure is reformed next year, if HAS converts, more members will still need to offer their commitment to organising aspects of Society activities, an example of which I highlighted above. We all hope some of you will feel able to do this, to enable HAS to continue as an active and vibrant element of art in Huddersfield.

“WITH ITS LIMITED SCOPE AND EXPECTATIONS, THE MEMBERS’ EXHIBITION WAS A REAL SUCCESS”

sults and report page 7. My thanks once again go to Linda Downs, who has stepped up to take over the organising from me after 21 years. Linda has of course given many years of service in the past so this is doubly appreciated.

I have enjoyed overseeing the Saturday meetings, which I will continue to do until December, but the main event by far has been the Members’ Exhibition on May 10th and 11th. This, along with the pro-

posed the admin, hanging, and rota attendance, are no longer willing or able to continue.

With its limited scope and expectations, the Members’ Exhibition was a real success. 21 members displayed their work on table easels, shared in celebrating all the artwork produced, brought in guests including church attenders on the Sunday, and enjoyed refreshments (thanks to the cake suppliers). I coordinated the event,

David Whiting
President

PORTRAIT GROUP

ORGANISER:
**MAGGIE
O'KEEFFE**

maggie@deadgoodmusic.com

OUR summer season has now come to a close (30th June). We've had a quieter term with numbers ranging from 8 to 11 people.

I took over the running of the group last Easter 2024 with the idea that it would be for one year. Since Easter 2025, we have been transitioning towards a new lead. I am now happy to hand over the reins to Fiona Colston who has agreed to take over as lead for the coming year, starting September. In the interim, we have had an excellent response from the members who have stepped up to look after the facebook page, registers, and closing of the venue.



As ever, we have had some wonderful sitters this term, and we are always looking for more, so we can keep a variety of young and old.

We're now taking a break until Monday 8th September. If you are interested in joining us, as a sitter or an artist, please contact me for information.



LIFE DRAWING GROUP



ORGANISER:
**CAROL
WOOD**

carolwood303@gmail.com

THE LIFE drawing group is taking a Summer break.

Our first session back will be on September 11th on Thursday afternoon at Gledholt Methodist Church, 1.30 pm.



EXAMINING COLOUR



ORGANISER:
**LOUISE
HEPTONSTALL**

huddartsoc@gmail.com

THE meeting in April looked at colour plunge and colour field art and the session was brilliantly led by Jo Sykes with members enjoying exploring the topics.

In May we experimented with making shades of grey by not using black. It was interesting to see the different shades using blue and orange or green and red and varying amounts of white. The results were quite beautiful.

In June we looked at abstracting nature. In particular flowers and trees. The art produced is always so inspirational and we continue to learn and encourage each other.



RACHEL SYKES SUMMARISES SOME OF THE GREAT THINGS THAT HAPPEN IN THE SATURDAY PROGRAMME. IF YOU ARE NOT THERE YOU ARE REALLY MISSING OUT.

12TH APRIL 2025

Figure Drawing by Stacey Shaw

Members enjoyed a fantastic tutor led workshop with Stacey Shaw demonstrating figure drawing in coloured pencil and pastel. We also had Freya who was a brilliant model doing a number of poses for the group.



26TH APRIL 2025

Skies in Pastel by Sandra Orme –

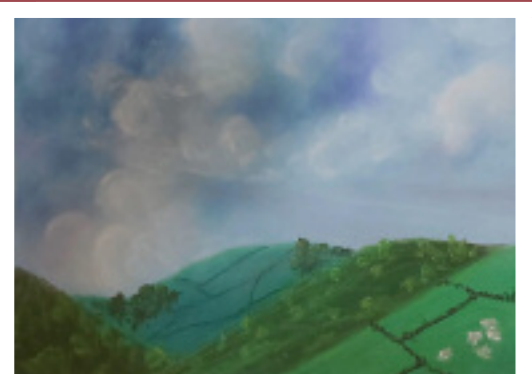
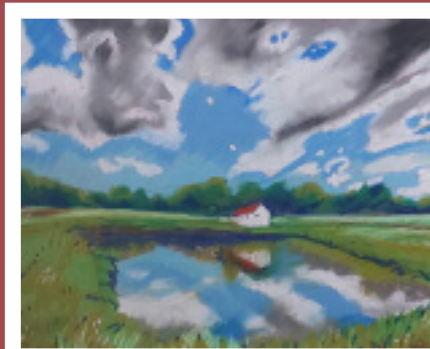
We had a very interesting and inspiring afternoon with Sandra Orme demonstrating skies in pastel. She showed how to produce a finished piece in stages and shared many tips and techniques.



31ST MAY 2025

Members' Own Workshop

Members took part in a workshop to practice Sandra Orme's techniques. Pastelmat paper was available to use and everyone who tried it was impressed by the results.



THE SATURDAY PROGRAM IS NOW ON A BREAK FOR SUMMER

The next meeting is 6th September

Demonstration: Painting a Gouache Seascape with Bruce Mulcahy

WHAT SORT OF SOCIETY DO WE WANT?

