

Society Sketchbook

February, 2023

Issue 46

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

KIM PAGE

Demo: Impressionistic Watercolour

Friday 27th January, 2.30pm at Bishop's Sutton Village Hall

CHRIS PICKFORD

Workshop: Life Painting in any wet media

Saturday 4th February
 10-4 Christy Hall,
 Old Alresford

Booking details on page 3

KAREN PEARSON

Demo: Woodland Trees in Watercolour

Friday 24th February 2.30pm at Bishop's Sutton Village Hall

KAREN PEARSON

Workshop: Woodland Trees in Watercolour

Saturday 4th March
 10-4 Christy Hall,
 Old Alresford

Booking details on page 3

JULIA CASSELS

Demonstration: Wildlife in Loose Watercolour

Thursday 23rd March, 7.30pm at Bishop's Sutton Village Hall

AGM & SPEAKER

GABRIEL CHANAN

History of Portraiture

Thursday 27th April 7.30pm at Bishop's Sutton Village Hall, 8pm speaker

IS CHANGE AS GOOD AS A REST?

Happy New Year to you all and no, change is not as good as a rest when it comes to creating an art society programme!

Sue Cox our Programme Secretary has been tearing her hair out over Christmas as demonstrators have fallen by the wayside due to sickness, family problems or unscheduled surgery. Part of the problem is that we have to book good speakers and demonstrators 18 months to two years ahead and often life gets in the way. So please bear with us as we have had to make changes to the programme at short notice.

Firstly, our January meeting. Julia Cassels has had to switch to March, while in her place is Kim Page who will be demonstrating Impressionistic watercolour.



Roger Dellar returns to demonstrate People in Paintings

Most exciting will be our replacement workshop in February as we have managed to tempt Chris Pickford back to Alresford for one of his excellent life sessions. So book early to avoid disappointment!

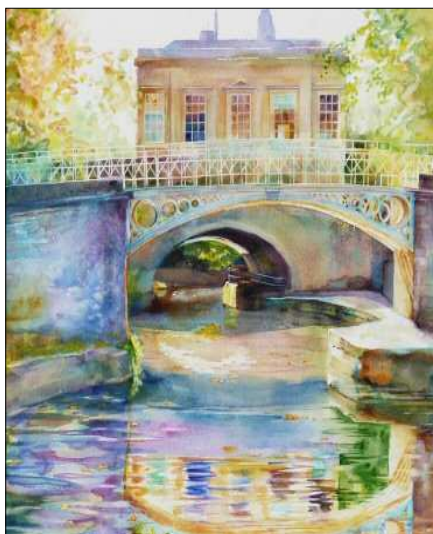
A revised programme for the remainder of 2022/23 will be sent to all members shortly.

Demonstrations which are already booked for the new 2023/24 programme include your favourites: **Roger Dellar** creating People in Paintings in oil; **Soraya French** who will be tackling expressive textured landscapes in mixed media and **Oliver Pyle** will demonstrate an estuary scene at low tide in water colour. Both Oliver and Soraya will be running workshops.

New to us is **Catherine Beale** who will be demonstrating Reflections in Water in watercolour (left) and who will also run a workshop.

Exciting new venues for painting days include Pelham Place at Newton Valance and High Meadow House in Selborne.

We're always on the look out for new speakers and demonstrators, so do call Sue on 01962 732043 or email suealex13@gmail.com with your suggestions.



Bath Canal by Catherine Beale

ART STUFF

We have been donated some boxes of art equipment - a table top easel, paints, brushes, paper, pencils, pastels, canvas, boards, sketch pads, books, etc. - and will bring them along to the next members' meeting on Friday 27th January.

If you have any art items you no longer use or need, do bring them along to add to the table.

All proceeds will go to charity.

