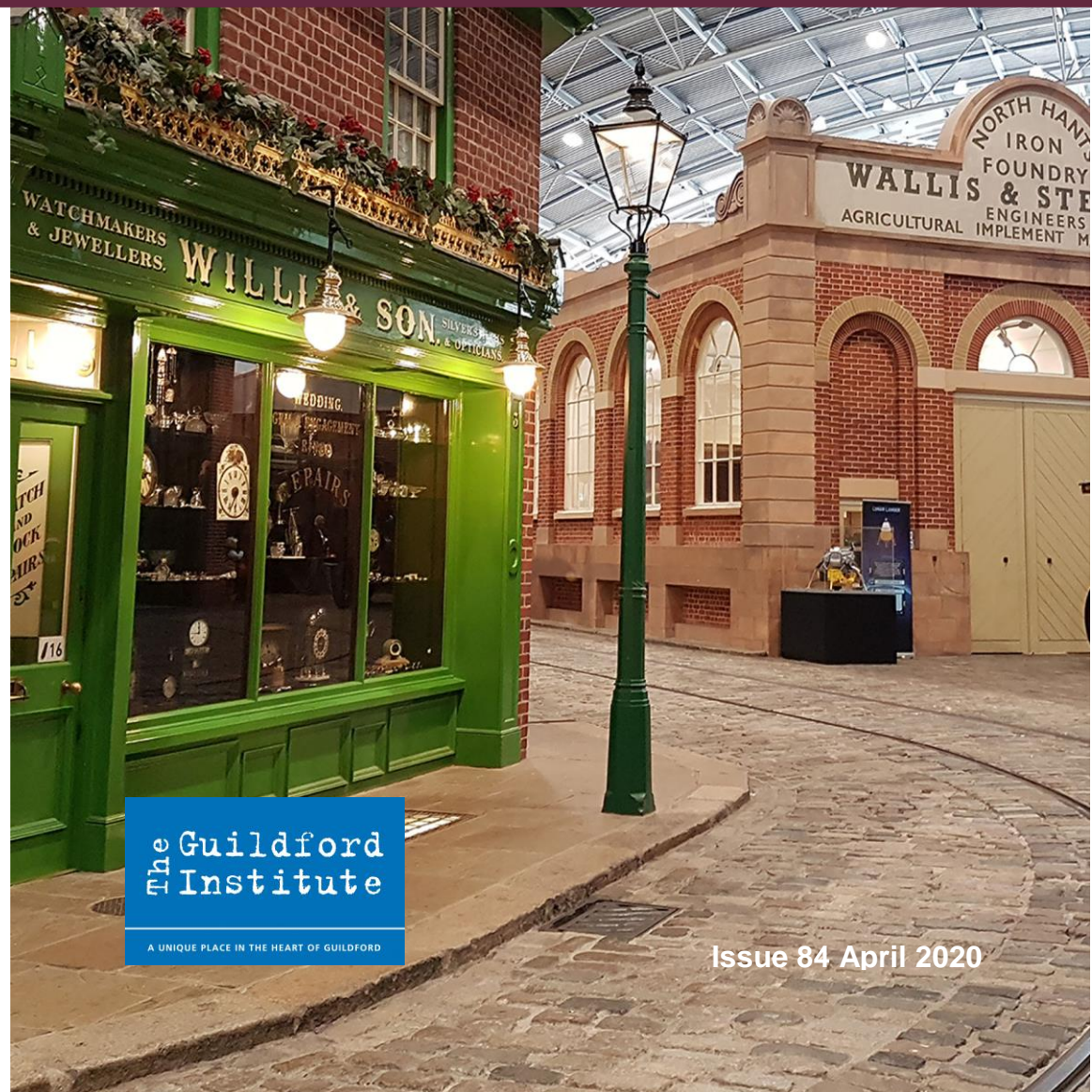


The Keep

THE JOURNAL OF THE GUILDFORD INSTITUTE



The Guildford
Institute

A UNIQUE PLACE IN THE HEART OF GUILDFORD

Issue 84 April 2020

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EDITORIAL

It seems a very long time since the last edition of **The Keep** which was published in the middle of the Autumn Term. This is partly because it has been an exceptionally busy period with courses, workshops, Wednesday Talks and *Special Events* covering a huge range of subjects. Given limited space we cannot report on more than a fraction of what went on, but hopefully within these pages you will find a taste of what members and friends have enjoyed over the past six months.