FOR THE PAST FEW MONTH THERE HAS BEEN AN ONGOING DISCUSSION ABOUT WHAT SORT OF SOCIETY WE SHOULD BE. **JO SYKES** REPORTS BACK FROM THE FOCUS GROUP THAT TOOK PLACE LAST MONTH

We had an excellent focus group in June with 11 attendees on the day and several more sending in their thoughts by email. We used a number of questions to stimulate conversations in small groups looking at what is most important to us as a society. People came up with a lot of insightful thoughts with some common themes emerging. Here are a few of them:

What is important to me as a member of the society?

- The social aspect, being able to meet like-minded people, and to share in the joy of art.
- It is good to be able to learn from other artists, whether that is other members or visiting artists demonstrating and talking about their work
- The importance of being able to show my work, both in smaller in-house presentations or as part of an exhibition. It really enhances my experience as an artist.

How we are doing as a society as a whole?

- Need to focus on our core 'business' which is the groups. Other things such as more outdoor painting days, gallery visits, social events can be organized by members of groups on a more adhoc basis.



- To simplify some of the ways the groups are run and break down into smaller roles so that other members don't feel intimidated in offering to help or lead a small part
- To break down some of the larger roles into smaller parts so that more people can share in 'making it happen' with more manageable time commitment.

How does the society fit into the community?

- Many felt that the society is becoming a bit invisible
- Can we advertise more?
- Can we modernize the image of the society a bit?

One of our current big issues has been engaging members in taking some lead roles to help spread the load a bit. Everyone responding agrees that members should help to share some responsibility for some parts of the running of groups but many feel that some of the roles are just too big as they are, and therefore intimidating for people to offer to get involved. Everyone was in agreement that we need to find ways of simplifying things a bit so that more people can be involved either on an adhoc or short-term basis. Some groups are already demonstrating this, the portrait group being a good example.

Because everyone responding strongly agreed that the greatest benefit of

WHAT SORT OF SOCIETY DO WE WANT? (CONT'D)

the society to us as members is the social aspect, being able to meet other artists and share our ideas demonstrates just how important the society is to us all and therefore absolutely worth working out the few issues we have in a way that will run the society more sustainably.

Another significant issue that we need to address is that currently the trustees have unlimited liability for the society finances which is a highly undesirable situation to continue with.



EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

All responses will be shared with members in early September, before the extraordinary meeting on the 20th September. This meeting will take place at Moldgreen at 2pm as per the usual Saturday Programme – we ask that as many members attend as possible. At our AGM in March, after a number of issues were outlined and the suggestion that we look into converting to a co-operative society, members voted to approve that we explore what such a conversion would entail and the implications for us as members. A small steering group consisting of Mary Mckenzie, Britta Atkinson and Jo Sykes have been meeting together and with advisors from Co-operative UK to look into this, draft what the new constitution (which are the legal rules for being a co-operative consortium model) would look like under the co-operative umbrella, draft a Society Handbook (which would essentially be our

rule book in layman's terms), draft some suggestions for change based on member's responses to surveys and the focus group, and draft a proposal of why converting to a co-operative consortium will help with the issues we are facing.

The extra-ordinary meeting is to allow the steering group to present all this information to the members (written information will be provided at least a week before the meeting), giving members chance to examine all the information, ask necessary questions and then make the final vote whether to proceed with the conversion or not. So, it is really important that as many members as possible attend.

The steering group welcome any other comments that members would like to offer in the meantime and you can do so by emailing the art society at: huddartsoc@googlemail.com



OUTDOOR DAYS ARE NEVER CANCELLED



BY
LINDA
DOWNS

lmdowns@hotmail.co.uk

18 MEMBERS CONFRONTED
THE WEATHER FOR THE FIRST
OUTDOOR PAINTING DAY OF THE
SUMMER



THE first of our annual outdoor painting days was a really lovely occasion. The weather forecast had been really changeable in the days leading up to our visit to Shelley Methodist Church Hall and at one point, when thunder and lightening was predicted, I nearly cancelled, but thank goodness that David advised me that "Outdoor Days are never cancelled". We did have a couple of showers on the day, the first one arriving as we did around 10am and the second at lunch time, so with a bit of dodging in and out, everyone managed to get some good work done. It was great to catch up with our regular outdoor painters but also good to welcome members who haven't joined us for these sessions before, 18 members in total came along. Rachel took some great photos which have been posted on our Facebook and Instagram pages. My favourite photo of the day is the one of Denise who looks exactly as an intrepid En Plein Artist should



especially with the troublesome sky behind!

FUTURE OUTDOOR DAYS

Our next outdoor day is the coach trip to Saltaire on 19th July. This visit will give members the opportunity to do some sketching around the village and Salts Mill as well as visiting the David Hockney 20 Flowers for 2025 exhibition on the top floor gallery.

The location for our final session on 9th August is Holme Village

Community Centre. This is a lovely newly converted hall with excellent facilities and gives access to some stunning long views towards Holme Moss and lovely village scenes."

