



## Hello and welcome to the twenty sixth newsletter!

Lots of messages to relay this time:

### Visit to the SAA

I have emailed members with details of this visit but for those who I don't have email addresses for the details are as follows:

The day starts at 10am with a welcome drink - during meet & greet time with other clubs. Then there will be a small presentation taking place about SAA & the benefits we provide & can provide for you.

You will then be given the opportunity to place any orders you may wish to take away with you at the end of your visit (subject to stock availability) so that while your enjoying the rest of your visit - our despatch team can be processing your orders.

Following this, we will then take small groups on a tour around the building to meet the SAA team & learn what department does what and how we work. We will start at the beginning - the studio & move right through the building, finishing at the end - our despatch department. This is where you will see how & who picks, packs and despatches your parcels as well as where all our stock is stored. Whilst you are here maybe you would like to have a look at our Sales stock? This is a range of products that are not at full sale value due to one of many reasons, that we cannot sell in our catalogue. It may be limited stock, a customer return through being unliked or even slightly damaged, either way all of our sales stock has been greatly reduced in price & could be the bargain you have been waiting for.

Then the fun begins! At this point we will return to the meeting room where you will spend the remainder of your day. This is where you can try out new products - both for us & yourselves. Have a 'play' with products you may wonder how to use in our demo area - this could be Kopykake projector, a wonderbrush, tracedown paper etc or try out a whole new medium. Again you will be

split into smaller groups so that everyone will get equal time & opportunity to experience everything that is available to you.

At some point in the afternoon we will break for lunch. Although food will not be provided (please bring your own packed lunches), we will provide tea, coffee & squash.

The day will end at around 3pm. We do hope this is something you would like to take advantage of. Please advise us what items/products etc you would like to 'play' with or have a go at while you're here and anything else we may be able to help you with.

If you have not been to the SAA it is worth a look round. **Please let Jo know as soon as possible if you are interested** as we have to let the SAA know how many are going.

### The Big Art Show

A must for your diary:

The Big Art Show [www.thebigartshow.co.uk](http://www.thebigartshow.co.uk) is taking place this year on the 19th and 20th July 2014 at the West Midland Show Ground, Shrewsbury, Shropshire and will have over 200 exhibiting artists from all over the country, and aims to be a great day out for all the family.

The Big Art Show is getting bigger every day. As well as having the opportunity to browse and purchase unique pieces of art, many of the exhibiting artists will be talking about their work and giving demonstrations over the weekend. There will be a host of excellent musicians (Classical, Jazz, Blues) playing throughout the day for your entertainment. To ensure that there is plenty to keep everyone

occupied there will be adults and children's workshops, an animation room, performing artists, puppetry, a children's play area, as well as plenty of good food and drink, and much more. In addition there will be a Sculpture Competition (£3000 prize on the day), as well as a Living Sculpture competition.

This is a must for a weekend of culture, with the added bonus of it being held in the stunning medieval town of Shrewsbury, which is in one of the most beautiful counties in Britain.

For more information and updates, as well as ticket purchase and exhibiting visit the website [www.thebigartshow.co.uk](http://www.thebigartshow.co.uk)

Tickets are now on sale at an early bird price of only £10 per Day or a Weekend ticket for £18.00 (children under 16 £1.00 per day). A further 10% discount for groups over 20. To purchase these ticket please email David [info@dawkinsart.co](mailto:info@dawkinsart.co) Normal price after 31st May and on the gate £12.50 per Day, or a Weekend Ticket for £20 (Children under 16 £1.00)

### **Painting Workshops at Kelmarsh Hall**

Here are details of some workshops for those members who enjoy flowers and gardens:

You may have recently seen Kelmarsh Hall and Gardens on the BBC Two show "Great British Garden Revival" on Monday 6th January 2014. This programme also gave a small insight into the grandeur of Kelmarsh Hall itself. If you missed the programme it is now available on BBC iPlayer or linked through our website.

Our Painting in the Garden workshops offer artists of all abilities the chance to improve their skills, using the beautiful gardens at Kelmarsh as inspiration. Workshops with local artist Maureen Smith run from May to September, so you can even capture the gardens throughout the changing seasons if you wish.

The sessions take place from 11am to 12 noon and 1pm to 2pm on the following dates:

Thursday 15th May 2014  
Thursday 12th & 26th June 2014  
Thursday 17th & 31st July 2014  
Thursday 21st & 28th August 2014  
Thursday 11th September 2014.

The cost is £7.50 (or £12 for both sessions on the same day) which includes garden admission. Please bring your own materials and chair.

Booking is essential - call 01604 686543 or email [visitors@kelmarsh.com](mailto:visitors@kelmarsh.com).

### **Christmas Social**

As all those who attended will know, the buffet at the Ferry was not up to its usual standard. We were all very disappointed in the quantity and quality of the food and in the attitude of the staff. The Ferry is due to be taken over by new managers but we don't know exact dates yet. We will find an alternative venue for committee meetings and social events until the new managers are in when we can investigate a return.

Sorry, no room for jokes this time! (Did I hear you say "Thank God!").



Happy Painting!