At the AGM in November we said farewell to Sandra Robinson as she retired and welcomed her successor, Janet Crowe, into the hot seat as Chair of the Board of Trustees; the term is used advisedly as maintaining an elderly Grade 2 listed building often means unexpected problems demanding urgent attention. In December, Nick and Ian introduced some tasty new twists to the vegetarian Christmas lunches - the **V Café** continues to impress newcomers!

We entered 2020 with a full programme which included four courses on *Space Exploration*, visits to the British Library and Kenwood House, a sparkling wine-tasting *Special Event* with Albury Organic Vineyard, and two profoundly challenging talks on the Environment and Climate Change. Sadly much of the Summer Term is now on hold but we hope to be back in business soon. Keep up to date with our news on our website: www.guildford-institute.org.uk

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Front Cover Image: Milestones Museum by Garazi Donlo

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PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CONTENTS OF THIS MAGAZINE WERE FINALISED BEFORE CORONAVIRUS SWEEPED THROUGH THE WORLD AND CHANGED ALL OF OUR LIVES.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

My first few months of being the Chair of the Board of Trustees have been extremely interesting with our focus very much on the future of the Institute. We are keen to develop its financial resilience, increase the membership, introduce even more courses including in the evenings and weekends and bring our office systems up to date so as to relieve staff from unnecessary administration.



It's such an exciting time ahead and what is really wonderful is the commitment to and affection for the Institute from staff, volunteers, trustees, members and general users. In the short term we are pleased and not a little relieved that the Royal Bank of Scotland appears to be renewing its lease with us but in the longer term we need to get to a position where we are less dependent on this income. The Board is very focussed on this aspect and will be developing a plan in consultation with staff and other stakeholders.

We continue to be open to increasing the number of Trustees on our Board and would be particularly interested in hearing from someone who has experience in buildings and structural work. We're also always keen to diversify our Volunteer roles, so if you have any particular skills that you think the Institute could benefit from, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Amy Rice (Institute Manager) via amy@guildford-institute.org.uk if interested.

Janet Crowe

MANAGER'S REPORT

I am delighted to announce that our Marketing and Events Assistant, **Sarah George**, became a permanent member of our team in November. Sarah has progressed our marketing considerably throughout her two years at the Institute, during which time we've implemented various strategies to broaden our reach out into the local community. Sarah and our Monday-morning volunteer, Cathy, have recently designed the Institute's first-ever bus advert which you may have seen on the back of a local Safeguard bus (route number 4). Be sure to look out for it!



Following on from the last edition of *The Keep*, we've continued to celebrate the long-service of our Staff and Volunteers.

Amy Mason, our Membership and Events Assistant, celebrated her five-year anniversary of working at the GI in January. Amy's distinct contribution has been in the organisation of various notable *Special Events*, including several celebrating the Institute's 125th anniversary, the talk delivered by Virginia McKenna, and recent collaborative events with *Guildford Arts*.

We also celebrated the ten-year service of Reception Volunteer **Geoff Whitehouse** and Library Volunteer **Joan Phelan**, both of whom have made a significant contribution to the GI. The Institute really is lucky to have such capable and loyal people as part of its team.

The management has remained committed to completing the planned maintenance programme of our building. Following the results of our *damp survey* last summer, the start of the year has seen the first set of repairs addressing the significant damp issues within the building: the flat roof has been replaced (which had caused water ingress into the bank premises). Considerable further work will be needed in order to deal with this age-old problem. The extraordinarily generous Legacy left to the Institute by Judith Whitaker (see page 20) will certainly help to ensure that we continue to maintain and upgrade the Institute's historic building and facilitate access by the community, in accordance with her wishes.

Thank you for your support and I hope to see you in the Institute again soon.

Amy Rice

VOLUNTEER NEWS

We are pleased to welcome a number of new volunteers for our reception team who are currently undergoing training. Make sure you say *hello* to them if you are in the Institute soon.



Elaine McGee

Elaine has recently taken a back seat from running a busy coffee shop at Godalming Railway Station and wanted to do something worthwhile with her time.

She says: "I am excited to become involved as a volunteer with the Guildford Institute. I'm a keen art lover and value the ethos of community education that the Institute provides so well".

You will see Elaine on the Reception desk on a Friday morning.

