

February Newsletter

"Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle ... a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to the light, a bud straining to unfurl. And the anticipation nurtures our dream."

As we approach Spring and as more of us get vaccinated, the hope of getting together again as an Art Society becomes ever greater.

We are delighted that you are staying in touch and were happy to receive your submissions for the Art on a Postcard Competition (news of that in this edition) and glad to see people taking part in workshops, even if they are in the virtual world. In this month's main article Ruth Lewis talks about the fight for survival as a self employed artist and her experience of the virtual world of teaching.

Art and Zoom in the Pandemic - Ruth Jayne Lewis

My teaching world collapsed overnight on the announcement of the outbreak of Corvid 19. I had 70 plus students attending my 7 classes which I had built up over 7 years as a self employed artist and art tutor, and now it was nothing.

The sudden break did give me the opportunity to rest and take stock of my life and career, though as time went on I was becoming restless and anxious. I had to think of how to support myself financially as no money was coming in and I had a mortgage and bills to pay. No classes, the galleries had closed where all my paintings were for sale, Exhibitions in London and Llanelli were cancelled. The other concern was how to keep in touch with my students and keep the momentum going. I didn't want to lose my groups should the virus disappear.

So I ventured into the world of yes, Technology. Aaargh! Not being the most keyed up person in this field, it was a little daunting for me, and for my students too. After trying Skype, Microsoft Teams, FaceTime, it seemed doomed and then I tried Zoom and there was a light at the end of the tunnel. It was not without hitches enough to tear my hair out as well as those of my students. I had to start gentle, using a graphite pencil, a study in shading, we did a still life, glass, wine and grapesapt at the time.

As time went on we were becoming competent Zoomer Artists even coaxing the hard core technophobes. The projects became more ambitious and I used a wide variety of mediums, using acrylics, inktense pencils, watercolours and pastel pencils. A variety of subjects included landscapes, seascapes, animal life and flowers, I became more verbally explanatory in my mixing of colours, brush work, using different techniques, consistency of paints, methods and compositional values, Even though this sounds intense, I was conscious of keeping my classes light and fun, after all that's what it's all about.

I now have 3 Zoom classes and a monthly Zoom workshop. Sadly I haven't been able to encourage all the students that I had originally as many didn't want to attend Zooms as they had no device or were simply afraid. One of my biggest upsets was losing the students in Coleshill Centre. I had built up a popular class there where students with disabilities were able to drop in and enjoy my sessions.

Onwards and upwards, as they say, I'm now working with Y Ty Celf - The Art House, in co-operation with the Covid .Recovery Scheme. I have been doing Zoom Art Workshops to help people to cope with dealing with the virus. It helps them to talk about how they feel and, as I know only too well, being creative and learning something new helps mindfulness and relieves anxiety. It also creates a great platform to communicate and meet new people.

As I have moved (yes in the middle of all this!) I am now near the sea and it's great to go for long walks on the shore and take atmospheric shots on my phone of some fabulous sea scenes, especially to capture the light, which is the theme at the moment for my classes and workshops, as well as for my own paintings.



Ruth's challenge for members:
to produce a local sea scene in
the style of JMW Turner. It can be
in any medium, watercolour, oil,
mixed media or acrylic, capturing
the light and atmosphere.

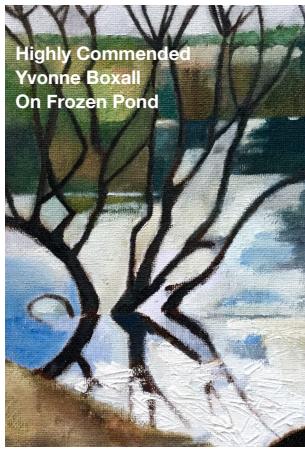
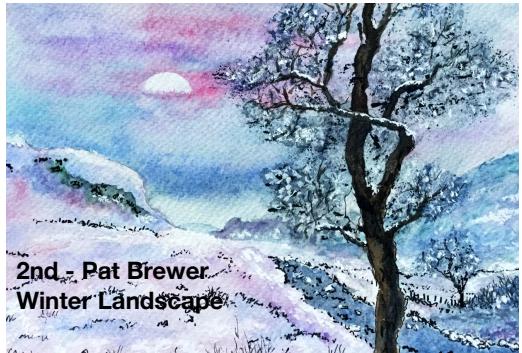
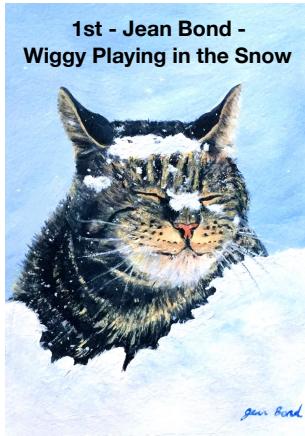


WORD SEARCH

This Wordsearch contains the names of 10 Museums / Art Galleries. The basic clues are there are 4 in Europe; 1 in Russia, 1 which has various branches throughout the world, and 4 in Great Britain, one of the latter being established within the last decade.

D	E	V	O	R	G	N	I	V	L	E	K
C	E	H	J	G	A	H	T	E	U	A	M
P	O	M	P	I	D	O	U	D	H	I	O
F	I	U	L	H	D	E	M	R	E	J	H
M	S	B	R	A	F	L	O	H	R	N	U
I	F	R	R	T	L	U	N	S	M	O	F
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A	T	V	R	G	K	U	L	Y	A	G	Z
O	W	N	U	K	T	K	Q	D	G	E	I
G	U	G	T	O	S	T	W	J	E	D	Y
D	I	L	W	A	L	K	E	R	P	Z	D

Art on a Postcard Competition Winners



Congratulations to Jean who will receive the prize. Thanks to everyone who entered. We look forward to the next Competition.

If you would like to contribute to this Newsletter, either by writing an article, sending in your artwork inspired by the main article, writing a quiz, or a word search, then we would love to hear from you.

Please email llanelliartsociety@gmail.com or telephone 01554 832258.

And finally we would like to send our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Art Society member Viv Shingler who passed away last month.
He will be greatly missed by all of us.

