

Society Sketchbook

February, 2024

Issue 49

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

KIM PAGE

**Demo: Winter Landscape
in Watercolour**

Friday 26th January,
2.30pm at Bishop's Sutton
Village Hall

KIM PAGE

**Workshop: Winter
Landscape in Watercolour**
Saturday 10th February

10-4 Christy Hall,
Old Alresford - [see page 3](#)

SORAYA FRENCH

**Demo: Expressive
Textured Landscape in
Mixed Media**

Friday 23rd February
2.30pm at Bishop's Sutton
Village Hall

SORAYA FRENCH

**Workshop: Expressive
Textured Landscape in
Mixed Media**

Saturday 9th March
10-4 Christy Hall,
Old Alresford - [see page 3](#)

MARK WARNER

**Demo: Mountainscape
in Acrylics**

Thursday 28th March,
7.30pm at Bishop's Sutton
Village Hall

AGM & SPEAKER

RONNIE IRELAND
**The Impressionist
Revolution**

Thursday 25th April
7.30pm at Bishop's Sutton
Village Hall, 8pm speaker

NEW YEAR, NEW PROGRAMME

*Guess what, no sooner than
you think the year ahead is
planned, than an artist
declares he is off to the USA!*

You will have already heard
from Jen Boardman, that
there is a change to our
January meeting, as Oliver
Pyle can no longer make it.
However, **Kim Page** will step
into the breach - find out
more about Kim on page 4.

Sue Cox our Programme
Secretary has been working
on our next programme year,
which starts in June and
demonstrations lined up for
the autumn of 2024 include
Dave White (see above right)
who will create some of his
renowned dog portraits in
acrylic, while November sees
the return of **Rick Holmes**
who will tackle a street scene
in soft pastels. Both Dave and
Rick will follow up their
sessions with workshops.



The Full Set by Dave White in acrylics

Our final artist of 2024 is
Harriet Riddell, (below) a
remarkable young woman
who travels the world
'stitching' portraits. She
will even use her bicycle to
pedal-power her sewing
machine in areas where
there is no electricity. She
will stitch a portrait on the
night and tell of her travels.

New artists joining the slate
for the first time are: **Elaine
Reed** who will demonstrate
ocean waves in watercolour;
Frank Walters who will
encourage us to draw with
our brushes and **Rebecca
Hurst** who will look at
abstract mark-making in
mixed media. Both Frank
and Elaine will follow up
with workshops.

Plein air days include a
return visit to **Coles** in
Privett, which was rained off
last year, and **Upper Wood-
side House** in Farringdon.

There will be another
chance to paint on the
Watercress Line in July and
also at **Chawton House**.

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



The first half
of 2025 sees
the return of
old favourites:
**Douglas
Skeggs**, who
will lecture on
Whistler, and
**Jonathan
Newey** will
demonstrate
his meticulous
buildings
painted in
pen and
watercolour.

MEET THE COMMITTEE

In this edition we focus on Veronica Bliss our Membership Secretary.

After living in Milan for ten years, Veronica and the family moved back to the UK in 1999, to Compton outside Winchester. Veronica says "I have always loved painting and drawing, but it was after major shoulder surgery, enforcing time off from sports, that I decided to start some art lessons at Weeke. I loved not just the lessons and the inspiration from my teachers, but meeting other artists who were passionate like me.

"Some of the students suggested I joined the Alresford Art Society and I was immediately struck by the friendliness of all the committee and members. I believe in not just taking, but giving as well, and I knew that Sue was going to persuade me to join the committee! Hence my role as Membership Secretary, which I have found very fulfilling. It is a fun and rewarding role - meeting new people and welcoming them to the Society. The committee members are a hard working team and it is fun being part of it.

"I never seem to have enough time to do everything - skiing has been my real passion, but I also love playing tennis, (recently some padel tennis), swimming, hiking, sailing, gardening, walking our rescue dog, photography and writing.

"My working life was in the travel business, and I still love travelling and researching unusual places to visit. Last year I volunteered for the tourist board in the Faroe Islands - something that will be difficult to beat this year!

"For over 20 years I have been editor of our local Parish magazine; I run our village bridge club, belong to book clubs, am a volunteer driver, arrange church flowers and am Mum to two grown up boys," she said.



DOUBLE BUBBLE

At our September meeting, prizes were handed out to the winning artists from our 2023 Exhibition.

Jeannie Pakenham scooped the People's Choice Prize again for her beautiful painting, Owl on a Post.

However the star of this year's show was new exhibitor Clifford D'Souza who won both the Best Floral Exhibit and the Best Watercolour prize for his painting *The First Blossom*. Clifford has a young family and finds time to teach watercolour classes to both adults and children.



LOVE SKETCHING?

Winchester Urban Sketchers meet on Monday and Wednesday mornings at 10am, usually in a cafe in Winchester. After a coffee and a catchup they will head off into the city to sketch. However if the weather is bad they have been known to sketch each other!

Everyone then meets back at noon for 'a throw down', of their work and photos are taken.

