

Art Palette

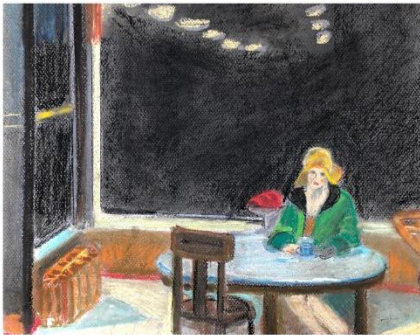
Celebrating beginners and improvers art classes

The third summer term of beginners and improvers art classes, taught by our wonderful professional tutor Kathy Barker, has just come to an end. These are successful and popular classes. The ten students have all made great progress in their drawing and painting through the year.



Susan Stewart

Here are some of their personal favourites from the summer:



The artists clockwise from top left: Janine, Liz Collins, Jane Trueman, Felicity, Roasanna



The artists clockwise from top left: Mel White, Jennie, Susan Stewart, Teresa Hughes, Lydia Gommersall

These classes take place every Wednesday afternoon during term time; the autumn term starts in the week of the 21st September and students will be able to choose between joining classes live on zoom or (subject to government restrictions) in the art studio.

Details on how to rejoin will be sent to current students this week; we have this priority period so existing students have continuity and progression.

Details on how new students can join will be sent to all art group members next week.

Charles Penny's retirement

Charles gave his final class as tutor of our water colour classes last week, ending the third successful summer term.

I have spoken with several people who have worked with Charles, his students and with Charles so I can reflect our thoughts as he retires.



Charles started teaching at Roehampton Club in 2015 and gradually took on all three weekly water colour classes. He took over from a popular tutor who had a very different and quiet controlled method to teaching. Charles' approach has always been a rather free technique and he was somewhat nervous at the time.

It became apparent quickly that Charles was 'clearly someone who could get on well with Roehampton Club people;' 'he was much liked as a person', the 'transition happened smoothly' and his students 'quickly became friends'.

Students 'always found Charles really easy to work with, a charming personality - and really great at imbuing his class-members with his infectious creativity.'

'Charles is a lovely gentle fellow who has developed a devoted following amongst his students'. He introduced some popular new ideas, including 'taking us out to paint in the Club gardens ... which was super when it didn't rain'.

'Thank you, Charles, for all your wonderful inspiring classes'.

We have all been challenged by Covid19 and our art tutors have had to cope with moving their classes online. What a fantastic job Charles has made of teaching on zoom; even his final class set his students a 'new and challenging subject' which they all enjoyed.



One benefit of zoom for Charles is that every students' name appears underneath their image on the screen. This is helpful when remembering names is not your forte! We had introduced name badges and a register for Charles to take at the start of each class to help; but online classes solved the problem.

The water colour students, past and present, organised a collection and gift for Charles. We had hoped to organise a retirement drinks party, but social distancing meant this would not have been the enjoyable event we wanted. Sarah presented Charles with gifts of vouchers for art equipment and the resource to replenishing his wine cellar; we hope to organise a fuller event when government restrictions allow.



Charles would like to thank everyone at the Club who has supported him; Keith, who first brought him into the Club, and Sian and Sarah who helped him make such a success of the classes.

We all had some fun getting to grips with zoom; Charles' wife was concerned during our trial runs about his bad back and he approached it initially with 'some trepidation'.

However, Charles says he has found it all 'tremendous fun', wants to thank all of his students for helping him make the online classes a success and wants to 'encourage everyone to take part in online classes in the future'.

He is reminded about his own nervousness when starting teaching at Roehampton Club with new techniques; but now realises that a fresh approach to the classes proved reinvigorating for all. He leaves us prospering!

Charles decided to retire to have time to travel the world with his wife and to concentrate on his own painting; in the meantime two new grandchildren arrived in April and are providing enormous enjoyment.

He will miss the many friends which he made at Roehampton Club and seeing the progress which so many students have made.

I am sure we will see Charles in the future and thank you for making the water colour classes such enjoyment for all.

Autumn art lectures

The dates and times to include in your diaries are 8pm on:

September 22nd Val Woodgate 'Can Art Change the World?'

October 20th Jo Walton 'Rafael - Genius of the Renaissance in Rome'

We are planning to hold each of these lectures, subject to government restrictions, in the Fountain Room and, at the same time, broadcast live on zoom. You will be able to choose how you wish to join. More details will follow nearer the time.

Richard Ramsey | Art Group Chairman