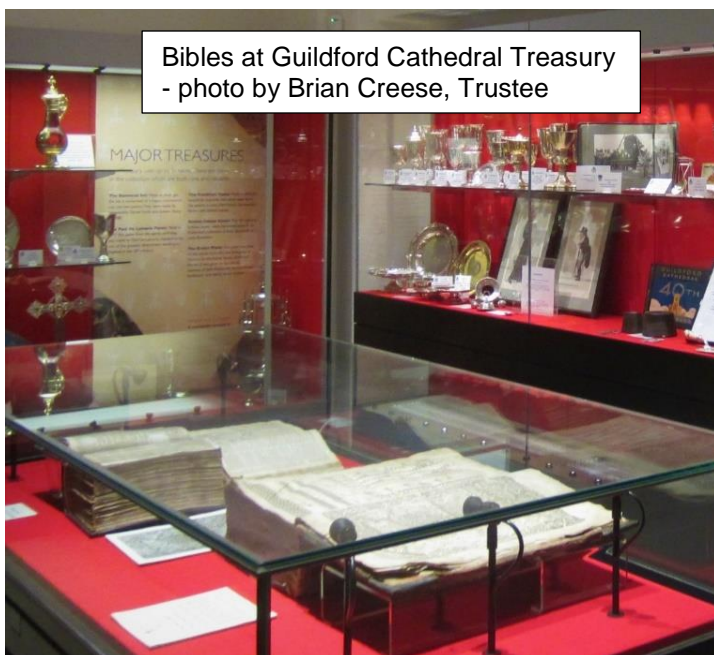
LIBRARY NEWS

THE GUILDFORD INSTITUTE'S BIBLES

At some point in 1944 two old Bibles were 'discovered' in the Guildford Institute - causing much excitement. The Institute was in deep financial difficulties at the time, so the initial excitement was around the possibility of selling them to help balance the books. The Bodleian Library in Oxford was contacted and they were able to identify them; one was a *Great Bible* dated 1553 and the other a *Bishops' Bible* from 1602. Sotheby's was contacted with regard to selling at auction; it was also suggested the new Guildford Cathedral might put in a bid. None of these negotiations was satisfactorily concluded and the two Bibles disappeared from the records for 50 years.

In 2000 an article in *The Keep* mentioned that the *Bishops' Bible* had been loaned to Guildford Cathedral.

There is also a note saying that the *Great Bible* was in a poor condition and should be sold; after that the record goes quiet again.



The *Great Bible* was the first authorised edition of the *Bible* in English, but was severely flawed in many ways. The *Bishops' Bible*, the immediate precursor to the ***King James' Bible***, was largely the work of The Archbishop of Canterbury Matthew Parker.

He successfully managed to eradicate the 'commentary' that had crept into the *Geneva Bible*, which was the most popular Bible at the end of the 16C, but ultimately it lacked the warmth and flow of other versions and never became as successful as the Archbishop had hoped (and expected). Quite how two such important Bibles found their way into the Institute Library we do not know, and what happened to *the Great Bible* is unclear, but what we do know is that the *Bishops' Bible* is displayed in the centre of the Treasury at Guildford Cathedral where anyone can go and view it for free. Fascinatingly it still shows the Institute Library classification mark of L57. indicating that at some point it was shelved alongside the rest of the Library collection.

I recently went up to the Cathedral to view the *Bishops' Bible* and staff obligingly lifted the cover for me to have a close look. It is in a very fragile condition. The Guildford Institute lacks the facilities to hold and conserve such a valuable and delicate volume, so we are certain it is in the right place. However, I wonder how many Institute users are aware that such a precious volume of ours is on display up on Stag Hill? I really would urge everyone who can to call in and visit *our Bible*. We remain delighted that the original intention to sell it off failed - and this remarkable *Bishops' Bible* is still in Guildford.

Brian Creese

LIVING WITH THE ENVIRONMENT

21 January 2020

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the annual *World Economic Forum* in Davos, held high up in the mountains of Switzerland. The focus of this high-powered and influential gathering was upon issues of ***the environment and climate***, although the primary concerns of some seemed to lie elsewhere; over 80 delegates travelled to the Forum by private jet. Maybe they were reassured by President Trump's exhortation to ignore the "prophets of doom" and take note that the USA was doing very nicely, thank you. It was left to 17-year-old Greta Thunberg to draw the attention of delegates to the fact that "*the world is on fire*".



