

THE PAINTER'S BILL

When the authorities of an old church in Wales decided to make some repairs to its interior furnishings, an artist was employed to touch up a large painting. The artist presented his bill in due course, but the payment was refused as full details of the work performed were not specified. The next day the account was presented itemised as follows:

Embellishing Pontius Pilate and putting new ribbons on his hat.....	2/-
Putting tail on rooster of St Peter and amending his comb.....	6/-
Re-pluming and re-gilding left wing of Gabriel.....	6/-
Washing High Priest's robes.....	7/-
Cleaning out St David's ears.....	5/-
Renewing Heaven, adjusting the stars and cleaning up the moon.....	7/-
Brightening up the flames of Hell, putting new tail on the Devil, mending his hoof and doing several odd jobs for the damned.....	8/-
Touching up Pergatory and restoring lost souls.....	7/-
Mending shirt of the Prodigal son.....	3/-
Touching up Pharoah's daughter.....	2/-

(Reproduced from Gaywood Parish News "some time ago")



The winner of Tom Coates' original cartoon was Roy Connelly of Ruislip imagining Mary's remark to Tom

"There he goes - Pete the Suite!"

We had quite a few very good entries, it was difficult to choose. Thank you to all who kindly responded to the challenge! The editor

DATA PROTECTION ACT: Please inform us if you object to having your name & address passed on to Members for their mailing lists. Otherwise we will assume that it is acceptable.

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THE NEW ENGLISH BY KENNETH McCONKEY

This book is to be launched on Friday 22nd September at The Fine Rooms, Burlington House. Reviews already abound, the Royal Academy, taking the lead in this autumn's edition of their magazine with Ken Howard's appraisal of Kenneth McConkey's book recording the first published history of the New English Art Club. The founders of the club were the radical artists, amongst others Monet Whistler Degas and Sickert, who by backing French Impressionism sought to breakaway from the Royal Academy's restrictive Pre-Raphaelite viewpoint. They named it The New English Art Club to disassociate themselves from any other Society, Academy or Royal status.

This book, with many beautiful illustrations, covers the story of The New English Art Club to the modern day: "...the tradition of work based on observation of the natural world. For any lover of English figurative painting, this book is a must."

writes Ken Howard RA PPNEAC

Professor Karn Holly, artist & tutor of the New English School of Drawing, has been invited by the **Tate Gallery** to participate in a project culminating in an exhibition of drawings to be held at the Clore Gallery, Millbank this autumn and running until April 2007. (see the Exhibiton Diary for details).

This exciting project grew from an idea of Professor Stephen Farthing in association with Tate Britain and will be entitled "Drawings from Turner". Drawings are based on pre-selected Turner works which will include a small selection of invited artists.



Chieza di San Mose

Karn Holly

As well as the usual collective NEAC exhibitions that are planned for the near future Karn will present a solo exhibition at: The Cedar House Gallery in Ripley, Surrey. The exhibition will be of small paintings and drawings entitled "Breathing Space Number 2".

Professor Holly was also shortlisted at the RA Summer Exhibition in August this year, as a contender for a new prize sponsored by Insight Investments.

Margaret said that her move from the Slade to the Royal Academy Schools is what had saved her career, as she had been unhappy at the Slade. Nobody had done that this before. I asked Margaret if she thought it had been harder for women to make their mark before the war when she had been a student, she said "Nooh I don't think so."

However she thought it was too easy to become a member of the NEAC these days, adding "we should go back to the old method." I looked bemused, Fred chuckled and Bill had his face licked by the dog again.



Dead tulips M Thomas



Hot tin roof

Fred Dubery

We talked about teaching and the famous people they taught. Bill and Fred, who had both taught at Walthamstow in the 50's, denied teaching Peter Blake, but Fred said "I taught the late Ian Drury all he knew. Sex, Drugs and Rock and Roll!" Francis fell about laughing, Fred's wife winced, Larry the dog lay on his back and Margaret tickled his tummy. Both Bill and Fred agreed Ian was a good painter as well as being a great singer and songwriter.

I asked them the question we all dread, "Who is your favorite painter?" Impossible to answer, I apologised and went for the recent popular approach:

Rembrandt or Carravaggio? 3-0 to Rembrandt.

Picasso or Matisse? Bill, Picasso. Fred, Matisse.

I asked Margaret and she chose Braque mixed with Wilson Steer!

We retired for some early supper prepared by Vera and, after Fred and Margaret had gone, I thought how lucky we are to be artists and to lead creative lives. Then there is this trio, still painting, having made the most of every fleeting moment in their progress.

Thanks to Vera for tea and to Margaret Thomas, William Bowyer and Fred Dubery for a wonderful afternoon.

Jason Bowyer

The New English Archive

For years I have given a home to the strange collection of files, books and folders that is the New English archive. When answering queries about past exhibitions I have frequently consulted the lovely old bound catalogues, with their beautiful contemporary engraved advertisements, which go back to 1887.

However the publishing of the Hilmarton Manor Press Dictionaries in 2002 has made it far simpler to use those four volumes. I have rarely looked at the registrars of turnstile receipts or of sales of pictures, or the books of minutes - though these are fascinating - so it has become obvious that this valuable material should be housed elsewhere and properly conserved and maintained.

Kenneth McConkey's researches for the History of the Club revealed a large number of NEAC press cuttings which have been at the Tate since the 60's. So it has seemed right that everything should be under the same roof and this summer we have donated our archive collection to them.

I felt genuinely sad to see it go but, of course, it is far better that it should now be accessible to the rest of the world!

