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| cid:image004.png@01D5F008.D717E650     Little Gem Arts & Crafts Gallery   cid:image005.png@01D5F008.D717E650  **Newsletter Number 2 – April 2020**  **I hope that you are all well, keeping safe and observing all the Government Guidelines. Make sure that you harness your artistic bent and get painting to avoid the monotony of isolation and/or restricted movements.**  **I thought that I would leave it until today to send out the April newsletter as, if I had sent it yesterday, you may have thought it was a joke! ☺**  Those of you used to seeing Wendy and me walking my Jack Russell on the prom may have noticed that I have been absent from the exercises this week.  Currently, I am in co-isolation with my 91 year old mum in her house in Ashington. She was released from hospital on Monday (perhaps a little early, to make beds available for the tsunami?) six weeks after her successful cancer operation. So she needs a lot of caring for.  We decided that the best (and safest) way was for me to come and stay with her, with Wendy doing the shopping, etc. and leaving it on the doorstep.  The only people allowed across the threshold are the district nurses!!  So, although I am exercising around the streets of Hirst, I cannot manage as far as Newbiggin prom!  Hopefully, as well as this little exercise, I will eventually be able to find a bit of time also to do a bit of painting!!  During this lock-down period, if you need any guidance or advice about your painting (as that is probably all that most of us will be doing whilst locked in our homes!), please don’t hesitate to contact me by email or phone.  **Due to the Government restrictions, I think we can work on the assumption that the following events will be cancelled (or, in the case of the exhibition, postponed to a later date):**  Saturday – Sunday     4th-5th April                  Easter Fayre CANCELLED  Saturday – Monday    2nd-4th May                 Little Gem Exhibition \* POSTPONED  Friday                          8th May                       VE Day – Bookstall CANCELLED  The committee will be reviewing the subsequent events in the light of future instructions and advice from the Government.  **Northumberland Lottery**  As you may have noticed in the Little Gem window, before the shutdown, Little Gem as a registered charity has been successful in its application and is now part of (and a beneficiary of) the Northumberland Lottery.  The first draw is on Saturday 25th April. Buy your tickets before then (through the Little Gem page) and 50% of the proceeds will come to our charity AND you stand a chance of winning £25,000 - and all for just £1 per week!  For more information visit: [www.NorthumberlandLottery.co.uk](http://www.NorthumberlandLottery.co.uk) click on ‘Buy Tickets’ and search for The Little Gem Arts and Crafts Gallery.  The more people who we get to enter via our ‘The Little Gem Arts and Crafts Gallery’ page on the lottery, the more money comes into our charity. So spread the word (as long as you keep 2 metres from the recipient! ☺ ).  Please also see some further information at the end of this email.  **Little Gem Logo**  We haven’t yet seen any proposals for the Little Gem Logo; so, now you have some time on your hands, get your thinking caps on and design something fantastic for us to use on the Northumberland Lottery and other places,  Remember, there will be a prize for the winning entry!  **Painting at Home**  As we are all being good boys and girls and staying at home, we aren’t able to share our paintings with others in our groups and workshops.  So, if you want to send in a photo or scan of any paintings that you have done during the shutdown by email to me, I will share with the rest of our community.  Keith Belshaw has already sent me his Clown Giraffe (!?!) and I will distribute it with others once I get them in.  **Painting at Home Competition**  And, if you need any more Incentivisation for painting: at the end of the shutdown, when we are back to normal, I will be running a competition of all paintings done by our groups whilst at home during the shutdown.  I will include all paintings which have been submitted for email circulation, as well as any which you may bring in to the workshops once they get going again.  As the competition prize is being donated by my mum, it looks like I am disqualified from entering! ☹  **Any more?**  Please let me know if there are any other topics which you would like to see included in these newsletters; or, in fact, if you have any input or contributions, please let me have them in time for their inclusion in the newsletters (which I shall try to circulate at the start of each month).  In this trying time, if you have any art & craft related news, or gossip, please pass it to me and I will include it in the next newsletter (or by a special email, if appropriate).  **Stay safe and healthy**!  Steve Wilkinson  2nd April 2020 |
| Little Gem Art & Craft Gallery  Charity Number 1163002  Committee members:  Brian Strachan       (Chair)  Lillian Strachan      (Treasurer)  Sue Case               (Secretary)  David Sinclair         (Charity Coordinator)  Alan Brady  Christine Davison  Steve Wilkinson |
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