MEET THE COMMITTEE

In this edition we focus on Nikki Flannigan our Classes Organiser. Nikki writes:

"I love living in Alresford and, since moving here ten years ago, have become involved in a number of voluntary roles. I joined the committee of the Art Society in 2021 to coordinate our programme of classes. This involves agreeing dates with tutors, communicating with students, promoting the classes to attract new students and liaising with the venues. It's a great role, because I get to deal with so many people. We have over 50 students and I feel like I know them all - if only by name! I was attracted to the Society because I absolutely love art and I enjoy being part of the committee. The team are lovely and have been extremely welcoming. It's fascinating to see how everyone's efforts come together to run what I think is a really great society for local art enthusiasts

"My painting skills are rather rusty and so I have booked myself on to our oil painting course. The classes are great, because we paint a variety of subjects, from landscape, to still-life, to portraits. I'd like to be able to say that I painted the one in the photo, but it was done by a talented local art student.



"Last term we were fortunate to have two terrific tutors - our very own Juliet Bonham Carter and Barbara Noble, both inspiring and accomplished artists. They are really encouraging and I always look forward to the next class. I'm also learning a lot from my fellow students. For 2023, we have forged a new partnership with The Colour Studio in Winchester and will be holding some of our classes there.

"I am a very keen traveller, cook and wannabe florist. I thoroughly enjoy running and cycling around our glorious surrounding countryside. I also coordinate the volunteers for Winchester Parkrun and greatly enjoy being part of that team and I spend as much time as I can looking after my elderly parents."

If you would like to find out more about our classes, please call Nikki on 07803 855157 or email her at nikkicartwright@btinternet.com.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The Art Society has joined together with two other organisations in Alresford to prepare an article about the ongoing confusion over names. It has already appeared in the local press and will shortly appear in local parish magazines:

Local organisations in Alresford have been getting their monikers in a twist over the ongoing confusion of the names of three well-known societies in the town. Now they have joined forces to flag up their differences in the hope of ironing out that confusion.

The problems began in 2017 when NADFAS (formerly the National Association of Decorative & Fine Arts Society) changed its name nationally to The Arts Society. Its local branch became The Arts Society Alresford, not to be confused with the Alresford Art Society and the Alresford Society. "We've had some amusing cases of 'mistaken identity' over the years," said Jan Field, Chairman of the Alresford Society. "Such as the speaker at the Art Society thinking she was addressing the Arts Society (note the additional 's' in 'Arts' here); someone joining one society in mistake for another, and most recently a request to the Alresford Society to promote a local wood carving event!"

So, what are the differences between these similarly named organisations? ***The Alresford Society***, founded in 1965, is a civic society and part of a network of such voluntary organisations, all anchored in their local communities, for people who care about where they live. The Alresford Society is protective of the distinctive character and history of the town's built environment and the surrounding countryside; the quality of design in development, and local facilities and services. It works with the Town Council, the Town Trust, the CPRE, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and the Friends of St John's and recently it has set up the Friends of the Arle to protect the chalk stream and its wildlife. Its knowledgeable planning committee comments on significant local development proposals and ensures members are carefully briefed on local district plans and consultations.

The Arts Society Alresford is part of a national association founded in 1968 with local branches affiliated to NADFAS (still the national body) with branches nationwide. Its role is different again to both the Alresford Society and Alresford Art Society. Through a programme of lectures, visits, study days and heritage projects, it aims to broaden members' knowledge and enjoyment of the decorative and fine arts. Expert lecturers cover topics such as architecture, artists and designers, china, glass, furniture, jewellery, music, painting and more. And there are visits to country houses, exhibitions, gardens and places of interest.

And of course you already know all about the Alresford Art Society...

AUTUMMN MEETINGS

Jerry Smith kicked off the season - and for some members proved controversial - with his unusual painting technique.



He showed us his unique approach to oil painting. Working from light to dark (normally the other way around) he makes sure that his board is coated in gesso and then primed. This means that the paint sits on top of the surface and can be endlessly manipulated. He effectively mixes the paint on the surface rather than on a palette to create his evocative landscapes.

Artist and illustrator **Wendy Bramall** gave us a delightful demo on how to depict birds using pastels, following up with a workshop.

Then in November, the erudite **Scott Anderson** enlightened us on the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, a group of young British painters formed in 1848 in reaction against what they saw to be the unimaginative painting of the Royal Academy and who sought to express a new moral seriousness and sincerity in their works. They were inspired by Italian art of the 14th and 15th centuries, and although the Brotherhood's active life lasted not quite five years, its influence on painting in Britain, and ultimately on the decorative arts and interior design, was profound.