The next outdoor painting day will be on 19th July and is a coach trip to Saltaire.

For more information contact Linda at: lmdowns@hotmail.co.uk



MEMBERS' EXHIBITION

DAVID WHITING REPORTS BACK ON THE MEMBERS' EXHIBITION HELD ON THE 10-11TH MAY

The decision to hold this event was made in December 2024 and was written into the 2025 Saturday programme for the weekend of May 10/11. A request to Moldgreen to have the room on the Saturday and Sunday mornings as well as the booked Saturday afternoon was granted, as well as use of the room next to the kitchen. Considering the space and number of tables available I aimed at 20 members exhibiting, each with one table, and the final number of 21 was just about right. I was able to allocate three table easels each, following a generous loan by Bruce Mulcahy. Four members contributed cakes, teams were in the kitchen on half hour shifts, enabling us to run a social and refreshments space. Exhibiting members invited families and friends, and number



of non-exhibiting members called in. On Sunday we were pleased to welcome church members and the minister, Rev. Sarah Fitton. Almost all exhibiting members took a slot on the rota, which included door duty, welcome and kitchen, though Shirley and Rachel were outstanding in being present from beginning to end. I really enjoyed seeing Rachel's photos of members standing with their displays, which represented exactly what the exhibition was like.



THIS ISSUE OUR FEATURED ARTIST IS:

KAREN DEWHIRST



HAS: When did you first become interested in drawing and painting?

ARTIST: I remember my first day at school aged 5, drawing a lady pushing a pram. So I had obviously been practising at home. I always loved drawing and colouring, but after taking A-level art, life got in the way, and I didn't get back to art until my forties, joining Val Mitchell's class at North Light.

HAS: What mediums do you like to use and why?

ARTIST: I love to use Acrylic paints as they are so fast drying. I also love coloured pencils for smaller more detailed work. I have also used pastel, but as my 'studio' is my dining room table, it got too messy. I love trying different media

HAS: How did you hear about HAS, and what do you enjoy about being a member?

ARTIST: I used to be in an art group at Netherton and a couple of the other members were also in HAS. Each year I went to their exhibitions in the Art Gallery, but didn't have the confidence to join myself until the rules changed and I didn't have to come before the committee! I go to the Abstract group now, which is great fun and we learn a lot from each other.



HAS: What are you working on currently?

ARTIST: The last project in Abstract group was on Florals, which I loved, so now I am doing another A2 size floral abstract in coloured pencil for my kitchen wall. Rather ambitious in size for coloured pencil so I will need patience.

HAS: Which artists or art movements have inspired you?

ARTIST: I have always loved colour; I remember getting excited by William



Morris & the Arts and Crafts movement, Alphonse Mucha's stylised figures, loving the jewellery like colours of the Pre Raphaelites. Two other favourites are Georgia O'Keefe, and Vincent Van Gogh – after moving to France, his colour palette was transformed.

HAS: Do you paint every day?

ARTIST: I have spells of painting every day for several months, then have a couple of months off, get inspired and start again.

HAS: What are your plans for the future?

ARTIST: The last 18 months, I have concentrated on coloured pencil work but I want to get back to doing large bold acrylic paintings, and find more outlets to try and sell my work.



MEETINGS DETAILS

SATURDAY MEETINGS

2 Saturdays per month
(see opposite for confirmed subjects)

1.30pm -4.30pm at Moldgreen United Reformed Church Hall.

Organiser: David Whitting
07981200395

OUTDOOR PAINTING DAYS

These will take place on a Saturday or Sunday during June, July and August.

Details of the dates and venues will be announced in the spring of each year.

Organiser: Linda Downs
07947136746

PORTRAIT GROUP

Meetings on Mondays
6.45 -9.00pm Sept – end June,
at Paddock Friends Meeting House.

Organiser: Maggie O'Keeffe
07717 824836

LIFE DRAWING GROUP

Meetings on Thursdays from
1.30 (arrive at 1.15) -4.15pm
Sept -end May, at Gledholt Methodist Church Hall.

Organiser: Carol Wood
07565183715

ABSTRACT GROUP

Meetings once a month on
Fridays 10- 12.30am at
Paddock Friends Meeting House.

Organiser: Louise Heptonstall
huddartsoc@gmail.com

SATURDAY MEETINGS

ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD AT:

**Moldgreen United Reformed Church,
319, Old Wakefield Road,
Moldgreen, Huddersfield. HD5 8AA
1.30 – 4.30pm**

6TH SEPTEMBER

DEMONSTRATION: Painting a Gouache Seascape with Bruce Mulcahy

20TH SEPTEMBER

Members' Exhibition 2 or workshop tbc

4TH OCTOBER

DEMONSTRATION: Painting a Mountain Scene in Acrylics with David Johnson

18TH OCTOBER

Members' own workshop

1ST NOVEMBER

DEMONSTRATION: Mixed Media Landscape Painting with Robert Dutton



15TH NOVEMBER

Members' own workshop

6TH DECEMBER

DEMONSTRATION: Painting a Seascape in Pan Pastels with Les Darlow

