

The SAGling

ISSUE No 4
MARCH 2020

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SERIES 1 EXTENDED LAST EDITION

EARLY END TO S1

SESSIONS POSTPONED DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

As mid March arrived it was only a matter of time before the SAG would follow Government advice to close in the light of the Coronavirus pandemic. A discussion on 17 March between Susan Hartry and Dave Barter, who informed that all Church Groups and Events had already been cancelled including Sunday Services, from a higher level (not quite that high)—determined the only way forward was to cancel painting sessions with immediate effect until the crisis is over: Shortly after, the inevitable progressive UK lockdown stopped normal daily life from every which way in order to control the pandemic. It has been abundantly clear from the overwhelming public response to making noise on doorsteps each Thursday evening, that we all appreciate the risks front line NHS, and other key workers, are taking during this crisis —**TO ALL—WE THANK YOU !!**

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OTHER NEWS FROM SERIES 1

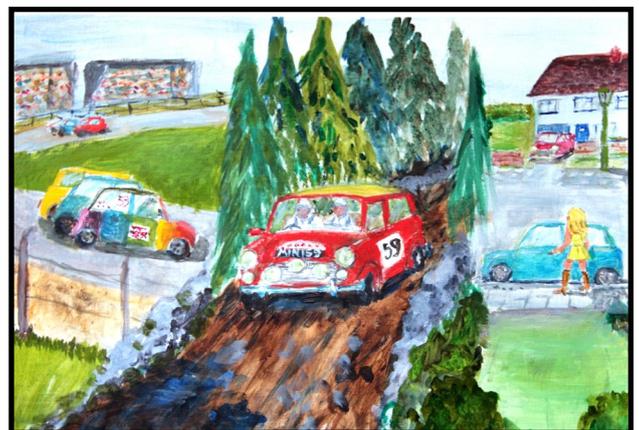
JANUARY MEETING — Following Susan's decision to step down as SAG Lead/Admin at the end of S1, an informal meeting was held in early January to outline key responsibilities of the role going forward. Those unable to attend were emailed details of that meeting so that everyone was up to date. Members were asked that, in the weeks to follow, should they consider taking on the role to put their name forward, or at Sessions to discuss ideas how they might move the Group forward together. A follow on meeting was arranged for 19 March to announce a resulting action plan; however due to the current health crisis the follow up meeting was cancelled.

FOR THE FULL SAG STATUS UPDATE—see page 2

PROJECT "British Icons from the last 70 Years"—Due to the short notice closure, as said above, it was not possible to collect members' entries to the S1 Project competition at the planned Session, so the closing date was extended and digital images emailed to be judged online by TONY HARTRY, who was 70 earlier this year (an icon in his own time he would say).

Not the last Project finale envisioned but

CONGRATULATIONS are no less extended to the winning Artist **ANN MITCHELL** for her acrylic painting of a true British icon of 1960s popular culture—the MINI. The Mini was manufactured as a small economy car by the English based British Motor Corporation (BMC), and their successors from 1959 to 2000. Ann will receive the usual SAG



THE VERSITILE MINI by ANN MITCHELL

Project Winner's Prize of a £5 Hobbycraft Voucher when

painting Sessions resume. Being that the number of entries reflect the smaller SAG—only an overall winner was chosen, but well done to all who entered—the full collection is available to view on the SAG Website and Facebook Page.

SAG STATUS UPDATE IMPORTANT NOTICE

No new Lead/Admin has been appointed, or joint Members' Action Plan formally agreed; therefore
**THE STOKES ART GROUP WILL CLOSE
 AT THE END OF THE NEXT SERIES***

ALL MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

- 1) Cancelled Sessions 19 & 26 March from Series 1 will be rescheduled when the current health crisis is over; **Fees paid carried forward** agreed by Dave Barter CTKC. (No refunds will be given for the above as Sessions will be rescheduled.)
 - 2) An end Series of Session dates was booked just prior to the Coronavirus closure, these will also be rescheduled.
- A Programme of rescheduled Session dates for (1) and (2) above will be emailed to members when confirmed.
 - **No further subs required.**
 - **Annual Saver (AS*) Subs paid for S2 & S3 @£44 to be refunded to those whom this applies, in Cash as soon as Sessions resume.**
- ◇ **Accounts** were closed at the end of March (*AS refunds, & a Donation of the remaining £14 Float, has been accounted but held as pending payments).

