



SCSA NEWSLETTER

September 2025

A Message from the President
DEBORAH HODGSON

Dear Members,

I hope you've enjoyed the warm weather this summer and had a chance to get away.

Our sketching days proved popular, with venues ranging from the Botanical Gardens to Shugborough Hall and we were delighted to welcome some new prospective members along the way.

Looking forwards, our monthly meetings reconvene on Saturday 20th September. This will be a full Art Day with model. In October, we're excited to have a drawing workshop organised by James Ware ahead of the AGM. More information to follow.

Deborah

Patching Art Centre

You may have heard the news about Patchings but if not, unfortunately, the owners have decided to place it on the market for sale. As the sale process will probably take a while, in the meantime the business will continue as usual. If we hear any further information, we'll let you know.

Workshop and AGM on October 25th 2025

James Ware will run a workshop from 10.00 am. to 1.00pm. for **15 members** on the morning of **25th October** before the **AGM at 2.00 pm**. There will be a model, who is a guitarist. Quick figure drawings will be developed into a final image which can be completed as a monoprint, which James will demonstrate. Members are encouraged to bring their own coloured acrylic paints and rollers to use, as well as a phone camera, if possible, to record the moving model during the session.

Participants will also be required to bring their own refreshments, aprons, drawing materials, sketch book, etc. and cleaning up cloths would be useful. Please arrive at 9.45 am. for a 10.00 am. start.

To Book: Please contact **Chris Bowden** on 0121 378 1009 or email: citbowden171@gmail.com

Ticket price is £10.00

Summer Sketching Days

Sketching at Blackroot in Sutton Park.



Jo at Wheat's Garden Centre.



Wheat's Garden Centre Café.

Summer Sketching Days

Chris, Fran, Jean, Ann and Paul relaxing at Fradley Junction.



Sketch book appraisal at Fradley Junction.

Sketching at Middleton Hall.



Summer Sketching Days

Chris, Fran, Wing
and others in
Shugborough Hall
walled garden.



Fran and Wing in
Shugborough Hall garden.

Jean in Shugborough Hall
garden.



The Sutton Coldfield Art Trail Event 2025

The Sutton Coldfield Art Trail was founded in 2016 under the leadership of Petra Röhr-Rouendaal. The aim is to host open-studio-type events to showcase the work of the many excellent artists living and/or working in Sutton Coldfield. All types of visual art and media are welcomed, including photography. To ensure a high standard of work, there is a selection process in which 6 works of art are presented by each artist for the approval of the Art Trail Committee. We also want to focus on the artists' methods and emphasise the opportunity for visitors to engage with them, discuss their work, perhaps try out some of the materials and techniques, and develop an understanding of the varied experience of artists. Artists are able to sell work they display, but selling is not the prime objective of the event, which aims to enhance community engagement and forge links between artists and residents and between artists and each other.

We have been very fortunate in the artists who take part, many of whom are professionals with excellent qualifications and reputations. This year, 32 artists participated. Many of the Art Trail artists are also members of Sutton Coldfield Society of Artists and other West Midlands art groups and societies, but it must be emphasised that the Art Trail is a completely separate organisation with its own constitution.

The event has become an established part of the summer calendar in Sutton Coldfield and this year saw the tenth Art Trail. As in previous years, a number of venues across the town hosted groups of artists, while some artists based themselves in their own homes or studios. Popular venues, which we hope to use again, include the Gracechurch Centre, the Sailing Club and Boldmere Bistro.

Participating artists pay a small fee but we have also been fortunate to have received the support of Sutton Coldfield Town Council for most of the events.

If you are interested in joining the 2026 Art Trail, please get in touch with Rachel David, racheldavid1950@gmail.com, or 01213553380

Rachel David (President)



Photos from the 2025 Art Trail.

Busy in the Gracechurch centre and displays at Keepers Road in Little Aston, before the crowds arrived.



Andrew Mitchell visited the Sailing Club venue.

Helen Tarr - Demonstration in oils.

I am a professional artist, originally from Gloucestershire, currently living in the National Forest area of East Staffordshire.

I specialise in *alla prima* oil paintings (painted in one session) either out in the landscape or from still-life subjects in the studio. My large studio paintings are inspired by sketches and photographs gathered on my daily walks.