Charlotte Halliday RWS NEAC

If you wish to see the material needs an application form there are the contact details:
HYMAN KREITMAN Research Centre Millbank London SW1P 4RG T:020 7887 8838 F:020 7887 3952
E: research.centre@tate.org.uk www.tate.org.uk/research/research_services/

Congratulations to **Richard Sorrell NEAC** on his election to the presidency of the Royal Watercolour Society. He plans to create a website that is more regional, starting with East Anglia perhaps, and extending the Friends organisation. Richard is keen to put the RWS on the map and give it a profile like the NEAC (obviously a good role model). This may prove a daunting challenge since watercolourists are so diverse and not easy to categorise.

We also congratulate **Jason Bowyer NEAC** who is now an elected member of the Royal Portrait Society.

STOP PRESS : The Painting of John Ward

First published in 1991 it has now been republished in paperback by popular demand. Andrew Lambirth writes a favourable review in the Spectator "This enchanting book chronicles the life and work of one of our finest realist painters. John Ward looks back on his life in a short but poignant memoir."

The text and illustrations remain unchanged from the 1991 edition.
Published by David & Charles ISBN 0715324438 at £20

22 September The book launch of THE NEW ENGLISH, A History of the New English Art Club by Kenneth McConkey, will take place at a reception in the Fine Rooms at The Royal Academy Burlington House Piccadilly London W1 from 6.45-8.45pm

12 October **Tom Coates PNEAC 'Trials & Tribulations'**
A talk with slides in the Garden Room of the The Arts Club 40 Dover Street London W1 6.30 for 7pm.
There will be a pay bar available.
Although quite separate, here is a rare opportunity, with the Arts Club opening its doors to non-members, to continue the evening after the talk with dinner. This can be arranged by booking a table directly with Arts Club on T:020 7499 8581

15 October **A service is to be held to celebrate St Luke**, the patron saint of artists, at 11 o'clock in The Chapel Royal of St Peter Ad Vincula at the Tower of London. It will be lead by our Chaplain, who is also the Chaplain of the Tower of London. Tom Coates, our president, will be reading one of the lessons. Access will be at the West Gate of the Tower at 10.45am, entrance is free and you will be able to visit the Tower after the service.

28 November **ANNUAL DINNER for FRIENDS of THE NEAC**
is to be held on Tuesday 28th November at The Mall Galleries Carlton House Terrace London W1
Sir William Orpen is the featured artist this year and his work will be displayed in the east gallery as usual.
The raffle prize at this year's dinner is being generously donated by Charlotte Halliday.
The evening is very popular so early booking is advised to avoid disappointment.

30 November The **ANNUAL MALL EXHIBITION** - will be officially opened by Esther Freud, writer, on Thursday 30th November at 1pm

5 December Kenneth McConkey, author of The New English will be giving a talk at The Mall Galleries Carlton House Terrace London W1 at 6.30 - 7.00 pm

Margaret Bill and Fred, 250 not out!



Margaret with Larry, Bill & Fred in the garden - July 2006

Francis and I were painting in Walberswick with some students and I thought it would be nice to bring this trio of characters together for tea as they all live close by in Suffolk. They are all celebrating significant birthdays this year and it was a good opportunity to informally discuss painting and ask a few poignant questions.

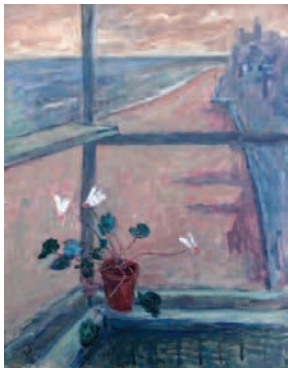
We sat in the late afternoon sunshine in Vera's (my mother) beautiful garden in Walberswick drinking tea and white wine in equal measure. Margaret's dog, a gambolling lamb-like teddy bear of a creature, playing with Margaret and licking Bill's face in between questions and posing for photographs, Fred chuckled throughout. I asked them about moments of revelation at the start of their careers.

Bill said "I went to Leek Museum and came across a strange atmospheric painting that made me return as often as I could." He was eight years old. He later found out it was a Whistler Nocturne



Chiswick Mall, Snow Bill Bowyer

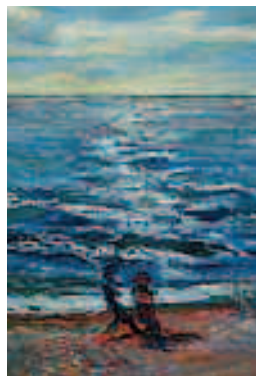
Fred talked of a private demonstration received from Ruskin Spear. "Here Dubery let me show you how to do that" then, with a flick of the brush and the graphic skill of a genius, Ruskin made a study of a head, in a short series of brush strokes, that astonished and enthralled him.



Aldeburgh view Margaret Thomas



Daisies Fred Dubery



North Sea, high sea Bill Bowyer

The New English School of Drawing



Drawings by Stuart Denyer

Tutors at the New English School of Drawing:

- Jason Bowyer
- Francis Bowyer
- Jane Corsellis
- Stuart Denyer
- David Gluck
- Karn Holly
- Julie Jackson
- David Parfitt
- Charles Williams
- Duncan Wood

NEAC Drawing School Scholarship:

The Scholarship has been an undoubted success for all the winners to date. It comprises free involvement in selected Drawing School activities during the year and a cash prize of £500. The winner will be announced at the Opening Prizegiving Ceremony of the NEAC Annual Exhibition in December. At the end of the year's study there is an opportunity for a small personal exhibition in the Mall Galleries to run concurrently with the NEAC Annual Exhibition. The submission deadline for 2006 is Monday 23rd October 2006. For an application form, please write to: The NEAC School of Drawing, PO Box 8760, Chelsea, SW3 4ZP.

Detailed study programmes for the Drawing School are available from: The Keeper at the above address

