

Kirkcaldy Art Club

Newsletter February 2025



Hot Pot Wynd, Dysart, KY1 2TQ

Chair Chat

Dear Art Club Members

I hope that you are enjoying this Spring term and getting the chance to start some new projects. I always enjoy this time of year when the light improves, and we can get back to the Club after the festive break. I have some plans to make some pottery hedgehogs this term, let's see how they turn out!

At the end of 2024, once again we had a very successful Christmas Fair with excellent sales on the day. The Mercat Shop also had a bumper month in December with over £3,000 of sales, there were so many lovely things in the shop, and I know from feedback that the shoppers were delighted with their purchases.

The Christmas Party took place on the 6th of December we had 26 people on the night at the Club, and there is an article from June about this later in the Newsletter.

I have been along to visit some classes and enjoyed meeting with the Tutors and members, and I plan to visit some more in the coming weeks. It has been lovely to hear how much the members appreciate the club and what we provide week by week.

The committee are currently planning our Spring into Summer Classes, look out for information that will be coming out soon.

All Members will be getting information out about a Special General Meeting that will be held in March to progress the Club becoming a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), please have a look at the article below in the Newsletter for more details.

A big thank you to the committee for their continuing work planning and organising all the activities in the club. And a big thank you to all of the volunteers in the shop, it is because of all of you that it is still open 3 years and 3 months on.

Anne McAlpine - Chair



Advance Notice of AGM

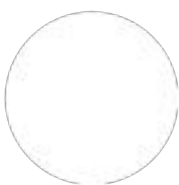
Date for your Diary

This year our Annual General Meeting will be held on the 15th May 2025 at Kirkcaldy Art Club, Hot Pot Wynd, at 7.30 pm. You will all be getting information out about this by email or post nearer the time.

Kirkcaldy Art Club becoming a SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Following last years AGM, and the decision for KAC to move to a SCIO, the committee have been working hard over the past few months. We have been working with OSCR (the Charities Regulator) and Fife Voluntary Action, to create a new constitution that meets the standards for KAC to become a SCIO. We have now completed the new proposed constitution and a copy of this will be coming out to you very soon. As this is a change to our existing constitution, there will need to be a Special General Meeting held for members to formally approve it. We have set a date for this as the 13th of March at 7pm, and notice of this meeting will be coming out to all members, with copies of the new constitution. The new constitution is a much longer more detailed document than our current one. Once you have received the new constitution, if you have any queries prior to the meeting if you can please email them to kirkcaldyartclub@outlook.com. I look forward to meeting up with you in March.

Anne McAlpine



Workshops at the Club

Last year we had a very successful run of workshops, from Painting Techniques, to Fused Glass, Pottery, and Book Making. Following on this term, we have a packed programme which we hope that you will thoroughly enjoy.

Starting off, on 26th January, Dot Black continues her Painting Techniques Workshop, bringing the beautiful food art started last session to completion, showing how to crown your paintings with the all important finishing touches.

Our Fused Glass Workshop was so popular the first time round, we persuaded Carole to return, and once again the class booked out quickly. This takes place on 2nd February at the club. This session the theme is 'Spring', and the projects of the class will include making 2 coasters, a small dish, or hanging sun catcher.

From last years workshop we asked Stuart Gilmour to return and continue instruction on Dry Point Etching. This time on Plexiglass to give a more 3D effect, and finally print the results. This was much enjoyed last year, Stuart is a popular tutor, with great enthusiasm and knowledge of his subject.

We have Jane Lofthouse, who will instruct us on Slip Decoration on pottery. Her beautiful ceramics will inspire a unique way to adorn our pottery. She is supportive and helpful to those new to slip decoration, and will give some great ideas for future projects.

Hayley Mills is our soft pastel artist, who creates stunning landscape paintings. Her work is delicate, with a loose approach delivering a beautiful tracery of trees and undergrowth. Her workshop will take place on 9th March at the club. Look on emails and notice boards for details of class.

A workshop we would advise looking out for and booking quickly is 'Character Heads' by Jennifer Black. Jen does amazing Dog Heads from recycled fabric, and will teach us to make animal or people heads from fur or linen. This is booked in for the 23rd March.