At the Institute we were privileged to have **David Edwards** (*pictured above*), university lecturer, traveller and environmentalist, speak at this Special Event. He delivered a measured analysis of the state of the Earth's environment, employing a couple of powerful images to set the scene:

- If we were to perceive the Earth to be a billiard ball, then what we call '*the environment*' within which humanity dwells would be equal to "*the shine on the ball*".

- The Earth is roughly 4.5 billion years old; *homo sapiens* have been around for approximately 200,000 years. If we equate the length of time of our existence to 24 hours, then the Industrial Revolution started 2 or 3 minutes before midnight - and our awareness of *global warming* came in the last 20 seconds.

The rate of species extinction is estimated at running between 10 and 690 every week, while rainforests are being destroyed at around 31,000 square miles each year. David Edwards suggests that one of the reasons for this rate of destruction was noted by Aristotle who observed that, "*what is common to the greatest number has the least care*". This 'theory of commons' argues that what is *free is not valued*. If we fail to put a monetary value on the natural capital that the environment represents, we are likely to ignore it and continue to pump carbon dioxide and other toxic greenhouse gases into the air - just as we dump billions of tonnes of non-biodegradable rubbish into the oceans.

In the western, post-industrial world there is an obsession with short-term, annualised measurements such as the GDP (Gross Domestic Product). We are happy when it's growing, glum when it's not. But the rate and costs of pollution and deforestation are not measured with the same degree of meticulous enthusiasm. Western governments typically last about five to seven years; companies focus on the bottom line of their year-end results. There are few votes (and fewer dividends) to be earned from strategic, long-term planning to the benefit of future generations.

Or, as Aristotle put it "*everyone thinks chiefly of his own, hardly at all of the common interest*".

During questions David was asked "Are you a pessimist"? His reply suggested there was hope, but he added "We don't need a *few* good people behaving environmentally responsibly, we need *millions* of people doing their bit and raising awareness of the challenges that we all face."

Such awareness, as Aristotle's observation demonstrates, is by no means new: "*The environment is everything that isn't me*", Albert Einstein

Graham Robinson

VISITS

MILESTONES MUSEUM

25 February 2020

One of the Institute's coach trips during the Spring Term was a visit to *Milestones Museum of Living History* on the outskirts of Basingstoke. The "museum" is actually an interesting network of streets, under a huge arching roof, recreated as they would have been in late Victorian and 1930s Hampshire. One of the highlights is a vintage *penny arcade* where you can swap your new pence for old pennies and relive your childhood on the seaside piers of the English coastline.



Abraham's Sweet Shop brings back war-time memories; you can buy a *ration book* and "spend" your allocated *sweet coupons* on a bag of your favourite toffees and bulls-eyes. We wondered how young children would feel nowadays about having their sweets *rationed* for over 10 years!

The final treat was a visit to *Milestones'* very own pub, *The Baverstock Arms*. The pub is named after Alton-born **James Baverstock**, a brewer and inventor, reputedly the first to make use of a hydrometer in the brewing process. The perfect place to enjoy a traditional pint. Overall, a good way to spend a few hours on a rainy day and highly recommended, particularly for the grand-children!

Amy Mason

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE : WALKING TOUR AND MUSEUM

5 MARCH 2020

Two hundred years after the birth of **Florence Nightingale**, 11 intrepid GI members braved the very heavy rain to participate in an interesting walking tour in London with our guide Julie Chandler. We traced the footsteps of Florence Nightingale - *The Lady with the Lamp* - who became a living *legend* during the *Crimean War* of 1850s.

She faced considerable opposition from her family at her determination to become a nurse which was regarded as a very lowly job, totally unsuitable for a young woman of her standing. Although not a churchgoer, Florence felt that she had been chosen to do God's work

(she never married but had at least four proposals of marriage). In 1854 she was asked by the Secretary of State for War to lead a team of nurses to organise the war hospital in Scutari. She was horrified by the conditions - and the rest is history. Surprisingly, Florence Nightingale was never paid for her work in the Crimea; she lived off an allowance from her family.



We took grateful shelter in the *Burlington Arcade* where we saw **Hancocks**, the jewellers who made the first *Victoria Cross* medal and is still making them today. Prince Albert was frustrated that Miss Nightingale was not eligible for the award of a VC, so he commissioned **Garrard**, the longest serving jeweller in the world, to design a brooch - the "*Nightingale Jewel*" (see left) - which was presented to her by

Queen Victoria in recognition of her service. As we walked past **Fortnum & Mason**, we learnt that Queen Victoria had proposed sending *eau de cologne* to all her soldiers in the Crimea. Fortunately, she was persuaded to send *beef tea* instead.

