

Society Sketchbook

Issue 16

December, 2012

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DOUGLAS SKEGGS

Art Historian lectures on David Hockney
Friday 7th December, 7.30pm
at The ARC, Alresford.
Join us for mulled wine & mince pies after the meeting.

ROBERT NEWCOMBE

Demo: Impressionistic Watercolours
Friday 11th January, 2.30pm
at The ARC, Alresford.
Please note this is an afternoon meeting.

ROBERT NEWCOMBE

Workshop: Create Impressionistic watercolours
Saturday 12th January, 10-4 Christy Hall, Old Alresford. (£25)
Booking form page 3.

DAVE WHITE

Demonstration: Canines in Acrylics
Friday 1st February, 2.30pm
at The ARC, Alresford.
Please note this is an afternoon meeting.

DAVE WHITE Acrylic Workshop: Pet Portraits

Saturday 9th February, 10-4 Christy Hall, Old Alresford. (£25)
Booking form page 3.

RENOWNED ART HISTORIAN IN TOWN

The speaker at our meeting on the 7th December is art historian Douglas Skeggs, who will lecture on David Hockney.

Douglas read Fine Art at Magdalene College, Cambridge and since 1980 has become a well-known lecturer on the history and techniques of painting in this country and overseas.

A regular lecturer at The Study Centre and on Christie's *The History of Art Studies* and other London courses, Douglas has also escorted many cultural tours around Europe and helped to set up the Abercrombie & Kent Private Label Tours and is currently cultural adviser to Ultimate Travel.



Art historian Douglas Skeggs



Winter Tunnel, February 2006, by David Hockney

Douglas has published six novels and his book *Monet - River of Light*, sold 65,000 copies. An accomplished painter he has held three one-man exhibitions.

He has lectured in Belgium, France, Germany and Spain and, as a TV presenter, has written and presented a number of TV documentaries, notably the Omnibus programme on Whistler and the exhibition video on William Morris. He has made several art documentaries and written and advised on many more.

Do join us for mulled wine and mince pies after the meeting.

SURVEY RESULTS

A big thank you to all the members who took the time to fill in our summer questionnaire.

Some 100 members replied to give us their views on, amongst other things, changing meeting nights. It was a valuable exercise to find out more about our ever-expanding membership and what you want us to provide for you in the future.

Of the members who replied, only 26 were unhappy with a

potential change to a Wednesday night with the remainder enthusiastic or not unduly worried what night of the week we met.

Based on our findings, the committee has decided that with effect from September 2013, Art Society meetings will take place on the fourth Wednesday of the month - as this was the Wednesday that held the least problems for you.



Merry Christmas everyone!

OUT & ABOUT

This may have been a poor summer weather-wise but our experiment with outings certainly brought a ray of sunshine. Instead of four painting days, we replaced two with trips out, with some eighty members getting out and about.

There was so much to see at **Art in Action**, that it was impossible to pack it all into one day and we have pledged to go again in 2013. There were inspiring artists demonstrating in every medium as well as glass blowing, sculpting, jewellery making, wood carving, music, lectures and exhibitions of art of all kinds. There was also a chance to buy materials in the art market or to take a stroll round the beautiful gardens.



Tuareg craftsmen working in leather and silver.

The visit to the **Watts Gallery** at Compton was a real eye-opener on the life and work of G.F. Watts (the art superstar of his day) and his amazing wife Mary, who created the stunning Memorial chapel. At one time they were teaching 70 people from the village how to work in clay - which must have involved most of the local community! Lucinda Lambton was indeed right when she said it was the most extraordinary, original, marvellous and magical building.

Now that the gallery has had a multi-million pound make-over it can host visiting exhibitions and we saw works by the artists of Dickens time who were influenced by his work, with paintings showing the denizens of Victorian London. Do go if you get the chance, it's a great day out - and the food is fab too.



Inside the Watts Memorial Chapel

Out & About continued....



Painting down by the river at the Vyne.

The weather was gorgeous on our day out at **The Vyne** at Sherbourne St John and the National Trust property certainly had something for everyone. Our private visit to **Dean House** in Kilmeston was also a delight. It would be difficult to find anywhere more pleasant to spend a bright and sunny September day. The walled garden was a real treat, the herbaceous borders stunning and everywhere you looked there were too many choices to paint including the beautiful house. Our thanks to Head Gardener Julian Blackwell for making it possible.



We had Dean House garden all to ourselves.

Next year's plans include a vineyard taste and paint and a social event. Any suggestions to Janet Price at janetrprice49@hotmail.com or call 01962 861566.

SPRING CLASSES

Portrait classes for the experienced portrait artist will start on Tuesday 5th February 2013 at the Christy Hall, Old Alresford, from 4-6pm. It will be a six week course costing £75. If you wish to attend these classes or find out more about other classes including Life or Portraits for Beginners, please contact Jean Bassington.

The Thursday morning watercolour class, taught by Val Harper, which takes place from 10-12 at The ARC in Alresford, has a few places and Jean is your contact for that class too. Telephone 01962 733954 or email Jean at jean_bassington78@hotmail.com.

