

» 28.05.20

AT HOME

Ask the experts...

Free appraisals just a click away

As I write this column from my home, and not the usual desk in the shop, I am aware that by the time you read this lockdown restrictions could well have changed even more. For the antiques world the impact has been dramatic, of course, with shops closed, and auctions and antiques fairs cancelled. But surprisingly enquiries have not dropped off. With so many people stuck at home, attention has turned to those long overdue tasks of cleaning out attics, garages, cellars, or simply just cupboards and drawers. Of course, all manner of items can then be rediscovered that you need to know the value of



by TV antiques specialist **Clive Attrell**

– but with the antique dealers closed what can you do? Well, possibly one of the easiest and best ways to get a free appraisal for your items during these complicated times is to use the Cash 4 Collectables service – cash4collectables.co.uk. This is a simple online/postal system that allows anyone to send some photos or a short video of their items for an initial appraisal.

If you are interested in selling, and are happy with the rough price, they can arrange for a secure prepaid packet to be sent for your use, or arrange for collection if it's a larger item. All kinds of items can have value as an antique or collectable. Watches are a popular example, even if they are not working. If they are a good make, and in good condition they can still be of interest. The same can be true of jewellery, even costume jewellery, as well as antique pens, coins, medals, in fact almost anything old or collectable. Once you've sent your items,



you'll get a detailed report and valuation back. If you are happy with it, they will pay you the same day. If not, they will simply return your items... all at no cost to you. Of course, you can still message me on Facebook or call to make sure you get one of the first of my house call appointments once we are able

to begin those safely again. So if you are stuck at home, make the most of the time to maybe do some research on your favourite antiques or collectables, and have a good sort out so you can get those long-forgotten items valued. Stay safe everyone. **Find out more at freantiquesvaluations.com**

LOCKED DOWN BUT LEARNING

Does the thought of an evening class conjure up images of a tutor with elbow patches on his jacket? Then think again, because classes have moved with the times – so much so that Kent Adult Education (KAE) is embracing the latest technology – Zoom – in these different times to keep people interested, challenged, educated and feeling productive, all with expert help.

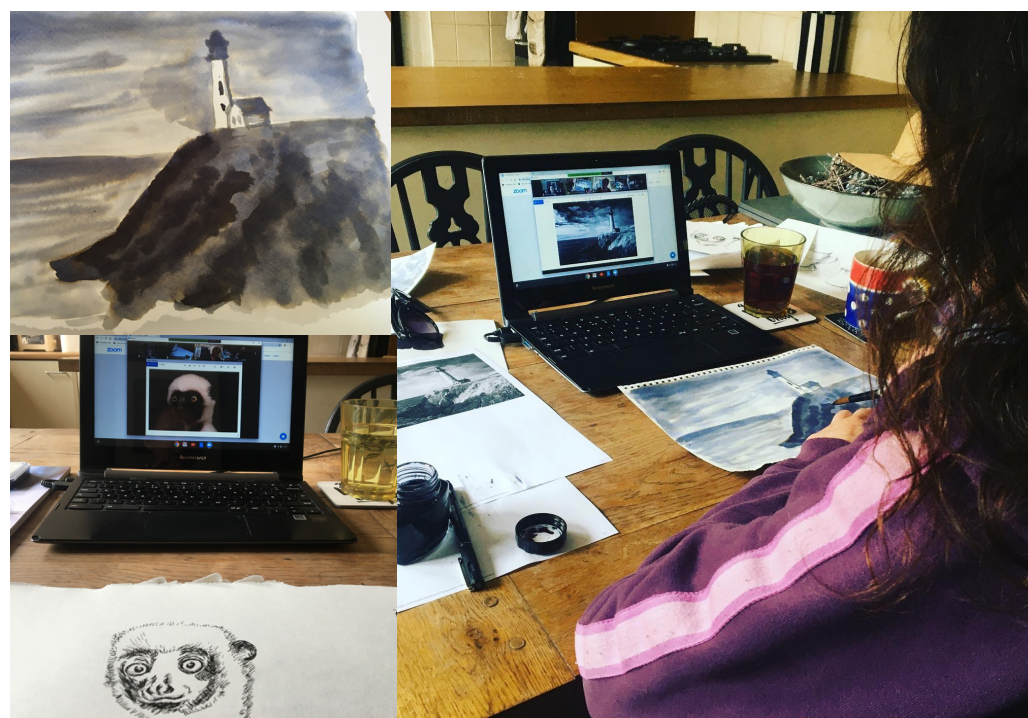
Just looking at the list of courses on offer at the moment, which can all be done at home online, will make you feel like you've learnt something. They range from the arts to business and IT; crafts, languages and history; to writing, counselling and even fitness and wellbeing. Armed with my rusty A-level art, I opted for a one-day course on a Saturday (so it didn't interfere with work) in Pen, Ink and Wash.

