

# Society Sketchbook

Issue 20

December, 2013

## INSIDE:

Meet the committee (page 2)  
Workshop Booking Form (page 3)  
Caryl Baron (page 3)  
Still Life with Ann Wilkinson (page 4)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### JOHN BROWNING

**Art in Kite Making**  
Wednesday 27th November,  
7.30pm at The ARC, Alresford.  
Join us for mulled wine & mince pies after the meeting.

**BRIDGET WOODS**  
**Demo: Landscapes In Atmospheric Watercolour**  
Wednesday 29th January,  
2.30pm  
at The ARC, Alresford.  
Please note this is an afternoon meeting.

**BRIDGET WOODS**  
**Workshop: Landscapes In Atmospheric Watercolour**  
Saturday 8th February,  
10-4 Christy Hall,  
Old Alresford. (£25)  
Booking form page 3.

**ANN WILKINSON**  
**Demonstration: Still Life in Pastels**  
Wednesday 26th February,  
2.30pm  
at The ARC, Alresford.  
Please note this is an afternoon meeting.

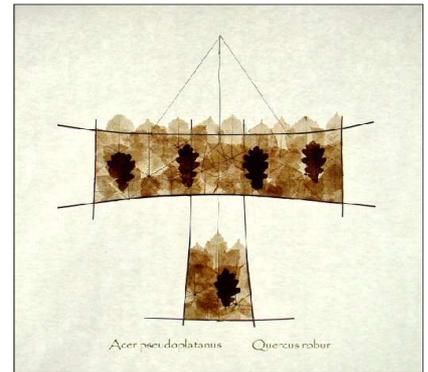
**PLEASE NOTE ALL ART SOCIETY MEETINGS NOW TAKE PLACE ON THE LAST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH.**

## FLY A KITE WITH JOHN BROWNING

John Browning has the most amazing ideas when it comes to crafting kites and they will quite take your breath away with their beauty at our November meeting.

All his kites are made from natural materials using bamboo for support or as a paper. Other fantastical papers include pineapple, bramble, phormium, periwinkle stem, mulberry or

even catalpa bean. The fibres he uses come from raffia, cordyline and phormium. He uses leaves such as whitebeam, hydrangea, sycamore, eucalyptus, photinia, cotinus, oak, ash, honesty and beach leaves which he soaks, dries and bleaches and yes, they do fly. Take a look at John's website: [www.johnbrowningkites.org](http://www.johnbrowningkites.org)



Do join us for mulled wine and mince pies after the 27th November meeting.

## ATMOSPHERIC LANDSCAPES IN VIEW

Bridget Woods is an internationally acclaimed artist who has specialised in life drawing, watercolour and portraiture for over thirty years. She is also a dedicated and inspiring teacher, known for her approachable style and understanding of students' needs.

As you can imagine we are delighted that she will be taking our first demonstration of the year at our afternoon meeting on January 29th. This will be followed by a workshop on Saturday 8th February (booking form on page 3).

Says Bridget "The conjunction of order and chance that under

pins human experience is the stimulus for my painting. This edgy dynamic is also the pivot for my choice of watercolour as preferred medium for its speed of drying and quirky sensitivity to weather conditions and mood. However, because transparent watercolour will not cover and hide, the skill to work with it requires both accuracy and spontaneity and can only evolve, like life - serially.

"Watercolour cannot be bullied, forced or pushed into place without losing something of the intrinsic glory of its own nature and so, by combining research and play, I try to anticipate what water wants to do and work with it. My aim is to be primed with skills that I can 'forget' sufficiently to respond in the moment of discovery. Because that moment cannot be repeated, and each mark is permanent, the process involves risk."

Bridget has created a book and DVD on life drawing and is currently working on a book on watercolour methods. Visit [www.bridgetwoods.co.uk](http://www.bridgetwoods.co.uk).



Glittering Creek by Bridget Woods

## MEET THE COMMITTEE

**Sue Gentry is the Society's new Chairman, having taken over from David Hughes at the AGM in May.**

Sue has lived in the Alresford area for 38 years and took up painting six years ago when she retired. After joining the Art Society committee she spent four years as Programme Secretary. Sue first dabbled in water colour at evening classes run by the local authority at Perins, but when those classes ended she encouraged the Society to take on the mantle of teaching art in the town.



