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| cid:image004.png@01D5F008.D717E650     Little Gem Arts & Crafts Gallery   cid:image005.png@01D5F008.D717E650  **Newsletter Number 3 – May 2020**  **I hope that you are all still well, keeping safe and observing all the Government Guidelines.**  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.  **Northumberland Lottery**  The first draw was held on Saturday 25th April.  Unfortunately, none of *my* numbers came up this time. So, I shall have to wait until tomorrow’s draw before I order the champagne!  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! ☺ ).  **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!  **Little Gem Virtual Gallery**  The Little Gem Virtual Gallery is now up and running. We currently have well over 50 paintings exhibited from 7 artists.  So, for those of you that haven’t yet sent in any photos of paintings to me, get started and see yours up there too! Any paintings done (or finished off) during the lockdown are eligible for the end-of-lockdown competition – see below.  You can visit the virtual gallery by going to:  <https://www.artsteps.com/view/5e8db2dd01608162e13d9d60>  If you are not used to these types of VR model, the following describes how to get around the gallery:  At the bottom left corner is a plan view of the ‘U’ shaped gallery.  Left click anywhere in the plan to move your viewpoint to that position. Then to turn around, left click anywhere on the view of the gallery, hold in your left button and move the mouse around the gallery view (predominantly left or right, but you will be able to go up and down a bit).  You will soon get used to it.  To move forward (or to get closer to the paintings in front of you) press the ‘Up arrow’, or ‘W’  To move back, press the ‘Down arrow’ key, or ‘S’  To move left, press the ‘Left arrow’ key, or ‘A’  And, to move right, press the ‘Right arrow’ key, or ‘D’  After a little practice, you will be moving about the gallery with ease.  It works well on computers; but, what about phones and tablets?  Well, thanks to Val, we now know how to view the gallery on our phones (if you have Android, or iPhone – it doesn’t work on windows phones).  But, you will have to install the app first!  For iPhone:         go to  <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/artsteps/id1421672085> and load the app for free.  (or go to App Store and type in Artsteps)  For Androids:      go to <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=gr.dataverse.artstepsv2&hl=en_GB> and load the app for free.  (or go to Google Play and type in Artsteps)  Once you have the app installed, just search for Gem (or if you have nothing better to do and want to see my personal gallery, search for Wilkie).  I’ve tried it on Android and it seems to work (although it is a little more difficult to navigate around the room using the feet icon).  I can’t afford an iPhone, so can’t check.  But it should work OK.  If, and when, I get a few moments, I will try to create a guided tour which may make it easier to view.  **Art Programmes on TV**  For those of you who are short of something to do (why is that, you should be in your studio painting! …. But, seriously:…..) please find below a list of art-related TV programmes which have been sent in from your fellow artists. I take no responsibility for the quality or content of the programmes. This list is only provided as a Public Service ☺.  The Joy of Painting - Bob Ross BBC4 Monday to Thursday 7pm  Painting and Drawing with the SAA Showcase Saturdays 5pm  Grayson Perry's Art Club Channel 4   Monday 8pm  Of course, all of Bob Ross’s programmes are available on iplayer at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/m000hjkz/the-joy-of-painting>  Alternatively, just go to iplayer and search for either *art* or *painting* and there are lots of other good (and some not-so-good) programmes there.  Equally, try also the following and search for *art* or *painting*:  Channel 4 (Grayson Perry etc.) <https://www.channel4.com/>  Bob Ross has some programmes on Netflix <https://www.netflix.com/search?q=art> or <https://www.netflix.com/search?q=painting>  I can’t find anything of interest on ITV or My5. But try searching for *art* or *painting* on Sky (or SkyGo) and you will find a few more there, such as:  [Portrait Artist of the Year 2020](https://www.sky.com/watch/title/series/3e1cfda1-28a9-42f2-be75-220b7e8863ca/portrait-artist-of-the-year/episodes/season-1/episode-0)  [Celebrity Painting Challenge](https://www.sky.com/watch/title/series/930e5bb5-98c8-41c4-aa4e-a04cea51c473)    [Painting](https://www.sky.com/watch/title/series/bfe11064-9bec-4daa-a482-7c012f4416fd)    [Landscape Artist of the Year](https://www.sky.com/watch/title/series/35cf63bb-7b11-4af7-830c-35b6ccfbedd7)  [Watercolour Challenge](https://www.sky.com/watch/title/series/ea09995e-34a0-4d81-bb30-aa8440cf722f)  Let me know if you know of any other sources and I will publish in next month’s Little Gem Newsletter.  **Bob Ross – Liquid White**  A few of you have been asking me “what is the Liquid White which Bob Ross uses for his wet-on-wet oil painting?”. As you may know, ‘liquid white’ prolongs the drying time of your oil paints and allows you to work with a wet canvas for several days. Having a wet canvas is very crucial for the wet on wet technique used by Bob, because a wet canvas allows you to mix and blend colour on the canvas instead of mixing everything on your palette.  You can buy Bob Ross’s Liquid White (or Magic White which is the same thing under a different trade name) on eBay – but it is quite expensive. So, all you need to know is that it is actually a mixture, in equal quantities, of Titanium White Oil paint and Linseed oil. So essentially, a base of ‘Liquid White’ is a wash of a white which is quite dilute, using linseed oil as the medium.  If you use acrylics, you can try the same technique using 50:50 Titanium White and water (or, if you want to be fancy, an acrylic retarding medium). HOWEVER, remember that acrylics do dry a LOT faster than oils. So, even using a retardant base, like this, you won’t be able to mix, re-paint and leave in for days like you can with oils. However, I have tried it and got some interesting ‘wet-on-wet’ effects in a short time.  Good luck if you want to try it. Remember, if you have any queries like this, please send them to me and I will try to answer (or get an answer) for you. Then I will publish the tip in a future Little Gem Newsletter for everyone’s benefit.  **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 the Little Gem Virtual Gallery, 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  1st May 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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