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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**TONY HUNT VPRI
The History of Watercolour Painting Part II**

Wednesday 25th November, 7.30pm at The ARC, Alresford.
Join us for mulled wine & mince pies after the meeting.

**SORAYA FRENCH
Demonstration: Market Scene in Mixed Media**

Wednesday 27th January, at 2.30pm at The ARC, Alresford.
Please note this is an afternoon meeting.

**SORAYA FRENCH
Workshop: Market Scene in Mixed Media**

Saturday 13th February, 10-4 Christy Hall, Old Alresford. (£35)
Booking form page 3.

**LYNNE DAVIES
Demonstration: Shaun the Sheep in Acrylics**

Wednesday 24th February, at 2.30pm at The ARC, Alresford.
Please note this is an afternoon meeting.

**LYNNE DAVIES
Workshop: Shaun the Sheep in Acrylics**

Saturday 12th March, 10-4 Christy Hall, Old Alresford. (£35)
Booking form page 3.

SIZZLING SORAYA IS BACK!

International artist and author, Soraya French returns to Alresford on January 27th and promises to warm up a winter afternoon with her own brand of eye catching art.

She works in watercolours, oils, pastels, acrylics and mixed media with a variety of subject matters such as musicians, café scenes and African market scenes. A mixed media market scene will be her subject on that day.



A Private Conversation by Soraya French

Many of her subjects are travel based including people in every day life situations. Light and colour are the two important elements in her paintings together with semi-abstract passages with a sense of ambiguity. Soraya has received a number of prestigious art awards for her paintings in recent years.

She is a regular contributor to The

Artist Magazine and the success of her two art books published by Harper Collins has brought her international recognition. She is a demonstrator for GOLDEN Artist Colours and Caran D'Ache.

She is an elected member of the Society of Women Artists and The Society of Floral Painters.



Soraya French

Soraya's Studio is at the Project Workshops in Quarley, where she works with her husband Tim. Tim is also Director of their Art Gallery and Workshops. More info at www.sorayafrench.com.

You can also join Soraya for a workshop on Saturday 13th February at the Christy Hall, Old Alresford, from 10-4. Booking form on page 3.

Don't forget this is a 2.30 meeting.

WORKSHOP FEES INCREASE

It has become necessary to increase the fees for Art Society workshops.

With effect from January, fees will increase to £40 - or £35 if paid two weeks before. This is designed to encourage members to make up their minds early so that we can have confidence that there are enough people booked on the workshop in order to make it viable.

At the same time, numbers attending popular workshops will be capped so that tutors will have more time with students.

Fees have been held at the lower price for some time, but with demonstrators' fees rising all the time, we just can't maintain the price for ever. However, they still represent great value for money!

Treasurer Jean Bassington says, "It's important that the Society pays its way and we cannot allow one aspect of the Society's activities to subsidise another. For the same reason, we have had to increase charges slightly for all our weekly classes in the past year to keep pace with more tutors travelling greater distances and of course, we want to keep them coming back."

MEET THE COMMITTEE

Wendy Fabry-Wright joins the committee as Workshops secretary.



Wendy Fabry-Wright

Wendy moved to Alresford in 1985 and, apart from ten years in France, has lived here ever since. Both her daughters went to Perins and Peter Symonds and one went to Central St Martins, so creativity is obviously in the genes!

Wendy studied English Literature at Liverpool University, starting her teaching career in N. Wales.

She moved from primary to middle schools and was then appointed as an English Adviser in Redditch. Working for Hampshire County Council she became a deputy Head in Alton and then held the headship of two further schools in very different parts of the county.

Having lived in France and travelled widely she now provides private tuition in French for Key Stages 2 and 3.

An enthusiastic member of the Alresford Community Choir and the Methodist Church, Wendy loves the countryside and walking, especially accompanied by her black standard Schnauzer, Oliver.

“When I came back from France I was amazed that there was so much going on in the Art Society,” said Wendy “and the high standard of the monthly meetings. I really enjoy being part of the Society and am now going to watercolour classes on a Friday.”

SPRING CLASSES

For information on **Thursday watercolour classes**, (3.15-5.15pm), **Portrait classes** (Tuesdays, 1.30-3.30pm), **Oil classes** (Mondays, 4.15-6.15pm) and **Life classes** (Tuesdays, 4.15-6.15pm), please contact Jean Bassington on 01962 733954 or email jean_bassington78@hotmail.com to book a place.

For information on **Friday morning watercolour classes** (10am-12 noon) and **Tuesday evening watercolour classes** (7.30-9.30pm), email Sue Gentry at sue.gentry@gentrypublicity.co.uk or call 01962 773185.

All the above classes take place at the Christy Hall, Old Alresford and, subject to demand, will start in January.

TONY RETURNS FOR PART II

Tony Hunt VPRI returns to complete his fascinating History of Watercolour Painting at our November 25th meeting.

Born in Winchester, Tony studied at the Southern College of Art and Liverpool Polytechnic. He taught first at Southampton College of Art and Southampton Institute before heading west to Salisbury College of Art, where he became Head of Fine Art & Graphics. He has exhibited around the world and at many prestigious venues in the UK and you will find his work in the Government's art collection, the Royal Navy, Vosper Thornycroft and in the collection of the Sultan of Oman.

Tony was elected to the Royal Institute of Water Colours (RI) in 1977, becoming that august body's Vice President in 2009. He is also President of the Winchester Art Club.

The RI is one of the oldest societies of professional watercolour painters in the world. Its aims are to

promote painting in watercolours; to encourage the use and development of water-based mediums and to present the work of its best exponents in its annual exhibitions.