The walk concluded at the Florence Nightingale Museum in St Thomas's Hospital. This modern museum has mounted a special exhibition to mark the bicentenary of Florence Nightingale's birth. After the Crimean War she established *the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing* & Nightingale nurses are respected worldwide to this day. One of our group, a retired Nightingale nurse, was able to give us useful insights into the prestige of this training.

Nightingale is remembered for her pioneering role in developing the nursing profession, her systematic statistical work and her evidence-based approach to healthcare. She produced the fore-runner to the *pie chart* showing that more soldiers were dying from preventable diseases than from war injuries. Famed in her long lifetime, (she died aged 90) she influenced lives around the world.

Janice Hurdle

TALKS

BEST DRESSED: OLIVE MATTHEWS COLLECTION

13 November 2019

Can there be two heroines in any story? I believe so. My first heroine is **Olive Matthews** (who died age 92 in 1979), a splendid Victorian lady who owned a magnificent array of historical dress and accessories which she began to collect as a very young girl and carried on doing so with dedication throughout her long life.

Our second heroine is **Grace Evans**, curator of the *Olive Matthews' Collection* at the Chertsey Museum. Grace's devotion to the Collection and to Olive herself is nothing short of heroic. Her detailed knowledge of the items, her interpretation of the back-story of each and the care she lavishes on these priceless treasures is intense.

She also works hard to fill the "gaps" in the Collection's chronology - seeking out pieces at auctions and following tip-offs from other specialists.

For example, a superb silk wedding dress came along together with a photograph of the bride wearing it at her wedding. Somehow Grace traced the actual event to a village church in Hampshire (itself remarkable) and then proceeded to have copies made of the outfits worn to re-create the ceremony in situ.

Back to the redoubtable Olive Matthews who, with “half-a-crown” (2/6d: approx. 15p in today’s money), would scour the markets of London for dresses and accessories. Here Grace gave a contemporary account of The Old Caledonian Road market which yielded such treasures as bags, shoes and nightcaps of impeccable quality dating from 1600 to the 1840s - some 600 items, all British and until the 1850s, every stitch by hand.



18th C. wedding ensemble
1780

We learned about tabour embroidery; what a stomacher really is and how to attach it to the gown; how bones in a corset are taken from the roof of a whale’s mouth; that a sweet bag was not full of *bonbons* but herbs to ward off the plague. Perkins Purple was neither a disease nor a race-horse but the latest in-fashion colour of the 1860s.



Olive Matthews with her collection

Grace brought the Collection into our own era with examples of Hartnell couture, Ossie Clark, and the shoulder-pads of the 1980s.

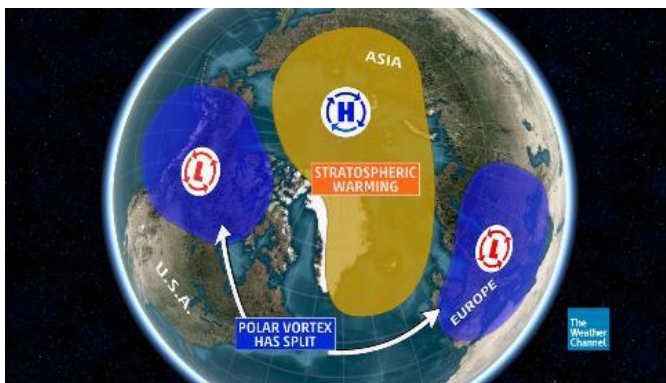
This talk was utterly fascinating, all verbatim and with never a hesitation. Look out for a GI visit to see it all in Chertsey Museum - frankly, I can’t wait!

Val Monaghan

GUILDFORD AND THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY 25 February 2020

A packed audience listened with rapt attention to the Environmental Forum's talk, *Guildford and the Climate Emergency*. **Henrietta Stock**, a Climate Reality Leader trained by the Al Gore Climate Reality Project, ably delivered a well-researched presentation which left no doubt about the urgency of the situation.

