

Wokingham Art Society

Newsletter – September 2009

www.wokinghamartsociety.org.uk

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“High & dry “, by A Messias



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

What a wonderful exhibition – again! Apart from the amazing quality of exhibits and the very healthy sales, the fortnight at St Paul's provided a wonderful opportunity for us to meet up with other group members in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere for a chat, delicious refreshments and a feast for the eyes! Of course the talented artists take the credit for the quality of the displays but the committee and many other members deserve huge thanks for the way it was all put together and run: the beautiful flowers by Avril ; the refreshments at Preview; the hanging team; the extensive publicity; the daily managers, stewards also, Dave Parry and boys with the van, and of course the treasurer for keeping tabs on all the sales and paying the artists their dues. Many, many thanks to you all. Thanks too, to our judge Julian Mitchell for the impossible challenge of selecting prizewinners:

Best in Show

Alison Messias for
“Gull at St Ives”

The Sandra Fagan Prize for Best Watercolour

Sue Smith for
Tiddly Om Pom
Pom

The Ray Mills Award for

Outstanding Entry
in Any Medium

Other than Watercolour by

Annie Edmunds for
Koi Carp 1

The Vice

President's Shield
for Ceramics by

Rosemarie de Goede
SWA for Decorated
Plate.

The public chose

Sun After Rain by
Chris Parry for

‘The People’s
Choice’)

Chris Parry was also

awarded The
President's cup for
Services to the
Society

Diary Dates

15th September

Roger Dellar
TBA

20th October

AGM
Freda Anderson
TBA

17th November

Paul Howard
Inktense Pencils

Christmas Demo

15th December

Robin Mackervoy
Oils

Visitors to the exhibition were full of praise for the standard of the work and were encouraged to choose their favorite three, out of paintings pottery and jewelry – a task they seemed to relish and I was impressed at how carefully they considered their decision. At the Members' Preview in the afternoon and also at the Opening Night, when we collated the results (before the exhibits started to sell!) : Throughout the whole exhibition 2177 votes were cast and many of you were chosen as their 'favorite' by several visitors. Of course it would be impossible to list you all, but do have a look at our website, where Sam Dauncey has been doing a grand job of reporting on the exhibition, demos etc etc – Thanks Sam!

. If any of you get the chance to visit Alresford, our President, Paul Banning is currently exhibiting at the Alresford Gallery. The exhibition continues until September the 29th. The gallery is open Tuesday-Saturday 10am to 5pm, Closed 1-130pm. Visit the website www.alresfordgallery.co.uk for more details and a glimpse of the paintings. Perhaps you could include a trip on a steam train at the Watercress Line which has a station nearby.

We are also looking for people to help in other ways without necessarily being

on the committee – for instance to assist Alison at the video table on demo evenings. It would be helpful to know if we could call on you for such tasks – so please contact me if you are willing to help. Freda Anderson will be our guest demonstrator on the evening of the AGM so we will try to keep the 'business' brief so that we can enjoy her painting! See you there

Sue

16th Jun, Demo by

Heather Jolliffe

W/c & W/c Pencils

For her first painting, Corfe Castle, Heather put "horizon blue" and a little cobalt watercolour into a previously wetted sky. She worked upside down so that the stronger colour ran to the "top". Kitchen towel lifted out some lighter cloud areas and indigo helped to darken the top of the sky some more. Then the dry watercolours (sticks and pencils). Heather kept reiterating that the paper must be bone dry when you apply these, otherwise the colour will soak into the paper and be impossible to move. She spread some yellowish foreground with the side of a stick and then used a light grey graphite-coloured one to position the castle and middle-distance features. A couple of green ones introduced colour and

darkened the light grey for the trees and grass, although she says she usually prefers to mix her own greens.

She had used a 1.5 inch square flat brush on the sky but most of the brushwork was with a No 14 round. By tickling the wet brush over the dry lines the colour was virtually all lifted and spread so that the drawing lines became barely visible. For the second painting, sky and trees, she put down patches of dry colour for the sky and completely eliminated the pencil marks with the wet brush.

Then she built up the trees with a very dark mix of indigo and vandyke brown, reminding us that the tip of the brush should point away from the centre of the mass.

Heather presented her ideas very clearly and gave us a most interesting evening - we don't often get two paintings for the price of one.

Sam Dauncey

Book Now

For

Oxford and the Ashmolean Museum and Gallery.

**A pre Christmas trip
to Oxford and its
many delights.**

**After seeing the newly
opened Museum and
galleries, have lunch
there, or enjoy a short
walk into Oxford,
taking the opportunity
to do some Christmas
shopping in the many
and varied shops and
wonderful covered
market.**

**What a great way
to brighten up your
November.**

**Look out for the slip at
the back of this letter.**

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Demonstration using Pastel

The demo was a lovely "stream-of-consciousness", slipping between the painting process and reminiscences of her life in Zimbabwe as a youngster (a dozen big dogs to protect children too small to see predators over the long grass, a domesticated baboon grooming a terrified chicken because people didn't like to be groomed, and so on).

Dee was using a black Daler Rowney Murano paper - "Dark paper is particularly good if you're lazy". Other papers are available if you want more tooth (Fischer 400lb) or less (Sennelier pastel card). Tooth becomes increasingly important the more layers of pastel you want to apply.