We are hoping to bring a couple more workshops in April, but dates are yet to be confirmed. Bookmaking, weaving, and Pottery Dragons workshops are planned, with Martine doing a pottery demonstration later in the session.

Ann Greger



Slabroller

As mentioned in the last newsletter, Simon and I picked up a slab roller a while ago. I made two new mats, glued bits, tightened bolts and gave it a good clean. The slab roller is now ready to use. Hopefully it will help many of you in the pottery and make rolling the clay a bit easier.

Martine Greig

Spring into Summer

I'm sure we're all looking forward to Spring and I'm pleased to tell you that our annual Spring into Summer 6-week courses will be starting on 29th April and will run until the week beginning 2nd June. There will be a range of Pottery, Painting and Printing classes available and we also hope to offer some new courses.

Potters can opt to work towards the Raku firing weekend on 14th/15th June.

Current class members will be invited to sign up by the end of February so look out for information, including fees, on noticeboards at the Club and via email or letter. Any spaces left after current class members have signed up will be offered to the general public via the website.

Liz Mitchell

Christmas Fair 2024

On Friday 24th November Kirkcaldy Art Club opened its doors for its annual Christmas Fair.

An event like this brings the Art Club members together as teams of volunteers from different classes join forces to set up and help out on the day. There is always lots to be done, from arranging the many arts and crafts in an appealing way to numbering the items for the ever-popular tombola and baking tasty treats and serving teas and coffees to welcome members of the public.

We have had some new Banners printed which were placed strategically outside to catch passing trade and we had a good mix of members and public climbing the stairs to the studio.

There was an array of lovely things on offer, perfect as unique Christmas gifts. Beautifully crafted pottery items sat beside cosy knitwear and handcrafted quilts and Christmas cards, collaged, printed and painted to suit every taste. Everything looked so appealing under the twinkling fairy lights.

£103 alone was made from the tombola. The range and quality of donated items was exceptional. The thrill of the chance brought people back for a second and third attempt!

Our tea /coffee and cake combo must be the best value in town and the array of baked goods were too hard to resist. Lots of chats were had over a good brew and a chance to sit down and peruse purchases. The ladies did a sterling job of keeping up with demand and made just over £75.

All in all, the club took in £1767.56 on the day. A big success – thanks to all of your help!

Angela Marry



Christmas Party

The Art Club's Christmas party was a delightful evening filled with warmth and laughter. Members, family and friends gathered in the festively decorated room upstairs where tables were filled with a tasty buffet and a selection of drinks which were delicious. The highlight of the evening was the team games that brought everyone together. The shared food and drink encouraged relaxed conversation about artistic endeavours and plans for the coming year. The event perfectly captured the club's community spirit, proving that creative souls make for the best party guests. Well done to everyone who organised it.

June Burns

Sadly, Cath passed away in December 2024 at home after a long illness. Loving mum of Michael, Ruth and Michael and Gran. She was a longstanding member of Kirkcaldy Art Club, and Susan McLaren has kindly written about her for the newsletter.

Cath was born in Kirkcaldy, one of three girls, Susan and Margaret. She trained as a teacher at Dundee College. She taught in a variety of primary schools and it was when she went to Dysart P.S. that I met her and we became great friends.

A teacher at Dysart remembers with great fondness, of her warmth, kindness and sense of fun and how approachable and helpful she was to her when she was a probationer. She worked in the pre-school special needs service. Then she went on to work for the Inspectorate for the Care Commission.

Her hobbies were many. She loved running, completing the Marathon in Paris with some of her family at the age of 60! She also completed many Park Runs (100). She also completed The West Highland Way and also the Pilgrim Trail.

Cath was also artistic and enjoyed painting and pottery, a member of the Kirkcaldy Art Club in Dysart for many years.

Cath loved the theatre and. we went out often to the Lyceum theatre in Edinburgh with other friends, Seonaid and Sheila. We will all miss her greatly, but have many fond memories of our times together.

Susan McLaren



Mercat

After a busy December we've had a relaxed start back in the shop this January. December was our best ever month in terms of sales. We were open for more days. As Anne mentioned, over £3000 in sales. Which is great for our artists, but also the club. Thank you to all our volunteers and artists.

