

TOPSHAM ART GROUP

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2025

2025 is flying by – the TAG year is nearly over with just our November meeting and the Christmas party to go. I hope you have enjoyed the events over the past months – artists who have shared their work and ideas with you, or shown you how to develop your skills or to inspire you to try new ones. Douglas Anderson at the last meeting spoke about finding your art community to support and encourage you – I hope being a member of TAG helps you to do just that.



With that in mind, an early reminder that subscriptions for 2026 will be due by 1 January 2026. The renewal price is £25 – the same as last year. Please pay by BACS to the Topsham Art Group Account, **Sort Code 30-93-14 Account No 02832855 and state SUBS in the reference box.** Payments can also be made by card at the November meeting. *If you have decided not to renew your membership, please let Kim Bates*

know as early as possible (email: tag.membership24@gmail.com). The final date for subscriptions is 15 January 2026, after which those who haven't paid will need to re-apply for membership.

The next meeting:

Thursday 20th November 6.30 for 7.00

What do sculptors do all day? In conversation with Alistair Lambert

Alistair Lambert was lucky enough to grow up with space and opportunity to experiment, make and build. After a BA in Sculpture at Chelsea School of Art and an MA at the Royal College of Art he found his way into commissioned work alongside various part time jobs.

He now makes sculptures, delivers creative projects and runs workshops full time. Collaboration and social engagement continues to be an essential element of his work, alongside his studio practice and private commissions.



With Love' - Transforming the grey entrance of Islington Children's Services building. Made by mothers on the Pause programme.

Christmas Fair at St Margaret's Church, Friday 28 November 5-8 pm

Please bring your work for the TAG stall at the Christmas Fair at St Margaret's Church to the November meeting. 10 cards – Christmas or greetings (all at £2.50



please to make it straightforward), stocking fillers such as small framed paintings and small unframed work or other original pieces such as coaster sets or mugs with your own art designs. Make sure everything is priced and has your name on it. If you can't make the meeting arrange to drop it off by emailing Maddy (madjevon@icloud.com). If you are submitting work please be willing to sign up to do an hour on the stall – it is good fun, you'll get the chance to shop for Christmas presents and the mulled wine is fabulous! TAG do not charge commission on any work that is sold.

Thursday 4 December 6.30 – note the early start TAG Christmas Party and **Christmas Card competition**

We hope you'll come along ready for a fun and sociable evening that involves a bit of art, a bit of eating, a glass or two of wine and hopefully a lot of laughs. Come with a **small** plate (6 items) of tasty finger food to share. Hats are entirely optional but should be magnificent if you choose to wear one! Bring cash or a card to pay for extra glasses of wine.

At our festive gathering this year we are going to be joined by Cherry Lee-Wade, wife of the late artist Robert Lee-Wade, and as Cherry Gilchrist author of many books on old myths and traditions, who will take us on an informal and light-hearted tour of vintage Christmas cards. To celebrate the season we thought a Christmas card competition would fit the bill perfectly and Cherry will choose her favourite.



Looking for an art teacher



ART CLASS

Colourwheel have taught drawing and painting in Topsham for a number of years but are no longer going to be running their courses in the town. Estuary League of Friends at Nancy Potter House would like to host a beginner's drawing and painting course and are looking for an experienced tutor who would be interested in starting up such a group. I know we have a number of art teachers amongst the members, so if you are interested get in touch with me for more details or if you know of any other art teachers who might be interested

please give them my name, email and number (madjevon@icloud.com; 07789 933908). It would be good to have this kind of class available in Topsham – there is such a lot of interest in learning art in this town.

11/2025

The programme team are busy booking speakers and artists for next year's programme. You'll know that this is a special year for us, so we are arranging for some first-class speakers and events through the year. We are planning to produce a small printed programme with the essential TAG dates and hope that this will be available to pick up at the January meeting, but please put **Thursday 15 January** in the diary for the first meeting of the year.



Waterscapes and Floodscapes: a free exhibition at Exeter Custom House, Saturday 8th November-Sunday 7 December. Open Thurs-Sunday, 11m-4pm



You will remember that our 'Waterscapes' competition was to accompany an exhibition at Topsham Museum earlier this year in the cafe. Sadly this never happened because of the problems with the building which means it continues to be closed. However, Rachel Nichol and Gill McLean have worked tirelessly to get the work shown, and they have teamed

up with the Topsham Creative Flood Mapping Group to show an exhibition of historical views and contemporary creative maps, exploring meaning and changes in the Exe Estuary. I hope you'll find the time to get to the Custom House on Exeter Quay but note it is open Thursday to Sunday.

Nadezhda Lisak – Workshop on Saturday 6 December, 10-4, Exeter Library



Join professional artist and teacher Nadezhda for a festive day of watercolour painting, inspired by one of winter's most loved symbols — the cheerful robin among glossy holly leaves and bright red berries. This workshop is suitable for both beginners and improvers.

Working from the same image, you'll learn how to capture the robin's lively spirit and the sheen of holly leaves, exploring how to layer and blend colour to create light, shade, and depth. Nadezhda will guide you step-by-step through the process, with one-to-one support to help you bring your own painting to life.

Throughout the day, you'll discover techniques for achieving delicate textures and glowing colour — from the softness of feathers to the shine of the berries. By the end, you'll have a finished festive piece to take home, full of warmth and detail.

The workshop also offers a chance to spend a peaceful, creative day in good company — slowing down, connecting with others, and enjoying the simple pleasure of painting together in a friendly, supportive atmosphere.

£40 for 6 hours of expert tuition.

For further details, head over to <https://nadezhda-portraitartist.com/one-day-workshops/>
Or email Nadezhda at nadezhda.portraitartist@gmail.com

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And last, but not least – an early Christmas present...



A chance conversation in the Apple store in Exeter a couple of weeks ago has resulted in us being offered free tuition in the use of Procreate – a digital art app on an iPad or iPhone. Apple will give up to 10 people an hour's tuition in the use of Procreate. They will provide iPads with the software for the session to all or you can take your own

iPad if you already have the app.

I have booked two sessions in the first instance for the same group so that we can learn the basics and then have a follow up session to reinforce, learn more and consolidate knowledge. If more than 10 people would like to come along we can book more sessions – and it won't cost us anything! The dates booked are Thursday 22 January, 11 am at the Apple store in Exeter, and follow up on Thursday 5 February, 11 am. There is a booking form accompanying the newsletter.

**Have a merry Christmas and a happy new year from Maddy
and all the committee**