



Sutton Coldfield Society of Artists

Newsletter

September 2026

***A Message from your President
Deborah Hodgson***

Dear Members,

I hope you've had the opportunity of getting away on holiday without sweltering too much in the extreme heat.

For once, we were lucky with the weather on our sketching days which proved popular, despite the heat. A couple of the venues were changed from those further afield to make them more accessible which worked well. As always, we welcome suggestions for any new venues for future trips out. Feel free to contact Chris Bowden if you have any ideas.

Deborah

News



TheSCAN Sutton Coldfield is a new Community Arts Network which has been set up to promote community arts in the town. It can be found at thescan.org.uk as well as Instagram and Facebook. If you're involved in other creative groups, it may be useful to sign up for free to promote your events. The Society is listed and our Autumn Exhibition can be found on the events calendar.

The second half of our Shenstone Exhibition runs from Tuesday, 15th to Saturday 26th September. Hopefully many of you have had the opportunity to visit the library to see the work on display. The coffee shop is open Tuesdays to Saturdays, 9.30 am – 12 pm.

AGM

As you know the AGM will take place on Saturday 17th October. This is always worth attending to voice any ideas or concerns and to hear the plans for the following year. The agenda will be circulated nearer the time but in the meantime, please see below some of the matters that will be raised:

- An increase in the subs from £30 to £35 to keep up with increasing costs;
- A possible change to the exhibition awards. At present, the awards come with a £20 prize resulting in a cost to the Society of £160 per exhibition. Our suggestion is to remove the monetary value, although keep the awards, judged by an independent judge as usual, and replace with a £50 prize for the work that wins the public vote;
- Renaming of the Vesey Arts & Crafts Best Floral Award (Spring Exhibition) to the Pat Pagett Award for Best Floral Artwork;
- It is our 80th anniversary next year and we are looking for ideas to celebrate this. One example could be a special award, but we welcome any other suggestions from members.

Light refreshments will be available at the AGM.

Autumn Exhibition

Jean will be sending out the schedules for the Autumn Exhibition at the end of September. Don't forget any work that has been shown at Shenstone can also be exhibited at the Autumn Exhibition (if it hasn't been shown in Sutton for the previous 5 years).

As always, when bringing your work on Receiving Day, we ask that it is properly strung with D rings, so ready to hang. If it isn't, then unfortunately we won't be able to accept it. If you're new to the Society or haven't exhibited before, please read the instructions that are sent out with the schedules as they do include all the relevant information. Presentation is important and damaged frames, dirty glazing etc. will only detract from all your hard work.

We had an issue with some very heavy pictures last time which were too heavy for our hanging system and were at risk of slipping. Please bear this in mind when you decide what you're intending to submit.

SKETCHING DAYS



Starting with coffee at Blackroot Bistro.



Geoff in full flow at Minster Pool.



Keeping cool at Castle Bromwich Gardens.



Enjoying the shade at Moor Hall Hotel.



Jean and Anne busy at work.

SHENSTONE EXHIBITION

Just some of the work on display.



AUTUMN AWARDS

1. Ada Wilkinson Award for Best 2D Artwork in any medium.
2. Mavis Mottram Award for the Best Landscape.
3. Doris Jackson Award for the Best Water-Based Artwork.
4. Keith Ripley Award for the Best Portrait in any medium.
5. Madge Oliver Award for the Best Pastel Artwork.
6. Jean & Bob Dressler Award for the Best Mixed Media Artwork.
7. SCSA Award for Best 3D Artwork.

Highly Commended in each category.



Work displayed
at the Spring
Exhibition by
Clare Garrad and
Ian Van Zyl.



Event Dates for 2026 Diary

September Saturday 19th

Practical Art Day with model

October Friday 9th (1 pm) – Tuesday 13th

Lichfield Society of Artists' Autumn Exhibition, Guildhall, Lichfield

October Saturday 17th

AM: Ceramic painting demonstration by Wendy Griffiths

PM: AGM

November Saturday 14th

AM: Practical Art Morning

PM: Demonstration by Graham Burquest

November Saturday 28th

Christmas Lunch – Moor Hall Hotel, Time TBA

Shenstone Community Library Exhibitions 2026

Open: Tuesday – Saturdays

Times: Coffee shop open 9.30 am – 12 pm

Sept: Sutton Coldfield Society of Artists – Members' Exhibition.

Oct: Barbara Weaving, Anna Stanley, Janet Gilbert (mixed media) and David Walker (digital art).

Nov: Elford Art Group, a small group of fledgling artists. Dennis Harper will be giving a demonstration during this time.

Dec: The local school, Greysbrooke Primary School, with a seasonal flavour.