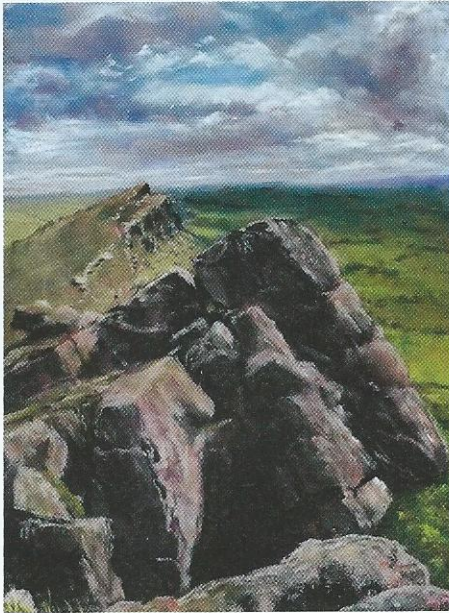


# Art clubs

## OVER TO YOU FOR THE LATEST NEWS ON CLUB EXHIBITIONS AND ACTIVITIES



▲ **Lesley Howse** *On the Roaches*, pastel, 15¾×11in. (40×28cm) winner of the Stafford Art Group's digital winter exhibition held during lockdown

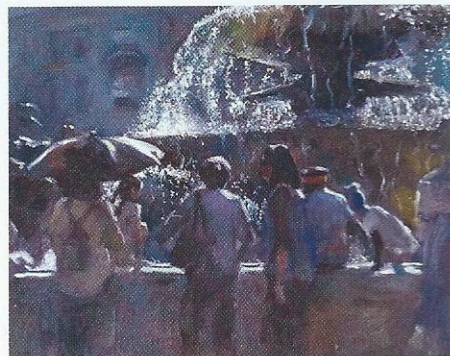
### ART CLUB NEWS

#### Stafford Art Group

Reg Sayer reports on the group's activities: 'Now that the majority of legal Covid restrictions have been removed, Stafford Art Group is planning to return to its face-to-face meetings at Littleworth

Community Centre, Stafford. Initially we are taking small steps to ensure that everyone feels comfortable and will review the situation as we go forward. Our weekly meetings will start on Tuesday 7 September at 2pm and Friday 10 September at 7pm. We look forward to meeting with all our current members and welcoming new ones. To find more visit [www.staffordartgroup.co.uk](http://www.staffordartgroup.co.uk)

'The group hasn't been idle during the past 17 months as weekly Zoom meetings were held on Tuesdays and monthly meetings on Fridays. At each of these an art challenge was set and the responses reviewed at the following meeting. This



▲ **Susie Smith** *Trafalgar Square*, oil on canvas board, 10×12in. (25.5×30.5cm) winner of the Wokingham Art Club's favourite painting voted for by members

was made possible because we redesigned the website entirely, which gave members the opportunity to upload their work. We encouraged younger artists to take part in this venture and were extremely pleased with the response.

'A virtual winter exhibition was hosted on the website in December and extended into January due to the volume of hits, and in March one of our members, Sarah Stanley, won third prize with a painting she submitted in the *Great Broadway Paint Off*. During spring and summer some members met in the open air in socially distanced groups to sketch and paint at various locations in and around Stafford. This included areas of Cannock Chase and a live model in the refurbished bandstand in Victoria Park. We are all looking forward to an exciting new start!'

#### Wokingham Art Society

The Wokingham Art Society has tried to keep members in touch throughout the pandemic, with monthly demonstration meetings being replaced by artists delivering their demonstrations via Zoom. 'An online presentation on Zoom was good fun,' writes club member, Annet Pullen. 'Members were invited to submit their paintings without mentioning their names and then guess the artist by their style and choose their favourite. The popular vote went to Susie Smith's *Trafalgar Square* (left).'

The highlight of the society's year, its summer exhibition, was cancelled again in what would have been its 66th year. Instead, the society created a virtual art exhibition featuring a short video showcasing members' work. View the exhibition at <https://youtu.be/IKGAI9EFJE>