

Topsham Art Group Newsletter

July 2026

I hope you're all enjoying the Topsham Art Festival – the Charter Day banners are up in the town, the windows have been dressed and lots of people are talking about the different events. I think there will be a lot of fun making art in all sorts of ways over the next few weeks.

Make sure you book tickets for Susie Hodge at Matthews Hall on Thursday 23 July – the last event of the Festival. Tickets are available at Matthews Hall café, The Topsham Bookshop and online through Ticketsource ([search Topsham](#)).

**Our next meeting: Tuesday 14 July,
6.30 for 7.00**

**Paul Weaver – drawing and painting
in preparation for painting**



Matthews Hall
Topsham
Theatre
Live

Susie Hodge FRSA
Art Historian

How to Survive Contemporary Art:

**60 years of curiosity
and controversy**

In association with -
**TOPSHAM
Art
Festival**

Matthews Hall, Topsham
Thursday 23rd July '26 7:00pm

TICKETS: £15 (Under 18s £7:50)
Ticketsource (Search Topsham)

Matthews Hall Café - Tues to Friday 9.30am - 2pm and Saturday 8.30 - 2pm
The Topsham Bookshop - Monday to Saturday 10.30am - 1pm and 2pm - 5pm

TICKETS AT THE DOOR MAY BE VERY LIMITED and, at times, unavailable if already sold out by the above providers.

Paul Weaver will develop what we saw from Chris Forsey's sketchbook - developing a composition in the landscape, understanding form, depth, perspective, proportion, texture, light and shade from sketches in pencil, pen and charcoal but then Paul will move to line and wash. He will demonstrate the way he works on **Tuesday 14 July** at the evening meeting, and his workshop will be the following day – **Wednesday 15 July**. Fingers crossed for good weather as he

plans to take the participants out to sketch and then return to Matthews Hall to develop the work. There are spaces available on Paul's workshop.

There is a booking form attached for Paul's workshop, but please *book through the website and only use the booking form as an exception*. Contact Gill Sawyer – booking@topshamartgroup.co.uk if you want to pay in any way other than BACs.

Anniversary Picnic – Wednesday 29 July – 2.30 – 4.30

Join us for a relaxed and sociable afternoon with your fellow members. We have planned a 60th birthday party for TAG! Come down to the Dorothy Holman Centre on Ferry Road any time between 2.30-4.30 for tea, coffee and a 60th anniversary cake. Outside if the weather is good, inside if it's too hot, too cold or too wet! You can bring your sketchbook and paints or just have a relaxed afternoon. **Please let me know if you are coming as we need to plan for catering – final date Friday 24 July - chair@topshamartgroup.co.uk**

Summer Exhibition

Following hard on the heels is our [Summer Exhibition](#) – stewarding sheets will be available at the July meeting along with a volunteering sheet for all the other jobs involved in mounting the exhibition. It is good fun to get involved and see behind the scenes and we welcome all offers of help.

You should by now have received all the paperwork for your entries in a separate email from Geoff sent on 16 June. If you cannot find this in your main mailbox, check junk mail and contact Geoff if there is a problem. Make sure you read everything first – then if you have any questions, do feel free to contact me, Maddy Jevon on chair@topshamartgroup.co.uk Geoff Teece is co-ordinating the stewarding for this year on secretary@topshamartgroup.co.uk or 07736 952581.

Don't forget that the [preview](#) is on Friday 14 August, and I am so pleased to let you know that Lisa Parkyn will be our guest opener this year. She will be awarding the four prizes – The Estuary Cup for the best entry in the competition, The Douglas Dart trophy for the best view of Topsham, the Brook Gallery prize for printmaking, and for the first time this year, the TAG award for the best 3D work, along with highly commended awards.

The other good piece of news is that Melissa Wishart, our artist in June, has also donated her demonstration painting for the raffle this year to raise money for Force.



Competition results

A great display of Flower Power at the last meeting – here's Geoff Teece's winning entry: "Chrysanthemums and Rhododendrons"

The next competition submission is the meeting on 22 October and the title is 'After Dark' – but let's enjoy the summer first!

OTHER EVENTS

Jane Thomas writes: “Come and join us for a day's Plein air at Connaught Gardens Sidmouth, Saturday 25th July just before 10a.m. near the cafe/restaurant; council car park nearby. Toilets and refreshments on site. If there is a Met Office/ Environment Agency yellow/ amber/ or red for the area, or torrential rain, we will not meet up.

Workshops with Nadezhda Lisak

Fun with Flowers: Saturday 18th July 2026, Exeter Library, 10-3, £60. Discover the joy of painting flowers in a relaxed and playful watercolour workshop designed for beginners and those who would like to loosen up their watercolour technique. Fun With Flowers is not about precise botanical illustration, but about exploring colour, movement, imagination, and expressive floral forms in a beautiful and encouraging atmosphere. All materials are provided.



Goldfinch Illumination: Saturday 29th August 2026, 10-4, Exeter Library, £80.00
Discover the beauty and craftsmanship of Renaissance miniature illumination in this immersive one-day workshop. Inspired by historical illuminated manuscripts, you will create a richly detailed miniature painting featuring an ornate capital 'G' with a stylised goldfinch, using traditional materials and techniques including genuine gold leaf and gouache paints.



This workshop is suitable for those with some previous painting experience. It is not designed for complete beginners. All materials are provided, including genuine 23 carat gold leaf

For further details, and registration form: <https://nadezhda-portraitartist.com/one-day-workshops/>

Creative Older Women Artists

crow

Show 26

At
Positive Light

Sidwell Street Exeter EX4 6RD

Sat 15th - Sat 29th August

Every day from 10am - 4pm

Opening night on Friday 14th August 6-8pm

Email: crowsexeter@gmail.com

A dynamic group of artists from CROW (Creative Older Women) will be showcasing their work in a two-week summer exhibition this August, celebrating their talent, imagination and life experience

Bringing together a rich mix of painting, printmaking, ceramics and textiles it offers visitors an inspiring and diverse visual journey. Each artist will bring their own voice, style and story, reflecting the depth and breadth of creativity flourishing within the group.

CROW was formed 5 years ago to champion the art work of older women artists, to provide a supportive space for creative exploration and professional

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development. The exhibition is at Positive Light, Sidwell Street – near the bus station.

See you all soon – stay cool! 😊
Maddy and all the committee

STOP PRESS

June Janes has had to pull out of the Portrait Workshop on Tuesday 21 July after a nasty accident. We're sending our best wishes for a speedy recovery. The workshop will still be running but with slightly modified plans – it will be an untutored day 10.00-4.00 with two different models. Please book through the website – look for the details in the Art Festival calendar.