

# Topsham Art Group Newsletter

## February 2026

### Tuesday 24 February, 6.30 for 7.00 pm Appraisal with Phil Creek

We are lucky enough to have Phil Creek visiting us this evening to offer appraisals of our artwork. Phil gained a BA Degree in Fine Art from Manchester University and a Post-graduate Degree in The History of Art from Birmingham University. He was Head of Creative Arts at Honiton Community College, Director of Course at The Beaford Art Centre, and County Art Adviser for Devon. He is now a full-time painter living in East Devon and Honorary President of the South West Academy of Arts.



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Bring along **one** piece of art which you would like some advice on from Phil.

### Thursday 26 March, 5.45 for 6.15 pm AGM followed by 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lecture and competition submission

The AGM will be held on Thursday 26 March. It will give a brief summary of the Group's organisational, financial and membership situation and will be your opportunity to ask questions and have your say. The agenda and a copy of last year's minutes are attached. Doors will open at 5:45 and there will be a bar for wine and soft drinks. We aim to start promptly at 6:15, have a break for coffee/more drink at 6:45. If you have any items for the agenda please let Geoff Teece know by email before 28 February.

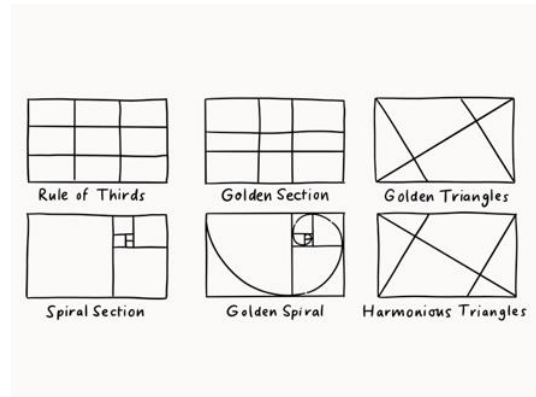


The AGM will be followed by Pam Campbell-Johnson on **British Art & Architecture 1960-1970: A decade of 'radical change in Society and Art'**.

**Competition submission:** 'The Swinging 60s' – relive your memories of this era in any medium - the Beatles, the Stones, Carnaby Street, the National Theatre as well as the artists of this decade. How would you depict it?

## Workshop with Mandi Street: Developing confidence in composition. Friday 10 April, 10-1 Matthews Hall council chamber 12 places: £12.00

Mandi Street has designed a half day workshop especially aimed at members who have less experience of picture composition and who would like to develop their confidence and skills in this essential topic. Mandi is a landscape painter and printmaker, and a former art teacher.



The workshop will:

- Look at the definition of composition and examples in 2D art from art history
- Explore the impact of composition on how images are interpreted
- Develop confidence in your compositional skills and try out different ideas

See attached booking form.

## Simple Portrait Drawing with TAG member Nadezhda



A six-week course for beginners & improvers on Mondays, 10am – 12pm at Nancy Potter House, Topsham.

**2nd March – 13th April** (no class on Easter Monday): **£100**

This six-week portrait drawing course is designed to take the fear and mystery out of drawing faces, replacing it with clear understanding and steady confidence. Suitable for beginners and improvers, the course focuses on **front-on and profile portraits**, giving you a solid foundation rather than scattered tricks.

For more information and to book: [https://nadezhda-](https://nadezhda-portraitartist.com/topsham-art-classes/)

[portraitartist.com/topsham-art-classes/](https://nadezhda-portraitartist.com/topsham-art-classes/)

## Don't forget: Tutored life drawing in Topsham

Life drawing at Matthews Hall on Wednesday morning is now tutored by June Janes and is open to absolute beginners through to professional artists. Anyone who came to her demonstration at TAG last year will remember her inventiveness and experience of teaching. Contact June on 01392 666609 or 07305 731043, email: [junejanes5@outlook.com](mailto:junejanes5@outlook.com). Check [www.lifedrawingandportraiture.com](http://www.lifedrawingandportraiture.com)



June also runs a portraiture class in Topsham on Tuesdays, 9.00-11.30. Same contact details as above.

## Landscape Artist of the Year is introducing a brand-new format.



For the next series, we'll select ten artists to take on landscape challenges across the country, returning week after week to create work in new locations.

Each episode will see one artist eliminated, giving those who progress the chance to create multiple works and develop their practice over

time. More locations mean more time in the pods, greater opportunity to refine your approach, and a fuller chance to show the



range and consistency of your work. By following the same artists throughout the series, ideas can evolve, and the quality of the work can build.

**If you apply, your work will be reviewed by prominent judges from the art world. If selected for the show, you will receive £500 for each episode you take part in, plus reimbursement for travel, accommodation, and meal expenses. An additional £10,000 commission will be awarded to the winner.**

**Key dates:**

📅 Applications are open now!

📅 Apply by Mon 23rd March

👉 [skyartsartistoftheyear.tv](https://skyartsartistoftheyear.tv)

Jane Thomas emailed us recently to let us know about -

### **JACKSON'S ART PLEIN AIR DAY: HESTERCOMBE GARDENS 11/04/2026**

- A plein air event for artists of all ages and skill levels, working in any medium, to connect and respond to the landscape together.
- Jackson's Plein Air Day at Hestercombe Gardens, nr. Taunton, Somerset
- Friday 10th April from 10am - 3:30pm
- Free parking
- Create a Jackson's Account to receive event details
- Limited places available: 100 artists
- **£11.50**

<https://www.jacksonsart.com/jacksons-plein-air-day-hestercombe-gardens>

Printed copies of this year's programme will be available at the February meeting. If you are not able to pick one up then, they will be sent to you by snail mail! Make sure you get dates in your diaries!

2/2026

### **Topsham Art Festival – 4-23 July 2026**

Save the dates! We're busy planning a programme of events for all ages and details will be available soon. We also plan to have a celebratory picnic during July for all TAG members.