

Society Sketchbook

Issue 24

December, 2014

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DOUGLAS SKEGGS

A New Look at the Dutch Masters.

Wednesday 26th November, 7.30pm at The ARC, Alresford.

Join us for mulled wine & mince pies after the meeting.

ALEX ROCH

Demonstration: Portraits in Water Soluble Oils

Wednesday 28th January, 2.30pm

at The ARC, Alresford.

Please note this is an afternoon meeting.

ALEX ROCH

Workshop: Portraits in Water Soluble Oils

Saturday 7th February, 10-4 Christy Hall, Old Alresford. (£25)

Booking form page 3.

JONATHAN NEWEY

Demo: A Winter Landscape in Watercolour Pencils

Wednesday 25th February, 2.30pm

at The ARC, Alresford.

Please note this is an afternoon meeting.

JONATHAN NEWEY

Workshop: Landscape in Watercolour Pencils

Saturday 7th March, 10-4 Christy Hall, Old Alresford. (£25)

Booking form page 3.

ART HISTORIAN MAKES RETURN VISIT

Internationally acclaimed art historian Douglas Skeggs returns to his old home town to delight us with another erudite view of the arts.

An accomplished speaker who lectures around the world, he can turn his hand to so many facets of the art world, so it is difficult to make a decision on what he should speak on as we are always spoilt for choice.

Douglas has already entertained us with talks as disparate as the Art of Venice and David Hockney and, at our 26th November meeting, he will take A New Look at the Dutch Masters.

Make sure you make a date in your diary for this not to be missed talk and, if you are planning on bringing a guest, there will be a charge of £5.



Art historian Douglas Skeggs

Join us for mulled wine and mince pies after the November meeting.

PENCIL THIS IN YOUR DIARY TOO

The heat just radiates off the walls in this painting by Jonathan Newey and you can feel the stillness as siesta time arrives and everyone heads for a nap.

Jonathan will be demonstrating at our February 25th meeting, however he will not be bringing

a warm Mediterranean glow to a February afternoon, but a Winter Landscape in watercolour pencils. *(Please note this meeting will be at 2.30pm.)*

Born in Reading, Jonathan Newey is an award-winning artist with over 25 years experience in drawing and painting.

He has over 16 years experience as a teacher and lecturer and has taught in local and national adult education colleges in the UK and around the world including Greece, Cyprus, Spain, France and Italy.

A member of the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, Jonathan has been selected for their Wildlife

Artist of the Year exhibition at the Mall Galleries three years running. He has published several books and you can find out more at www.jonathannewey.com.

You can also join Jonathan for a workshop on Saturday 7th March at the Christy Hall, Old Alresford from 10-4. Booking form on page 3, fee £25.



Feel the heat in this painting - Green Letterbox in acrylic by Jonathan Newey

MEET THE COMMITTEE

Robin Bashford is the newest recruit to the Society's Committee.

Married, with four children and seven grandchildren, Robin was born in Reigate in Surrey before eventually moving to Southampton then on to Alresford, where he has lived for the last seven years.

Now retired, Robin was a gas distribution engineer, who looked after the gas pipes in the road and the



Robin Bashford

people who dug up the roads to repair them.

He enjoys playing golf, walking and most sports and outdoor activities. Like many people, Robin decided he would give art a go now that he has more time in retirement.

"My preference is for landscapes and portraits," says Robin.

"I have never had any formal training, having had a technical education."

OH BROTHER!

The last painting day of 2014 took us to St Cross Hospital where we enjoyed a gloriously warm day and a warm welcome from Brother Bevis Hillier, pictured below with his sister, Art Society member, Mary Thompson.



Bevis first gave us a talk about the history of this wonderful place before we spent the day in the beautiful gardens, basking in the sunshine and trying to capture some of the charm of the medieval buildings.

Our August visit to **Roche Court New Art Centre** was an eye opener and our tour of the contemporary art on display was by turns breathtaking, puzzling, amusing and inspiring. Unfortunately we are not allowed to show you any of the exhibits!

YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

Please do let us know if you change your email address as we contact most members by email these days, with some 135 out of 169 members now online.

If you should change your address please notify the Secretary immediately.

SPRING CLASSES

Thursday watercolour classes, taught by Val Harper, will take place from 10am-12noon and run for 10 weeks. Course fee £60. Val will also be tutoring an eight week **Portrait class** on Tuesdays from 1.30-3.30pm, fee £70.

Oil classes tutored by Karen Popham will continue on Mondays for 10 weeks from 4.15-6.15pm, course fee £70. Karen will also lead a **Life class** from 4.15-6.15pm on a Tuesday for 10 weeks. Class Fee £80. Please contact Jean Bassington for information on dates on 01962 733954 or email Jean at jean_bassington78@hotmail.com to book a place.

Friday morning watercolour classes are held from 10am-12 noon and **Tuesday evening classes** from 7.30-9.30pm. Course fees £60.

Contact Sue Gentry on 01962 773185 or email sue.gentry@gentrypublicity.co.uk for more details.

All the above classes take place at the Christy Hall, Old Alresford.