Contact Sue Gentry on 01962 733893 or at sue.gentry@gentrypublicity.co.uk should you wish to put your name on the waiting list for Tuesday or Friday watercolour classes, which are currently full.

MEET THE COMMITTEE

Violet Jones is your go to committee member for all workshop bookings.

Joining the Art Society three years ago when she moved to Alresford, Violet was quickly snapped up by the committee. She first took up a paintbrush eight years ago when she and husband Peter retired to Spain. Her neighbour was running classes and she had the opportunity to dabble in every medium but now concentrates on watercolour.

In the 1970's Violet helped to run her husband Peter's software consultancy in the West End and they travelled widely, especially in the United States, where they toyed with settling down, however they stayed in the UK and she later became a GP practice manager in Weybridge.



Violet Jones

When they moved again, she couldn't find a suitable position, so Violet took her skills from the human to the animal kingdom and became a practice manager for a local veterinary practice in Godalming.

A busy grandmother, Violet has one son, one daughter and two granddaughters.

CHARITY SALE

A big thank you to everyone who donated art materials or bought items at our charity sale at the October meeting.

We raised £61 on the night and will add this to the money collected in donations from the Dean House painting day to enable us to send £171 to Home-Start Winchester and Districts.

This local charity supports young families in crisis within a 12 mile radius of Winchester.

For more information visit
www.home-startwinchester.org.uk.

A Warm Welcome to new members

Mike Hawthorn, Caroline Westley, Holly Hickmore and Helen Wylie.

ALRESFORD SURGERY EXHIBITION

The Society has a continuous exhibition in the Alresford Surgery, by kind permission of the doctors, which is changed on a regular basis.

Any member can volunteer a painting for there is no selection policy. Whilst members may sell paintings from time to time, the prime aim of the exhibition is to brighten the environment of visiting patients, whilst also promoting the Society and the skills of its members.

Contact Jill Jennings at jill@jenningsj.plus.com or Wendy Starforth Hill on 01962 732131 for more information.

BOOK YOUR WORKSHOPS NOW

We have two exciting workshops for you in the Spring.

Robert Newcombe will hold a workshop designed to help you create impressionistic watercolours on the 12th January and Dave White will be leading an acrylic session for us on Saturday 9th February on Pet Portraits.

You can read more about Robert and Dave on page 4.

Your workshop place is not guaranteed until your cheque for £25, enclosed with this booking form, has been received.

Please put my name down for the following workshops:

ROBERT NEWCOMBE
Impressionistic watercolours

DAVE WHITE
Pet Portraits in acrylic

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

EMAIL

Please return with your cheque for £25 for each workshop to: Violet Jones, 3 New Farm Road, Alresford SO24 9QS.

Any queries email violet.jones1@gmail.com or telephone 01962 738545.

ROBERT NEWCOMBE AND THE FIVE C'S

Robert Newcombe is our guest demonstrator on Friday 11th January at 2.30pm.

A regional finalist in Channel 4's *Watercolour Challenge*, Robert has been drawing and painting in water-colour for over 30 years and has had a number of solo and shared exhibitions.

He is currently a resident artist on P&O cruises.

Robert paints in three distinct styles: **Impressionistic water colour** using transparent washes to build up a painting using tone and colour to create dramatic effects. **Impressionistic Line and Wash**, a loose line and wash technique,

(often drawn with a matchstick instead of a pen) producing paintings with more detail and **Impressionistic Gouache**. Using tinted paper he combines water-colour and gouache and sometimes ink drawing in the style of Turner and Brabazon.

His book *Robert Newcombe's 5 C's of Painting* describes in detail his revolutionary 5C's system, which forms the basis of all his demonstrations and teaching and he has also published a DVD entitled *Impressionistic Line and Wash*.

A selection of work from his trips around the world, can be seen at www.robertnewcombeartist.com.

Please note that Robert's workshop will take place the day after his demonstration.



Lighthouse, St John's, Newfoundland

Don't forget our January and February meetings are afternoon meetings

ANIMAL MAGIC IN ACRYLICS

Our demonstrator on 1st February is Dave White who will show us his skill at capturing animals in acrylic. (Please note this is an afternoon meeting.) This will be followed by a Pet Portrait workshop on the 9th February.

Dave studied art at Chester City Grammar School where he was inspired by the history of architecture and perspective and developed a passion for Picasso and the Impressionists. However, he had no intention of becoming an artist and went into blue chip companies such as Shell; worked offshore and became a Finance Director, before realising that there was more to life than commuting on the motorways of Britain every day! In 2004 he started to paint water, then local land and sea-scapes and most recently animals.

Now a commissioning artist, he has been appointed an adult education tutor; teaches painting in acrylics at Brockenhurst College and regularly demonstrates to societies. He is also resident artist at the Rhinefield Hotel. His studio is in the New Forest and his great inspiration is the sea and the coast including the Isle of Wight.

His latest work in capturing the character of people's animals has led to recognition by the Kennel Club, which invited him to show at their Winter Fair in Piccadilly and at Crufts, where each year he now gains numerous commissions, many from overseas. Find out more at www.davewhite.org.uk.



The British Set by Dave White

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