**Spring News letter**

As usual my newsletter is way behind time and I have received the usual amount of digs from those who shall remain nameless.

Unfortunately the year got off to a bad start for me as I was in hospital for a couple of weeks in February, followed by a month of recuperation. I had some routine minor day surgery which, unfortunately, went very wrong – sometime these things happen.

I am indebted to Jake winkle and Chris Humphries who held the fort during this time, not to mention Mrs H who dug out her top drawer nursing skills. Jake took over my residential course at the Swan in wells and Chris, who has only recently moved to the area, oversaw my day course at Leigh Grove Barn – a big thank you to you both.

Fortunately I am now fully recovered and, although still attending hospital for various ongoing treatments, am fully fit.

**Winter Painting**

The Christmas period presents an opportunity for me to paint for myself. Here are a few of the winter scenes that I produced









**John Hoar**

In March I took the opportunity to visit Dedham Hall for a week as a course participant. I had promised myself a break and joined John Hoar and his delightful wife Jacqueline for his inaugural week at Dedham. Here is one of the pictures produced during the course



**Ely Cathedral**

**Spring at Dedham Hall 2015**

This course was, once again, a great success with 15 painters attending, 12 of who had been on previous courses. As usual Richard Green produced a surprise tee shirt for all those attending. This year’s theme was the ‘Bobby the Balloon’ joke. I won’t bore you with the details of the joke, sufficient to tell you that it is one of those ‘shaggy dog’ stories with a corny ending.

Any way below is a picture taken at Monday breakfast with the said garments being revealed. Photograph thanks to Peter Musson



**The Dedham Strippers**

Peter also took a number of photographs in the studio so here are a couple for you



**Presentation and exhibition time**



**Concentration**

**2015 Courses**

Most of these are now fully booked although the Dubrovnik course will not run due to lack of numbers. The Norfolk course has proved very popular and we are hoping that Alpha Painting Holidays will take over the running of this.

Unfortunately my demonstration scheduled for Guildford Art society on October 3rd has also been cancelled.

**2016 Courses and Demonstrations**

Already I am planning for next year and can confirm the following reserved dates

**Courses**

**Dedham Hall**

April 23rd – 30th

August 20th – 27th

**Alpha Painting Holidays – Exmoor**

May 12th – 16th

**Demonstrations**

**Tetbury Art Club**

Wednesday October 5th

**New Horizons**

For some time now I have promised myself that I would paint in oils. Although I have done nowhere near the amount of work planned I did have a few attempts last year and I thought you might like to see a couple of efforts. I am yet to find my style and think that I should simplify more, however we shall have to wait and see.



**Sentinel**



**Spring Lane**

**Painting Competition**

There were three entries this time and, once again, I was delighted that we had an entry from outside the UK. All three entries are shown below.

The winner was Chris Gaymer. All the pictures were similar but Chris was able to introduce greater atmosphere into her picture by the use of tone to the both sides and the bottom of her interpretation. The overall effect was to unite the action with its surroundings and, at the same time, create a greater feeling of depth to the whole scene – well done Chris



**Chris Gaymer**



**Ron May**



**Theophanis Mastakas**

For the next competition I have chosen a rural scene of a Suffolk watermill. I took the picture in March of last year. The winner will receive the editor’s choice of a watercolour book.



Happy painting for the summer of 2015

Steve