She outlined the ways in which Earth's fragile atmosphere continues to be polluted by transport emissions, forest clearance and fires, CO₂ from melting permafrost and the burning of fossil fuels. Greenhouse gases cause record temperatures, resulting in heat-stroke and many deaths. In Kuwait City, at 51°C, birds fell from the air. In Pakistan mass graves are dug each year to receive the inevitable human casualties. Here in the UK our infrastructure is unsuited to high temperatures: rails buckle and bin lorries sink into melting tarmac. Some 900 extra deaths resulted from the heat last year.



An unusual extra 28° of heat at the North Pole in February 2018 split the Polar Vortex (see left), sending the 'Beast from the East' over Britain and Europe. Warmer air draws up and holds more moisture, causing

heavier downpours. Flooding in Britain and elsewhere contrasts with extreme drought in other locations: 20 million people currently face starvation in Zimbabwe and *desertification* claimed 60% of Syria's fertile land between 2006 and 2010.

Henrietta highlighted some positive signs and solutions. Polluted Beijing will soon be uninhabitable, but the Chinese have led the way in developing solar technology (followed by India and Chile) installing more sources of solar power than anywhere else in 2018. Targets for wind-generated electricity have been far exceeded and car manufacturers are producing electric/hybrid cars. However, *political will* to continue the clean-up is the most important single factor. We were urged to make choices and to speak up for others less able to do so, for example

by putting pressure on the government to decarbonise swiftly and end fossil fuel subsidies.

What can an individual do?

1. Work out your carbon footprint <https://carbonindependent.org/>
2. Consider travel and diet options
3. Monitor your water and energy consumption
4. Join a pressure group!

Henrietta ended with the words of Mary Robinson, President of Ireland:
"Make climate change personal in your life, do something you weren't doing before.. then get angry and get ACTIVE"

Jane Thorpe

COURSES

THE LIFE AND WORKS OF FELIX VALLOTTON

8 January 2020

An enthusiastic group of students kicked off the new term with **Tammy Ellis'** fascinating course on this Swiss born artist. His work had recently been on show at the Royal Academy under the heading *"Painter of Disquiet"* which had brought him renewed attention.



Born into a middle class, somewhat conservative, household Vallotton (see *self portrait left*) attended college and art classes in his home town of Lausanne before persuading his parents to let him move to Paris in 1882 to study art seriously. There he studied at the prestigious *Académie Julian* where he perfected his technical skills and came into contact with post-Impressionists such as Vuillard and Bonnard. He later joined with them in a group known as the *Nabis (prophets)* and adopted their more abstract decorative style of painting. However, he stood somewhat apart from the group and

remains a difficult artist to categorise. Much of his work has an enigmatic,

unsettling quality, which leaves the viewer wondering what is going on; he paved the way for later artists such as Edward Hopper. (See *The Lie* 1897 and the controversial work, *The White and the Black* 1913)

Alongside his painting, Vallotton made a living as an expert printmaker using woodcut techniques. He provided black and white illustrations for novels and magazines of the time, including the influential *Revue Blanche*. His series of prints entitled "*Intimacies*" was typical of this style.

Although reserved by nature, Vallotton was absorbed into the bohemian world of Paris in the 1890s. However, his conservative streak seems to have re-emerged in 1899 when he married Gabrielle Rodrigues-Henriques, a wealthy widow and daughter of one of the foremost art dealers of the time. His marriage not only added three step children to his household but also afforded him financial security. This enabled him to give up printmaking and concentrate on painting for the remainder of his career.

During World War I, he toured the front lines as a war artist. Later he and his wife had homes in Provence and Normandy where he continued to paint until his untimely death in 1925. (*Road at St Paul-Var. 1922*, see *right*, is a memorable work from this period). Vallotton kept meticulous records of his work in a notebook - his *Livre de Raison*. On his death it was found to contain 1700 items.

Warm thanks to Tammy for providing an insight into the life of this unusual artist - a somewhat aloof figure who nonetheless produced some ground-breaking and highly controversial work.



John Chapman

This was a new course for the Guildford Institute run by **Peter Merry**. I was keen to take it having previously attended his *Street Photography* class last year. Peter not only knows his stuff when it comes to photography, his friendly approach and inclusive style of tutoring makes it a most enjoyable experience.

The course was held in The Studio; with its high ceiling and windows on three sides, it's the perfect place in which to get creative.



Course attendees by Lisa Taylor

I am a prolific snapper with an iPhone camera and have thousands of images squirrelled away on my laptop. (I must go through them one day and weed out the wheat from the chaff.) So really I did not expect to learn so much in 3 hours - about settings, composition, reviewing and editing, and sharing.