Drawing and painting have been my passion since childhood when I would sketch life on the Cotswolds farm where I grew up. Encouraged by my art teachers at school, I went on to study an Art and Design Foundation course at Gloscat in Cheltenham, a Fine Art BA (Hons) at North Staffs Polytechnic and an MA in Fine Art at UCE, Birmingham. Please see my work at www.helentarr.art

“Memories” by Martyn Harris - Autumn Exhibition Judge



Martyn Harris's works have been selected several times for the Royal Society of Portrait Painters' annual exhibition.

Martyn would often see Gillian from his studio when she visited the Art Yard Gallery. Striking up a friendship, and moved by her vulnerability and introspective expression, he asked if she would sit for a portrait that would reflect on the passage of time and the fragility of ageing. Captured over three sittings, the portrait depicts Gillian in a moment of reflection. Her expression is pensive, with hands clasped in quiet contemplation and eyes downcast,

thoughtful and somewhat weary, suggesting a life of many experiences.

Martyn makes use of light, shadow and contrast to strengthen the emotional qualities of the piece. The light muted background heightens the sense of isolation, placing Gillian in a world of her own; while the contrast between her pale skin and dark clothes highlights the delicate lines and colours of her face and hands. The work explores themes of loneliness, reflection and human vulnerability, and invites viewers to consider Gillian's life and story.

The judges were moved by the sensitivity that the artist brought to painting their subject, who appears lost in a moment of contemplation. They also admired the exquisite painting of textures, including the sitter's woollen sweater and wisps of hair.

Martyn gain third prize this year in the **Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer Portrait Award** with this portrait of Gillian entitled “**Memories**”. It is displayed in the National Portrait Gallery in London. He has kindly agreed to judge our Autumn Exhibition this year, 2025.

Future Dates for your diary.

September 20thPractical Art day with a model 10 am - 3.30 pm
October 25th.....Drawing Workshop with **James Ware** 10 am - 1 pm
October 25th..... **AGM** 1.45 pm - 3.30 pm
October 27th.....Final Submissions for exhibition
October 31st.....Receiving Day for exhibition from 10.00 - 10.30 am.
November 1st - 5th.....**Autumn Exhibition**
November 22nd.....**Demo by Helen Tarr**—still life in oils 10 am - 1 pm
November 22nd.....Practical Art Afternoon 1.45 pm - 3.30 pm
November 28thChristmas meal at the Oak Room in Moor Hall—3 courses £32

Please Note.....

The schedules for the Autumn exhibition will be sent out at the end of September.
Renewal forms for membership 2025 - 2026 will be sent out at the beginning of October.
Please be aware that the fees are £30 for the year when paid directly to the bank, but £31 if you pay by cheque, because of bank charges.

Shenstone Community Library Association - Exhibitions 2025

September**Urban Landscape - Matt Greenhill**
October**Still Life and Stone Carving -**
Joan and Dennis Rollason
November**Mixed Media - Andrea Dewsbery and**
Fortes Mayer
December**Greysbrooke School - Christmas**

Shenstone Community Library Gallery can be hired by the month at a cost of £25 with 20% commission on sales. The Gallery is available for booking through the months of 2026.

Please Contact Dennis Harper Tel: 01543 480404 Email: dfh.art@icloud.com

Local Art Classes

Geoff Stubbins runs the Mere Green Art Group which meets at the Mere Green Community Hall, Mere Green, from 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm on Wednesdays.
Contact him on: 0121 323 2694

Pat Pagett runs watercolour classes in Sutton Coldfield.

Commencing 10th January 2025 at the United Reformed Church, Sutton Coldfield Town Centre, Fridays 10.00 am – 12.00 pm.
For up-to-date information, please contact Pat on: 0121 240 2922

Shane Wiseman runs art classes:

South Parade Art Class

Thursdays 1.30 pm - 3.30 pm Sutton Coldfield Methodist Church Community Centre

Beginners are welcome. There is a mix of abilities in all mediums. In the class there is a mixed programme with different subjects to paint. You can paint your own if you wish.
You will need to bring your own materials and a drink.

www.animalpaintingsbyshane.com Contact him on: 07513 963478

Chris Bowden runs a **Wednesday portrait group** starting on 17th September, then 5th November in Room 4 at the Sutton Coldfield Methodist Church Community Centre from 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm.

Also **life classes** at the Cooper Room in Shenstone on November 8th 10.00 am until 4.00 pm.
Contact Chris on: citbowden171@gmail.com for more information.

Join us for 3 hours of creative fun and new friendships



THIS IS THE ART CLASS

YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED

- Develop impressive new skills in a warm and friendly atmosphere
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Sutton Coldfield Cricket & Hockey Club, B75 7RS