



September 2008

Newsletter

www.wokinghamartsgroup.org.uk

Chairman
Chris Parry
0118 978 3040

Treasurer
Sue Smith
0118 9792030

Secretary
Dani Marsden
0118 9791275

Diary Dates

October 21st
AGM
M. Smith
Art Appreciation.

October 26th
Outing to Mall Galleries.

November 18th
Jean Turton
Chinese Brush.

December 9th
Christmas Demo
Danny Byrne
Cartoonist.

Chairman's Report.

Well, what a great year we have had. Our demonstrations have been both exciting and stimulating; we have also attracted non members, who have come as guests, thanks to our monthly inclusion in the Wokingham word; which on one evening alone brought in twelve guests, most of them non painters, who thoroughly enjoyed watching artists at work. Our President, Paul Banning pulled another proverbial rabbit out of the hat, when he painted a view of the Grand Canal Venice, which went on to be included in an exhibition in the States. Our outing to the Mall Galleries in the early part of the year, to the Pastels exhibition, proved once again to be a most enjoyable day out.

Workshops followed in the succeeding weeks. The first was led by Dee Cowell, who introduced us to texture paste, and was a great success. The other was led by Soraya French who encouraged use of colour, inks and acrylics and getting rid of those inhibitions.

Our poster competition,

won by Madeline Hawes, was the lead in to our most successful exhibition since we moved to the St Paul's Parish rooms, our final total being £14,000. The economic climate that we found ourselves in did not bode well for the Summer show, but not only did we display a wealth of talent once again, but the public showed its appreciation of such an excellent display and bought in great numbers. We also gained twenty-six new members, who, so impressed with the standard of work, and hopefully by the atmosphere of friendliness that pervaded the exhibition, were encouraged to join.

So here we go into our next year, which of course goes from September to September; looking forward to more wonderful and inspiring demos and workshops, enjoying the camaraderie of the Monday painting group at Cornerstone, the outings and of course our flagship, the Summer Exhibition.

As this is the last letter I will be writing as Chairman, let me take this opportunity to wish you all the best, to thank

you for your support and to say, "make an early start on those paintings, ceramics, and glass – you know how the time flies!"

My best wishes to you all,
Chris.

Formal Notice of AGM.

The AGM will be held on Tuesday October 21st at 7.30pm, in the Methodist Church in Rose Street, Wokingham. Copies of the agenda will be available at the meeting.

There are some vacancies on the committee. We need a new **Treasurer**, so if you would like to do this job please come forward.

We also need a new **Newsletter Editor**. This job is not too burdensome, and you always know what's going on! Some knowledge of computer operation, or someone who can help you, is necessary.

Some assistance is needed with the **Video and DVD table**. If you would like to help Glynis Ormesby, or if two people could volunteer, it would be appreciated.

We also need new **Ordinary Committee Members**.

Names for these positions will be nominated and seconded at the AGM.

If you would like to **help** with various activities, without being on the committee, there is a space on the form at the end of the newsletter for you! Extra help is always useful.

Exhibition Prizewinners.

Best in show was won by Libby Drew, and was presented by Lady Elizabeth Godsal.

The Sandra Fagan award for Best Watercolour went to Liz Seward Relfe, presented by Peter Fagan.

Best Work in Ceramics and Pottery was won by Joy Boobyer and presented by Councillor Brian Willis.

Best Painting in other media went to Christine Morgan, and the President's Cup for services to the Group was awarded to Madeline Hawes.

Subscriptions.

Subs are now due and should be sent to the treasurer with the slip at the end of the newsletter. (This does not apply to people whose subs are automatically taken out of exhibition sales.)

Full members £15.

Associate members £12.

Send to:

Sue Smith

16 Larkspur Close

Wokingham.

RG41 3NA.

Cheques should be payable to WADAG.

Bradbury Centre.

We are invited as a group to display three pictures at a time in the Bradbury centre. This is another opportunity to sell work, and if you are interested please contact Alison Messias on 0118 9783188.

Coach Trip to the Mall Gallery - Royal Society of Marine Artists Exhibition - Sunday Oct 26 2008.

A trip has been arranged for this annual exhibition which is always a particularly good one, with a broad appeal. You can expect to see paintings in a wide variety of media and interpretation of the general theme. Our coach will leave Wokingham Broad St., from outside Montague House at 9-30am, arriving around 10-30am.

The gallery is right by Trafalgar Square so you will have the opportunity to explore other exhibitions in the vicinity, such as the National or Portrait Gallery. If you fancy stocking up on art materials at tempting prices, have a look at the 'Cass' art materials shop just up past the Portrait Gallery entrance.

*NB. It is the last day of the Mall Gallery exhibition which means they will close early at 3-0pm, so you are advised to start there to ensure you have plenty of time. The coach will depart at 4-0pm for the return journey. The cost per person is £11.50, payable on booking - please use the booking slip (at the end of the newsletter). Cheques should be made payable to WADAG. Current WDC travel tokens are accepted. Entry to the Mall Gallery at group rate is £1.50pp. payable on the door. If you haven't yet been to the newly re-furbished gallery, they have a very nice refreshments area!

Please send bookings to **Liz Manley**,
47, Langborough Rd.,
Wokingham
RG40 2BU
Tel: 0118 977 2569. Book promptly to ensure a place.
*PS. Liz may be away from 11-17 Oct; back in good time for the trip.

Website.