A Warm Welcome to new members

Sue Smith, Sonia Hennelly, Sandra Walker, Jill Corbett, Tricia Taylor, Jean Godfrey, Catherine Lewis, Susan Robinson and Christine Bennett

DOUBLE BUBBLE

At our September meeting, prizes were handed out to the winning artists from our 2022 Exhibition. Jeannie Pakenham had scooped both the People's Choice Prize for her atmospheric painting *The Sightseers* and the same painting was also awarded Best Watercolour by the judges, which meant she had to take home two pieces of glassware.

Jeannie has now moved out of the area, but she will keep in touch and plans to exhibit again in 2023. I'm sure you will join us in wishing her every happiness in her new home.



BOOK YOUR WORKSHOP NOW

STEP ONE

Contact Anne Lain to check availability on the workshop by email anne.lain627@gmail.com or telephone/text 07785 715 985.

STEP TWO

If there are still places available then pay £40 by BACS to Lloyds Bank, Sort Code, 30-64-72, Account No. 31331268 with the artist's name as reference. Please send confirmation of any BACS payments to Anne Lain as above.

If paying by cheque please send a separate cheque for £40 for each workshop and **put the workshop name on the back of each cheque** to Anne Lain, 1 Bramble Hill, Alresford SO24 9JY.

Bookings are taken on a first-come first-served basis and your place is not guaranteed until a cheque or a BACS payment has been received.

WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

NEW CHRIS PICKFORD

Life Painting in any wet media
Saturday 4th February
10-4, Christy Hall, Old Alresford

KAREN PEARSON

Trees in Watercolour
Saturday 4th March
10-4, Christy Hall, Old Alresford

Any queries email anne.lain627@gmail.com or telephone/text 07785 715 985.

JANUARY DEMO

In a change to our published programme, Kim Page will replace Julia Cassels who has moved to March (see right). Kim will be demonstrating Impressionistic Watercolour at 2.30pm on Friday 27th January.

Kim writes "I have recently retired from being a professional artist but continue to do a few local demonstrations and critiques and I teach painting classes at Dedham Hall.



"My journey into the art world started when at the age of twelve I won a scholarship to a junior art school. I progressed into portrait painting for some years and decided to try watercolour, with an immediate love and excitement and felt it suited my technique.

"I paint in a loose impressionistic style, with the emphasis on abstraction."

MARCH MEETING

Julia Cassels will be showing us how to create Wildlife in Loose Watercolour at our meeting on Thursday 24th March at 7.30pm.

It takes a profound knowledge of African wildlife to capture the fluidity of movement that Julia achieves in her work. A decade spent living in the bush in Zambia and subsequently Tanzania, has given her a deep and sympathetic understanding of her subjects and imbues her paintings with an intensity that can only exist as a result of such prolonged experience.



FEBRUARY MEETING

Karen Pearson returns on Friday 24th February at 2.30pm to demonstrate Trees in Watercolour with a follow up workshop on 4th March - see page 3 for info.

"Nothing stirs my soul more than being present somewhere and experiencing it first-hand," says Karen. "Spending time outdoors in nature's room, allows me to observe, breathe, experience, and make more sense of a place. By sketching or painting on location, I establish an acute visual memory of the subject matter in front of me."

Karen is a member of the Dorking Group of Artists and leads a number of painting holidays to some amazing locations such as Norway, New Zealand and Barbados.



APRIL AGM & TALK

Gabriel Chanan will follow the business of the AGM at 8pm with an illustrated talk on The History of Portrait Painting, on Thursday 27th April.

From flattery of power to self-analysis of artists, Gabriel's entertaining talk will compare portraits from different periods showing how some artists, like Holbein, combine flattery with psychological depth. Others, like Rembrandt, wrestle with how to think of themselves. And, as women artists emerge, they add depth of feeling, while moderns like



Anne of Cleves by Hans Holbein the Younger

Picasso and Bacon experiment with disturbing new ways of questioning the way we look.



Don't forget January and February meetings are held on Friday at 2.30.

email: art.society@alresford.org www.artsociety.alresford.org

This newsletter is edited by Sue Gentry, contact 01962 773185 or email sue.gentry@gentrypublicity.co.uk