RACHEL THOMSEN

It is with great sadness that we have to inform you of the death of Rachel Thomsen. A talented graphic designer and wonderful watercolourist, Rachel has been a member of the Society for some years.

You will remember her lovely sheep portrait which won Best in Show at our 2011 Annual Exhibition and of course Rachel was responsible for designing our bright posters and membership cards. In recent years she had really enjoyed life and portrait classes, and was in our opinion amongst the best artists in the society. Warm and gentle, Rachel was unassuming, seemingly unaware of the great talent she possessed. She bore her struggle with ill health quietly. We will miss her and send our best wishes to Andy and the children.



50 YEARS YOUNG!

Alresford Art Society is in its 50th year and, to mark this historic milestone, the Society laid on a party for members and past Chairmen.

Complete with a birthday cake decorated with a palette, members and guests enjoyed wine and canapés at the ARC in Alresford.

“There were numerous organisations created in the town in the mid-1960s,” said Chairman Sue Gentry.



Let them eat cake: Past Chairmen Graham Marsden, Wendy Starforth Hill, Ann Wadman and Derek Drew help current Chairman Sue Gentry to cut the cake.

“Sadly there is no archive of the early years of the Art Society as boxes of records were destroyed on the death of a secretary in the 1980s and there is little to tell us about the first twenty years, apart from the odd Hampshire Chronicle clipping and some old programmes.”

One of the party guests was Derek Drew, who now lives in Southsea and was Chairman for three years in the 1980s. He recalled how early annual exhibitions were held in the Forge in Broad Street, before moving to the current exhibition space in the town’s Community Centre. Meetings were then held in the Methodist Hall in Jacklyns Lane, later moving to Bishops Sutton Village Hall. Derek congratulated the Society on its burgeoning membership, impressive newsletters and website and the fact that it holds up to six art classes a week.

Glasses were raised in memory of Alan Charlton who with Ursula Oxley were among the first members



of the fledgling Society which first met over Oxley’s Book shop in Broad Street some 50 years ago.

A Warm Welcome to new members:

Pru Randall, Hannah Sloan, Di Venter, Elaine Robinson, Tricia Spink, Sabina Balcaityte and Sonia Wensley-Smith.

BOOK YOUR WORKSHOPS NOW

You won’t want to miss our workshops with Alex Roch (see back page) on Saturday 7th February and Jonathan Newey (see front page) on Saturday 7th March. Both will take place at the Christy Hall, Old Alresford, from 10-4. Alex will tackle portraits in water soluble oils and Jonathan will tackle a winter landscape in watercolour pencils.

Bookings are taken on a first-come first-served basis and your 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:

ALEX ROCH
Portraits in water soluble oils (7th February)

JONATHAN NEWAY
A winter landscape in watercolour pencils (7th March)

NAME
(please print clearly)

ADDRESS

.....

TELEPHONE

EMAIL

Please return with your cheque for £25 (per workshop) payable to Alresford Art Society to: Violet Jones, 3 New Farm Road, Alresford SO24 9QS. Any queries email violet.jones1@gmail.com or telephone 01962 738545.

DABBLE IN WATER SOLUBLE OILS

Alex Roch is our guest demonstrator at our meeting on Wednesday 28th January when she will be taking portraits as her subject in water soluble oils, perhaps a medium that some members will not have tried before.

Please note this is a 2.30pm meeting.

Alex was born in Africa, travelling the world before settling in England as a teenager. Her early influences came from Rembrandt and van Gogh, both steeped in drawing techniques and the use of strong tone and colour.



John, oil by Alex Roch



After training at the City & Guilds of London Art College, she became a full time professional exhibiting painter, teacher and demonstrator.

She paints figures in their environment, as well as doing portraits and still lives in her studio.

Alex will be holding a workshop for us on Saturday 7th February from 10-4 at the Christy

Remembering, oil by Alex Roch

Hall, Old Alresford and you will find a booking form on page 3 of this newsletter. Fee for the day is £25, bring your own lunch.

Don't forget our January and February meetings are in the afternoon at 2.30pm.

JILL MAKES THE SHORTLIST!

We thought you would like to know that Jill Jennings, one of our longest serving members, has had the excitement of having one of her pictures - similar to the one shown below - shortlisted to be hung at the 2014 Royal Academy Summer Exhibition.

Several thousand artists enter every year and to be short listed is quite an honour, even if your artwork does not end up actually being hung.

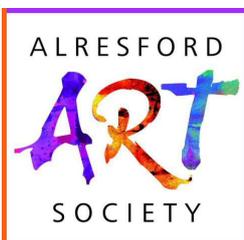
The hanging on the day is often decided by the mix of works and by the arrangement of them by the Hanging Committee to achieve a satisfying and 'well balanced' display. Very well done Jill, hearty congratulations from us all!



Flotsam by Jill Jennings



With the festive season nearly upon us, we would like to invite you to join us for mulled wine and mince pies after our November 26th meeting. Wishing you a peaceful Christmas and a very Happy New Year.



The Secretary: 5 Brackenbury Gardens, Medstead, Alton GU34 5EA. Tel. 01420 564467. Email: art_society@alresford.org www.artsociety.alresford.org