Sue Gentry

A Winchester City Councillor for 14 years, Sue served as Mayor of Winchester before retiring to concentrate on her growing publicity business. She spent four years as Chairman of the Alresford Chamber of Commerce.

A trustee for Home-Start Winchester, Sue has one daughter and husband Roy is a Town Councillor.

## YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

Please do let us know if you change your email address. We contact most members by email these days, with some 126 out of 161 members now online. Should you change your address please notify the Secretary immediately, details back page.

## SPRING CLASSES

The **Thursday morning watercolour** class, taught by Val Harper, which takes place from 10-12 at The ARC in Alresford, has places. Please contact Jean Bassington on 01962 733954 or email Jean at [jean\\_bassington78@hotmail.com](mailto:jean_bassington78@hotmail.com) to book yours.

**Life and Portrait classes** will not take place next year until we have a enough volunteers to help out with the admin. If you can help please contact Jean Bassington, see details above. Jean has run these classes for the last few years and would now like someone else to take on booking the models, tutor, hall, etc.

**Friday morning watercolour** classes are held from 10-12 and **Tuesday evening classes** from 7.30-9.30 in Old Alresford. Contact Sue Gentry at [sue.gentry@gentrypublicity.co.uk](mailto:sue.gentry@gentrypublicity.co.uk), or call 07802 354444 should you wish to put your name down for Tuesday evening or Friday morning watercolour classes.

## LAST PAINTING DAYS

**As we huddle round the fire, we take a look back at the last painting days of 2013.**



**Bramdean House garden** was as spectacular as ever and we were lucky to have the whole place to ourselves. Members tucked themselves into all sorts of nooks and crannies in the borders to get the best vista or to get close up to gorgeous plants.



Our visit to **Court Lane Vineyard** was a painting day with a difference and we must thank the Flocks for being such generous hosts.

We began with a talk about grape varieties and the history of the vineyard, then enjoyed a tour of the facilities before sampling the excellent, prize winning dry white



wines produced by this boutique vineyard. Then it was time for a picnic lunch and painting down among the vines.

**Let us know of special places - that are not too far away - where you would like to go to paint. See back page for more details.**

## CARYL BARON



**We are sad to report the death of Caryl Baron, who was a past committee member and who worked for many years as part of the Society's exhibition team.**

Caryl was a keen plants-woman, specialising in alpines and was well known to residents and

visitors alike from visits to Brandy Mount House in the spring to see the snowdrops. A District Councillor in the 1970s, she joined the Alresford Community Choir on day one. Apart from the family, Caryl's great love was her dachshund Mungo.

"Caryl was a very enthusiastic and hard working committee member and could always be relied on to do a good job on any task she undertook," said Graham Marsden. "She took over the job of Exhibition Secretary and efficiently organised several successful exhibitions. It is very sad that such a lively, interesting person should have been afflicted in the way she was."

Caryl will be remembered for her sense of humour and fun and we will all miss her warm and ready smile. We send our best wishes to Michael and the family.

## CHARITY DONATIONS

**In June we made a collection of £75 at our painting day for the Mayor of Winchester's Charities, which will this year go to supporting the Countess Mountbatten Hospice, Hounds for Heroes and The Scouts.**

We raised £65 at our painting day in August at Bramdean House Garden and that will go to the owner's chosen charity, St Cross Hospital.

We are frequently offered painting equipment, books etc., that members no longer require and will use them for a charity sale when we have sufficient items. If you have a quantity of art supplies that you no longer need, please let the Secretary know. Telephone 01256 389616 or email [artsociety@alresford.org](mailto:artsociety@alresford.org).

## A Warm Welcome to new members

**Jenni Berger, Christine Burrows, Andrea Findlay, Julia Courtney, Wendy Fabry-Wright and Robin Bashford.**

## 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 our members.

**Contact Jill Jennings at [jill@jenningsj.plus.com](mailto:jill@jenningsj.plus.com) or Wendy Starforth Hill on 01962 732131 for more information.**

## BOOK YOUR WORKSHOP NOW

You won't want to miss our workshop with Bridget Woods (see front page) on Saturday 8th February. It will take place at the Christy Hall, Old Alresford, from 10-4. Bridget excels in creating landscapes in atmospheric watercolour.

