

Topsham Art Group Newsletter

June 2026



Dittisham. Mixed media. Chris Forsey 2026

We had a great turn out for Chris Forsey's demonstration on Monday 18 May. Chris was an engaging demonstrator who showed us what could be accomplished in less than two hours – but with over 30 years' experience! Although he rarely paints en plein air, Chris nearly always makes tonal sketches of the landscape but then decides on his palette back in the studio, often using just four colours plus white to create his work. Chris has donated his painting for the raffle at the Summer Exhibition to support the work of Force, our chosen charity this year.

We have an emphasis on landscape from our demonstrators this year – Melissa Wishart comes to us next, looking at semi-abstraction, and then 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 develop sketches 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.

The Summer Exhibition is nearly upon us again – stewarding sheets will be available at the June and July meetings. You will receive all the paperwork shortly. 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 Please contact Geoff Teece who will be co-ordinating the stewarding for this year on secretary@topshamartgroup.co.uk or 07736 952581.

Our next meeting: 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 of the construction of a painting using different tools and mark-making, reducing the composition to a number of lines and a series of shapes. Melissa 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.

One space has become available at Melissa's workshop – book through the website. The venue for this is now Nancy Potter House, 10.30-4.30 Friday 19 June.

'Flower Power' competition submission - 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. You will get the chance to look at all the entries and then choose your favourite – the winner will be announced at the end of the evening.

TOPSHAM ART FESTIVAL

I hope you've had time to look at the programme and come along to some of the events. In addition to these, 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 look very different now!

And don't forget to look for the best dressed window in the first week of July. The Lord Mayor, Cllr Gemma Rolstone (Topsham's Councillor) will be judging the windows and prizes will be awarded!



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 a bit dodgy. You can bring your sketchbook and paints or just have a relaxed afternoon.

RAMM: COLOUR: 23 May – 6 September 2026



This is a fantastic exhibition, with so much to see you might need to visit more than once. It brings together over 150 objects spanning art, science, nature and cultural histories and 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 displayed alongside examples of exquisitely crafted decorative ceramics. Booking: Online – £6 (£8 at the desk) / NUS Cardholders and MA Members – £4 / Art Fund Members £3 / Under 19s and Carers – Free

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.



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

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/>

Look forward to seeing many of you next Thursday 18 June. Best wishes, Maddy