Leslie Tooze took the major step of giving birth to a website for members to use, www.wokinghamartsgroup.org.uk but has now passed it over to **Sam Dauncey** for adoption. Sam hopes more members will get interested in it, not only using it as a quick reference but also helping everyone else by sending him anything, including photos, that might interest their fellows. A look at the gallery will give you a link to how to send pictures (easy!). By the way, for suggestions, news, local events and pictures, email website@wokinghamartsgroup.org.uk is easiest for him.

Charvil Art Group.

Charvil Art Group is holding its Annual Exhibition at St Patrick's Hall, Charvil, (off the A4). This is on Saturday October 4th, from 10am until 5pm. Admission is free and there will be refreshments.

Russ Calver, June 17th.

Pastel Portrait.

Russ brought along a matt photograph of a friend to work from. The matt finish, with no reflections, is easier to work with, and Russ prefers to paint portraits of people he has got to know.

He starts by fixing the main features, using charcoal and measuring carefully all the time. For a commission he said he might spend a whole day on this stage! He uses a putty rubber to make any alterations that may be necessary.

Colour is introduced gradually next. Russ uses Senellier soft pastels, and Stabilo pastel pencils. At first he looks for areas of tone and shadows, making forward areas lighter than further back. He uses pastel sticks to mould the features, and checks both portrait and photo in a mirror to ensure a likeness.

The pastel pencils are used for details and Russ does a certain amount of blending with his fingers. He emphasised, however, not to blend everything; a smooth skin is better with a "craggy" background for instance.

When he is happy with the face he turns his attention to other areas such as the T-shirt and hair. The white shirt is painted pale blue to leave himself room for white highlights. In the hair he recommended Pierre noir as the best black for darks.

To finish off Russ used a wet white pastel pencil for highlights in the eyes, and touches of charcoal to darken shadows.

Russ used Canson paper for this demonstration, and told us that he never uses fixative. The evening was entertaining and informative, and the finished portrait was inspiring!

Pat Johnson.

Society of Women Artists.

June Ridley and friends from our art group went to the Mall Galleries to see the exhibition of the Society of Women Artists. They braved the crowds at 12 o'clock and saw Lady Gabriella Windsor open the exhibition. She seemed rather shy, but charming.

They reported that several members of Wokingham Art Group had pictures in the exhibition, among them Jane Wheaton, Rosemary de Goede, Liz Seward-Relph, and Christine Nasen.

Linda Adams also had four pictures accepted and was delighted to receive the Frank Herrell award for her picture entitled "Dance Routine".

Wendy Jelbert, Mixed Media Demonstration, 19/8/2008.

Surrounded by samples of her work, cards, brushes, videos, DVDs, gadgets and books (all for sale) Wendy started straight into a description of how she got inspiration by travelling, stressing the importance of sketch-books (with maps and descriptions) and photos (including close-ups for interesting detail). Even if the foreign weather is too hot or too wet you can still fill your sketchbook with still-life.

She had prepared her unstretched 140lb Langton NOT paper by trowelling in some texture paste for foreground rocks, drawing in pencil (for guidance, specially necessary

for people), applying masking fluid (with a draughtsman's pen and splattering) and adding some detail in both permanent ink and water-soluble sepia inks. For the inks she had used a Pentel Brush Pen and a Rörtring Art Pen. Masking fluid must have a colour that is visible against the paper – she likes the blue – and can be kept thin enough by adding clean water if it has started to dry up – a pen is better than a brush. The preparation had taken her about an hour.

Then the painting. She had pre-filled the pans in the paint-box with tube watercolour. She used her own design of sword-liner brush for everything from fine detail to broad washes. We saw a fairly conventional wet-into-wet start: cobalt into the top of a wetted sky; violet for distant hills; cerulean for closer hills; yellow and olive greens getting stronger as you come forward, violet shadows (and to darken the

greens), yellow ochre and burnt sienna for the foreground bare earth and dead grasses.

Wendy spent quite a time adding more and more colour, before and after removing the masking fluid. The brush pen and water-soluble pencils darkened in negative shapes. The water-soluble ink ran with a similar soft effect.

Bits of advice kept coming. The texture paste, although sold for acrylic, still lets some watercolour stick to it. Oil pastel (wax) provides an interesting coloured resist, to which the watercolour won't stick, and it can be added even over wet paint. Fight the temptation to go back into half-dry washes – make sure everything is totally dry first - of course this is absolutely vital before you take off the masking fluid. Remember to identify your focal point and make sure that it contains the brightest and darkest areas. Use lots of different photos of

people to populate, for example, your café or market scenes (and remember that backs, thighs and lower legs are normally all about the same length).

One could go on. All in all it was a most interesting and satisfying evening.

Sam Dauncey

Jacksons.

Brenda Baldwin is still taking orders for Jacksons Art Supplies, either at the meetings or by phone; 0118 9784481. This means small individual amounts can be ordered without incurring postal charges; useful if you only need one small tube of paint!

Next Newsletter.

Please send items to Rachel Morrell
370 Finchampstead Road,
Wokingham,
RG40 3LA.
0118 9328975.
rachelbmorrell@hotmail.com

CORNERSTONE.

Informal painting group;
just bring your paints and
turn up!

Every Monday 2.00 until
4.30.
£2.50 includes
refreshments.

For more details call
Barbara Carter
0118 9782993

VIDEO LIBRARY

There is a selection of art
videos and DVDs at the
monthly meetings for hire by
members of the Group. Hire
charge is £1 per item. Please
return promptly at the
next meeting.

For more information, or if
you have any suggestions,
please contact

Glynis Ormesby
0118 9783604

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