

ISLE OF WIGHT ART CLUB

NEWSLETTER – GALLERY – ARTICLES – SPRING 2026



Welcome to your Spring 2026 Newsletter with news and reviews from our packed Winter Programme plus the usual articles and photos from Workshop days at Riverside and looking forward to Summer.

Obituary: We were sad to hear of the sudden death of Virginia Stirman, a valued member of the Club since 2002. Virginia died suddenly aged 91 in January and her funeral was held on 13th March. She had a remarkable life and was an active member of Amnesty International.

Virginia also regularly attended many clubs and joined in our Study Day in the Autumn. Right, is a watercolour by Virginia typical of her style, depicting Bluebells.



VIRGINIA STIRMAN: Spring Walk

Winter Programme:

Tues 31st March : Zoom demo with Brian Smith RI www.briansmithartist.com

Tues 7th April: Workshop

Tues 14th April: Workshop

Tues 14th April: Setting up/Handing in day at Newport Minster exhibition

Wed 15th April: Exhibition opens – closes Wed 22nd April

Tues 21st April: Workshop

Thurs 23rd April: Collect unsold work from Minster

Fri 24th April: **Watercolour Study Day with Brian Smith**

Tues 28th April: Last day at Riverside – Critique with Daphne, bring 2 paintings in



Brian Smith RI

Looking back:

On **Dec 2nd** we held our Annual Sale of Art Materials. This is very popular and gives members a chance to try new paints, papers, canvases, books etc for very little outlay with donations to Club funds.



Monday 15th Dec was **Carol's Christmas Quiz** with complimentary mince pies, tea and coffee. Another popular event that we are very grateful to Carol for organising. All participants were given little bags of sweets and the winners each had a bottle of wine! Congratulations to Andrew, Susana, Nicky, Gillian H and Jenny our worthy winners.

Left: Quizmaster Carol and right: Our winners



Sky Landscape Artist of the Year:



Andrew Saunders, (left)

Our Summer plein air organiser, took part in this year's LAOTY on Sky Arts. He painted at St James Park in London, the finished painting *far right* and his submission *right*. Well done Andrew!



Tennyson Down



St James Park

The Start of 2026 saw the launch of the **Chairman's 30 Day Winter Challenge**, organised by Daphne Ellman our Chair. Members were provided with 30 different subjects to sketch or paint in a sketch book which was then judged by members' votes after the AGM in March. The winner was **Nick Edwards** with his very imaginative take on the subjects, who pipped Jill Roe to first prize by one vote. Our thanks to all 14 members who took part in the competition, a good effort by all. Nick was presented with a Jackson Art voucher. Our thanks to Daphne for organising the competition and we look forward to next year's Challenge.



Riverside Tuesdays' Portrait selection: No particular order, apologies if your work is not here, it is on the IWAC Membership Plus Facebook page. No names – they are all recognisable!



SUMMER PROGRAMME 2026: The first few dates for your plein air diary.

May 5th	The Donkey Sanctuary at Wroxall
May 12th:	Island Harbour – Binfield nr Newport
May 19th	Ryde Seafront – meet at the gardens near the pier
May 26th	Mottistone House & Gardens – take your Membership card
June 2nd	Cowes Parade
June 9th	Harvey Browns at Arreton
June 16th	Isle of Wight Pearl – along the Military Rd near Brook

Right: 'Daisy'



Island Harbour – under new management for 2026

More detailed information will follow, but meet up will be 10.30 as usual.



Wow what a treat we had watching Jameel Akib on zoom ! He produced four images during the afternoon session. Two in acrylic and two in oils - a lady, a puffin, a kingfisher and finally in just ten minutes a jazz musician! He did no drawing and worked mostly with a two inch angled brush only using a smaller brush to refine and add some lines. He measured his subjects repeatedly to make sure he had the proportions right. His colours were clean and bright and he wasn't mean with the amount of paint he used.

His method of working was to "find" his subject out of an abstracted start, often beginning with complementary colours. Interestingly I thought the acrylic paintings were looser than the oil paintings and it's usually the other way around. When I got home I looked at his web site and the images found there and they are very similar to what we witnessed which again isn't always the case. Have a look. www.jameelakib.com
To sum up - a wonderful afternoon spent with a charming artist who was happy to share his talent and knowledge.



THE BIG PICTURE: Feb 17th



Spot the difference! Members painted 42 tiles on the afternoon of Feb 17th, no one knowing what on earth they were producing until the magic moment when **John Hunt** had assembled all the tiles into the frame for the big reveal. When the whole picture is suitably framed, it will hang in the reception area at Riverside. Each member was given a raffle ticket and the 8 winners won a sketch book each.

We are extremely grateful to John for all his hard work in preparing tiles for the day, making sure all the numbered little squares of the painting were in the correct order.

Right: Here's one John painted earlier!



134th AGM – held on March 17th:

Tony Westmore our Club President opened the meeting, telling us he has been a member for 40 years and explaining the importance of what the Club is about, instilling confidence and creativity, about sharing ideas and friendship.

Daphne Ellman gave her Chairman's Report and welcomed our new members. Council members were thanked for their hard work in the smooth running of the Club and the events.

Nicky Wells read the Secretary's Report, membership numbers are holding up well and she thanked the two resigning Council members, **Neil Barton** and **Gillian Hodson**. Numbers on Tuesdays are regularly over 40 members attending necessitating 2 portrait sitters per session.

Di Hanson gave the Treasurer's Report, thanking Don Roe for kindly auditing the final accounts. The increase in subscription fees last year was necessary as Riverside had greatly increased their room rents. Sales of donated art materials, exhibitions and the Art Materials Sale helped the Club finances to remain in a healthy position, with the Study Days being self financed.

Council Members for the year 2026-2027:

Officers – Daphne Ellman, Chair - Peter Allen, Deputy Chair – Nicky Wells, Secretary – Di Hanson, Treasurer

General Council Members standing for 3 years:

Gillian Nye – Exhibition Co-ordinator and Newsletter

Anne Toase – Exhibition Co-ordinator

Paul Hewson – Exhibition Co-ordinator and Zoom/Projection

Susan Nowacki was voted onto the Council for Winter Programme (with assistance from AT, NW and GN)

Linda Caldicott was voted onto the Council for Sitters and Still Life

Remaining on the Council, **Jan Welsh**, Minute Secretary, **Andrew Saunders**, Summer Programme ,

Ben Glover, Zoom/Projection. They remain on the Council until the end of their tenure.

Any questions or queries you have please talk to the relevant Council member who will help you.

MORE ROGUES GALLERY:

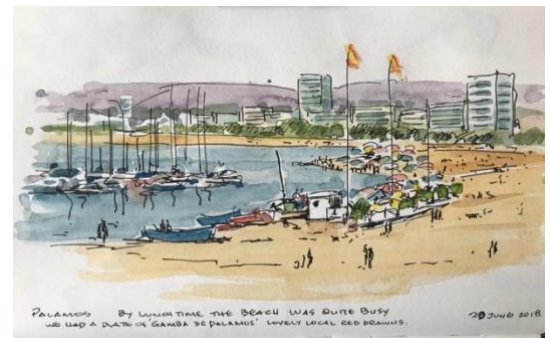
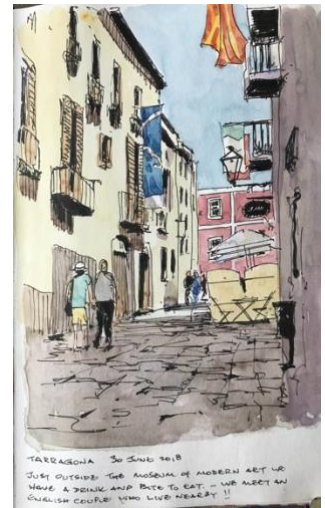


Tony Westmore – Art Sessions at Sea, part 2:

After the first cruise was behind me, you wonder how you have done, as feedback is sometimes not very forthcoming, I had occasional visits from the ships entertainment department during my classes, these were brief however and with increasing numbers attending the sessions each day you begin to feel you are heading the right way and I soon came to the conclusion that if you are left alone to your own devices you are doing ok.

I had not been home long before I was booked for another cruise to the Baltic for the following year, however other opportunities soon presented themselves with a short notice offer of a five week cruise to the Caribbean with P&O, after having to present myself for an interview in Southampton. Subsequently seven Caribbean cruises came my way over the following years.

Whilst cruising I always kept a Travel Sketch Journal for each voyage, this enabled me to accumulate sketches of places of interest visited and therefore provide me with subject material for future cruises, working these up to simplified sketches that could be comfortably worked from. I always provide my students with a simplified line sketch of the subject, consisting of about three or four dominant shapes, with a little more detail around the focal point. During the class I lead the group painting the picture. Thus my students go home with paintings of places visited, as well as their holiday photos, this made my classes somewhat different from most other tutors who mainly used 'set subjects' that they used regularly at home.

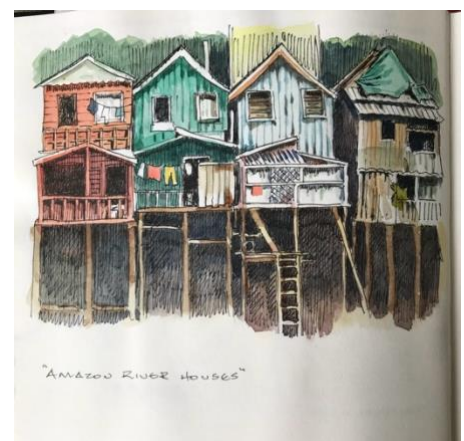


One of the problems encountered was the size of the twice a day classes - having no idea of how many would turn up, a group of a dozen or more was good to get started with, and generally this would increase as word got around etc. Sometimes things get out of hand, I had a regular group of forty plus on a Canada/USA cruise, fortunately I was in a large theatre with an overhead projector. At the end of cruise exhibition, 58 people exhibited paintings, it can all be a bit daunting at times. In recent years classes have been limited to thirty.

A good indicator of how you are doing is the class size, if it increases things can be considered as going well. I heard stories of some cruise sessions beginning with about twelve and with diminishing numbers each following day, the tutor was not seen again after the first port of call, being off home on the next plane.

Some of the cruisers take their art seriously, travelling with more equipment than I do and some are very good serious artists. Basic art equipment - a small set of paints, watercolour pad, pencil and brushes etc are available for sale on the cruise ships at around £25, Saga provide them free of charge. The classes are only run on sea days, as port days are spent ashore.

Highlights of my thirteen years at sea were two legs - seven weeks of a Round the World cruise, the Far East section from Sydney to Cape Town, a cruise a thousand miles up the Amazon to Manaus, and a lovely Black Sea cruise before the Ukraine war.



Over the years we have seen some changes, on our first voyage with P&O on the old Oriana we were classed as crew, with seaman's discharge books, living in crew cabins with bunk beds and eating in the Officers mess. When landing in America with the crew we were with the young dancing girls, we were asked 'what on earth do you on board?' by the US immigration officers. In more recent years when I have been mainly working with Saga, we are usually in a top deck cabin with nice outside balcony.

Averaging about three cruises a year, we visited many ports and countries, my favourite port perhaps Funchal Madeira, always a pleasant sight after three days at sea, the weather consistently good and surprisingly cheap considering its location. The Black Sea ports of Bulgaria, Turkey and Georgia were also surprisingly interesting with their old Soviet connections, and cultural interest.

Over the years I travelled with P&O, Fred Olsen and Saga and enjoyed whoever I was with, but Saga are perhaps the best with their 'all inclusive' being hard to beat.

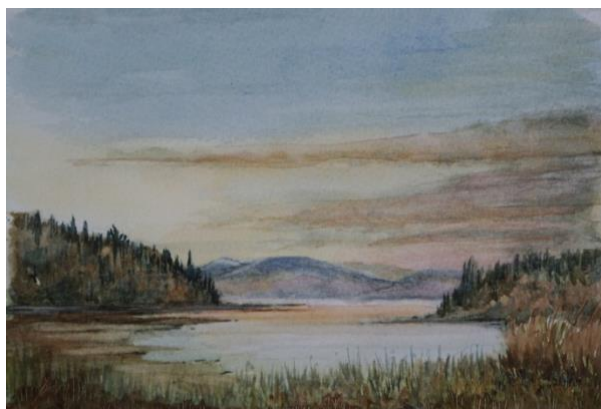
With advancing age and some health concerns I decided to opt out whilst the going was good, and before we experienced any real problems miles from home. It was a real treat to have had that unexpected experience in retirement, and we look upon the time with great pleasure and with many happy memories. **Tony**



ISLE OF WIGHT ABROAD MEMBER – John Spencer Peet

Many members will remember John, a member of the Club for a number of years, still a member, but living with family on the mainland but he keeps in touch with Club news through the Newsletter and website.