After signing up, I was sent a list of materials by my tutor Victoria, which were available online, though I did attempt to get a few from the eerily quiet WH Smith in Maidstone, with a small degree of success. They included a bottle of Quink ink; a black fineliner; a watercolour brush and watercolour paper, along with items we all have somewhere at home, such as pencil and rubber, kitchen towel and paper to sketch on.

The Zoom session meant 'meeting' everyone doing the course and our tutor, though I never actually saw her face, but instead saw her work as she demonstrated the techniques, from sketching with biro, and fineliner, and getting the shading right, and onto using varying amounts of water with the ink to provide shade and texture to our paintings.

It quickly became apparent that the class was full of regulars to the KAE's art courses, so clearly people want to keep coming

While some people have been flexing their muscles with online workouts, you might fancy stretching your creative muscles instead but if the thought of taking up a new hobby or honing a skill is appealing, where do you start? **Angela Cole** dusted off her artistic assets to find out.

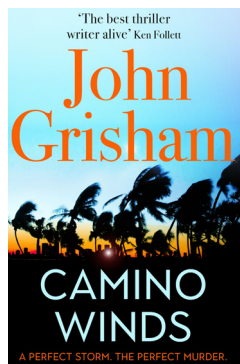


Angela Cole works on her ink wash painting for the Pen and Ink Illustration Day with Kent Adult Education

back. Initially, when we were asked to "show the class" our work, it was a bit nerve-racking, but that soon disappeared as we all had varying degrees of success with different techniques. My fineliner drawing of a surprised-looking lemur was probably my favourite work of the day, though admittedly the course was meant to move me on from that to painting with ink. But it's all about creativity,

so what one person gets out of it may be different to the next. Only one attendee had to drop out due to internet issues, and the informal feel of the session meant we were all comfortable enough to opt for a half-hour lunch break and even discussed how sleepy we felt later, after so much concentration. At the end, there was definitely a sense of achievement and a feeling of having stepped out of

my comfort zone, and been transported somewhere else. Whether I will get through that bottle of Quink I couldn't say, but who would have thought I could have broadened my horizons without leaving the house? That's worth a £7.25 ink bottle. **Angela's course cost £45, with materials roughly £30, including delivery charges. To find a course suitable for you visit kentadulthoodeducation.co.uk**



BOOK OF THE WEEK

Camino Winds by John Grisham (Hardback by Hodder & Stoughton, £20, ebook £10.99)

Bookstore owner Bruce Cable finds himself in the middle of a murder investigation. Soon a mysterious drug, a billion-dollar care company and multiple contract killers appear from the shadows in a fast-paced and thoroughly enjoyable read. Camino Winds is the second instalment in this series, and it is good to be back on the island. Luckily it's different enough from its predecessor to feel fresh and new, while Cable is a likeable protagonist that has been more fully developed this time. The novel has enough plot twists to keep you engaged without it feeling exhausting. Another compelling read from Grisham **Score: 8/10** **Review: Megan Baynes**



ALBUM OF THE WEEK

NOTES ON A CONDITIONAL FORM by The 1975

There aren't many good albums that could mix Greta Thunberg, 80s-inspired pop and intense punk vocals, yet Notes On A Conditional Form is the exception. The 1975's fourth album is a masterclass in the range of the alternative genre. Its traditional The 1975 opener is given to a Greta Thunberg speech set to gentle piano music, outlining the tone of the radical album. Clocking in at just over 80 minutes, the 22-track album is a commitment but would be well worth dedicating the time to, even without a lockdown.

Score: 8/10
Review: Jess Glass

GAME OF THE WEEK

What The Golf? Ridiculous. Absurd. Silly. These are just some of the words that sum up What The Golf? - and also make it the hole in one that it is. Playing the role of a golf ball in a research lab, you navigate around to different levels, tasked with everything from smashing a TV on the top of a cliff, to racing a sheep to the flag first. It's complete madness but is surprisingly good fun, addictive and will raise a smile or two. For full marks, we'd love to have seen the levels be a little more challenging - most could be overcome after a few brief attempts - but still this game is a putt above the rest. **Platform: Nintendo Switch, PC, iOS. From £13.49**

Score: 9/10
Review: Jamie Harris

GAME CHART

1. Animal Crossing: New Horizons
 2. Grand Theft Auto V
 3. Call Of Duty: Modern Warfare
 4. Fifa 20
 5. Mario Kart 8 Deluxe
 6. Star Wars Jedi: Fallen Order
 7. Luigi's Mansion 3
 8. Crash Bandicoot N.Sane Trilogy
 9. Red Dead Redemption 2
 10. Just Dance 2020
- Ukie Games Charts (c), compiled by GfK*