**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 workshop:**

**BRIDGET WOODS**   
**Landscapes in atmospheric watercolour**

NAME .....  
(please print clearly)

ADDRESS .....

TELEPHONE .....

EMAIL .....

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

# STILL LIFE IN PASTEL WITH ANN

**Ann Wilkinson is our guest demonstrator at the afternoon meeting on Wednesday 26th February when she will be taking still life in pastel as her subject.**

Ann trained at Oldham School of Art and Manchester College of Art before taking up a career in teaching. Living and working in the Midlands for many years she was elected as a member of

the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists in 1998 and the UK Pastel Society in 2005.

She has exhibited in one-man and shared exhibitions throughout the Midlands and recently in the South of England.

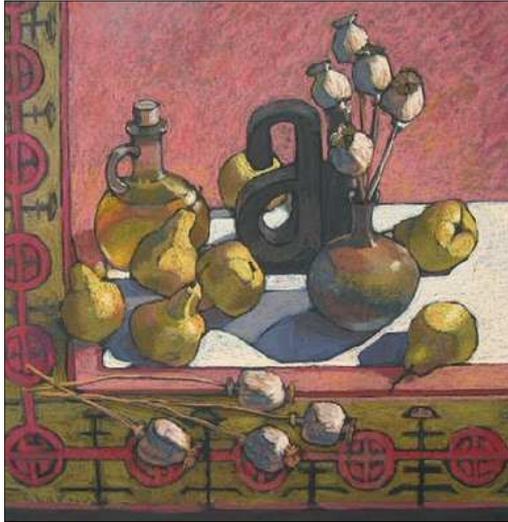


From 1996-98 Ann spent periods of time in Oman teaching, painting and exhibiting her work.

Ann exhibits regularly with The Royal Birmingham Society of Artists, The Birmingham Pastel Society, The Pastel Society and The Reigate Society of Artists.

In 2006 Ann also exhibited with The Society of Marine Artists.

Ann works in pastel on an acrylic base, her subject matter being still life and landscape, although more recently she has been using oil paints for portraits and seascapes.



*Still Life with Poppy Heads by Ann Wilkinson*

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

## WHAT DO YOU FANCY?

**Plans are being made for the 2014/15 programme and our Programme Secretary Joanne May is busy juggling dates.**

We would like to hear from YOU what you would like to see and do in future years. Perhaps you have seen an amazing demonstrator at another art group that you could recommend or you have been on a painting holiday or workshop with a tutor who was the bees knees.

Watercolour seems to be a first choice for many members, however we don't want to overload the programme with watercolour artists. With 160 members, it is difficult to please all of the people all of the time,

so we try and make sure we always have oil, pastel, mixed

media and acrylic demos as well during the year.

Our AGM and Christmas meetings are used for talks rather than demos and you will be pleased to hear that we have already booked Douglas Skeggs for a return visit.

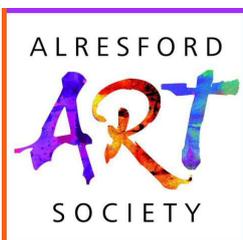
Also returning is Dave White who was a brilliant demonstrator in acrylic with his stunning canine portraits. He was an excellent tutor too and he will be tackling seascapes this time.

In the summer months when there are no meetings, we like to get out in the open air and are always looking for venues - not too far away - where we can take a picnic lunch and our sketch books and paints for a dabble outdoors. Do you have any ideas for where to go?

Please contact Joanne at [jo.may@live.co.uk](mailto:jo.may@live.co.uk) or call 01962 736397 with your thoughts on demos and speakers and Janet Price with your ideas for painting days on 01962 861566 or [janetprice49@hotmail.com](mailto:janetprice49@hotmail.com).



*Merry Christmas everyone!*



**The Secretary: Well Garden, Bradley, Nr Alresford, SO24 9RY. Tel 01256 389616.  
Email: [art.society@alresford.org](mailto:art.society@alresford.org) [www.artsociety.alresford.org](http://www.artsociety.alresford.org)**