

Pembury U3A Painting for Fun Groups

We started in 2007 with one group of six people who just wanted to paint in Watercolours but also wanted an approach which allowed them to express their own individualism and have fun at the same time. There are now 5 groups ranging in size from 6 to 11 members.

Janet Richardson had been a teacher who had led the introduction of Design and Technology at the Weald of Kent Grammar School for Girls, teaching Resistant Materials (Woodwork, metalwork, design etc) and A-level Graphics. When she retired she attended watercolour classes with Julie King for 4 years.

The courses with the U3A started with the basic watercolour skills of colour mixing from a limited palette range, laying on washes, developing depth using intensity of pigment, learning about perspective as well as how to draw people, skies and seas and much more!. One never stops learning and we are also learning to handle charcoal, soft pastels as well as pen and ink. In the summer we always try to spend a few days painting outdoors at various places such as Bayham Abbey, Bodiam Castle, Dunorlan Park, Matfield.



There are about 40 members of Pembury U3A with some in separate “Paint and Natter” groups.

The members of the Painting for Fun groups come from a large range of backgrounds including the NHS, Accountancy, Teaching, Social Services, Commerce, Local Government, Hospitality Industry, Science and Technology. All have

one thing in common – the desire to paint. All have different styles and preferences which we respect and encourage.

This exhibition has been a new adventure for us. Members have learnt how to mount and frame their paintings themselves wherever possible – sometimes an expert is absolutely necessary!

U3A stands for “University of the Third Age”. They exist all over the country with about a third of a million members, and increasing! Their parent body, the Third Age Trust, supports

and advises on best practice but each group is autonomous. They are based on the sharing of knowledge and expertise. Anyone with a skill or knowledge can gather a group of interested members and teach them, or lead them in research or just organise a group into preparing individual talks on aspects of a subject area they find interesting. It is all done on a voluntary basis so education and fun social events thrive at very low cost – probably the only expense is for tea and coffee and biscuits!



The pictures were taken in February at our annual Painters' Lunch in Pembury.

Janet Richardson