



Sutton Coldfield Society of Artists

Newsletter

March 2026

A Message from your President Deborah Hodgson

Dear Members,

With the shortest day now well behind us, we can look forward to sunnier times and the opportunity to get out and about, hopefully finding artistic inspiration along the way.

The first Art Day of 2026 proved extremely popular, and many members stayed for the whole day. On this occasion, we were lucky to have Marinasi as our model. If any member, or anyone they know, would like to be a model, please contact Chris Bowden. We do pay a small fee.

At our last meeting, we had the pleasure of Ray Blundell demonstrating his wonderful watercolours. Many thanks to Ray for doing so.

The Art Days are always very sociable and an opportunity to meet fellow artists so great to see some of our new members there.

Deborah

General News

It was brought to our attention in connection with our insurance, that the Society should have a Health & Safety Policy in place. Whenever we set up exhibitions and Art Days, we have been mindful of trip hazards etc. but to comply with legal requirements, we have now produced a policy. If you wish to read it, it can be downloaded from the membership page on our website. The committee will always do its best to mitigate any hazards but, as members, if there's anything you see or become aware of, that might be dangerous, please let one of us know.

Following our last demonstration where we had on-going issues with the camera, the committee have decided to invest in some new equipment. We hope to have this in place for our next demonstration.

For those of you on Facebook, please note our account will soon be moving to a new page. You'll be able to find it by following the instructions on our existing page.

Pat Pagett



As you know, we sadly lost Pat at the end of last year. Pat, together with her husband Bob, had been stalwart members for many years. Pat had served on the committee for a very long time as the judge co-ordinator as well as helping wherever she could. She thoroughly enjoyed running her art classes which were always popular. Her lovely delicate watercolours were always inspirational, and she made them look quite effortless.

The committee are considering how best to remember her in the Exhibition Awards, and this will be proposed at the AGM.



Spring Exhibition

It won't be long before the Spring Exhibition is upon us. This time, it runs from Saturday 9th May – Wednesday 13th May, with Receiving Day on Friday 8th May.

It has been mentioned that some members find it rather daunting when confronted with the schedule and framing guidelines so we would like to summarise the main points here, hopefully to make it simpler to understand. Instructions will accompany the schedules as usual.

Original work: This can cause confusion as sometimes members think all work is original. In a nutshell, any picture that is submitted must not be a copy from a photo in a magazine, postcard etc. or downloaded from the internet, as that would infringe copyright. Work produced from your own photos is obviously admissible.

Any framed picture submitted needs to be in good order, ie the frame is in good condition and won't fall to pieces. It needs to be strung securely across the back so ready to hang. To make it neat and tidy, the back should be taped around the edge to seal it which also keeps the dust out.

We accept box canvases or normal canvases, without a frame, if the sides are painted and there aren't any staples showing. Again, they need to be strung across the back and ready to hang.

Framing can be a costly business, but some good quality ready-made frames can be purchased at a reasonable price or made to measure by online companies such as:

www.easyframe.co.uk

www.pictureframesexpress.co.uk

Geoff Stubbins is always happy to do any bespoke framing.

If you have any queries in relation to framing, please contact Jean Willis. There will also be help and advice at the Practical Art Morning on the 18th April.

Awards - Spring Exhibition

1. Ratcliffe Award for Best 2D Artwork in any medium.
2. Mavis Mottram Award for the Best Landscape in any medium.
3. Ashwood Veterinary Clinic Award for the Best Animal Artwork in any medium.
4. Turner-Hilton Award for the Best Textile Artwork.
5. Vesey Art & Crafts Award for the Best Flora Artwork in any medium.
6. Emily Smith Award for the Best Water-Based Artwork.
7. SCSA Award for Best 3D Artwork.
8. Bob Pagett Award for the Best Mixed Media Artwork.
9. Highly Commended in each category & Judge Discretionary Awards.



Best Landscape – Autumn 2025
Christine Taylor



Highly Commended – Autumn 2025
Simon Walker

Art Day Photos



January Art Day



Our model, Marinasi



Ray Blundell with his watercolour



Just some of his work

Forthcoming Events

Shenstone Community Library Exhibitions 2026

Open: Tuesday – Saturdays

Times: Coffee shop open 9.30 am – 12 pm

March: Dianne Hughes & Deborah Hodgson

April: Dennis Harper

May: Tangent Textiles

Dates for 2026 Diary

March Saturday 21st

Practical Art Day

April Saturday 18th

AM: Practical Art Morning & framing advice

PM: Demo by Carl Knibb in oil

May 9th – May 13th

Spring Exhibition, Bedford Suite Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

May Saturday 16th

Practical Art Day with Model

June Saturday 13th

AM: Practical Art Morning

PM: Demo by Nick Logan