A reminder that the shop is for all our members. You can all enter work. If you have made it, you can enter it. If you can help with volunteering even better, but we do understand that this isn't for everyone. Perhaps selling your work isn't for you, but meeting people and learning new skills is. You can come in and try out a shift. All those that are new to volunteering will be put on with someone who is more experienced. All the volunteers are friendly Kirkcaldy Art Club members. We have a great community of painters, crafters & potters. Which is so lovely to see.

If you would like to volunteer or have any questions about selling, please email.

Martine Greig

MOKUHANGA arrives at KAC!

The Japanese method of Woodblock Printing, "Mokuhanga", is now available at KAC. This method is steeped in history and has remained relatively unchanged for centuries. The technique employs watercolour and water based inks allowing for subtle and delicate layering of colour creating beautiful effects. This is a very "hands on" process which does not require a printing press.

The Monday Morning Printing group are currently getting to grips (quite literally!) with the tools and equipment as we now have a basic kit. We look forward to sharing the results.

Other members who may wish to learn more, keep your eyes out for a future workshop where the process and care of equipment can be shared.

Dot Black



The Great Wave off Kanagawa (大波に小舟)
Kanagawa-oki nami-ura! print by Hokusai
Metropolitan Museum of Art

Get to know our KAC Tutors – May Snaddon

In which class are you Tutor?

I tutor the Thursday morning painting class.

Where do you live?

I live and work in Kirkcaldy, having returned here about 10 years ago after living and working in Edinburgh and West Lothian. I am lucky enough to have a studio space at home.

Where did you learn your Art/train to be an Artist?

I'm a former KHS pupil and with the Art department encouragement went to Edinburgh College or Art to study. I graduated in Drawing and Painting then went on to teach in various schools and further education college in Edinburgh initially then West Lothian. Alongside that I continued to paint which has kept me mostly sane!

How long have you been at KAC?

I've been a member at KAC since 2013, which was when I returned to Kirkcaldy to live.

How did you come to be a tutor at KAC?

Claire Methven, who was the committee member at the time looking after classes, phoned me to ask if I'd consider tutoring. I had retired from teaching but a couple of hours a week for 20 weeks a year seemed a good idea and its good to have a routine, yes? I've never looked back. It's the best fun, and definitely keeps me on my toes.

Do you have a favourite artist?

This is a difficult one. Too many favourites to mention. It's like trying to decide my favourite sweetie in the sweetie shop!!

I love the work of the Scottish Colourists, and I find their work inspires my own. I also really like the work of Tom Thomson and The Group of Seven, Canadian artists working there about the same time as post impressionists in Europe. Most of their work is painted en plein air and vibrant with its colour, much like the Impressionists.

Paul Bartlett, a contemporary painter is also one of my favourites. His way of working is unusual and the results are always interesting. He uses collage and painted paper from bird magazines to create bird and animal studies.

What do you most enjoy about Art?

I enjoy the creative process, making something from nothing almost, I like how a painting grows from a few marks to more meaningful marks in a relatively short space of time, although some paintings do take a considerable amount of time to complete. I also enjoy the fact that the finished result is not an exact replica of what's in a photo or in front of me outdoors,

I love the variation in all the different mediums to use. Although my first love would be oils, I cannot think of any medium I dislike working in. They all have their particular peculiarities and attractions. I love the fact that there is inspiration in everything around us. My own work is what I would describe as loosely realistic.

What do you most enjoy about the Club?

I enjoy the community feeling of the club. Although I am teaching each week, sometimes it feels like meeting up with a group of friends to work together on some artwork. I like the rapport. I learn as much as I teach sometimes, my class are an inspiration in their enthusiasm and dedication to producing their best.

Anything else that you would like to let us know about your self and being a Tutor at KAC?

I am a member of Fife Dunfermline Print Workshop and work there at least once a week. It's an artist run cooperative. We try to exhibit regularly. Printmaking links very well to painting and I love the slightly more abstract result.



Get in touch

If you have any questions or comments about Kirkcaldy Art Club or have questions for the committee (soon to be board), please email.

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