

Topsham Art Group Newsletter

May 2026

Next meeting: Monday 18 May, 6.30 for 7.00

Chris Forsey – demonstration – Painting the Coastal Landscape



Chris began his art career as an illustrator in a publisher's studio after studying Graphics in Bristol. He is a self-taught painter in watercolour, acrylics and mixed-media and is constantly trying to extend and add to his skills. He is an elected member of The Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolours (RI) and The Society of Graphic Fine Artists (SGFA). He now lives and has his studio in Dorking, Surrey. He is mostly interested in landscape,

townscape and coastal subjects but also still life.

His main preoccupation is with atmosphere, light and weather, and he endeavours to capture the fleeting changes and how it affects the scene before him. He prefers to work in the studio from location sketches and photographs.

He will be demonstrating his approach to painting a coastal landscape using acrylic and mixed media.

Thursday 18 June 6.30 for 7.00

**Melissa Wishart – artist's talk and demonstration
'Light, layers and semi-abstraction'**

This will be an illustrated talk showing the development of semi-abstraction alongside a demonstration using acrylics of how Melissa might go about constructing a painting using different tools, mark-making, reducing the composition to a number of lines and a series of shapes. She will discuss mixing a palette and the choice of colour along with how to create lively juxtapositions of light and dark, hot and cold colours, soft and hard lines to enliven our art.



Melissa's workshop the following day is now sold out.

Don't forget - the next competition is 'Flower Power' and the submission date is Thursday 18th June when Melissa will be demonstrating. Although we kept the 60s feel for the competition name, it doesn't need to reflect the 60s vibe – just think of your favourite flowers. Please put your name on the back rather than the front of the picture and be sure to give them to Margaret Bond when you arrive so that she can log everyone's entries.

TOPSHAM ART FESTIVAL

I hope you've had time to look at the programme and will be able to join in some of



Books by Susie Hodge

the events to celebrate our 60th anniversary. Phil Keen has been working hard on information boards about some 20th century Topsham artists which will be displayed around the town – a wonderful array of paintings and drawings of parts of the town that you might not recognise now!

You can book for the film about the blockbuster Vermeer exhibition with a talk by the producer and director Phil Grabsky about the challenges presented in filming major art exhibition.

And if you've ever grappled with trying to make sense of contemporary art, then come and hear Susie Hodge, author, art historian and artist who will be exploring how contemporary art has developed over the last 60 years and will offer practical ways to look at and understand it. She will be joined by Hannah Woodman to discuss where art might be heading next – and what it means for viewers today. Both events can be booked through <https://www.topshamcommunityassociation.co.uk> but tickets will also be available at Matthews Hall café and Topsham Bookshop.

CHARTER DAY BANNER

You will probably know that banners adorn the town during the latter half of August leading up to Charter Day on the last Sunday of that month. Many of the local groups are represented and we have been invited to create a banner celebrating Topsham Art Group. The designs are created within the shield but then it's up to the imagination! The material (a strong drill suitable for outdoors) will be provided and it's about 90 cm on the longest edge, it is painted with acrylic with the same design on both sides. The Charter Day Team will sew the painted banner and do all the necessary tasks before putting it up.



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If you would you be interested in designing and making the banner for Topsham Art Group let me know on madjevon@icloud.com and put banner in the subject line.

SUMMER EXHIBITION 15 – 29 August 2026

- **Information and entry forms** will be sent out between now and the June meeting.
- **Stewarding sheets** for the Summer Exhibition will be available at the June and July meetings so please bring your diaries if you would like to choose a particular date. Geoff will be organising the stewarding rota this year. We are delighted to encourage everyone to enter artwork for the Summer Exhibition but remember that you will need to do at least one stewarding session, a morning or an afternoon.
- We would like to improve the display for the **ceramicists and sculptors** at the Summer Exhibition this year but will need an idea of the number and size of entries in order to plan the space available. We appreciate that you may not already have made firm decisions about what you will be submitting but we would like to start a conversation with you all in order to improve the display. Please drop an email to Maddy on madjevon@icloud.com and put Ceramic or Sculpture into the subject line.
- Please remember to **photograph** your work before it goes under glass. We will be putting information on the website under Summer Exhibition 2026 for tips and advice on photographing art work with your phone. Send your pictures to exhibition@topshamartgroup.co.uk with your name, the title of the work and the medium.

28th March 2026–4th July 2026.

A life in art, Roger Fry

The Museum of Somerset, Taunton Castle, Castle Green, Taunton, TA1 4AA

As part of the Bloomsbury Group, Roger Fry (1866-1934) helped spark new ideas in art, design and culture — inspiring a fresh, modern way of looking at the world. See vibrant portraits, landscapes, and interiors, including rarely seen works from private collections alongside important national pieces. Tickets £5 /£4 in advance online. Free for under 18s.



RAMM: COLOUR: 23 May – 6 September 2026

Colour is more than just something we see – it's something we feel and sometimes even smell. It has the power to symbolise who we are and what we believe, and it is at the heart of some of our most enduring traditions.



This exhibition brings together over 150 objects spanning art, science, nature and cultural histories. It explores a spectacular world of colour – how we see it, how it's made, how it's used and how meaning can become attached to it. Artworks by Hokusai, Kandinsky, Bridget Riley and Andy Warhol are on display alongside examples of exquisitely crafted decorative ceramics. A diamante-studded Trinidadian

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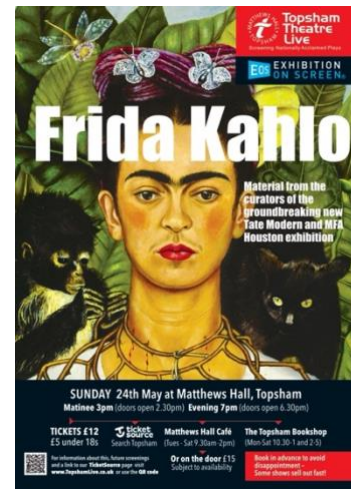
carnival costume and Victorian mourning dress illustrate how colour can imbue clothing with cultural significance, while examples of pre-historic gold jewellery show the value of colour across millennia. Online – £6 (£8 at the desk) / NUS Cardholders and MA Members – £4 / Art Fund Members £3 / Under 19s and Carers – Free

Sunday 28 May, 3.00 and 7.00
Exhibition on Screen at Matthews Hall
Frida Kahlo

Tickets are on sale now through

<https://www.topshamcommunityassociation.co.uk>

and at TATE MODERN
FRIDA: THE MAKING OF AN ICON
25 JUNE 2026 – 3 JANUARY 2027 £25.00



Delamore Arts, Delamore Estate, Cornwood PL21 9QT

Delamore Arts and Sculpture Exhibition and is now open from 10.30 to 16.30 daily during May including Bank Holidays. Admission £17 (£14.00 online, in advance i.e. not on the same day), under 16's free. No dogs in the formal gardens.