SUMMARY OF CLOSING ACCOUNTS BELOW:

SERIES 1 10 Sessions 8 Subscribed	END SERIES 7 Sessions 0 Subscribed
Starting Balance £0131	Carried forward £0399
+ Income <u>£0491</u>	+ Income <u>£0000</u>
= £0622	= £0399
- Expenditure <u>£0223</u>	- Expenditure <u>£0399</u>
	CLOSING BALANCE = £0000

- ◇ **SAG Constitution** will be signed off as closed and, with the Accounts, archived for a period of five years.
- ◇ **SAG Email** address will remain active & monitored until the end of 2020.
- ◇ **SAG Website**—Information Pages have been deleted but the Site will remain as a visual archive of artworks created by the SAG; no longer updated.
- ◇ **SAG Facebook Page**—renamed **@Stokes Art** for all local artists to both showcase & promote their art, which includes yourselves so please continue to use it; it will also feature art related Posts for upcoming Art Events; and sometimes feature past SAG art.

⇒ **CURRENT MEMBERS WHO WISH TO CONTINUE PAINTING TOGETHER AS A PRIVATE GROUP AT CTKC, SHOULD SPEAK TO DAVE BARTER DIRECT.**

Note: Current Room Hire Rate @ £22 per 4hr Session—for block bookings of 10 or more, a 10% discount applies.

THE END OF AN ERA—was silently marked at the end of S1 as Susan's role of Lead/Admin to the Stokes Art Group officially ended, due to 'circumstances'—although...NOT QUITE the end, as she will continue to manage the SAG until all rescheduled Sessions have been enjoyed.

SINCE FOUNDED IN NOVEMBER 2011 Susan has led the Stokes Art Group through eight creative years of themed project competitions; whole group evening Events; technique exercises for Group discussion; Christmas cards; painted pebbles; and, of course, the prestigious Jam Jar Prize!! For added interest to both herself and members, she created and managed the Website; Social Media; submitted articles for local Media; and produced end of Series Newsletters for SAG business; profiling Stokes Artists; competition results; places to inspire us; reviews and top tips—all available to revisit online.

SOME SAG TRIVIA

57 Members / 27 Series / 566 Sessions / 25 Projects with 422
 Entries / 9 Jam Jar Prize Events with 434 Entries / 34 Newsletters

DEAR ARTISTS

*My decision to stand down was not an easy one to make—the SAG was my 'baby' after all! However, the sad but inevitable task of closing the Tuesday Group at the end of 2019 was very deflating, especially after much time & effort afforded during the two Seasons previous to keep it going were ultimately unsuccessful. It also took away any enthusiasm needed to repeat the process for the Thursday Group - which last year's reduction in numbers & insufficient new members filling the gaps indicated it heading the same way! Timing was crucial however, hoping that one last article in December's 'Matters' might attract new members, as well as giving enough notice for subscribed 2020 members to consider how to move the Group forward on their own—should they wish to do so. As Founder I am very proud of what I have been able to give artists in our community, and feel I have achieved. I have enjoyed every minute of it; met some really lovely people; privileged to see some exceptional artwork created at our painting Sessions from the likes of Margaret Hall, Donna Parrot & Mark Taylor to name but a few; followed several long term members' skills develop to advanced levels such as Steve Hatherell & Roger Smith; originality by Jamie Lockett & Kelvin Warlow; but not least a 'feel good factor' that lasting friendships have been made because I started the Group in the first place. I can keep the tag as Founder of the SAG - but it's now time for me to step down as Lead & Admin extending huge thanks to better half Tony & daughter Michelle for their help and support throughout—yes it was my idea, but without them the SAG would not exist! Gratitude & appreciation also to Jaci Crocombe for championing the SAG in her community mag 'Matters' right from the start; Sue Kelly for keeping me on the straight & narrow, relieving me of setting up Project displays at SAG Events for many years now (she didn't get the title of 'Pin Up Girl' for nothing), & for writing several articles for the Centre Fold pages of the final three SAG-e-MAGs; to Dave Barter at CTKC for his never ending encouragement & extra support for the Tuesday group during the past year; and, last but not least, to all Stokes Artists who have painted with us along the way—especially surviving Founder Members Margaret Latham, Steve Hatherell, Jamie Lockett & Sue Kelly for being there from start to finish. For me the journey has been enjoyable and rewarding, with many happy memories (and three Jam Jars) to treasure forever. I hate end of eras, so what's next for me? Well—I will stay listed on the Severn Vale Art Trail for a few years; however, my art has been a life long companion that changes but never stops giving, so no doubt whatever my next era is, it will be just as rewarding in its own way. I hope yours is too!! **BEST WISHES & HAPPY PAINTING — S***