Keith Sloan is an active member, "Locations include the South Downs Café, the Cathedral Refectory, and in the holidays the Uni café," says Keith. "Joanne Seward leads the Winchester group and emails the location each week. I think there are Urban Sketching groups all over the country, just Google Urban Sketchers. Actually, I think there are groups all over the world." Keith is keen to join a similar group, meeting once a month in Alresford or surrounding villages. Get in touch with him at keith@sloan-home.co.uk for more info on the Winchester group or to start a local one. ***More info here on Winchester Urban Sketchers:*** www.facebook.com/groups/198868570858412/

JOLLY ROGER

Last autumn you may have missed the unstoppable Roger Dellar, who confesses he doesn't do three demonstrations a day any more.



Such a popular demonstrator, Roger showed us how to depict people in oils. He began with a canvas painted with a mix of three parts grey and one part white gesso and started the placement of his figures, slowly building the volumes around the scene. He recommends reading figures from left to right and literally corrected his original with oil paint as he went along. A dab of lighter paint here narrowed a leg length, another dab there and a music stand came into view. It was a fascinating demo and a real treat to see this master at his work.

CLASSES NEWS

The Society runs watercolour classes on Thursday and Friday mornings as well as a beginners class on a Thursday afternoon, plus oil classes on Monday and Tuesday afternoons.

Karen Eames is our newest tutor and she will be taking our new oil class on a Tuesday. Karen achieved her lifetime dream with the opportunity to study Fine Art at Winchester School of Art and Design, graduating with a first class honours degree in Visual Art in 2004, and then completing a Masters in 2007.

For more information on all our classes, email Nikki Flannigan at nikkicartwright@btinternet.com or call 07803 855157.

A Warm Welcome to new members

Nicola Johnson, Sandie Schulkins, Sarah Groves, Jean Bassington, Ingrid Berry, David Dyson, Chris Adams and Maria Kelly.

WESSEX WORKSHOPS

If you have always wanted to have a go at sculpting, Wessex Sculptors have two workshops in February, which might be just up your alley.

Both workshops run from 10-4 at Brockwood Barn in Bramdean. The first on 3rd February is an Introduction to Sculpting Thermalite and the second on the 24th is an Introduction to Wire Sculpture. All materials are provided.

For further info and to book contact Anne Lain at anne.lain627@gmail.com or call 07785 715985.



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 715985.

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.

With the closure of Lloyds Bank in Alresford we are no longer able to accept cheques however, we are happy to take card payments at members' meetings.

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

WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

KIM PAGE

Winter Landscape in watercolour
Saturday 10th February
10-4, Christy Hall, Old Alresford

SORAYA FRENCH

Expressive textured landscape in mixed media
Saturday 9th March
10-4, Christy Hall, Old Alresford

Any queries email anne.lain627@gmail.com or telephone/text 07785 715985.

JANUARY DEMO

In a change to our published programme, Kim Page replaces Oliver Pyle. Kim will be demonstrating a Winter Landscape in watercolour at 2.30pm on Friday 26th January with a workshop on the 10th February.

Kim has retired from being a professional artist but continues to demonstrate and teaches at Dedham Hall. His journey into the art world started when he won a scholarship at the age of 12 to a junior art school and the rest, as they say, is history. Kim paints in a loose impressionistic style, with the emphasis on abstraction.



MARCH MEETING

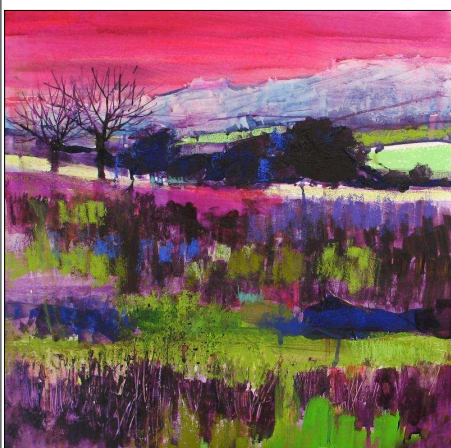
Mark Warner will be showing us how to create a Mountain-scape in Acrylics at our meeting on Thursday 28th March at 7.30pm.

Growing up on the coast had a huge impact in the way Mark developed his particular approach to painting and how he views the landscape. He adores using colour while interpreting the light, weather conditions and a love for the materials. He works directly in the field from sketches created outside as well as notes and photos taken on location then worked back in the studio.



FEBRUARY MEETING

Soraya French is back on Friday 23rd February at 2.30pm to demonstrate an Expressive Textured Landscape in Mixed Media, with a follow-up workshop on 9th March - see page 3 for booking information.



An exuberant artist, tutor and author, Soraya has a successful exhibiting career and carries out experimental workshops at home and abroad. The success of her art books has brought her

international acclaim and she is particularly known for her use of vibrant colours, light and expressive textures, all prominent features of her work, taking inspiration from her travels, as well as the landscape around her.

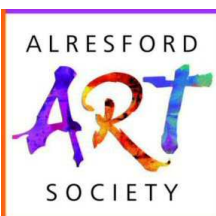
APRIL AGM & TALK

Ronnie Ireland will follow the business of the AGM at 8pm, with an illustrated talk on The Impressionist Revolution on Thursday 25th April.

The Impressionists, during their heyday of the 1870's, developed new ideas as to how to make art and to what subjects were possible and proper for a contemporary artist. Their legacy continues and many artists are still directly influenced by them, but more importantly, they opened doors for succeeding generations to investigate new ideas. Ronnie studied drawing and painting at the Glasgow School of Art.



A Bar at the Folies-Bergere by Manet



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

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