She's collected an enormous range of pastels (hard, soft, even pastel pencils - Faber-Castel's are good

Hints started pouring out:

- lightly mark the focal point and other interesting features (don't be a slave to the original)
- arrangements look good if the flowers reach about one and a bit vase-heights above the vase itself
- to see tonal differences take a B&W photo (or look through a bit of red craft-shop film)
- start a bit dull and add

colour and lights at the end - "Don't do it too soon"

- look how leaves are attached to the stem (staggered? in pairs?) - often more important than the flowers themselves.
- charcoal is great for darkening if you don't have a dark enough tone
- everything looks much fresher if you make graduations of colour gently with the original colours, not by smudging
- a stiff brush will remove pastel and a wet one will soften edges (putty rubbers leave marks)
- petals are single stroke spikes, not loops
- test colours on the edge of the paper and still the hints kept coming as work proceeded: until it was coffee

After coffee Dee started putting more detail in, but often knocked it back again (dry brush) until she was happy with it. The top left white flower was done with single strokes of the edge of a short pastel stick. She sharpened edges, defining petals, by adding very dark negative spaces. A slash of green stalk and some blue flowers pushed the left-hand rose back. By the way, these blue flowers, done by stabbing with the end of a pastel stick, were originally lime-yellow but that didn't suit the colour composition (artist's license).

She then left the picture to show us quickly how a wet brush can lift colour off a soft pastel stick and apply it to a wishy-washy watercolour to bring it to life. Most of the darker pink here was applied that way.. A final surprise was to be told that Schminke sell a varnish to make watercolours wipeable. Golden Acrylics Topcoat (gloss or semi gloss) high UVLS filters prevent fading. What a demonstration, informative, relaxed, and humorous –what a professional.

Sam Dauncey



OMany thanks to Dee Cowell for stepping in at almost no notice to provide us with an excellent demo last month when our scheduled demonstrator let us down.

A big thank you to **Avril Price Galagher** for the beautiful flowers she supplied and arranged so artistically for the entrance hall at our Summer Exhibition.

Also our thanks to Daphne Walker for organizing the Reading Guild painting days and then keeping us informed as to when and where with a detailed list of venues plus directions.

Message from the Treasurer



SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are now due and should be sent to the treasurer, Don Lowey, along with the accompanying slip that you will find at the end of this newsletter.

Full members £15,
Associate £12

PLEASE NOTE that if you are a new member joining at the Exhibition, your subscription is already paid until next September. Ignore this notice if your subscription was automatically deducted by the treasurer from sales at the Summer Exhibition

Don Lowey
Treasurer

Dates for your diary

Mall galleries

Exhibitions

Society of Wildlife Artists

23rd Sept - Sunday 4th Oct

Royal Society of Miniature

Painters Sulpture

Tues 13th – 25th October

Royal Society of Marine Artists.

Wed 14th – Sun 25th Oct

Royal Institute of Oil Painters.

28th Oct - Sun 8th Nov

Seclection of Contemporary Art

Thursday 12th – Sun 22 Nov

New English Art Club

Fri 27th Nov – Mon 7th Dec



Coach Trip to the Ashmolean

Saturday

November 21st

*A coach has been booked to visit the newly re-opened Ashmolean Museum in Oxford.

This museum has undergone extensive re-development over the past four years with the support of Heritage lottery funding, and **includes 39 new galleries.** The museum houses a rich collection of art and treasures and is introducing a new display concept - **'Crossing Time - Crossing Cultures'** aimed at stimulating thoughts about the making of the modern world.

We anticipate that this will be a popular outing and you are advised to book promptly.

The Ashmolean is centrally located in the heart of Oxford and has its own shop and café.

Our coach will leave Wokingham Broad St. from outside Montague House (now Immo's Restaurant) at 9-30am and will depart from the Ashmolean at 4-30pm



Cost is £11-50 pp. to cover transport costs - entrance to the museum is free.

Please send the booking form (in newsletter) together with payment to Liz Manley 47, Langborough Rd., Wokingham RG40 2BU.

Tel 0118 9772569.

Cheques should be made out to Wokingham Art Society.
Current WDC travel tokens are accepted.

A heartfelt message from Alice Stone to all fellows.

Because of your amazing response to my plea for any unwanted painting equipment I was able to set up a painting room on the holiday in Brittany.

It was a great success and I managed to mount a lot of the pictures painted by the wheelchair bound guests that travelled on the special "Jumberlance holiday" Even the many carers joined in

Message Board

Do you have a message for the board?
If so we would love to hear from you.

NOTICE OF AGM

The AGM will be held on Tuesday October 20th at 7.30 pm in the Methodist Church Rose Street, Wokingham. If you would like to submit a notice of motion or nominate yourself or another for a place on the committee, please let me know by writing to Sue Smith, 16 Larkspur Close, Wokingham, RG41 3NA (or email to ssquared@btinternet.com) at least ten days before the meeting.

Our thoughts go out to Chris Lyng, following the tragic death of her grandson, Patrick, "Paddy" in July.

Video Library

There is a selection of art videos and DVD's at the monthly meetings for hire by members of the society. Hire charge is £1 per item. Please return item promptly at the next meeting. For more information, or if you have any suggestions, please contact
Alison Messias
0118 9783188



A message of thanks

How grateful both Gerry's two daughters and I are at the huge amount of letters, cards and general good wishes we've received following Gerry's death. As we've had approximately 400 I cannot reply to them all but we have been really touched by everyone's kindness. I am fine and very busy with many new projects and generally getting on with life.

My thanks to all.
Liz Seward-Relfe

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

Alison Messias
0118 9783188

V & A Traynor Fine Arts Picture Framing

8, Victoria Place,
Terrace Road North
Binfield RG42 5JB
Tel: 01344 425508

Next News Letter

Please email items to Chris Parry at parryhouse@aol.com or

Chris Parry
30 Lowther Rd.,
Wokingham RG41 1JD