There was time for practical work too, and with no props other than what we had with us in the room, we took still-life images experimenting with focus points and lighting. We then moved on to working in pairs and larger groups. Not a big fan of the selfie, I even picked up some tips for improving those too. To conclude the session we successfully manoeuvred the whole class into a group portrait.

If I were to pass on one piece of learning from this course it would be resist the temptation to use the camera zoom when taking a photo. Get as close as you can to the subject, then take your photo and use your editing tools, either in the phone's photo app or with an app such as Snapseed, to crop and make the changes you want. This way you retain the definition and end up with a sharper image.

This was a Saturday morning well spent and I would highly recommend any of Peter Merry's courses.

Lisa Taylor

DOODLE, COLOUR & GET CREATIVE!

22 January 2020

Discover Your Inner Cartoonist - The Colouring Book Experience



Three workshops, presented by **Sarah Jane Vickery** were aimed at tapping into our latent *creativity* as well as encouraging *mindfulness* and helping to lower our *stress levels*. The sessions were very well received by those attending because Sarah provided a very relaxed, enabling setting within which we felt able to experiment with different approaches to drawing and colouring.

In the first workshop we worked with random lines and some colour - trying to re-capture the free creativity which many of us experienced as children. The cartoon workshop showed imaginative ways to create our own cartoon characters, as well the basics of capturing different facial expressions. Although I could not attend the third session, feedback from those who did suggested that it was a very worthwhile experience; a chance to relax and focus on the colouring, away from the ups and downs of everyday life. All in all an encouraging new venture which I would highly recommend, particularly to anyone who feels they have an untapped creative streak.

John Chapman

Why not try one of Sarah Jane's courses later in the year

Discover Your Inner Cartoonist

Drawing Characters in Motion

Playing with Proportion

EXHIBITIONS

A-SK ABOUT NATURE by Agata Skibicka



Agata is a full-time nurse and painting is her hobby and passion which she uses to escape the stresses of everyday life.

She is self-taught and started just a year and a half ago working mostly with oil on canvas. Her biggest inspiration is nature itself and she loves creating landscapes that express her vision.

Enjoy this window into the world as seen through Agata's eyes, via breath-taking sceneries and unusual colour combinations. A reminder to stop sometimes and look around you.

OBITUARIES



JOAN WRENN

We are very sorry to bring you sad news of the death of our long-serving member, Joan Wrenn, 81, on 27 December 2019. Joan was diagnosed with terminal cancer and was cared for at Springfield Manor, in Puttenham, until her peaceful death.

Joan was a great supporter of the Institute and attended many events and talks. She was also one of the best customers of the Institute's restaurant, visiting for lunch up to three times a week as she loved the food and could conveniently meet her friends here.

She will be sorely missed by all her many friends and family both in the UK, Australia, New Zealand and other parts of the world.

JUDITH MARY WHITAKER (1936 - 2019)

The Guildford Institute has received a very generous bequest in the Will of Judith Whitaker who was a Member for many years. Her daughter writes:

“Mum was born in 1936 and grew up in a world where women were gradually being accepted into higher education and the skilled workforce. She was strongly self-motivated to study and qualified as a Medical Laboratory Officer. She had a very successful career ultimately becoming Chief MLSO in the Pathology Laboratory of Queen Mary’s Hospital. Alongside her scientific work she fed her enthusiasm for art and crafts by taking evening classes in arts-related subjects.



She lived in Dorking and when widowed she refused to move closer to her family because she so enjoyed her “life-long learning”. Two or three times a week she would get the bus to Guildford and walk up the hill to enjoy “*the delights of Guildford Institute*”. There she met others who shared her passion for

ceramics, water-colours and the lecture courses on art and history. In her latter years the GI gave her social enrichment and on-going stimulating interest. She gifted the major part of her *Charity Legacy* to the Institute so that others could continue to enjoy what she had loved and enjoyed - well into the future.

Retirement, bereavement and ill-health will tax all of us as we age, but for people like Mum, the Institute provides a wonderful nurturing community spirit”

Susan Routley

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Member Update

With the installation of the new website system we are now happy to offer the added member benefit of priority places on waiting lists for all courses, talks, visits and events.

This year we plan to introduce a new-look membership card.

We will be making a small increase to the annual membership rate in-line with inflation from May 2020.

WE WISH ALL OUR MEMBERS HEALTH AND POSITIVITY DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME.