



Letter From the President

I hope this finds you well and you are feeling a little more optimistic about the new year ahead now that the Corona vaccine is being rolled out. Staying safe over Christmas will be a challenge for all of us, as the Government relaxes some of the stricter measures, so its important that we apply common sense and don't take any undue risks.

Looking forward to 2021, I hope that we will see a degree of normality returning and we can make tentative plans for our programme of events. So, as a first step, I have booked the Town Hall Bedford Suite for our Spring and Autumn Exhibitions for May and November respectively...fingers crossed!

You may recall that the Sutton Town Council set a Christmas card competition for Sutton residents and I am pleased to say that for a second year running a SCSA member's painting has been chosen. This time Allan Gilbert's painting of a snow covered Town Hall will feature on the Mayor's official Christmas card....congratulations Allen.

Despite the impact of the Corona virus restrictions on many of our Society's activities, I am pleased to say that we have had new members joining and for the first time an overseas Artist. , Göetz Jeran from Germany has become a member and I am pleased to featured him in this issue of the Newsletter.



Many people during lockdown have turned to art as a way of escape and programmes like Grayson Perry's Art Club and Sky Arts Portrait painter of the month and the week have been testament to this and have been quite inspirational.

As you know I have tried to encourage you to be creative during this difficult time by setting monthly painting challenges and I have been very impressed with the response. So to keep you focussed over Christmas and into the new year my painting challenge this time is 'Winter', in all its various forms.

Just send a photo of your painting with title and medium used to my email: geoff.stubbins@btinternet.com by Sunday 17th January. I will publish as many as I can in the next Newsletter.

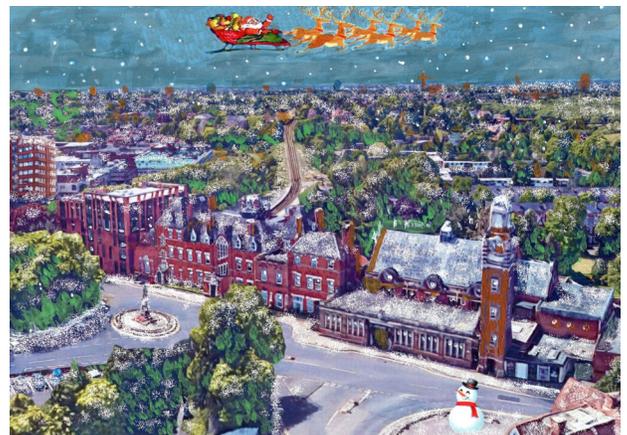
Happy Christmas and stay safe.

Geoff Stubbins

Town Council Christmas Card Competition

SCSA member Allan Gilbert was thrilled when his painting of an aerial view of the Sutton Town Hall was chosen for the Mayor's official Christmas card. His snow covered view of Sutton Coldfield with Santa flying over in his sleigh, was painted A4 size in acrylic and the snow added in Photoshop and then reduced to A5 for printing the Official card shown adjacent.

Allan attended an official presentation at the Town Hall and was presented, by a socially distanced and masked Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Mayor, Councillor Jane Mosson, with a framed Christmas card and book token. The presentation can be seen on facebook.



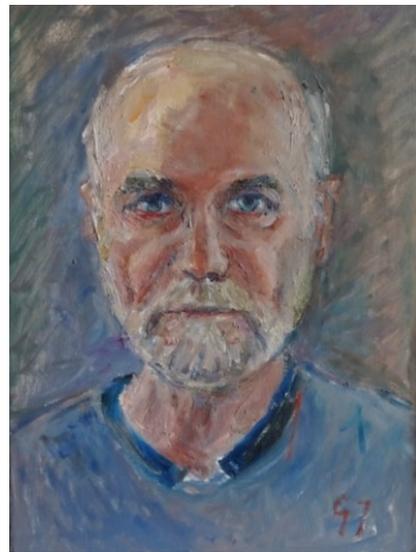
'Christmas in Sutton Coldfield'

NEW MEMBER FEATURE: Goetz Jeran

I came in touch with Sutton Coldfield and the Society through Petra Röhr-Rouendaal. We both grew up in Hamburg-Blankenese being friends as teens, and I hired a studio together with two other friends in 1965. In 2017 she invited my wife and I to her lovely home in Sutton Coldfield. So I got to know the town and most of all Sutton Park very well and I become acquainted with some members of the Society when I joined the group of her life studies-painting.

Being in close contact with Petra since then I am well informed of exhibitions and events of the SCSA. Curiously the awful Corona Pandemic now helped me to take part in your Summer Exhibition: I took the chance to send Jean some exhibits per mail to that virtual presentation. It had hardly been possible in a concrete Exhibition and due to your unconventional decision to accept me I now dare say I'm proud to be a lucky overseas member of the SCSA.

As a painter I'm a self educated person, influenced and supported by my old teacher in school, Albert Feser, one of the last painters of the Hamburger Sezession. I was born in 1942, grew up in Hamburg-Blankenese, made my Abitur in 1963, was in the Army (Bundeswehr) till 1965 leaving as lieutenant, studied in Hamburg and Tübingen German Literature, Political, Economic and Social History and Art History. Since 1972 I taught the before named subjects and most of all Theatre in the Gymnasium Eppendorf, since 1990 as Vice Headmaster. In 1996 I became Headmaster of the Wicher-Schule, one of the oldest and biggest schools in Hamburg. I retired in 2007, but was asked to support an Educational Reform, the Elbinselschule, in the socially disadvantaged district of Wilhelmsburg, being Pedagogical Headmaster till 2011. I got married to my wife Dolores in 1969. We just had our 50. wedding anniversary last year, celebrating it with our two children, Arne and Marlene in Edinburgh. We have 4 grandchildren.



Goetz Jeran 'Self Portrait'

If you paint a landscape or maybe a still life it inevitably comes to your mind, whether it would not be better and more accurate or even true to get your camera out of your pocket and make a photo. Possibly you are right. But that is not my understanding of painting concretely even if I use a photo nowadays as a substitute. I want to express the correspondence of the things outside to my inner life, how the colours and different forms of nature provoke joy, happiness or melancholy inside during the act of painting. Thus a picture could express somewhat of oneself.

I am a mere hobby-painter who painted during his vacations when he was a teacher and now has enough time as a pensioner. But I dare say I have achieved a genuine "handwriting", people recognize very soon, that a picture is one of mine, by looking at it.

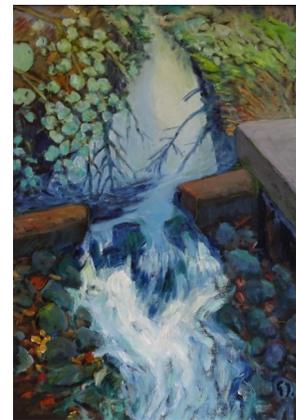


Sun-flooded Oak Tree Dean cemetery Edinburgh

What about my painting? Although I had also an Exhibition with abstract pictures, I think I'm merely a conventional impressionistic painter. That seems to be my genuine way to express what I feel and see. I like to paint outdoors in "pleinair", "wet in wet", with a quick brush. I want to catch the light, the play of colours, the scent and heat or cold of the air. Although my painting is concrete I tend to depict the things in a somewhat abstract manner, so that the observer has space enough for his own associations.



My Coat



Little Creek in Mellinburg



Duvenstedter Forest