The beginnings of the RI can be traced back to 1807 with the formation of the New Society of Painters in Water Colours. From the start the New Society showed the work of non-members alongside that of members, a policy still followed today. The Society was started at a time when watercolour was used for serious artistic expression.



Tony Hunt

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

GREAT NEWS

Our search for a new Treasurer has borne fruit as our ad in What's On caught the eye of Rosemary Thompson and she has agreed to join the team.

Rosemary will spend the next few months getting under the skin of the Society and will take over the reins at our AGM at the end of April next year. We hope you will make her very welcome.

TAKING THE PLUNGE

Art Society members Zella Smith and Jeannie Pakenham decided they would have a go at exhibiting for the first time in the 2015 Open Studios.

Zella explains: "We had never done this before so it took a lot of shall we, shan't we conversations. What if no one comes, what if people think our work is rubbish, what about parking, what about insurance? Eventually we agreed to do the event and once the cheque had been sent off in January we were committed. *Oh my God, we've done it now!*

"We knew we didn't have enough paintings and found it extremely hard knowing that we had to create enough artwork to make an exhibition. We both went into panic mode and were convinced we couldn't paint any more.

"The Open Studio booklets arrived and it all looked very professional. Panic again and only just over a month to go! I volunteered to have Alresford's booklets delivered to my house, so it was great chatting to the other nine artists exhibiting in Alresford, when they collected their books, posters, leaflets and signs. There was lots of reassurance from those who had done it before and it was great talking to the beginners like me who were also full of trepidation. I think that being part of the Alresford group and knowing that people would probably come out for the day and lunch in town was a confidence booster.

"We only wanted to exhibit for the four days over the bank holiday, which we thought would be enough for us. There were cakes and biscuits to make, the garden to be tidied, the path to the studio to be cleared, signs to be organised, talk to neighbours about parking, collect stands (in the pouring rain), move furniture in the house and finally arrange the artwork - sort of like a mini Alresford Art Show except in my home.



Ready for the Big Day at Zella's house.

"The big day arrived. We're both waiting for the hordes at 10.00am. Nothing. See, *I told you it would be a mistake!!* Then the flood gates opened. We were busy right through to 4 o'clock talking, tea making and (unbelievably) selling paintings prints and cards.
Continued above.

Taking the Plunge cont.....

"People arrived from as far away as Southampton, Gosport, Petersfield, Farnham and Nether Wallop. We both thought it would just be our friends who supported us, which they did and they also helped to make some wonderful cakes and biscuits so a big thank you. It was the same on the other three days.

"We opened the wine at 4.30pm on the last day and left the clearing up until the following day. I have to say it was a huge success, and worth all the hard work. People keep asking me if I will do it again and of course the answer is yes, but perhaps not next year!"

BOOK YOUR WORKSHOPS NOW

You won't want to miss our workshops with Soraya French (see front page) on Saturday 13th February and Lynne Davies (see back page) on Saturday 12th March. Both will take place at the Christy Hall, Old Alresford, from 10-4. Soraya will tackle a mixed media market scene and Lynne a sheep in acrylics.

Bookings are taken on a first-come first-served basis and your place is not guaranteed until your cheque for £40 (unless Early Bird Booking at £35), enclosed with this booking form, has been received.



Please put my name down for the following workshops:

SORAYA FRENCH
Market Scene
Mixed Media (13th February)

LYNNE DAVIES
Shaun the Sheep
in Acrylics (12th March)

NAME
(please print clearly)

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

EMAIL

**Please return with your cheque for £35 (per workshop) payable to Alresford Art Society to:
 Wendy Fabry-Wright, 6 Dorian Grove,
 Alresford SO24 9QR.
 Any queries email wendyfabrywright@gmail.com
 or telephone 01962 734007.**

WONDERFUL ANIMALS

Lynne Davies will be the guest demonstrator at our February 24th meeting at 2.30pm.

Lynne is a self-taught artist and, after winning a packet of felt tip pens in an art competition at the age of five and completing her first commissioned portrait at just twelve years old, she knew she was destined to paint and has never looked back, achieving her dream of becoming professional in 2009.

Over the years her style has developed, inspired by nature, travel, wildlife and emotion.

She is a passionate painter of beautiful, expressive and sometimes quite large images. Her favourite medium is acrylic on canvas.

Lynne will be holding a workshop for us on Saturday 12th February from 10-4 at the Christy Hall, Old Alresford and you will find a booking form on page 3 of this newsletter. More at www.lynnedavies.com.

Artist, Lynne Davies with one of her delightful animal portraits.



With the festive season fast approaching, we would like to invite you to join us for mulled wine and mince pies after our November 25th meeting.

Wishing you a peaceful Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

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

WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO?

Time just flies by and we are now planning our 2016/2017 programme - a necessity as good demonstrators get booked up years in advance.

Hopefully we will again be able to offer you a wide range of artist demonstrators in every medium and two lively speakers at our AGM and end of year meetings.

We are always eager to hear your recommendations and particularly when it comes to painting days and outings. Please let us know if there is a particular place you would like to go, or

perhaps there is a favourite place

that you would like to go back to that we haven't used for some time but bear in mind that we find members don't like to travel too far!

Please send your suggestions to Programme Secretary Joanne May at jo.may@live.co.uk or call 01962 736397.

Similarly you can always grab a committee member at member meetings or contact the Chairman Sue Gentry by email at sue.gentry@gentrypublicity.co.uk or call 01962 773185.

We would love to hear from you, preferably by the end of the year!

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 160 members now online. If you should change your address please notify the Secretary immediately, contact details below.

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