John continues to paint his delicate watercolours with two local clubs and has also exhibited successfully. Two of his watercolours are shown here, many thanks John, and we would love to see you when you next visit the Island.

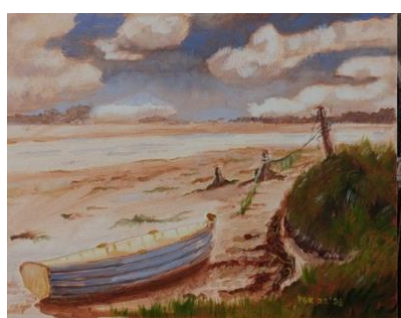


Above: Looking towards the Isle of Mull from near Kilninver, West Scotland



Above: A Quiet Road in Dunster

Members' paintings:



*Above left & centre: **Patric Brookes** 'Newtown' and 'St Thomas' Square'*

*Above right: **Natalie Winterfrost** 'Human with Wolf' - Shortlisted for the Royal Academy Exhibition again.*

*Left: **Pearl Gatehouse** – charcoal and watercolour from Ventnor Botanic Gardens*

*Right: **Neil Barton** – Landscape in oils*



In person illustrated talk by Martin Kinnear:



Martin (*left*) came to talk to a packed Trafalgar Room on March 10th. Martin is a mainly contemporary artist and is a visiting lecturer at the RCA where he trained and showed us the way he plans – *right* – and approaches a painting through ‘thought’ which becomes visible. His paintings evolve, with many adjustments until he is content with the work. It was interesting how he explained art history and how artists over the years constructed their work, using thirds, golden triangle and particularly diagonals in composition for the eye to travel over the work to the main subject.

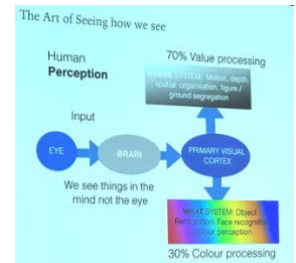
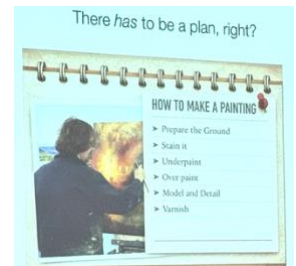


Anne's painting



Martin's 'Congregation'

The week before Martin's talk, Anne Toase brought in the work she has done with Martin's online teaching with his painting school. Anne started during lockdown when we all discovered zoom and has been taught how the old masters and more contemporary artists produced their paintings. Anne has produced a great collection to rival Turner, Sargent, Klimt et al. Thank you Martin for an enlightening talk and thank you Anne for organising and Paul for projection and setting up, truly an unsung hero.



Martin's work is held in all the major galleries including the Paris Salon and Downing Street and he has won many awards. He teaches from his studio, mostly by zoom since lockdown and has various programmes for oils up to advanced and also private tuition. His websites are www.martinkinnearstudio.com and www.martinkinnear.com

SPRING EXHIBITION AT NEWPORT MINSTER:

Starting Wed 15th until Wed 22nd April

Opening times:

10am – 3pm Tues, Wed, Thurs

10am – 1pm Friday

11am – 2pm Saturday

Closed Sunday and Monday

Details of Handing in your paintings on Tuesday 14th April are in the email sent to members and on the Club website along with Rules and Guidelines regarding presentation of your paintings. For this exhibition, the Exhibition Co-ordinators are covering the stewarding, also please note, we are not selling greetings cards. Submission Forms must be in by Friday 3rd April

Any articles or paintings you wish to see in the next Newsletter, please contact the Editor, Gillian Nye at gilliannye@rocketmail.com Some things have been held over until the next issue.



THE ISLE OF WIGHT ART CLUB

Spring Exhibition & Sale of Art

NEWPORT MINSTER

St Thomas' Square PO30 1SL

**Wed 15th - Wed 22nd April 2026
from 10am - Minster opening hours**

Free admission - Refreshments www.isleofwightartclub.org

