

Society Sketchbook

January, 2025

Issue 55

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

ELAINE REED

Demo: Ocean Waves in Watercolour
Friday 24th January,
2.30pm at Bishop's Sutton Village Hall

ELAINE REED

Workshop: Ocean Waves in Watercolour
Saturday 8th February
10-4 Christy Hall,
Old Alresford
see page 3

FRANK WALTERS

Demo: Capturing Atmosphere in Watercolour
Friday 28th February
2.30pm at Bishop's Sutton Village Hall

FRANK WALTERS

Workshop: Capturing Atmosphere in Watercolour
Saturday 15th March
10-4 Christy Hall
see page 3

JONATHAN NEWAY

CHANGE TO PROGRAMME
Demo: Big Cat in Acrylic
Thursday 27th March
7.30pm at Bishop's Sutton Village Hall

AGM & SPEAKER

DOUGLAS SKEGGS
James Whistler
Thursday 24th April
7.30pm at Bishop's Sutton Village Hall

NEW YEAR, NEW CHALLENGES

A very Happy New Year to you all and we hope that you managed to avoid the bugs that were doing the rounds over the festive season!

Sue Cox, our Programme Secretary, is currently working on the next programme, which runs from this September through to June 2026. As you can appreciate, we have to book good speakers and demonstrators 18 months to two years ahead, which can be a real challenge.

Already signed up for 2026 is the much-loved **Jake Winkle** who, in a change from his popular wildlife subjects, will be tackling a street scene in watercolour.

Our favourite tutor **Sharon Hurst** will demonstrate for us for the first time, tackling a suitably chilly scene - a Snow Queen portrait in watercolour.



Stunning artwork work by Jamel Akib



A distinctly Oriental flavour to the work by Christine Forbes

Anne Anderson will be back to talk about the life and work of Monet, on the 100th anniversary of his death, and artists new to us will include **Clive Eastland** (autumn landscape in pastel) and **Christine Forbes** (watercolour flowers and foliage with an East Asian influence) see above.

We also hope to sign up **Jamel Akib** (one of the talented Akib brothers) to tackle a figure in movement. Both Sharon, Clive and Christine will be doing follow-up workshops.

Venues booked for plein air **painting days** in 2025 include St Cross Hospital, Godsfield Manor, Itchen Stoke Mill and The Court House at East Meon, so plenty of painting challenges to be had there!

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.

TREASURER NEEDED

Colin is retiring after six years as our Treasurer, so we need someone to wrangle our finances.

If you can count to ten, use Excel without crying, and don't mind paying bills, you're hired! It's a light gig just 2-3 hours a week, except for year-end (31st December) and our exhibition in July.

No accounting degree needed - Colin isn't qualified either, and he's done fine. He'll stick around to show you the ropes. Fancy it?

Your partner, hubby or friend could be just perfect too, so give them a nudge and let Jen Boardman know at artsociety@alresford.org.

MEET THE COMMITTEE

In this edition we focus on Mike Dudfield, our Meetings Manager.

Mike has lived in the Alresford area for over 40 years and currently lives in Bishops Sutton.

"I ran my own Structural Engineering Consulting practice for over 25 years," says Mike "and designed the structural fabric of places like sports halls, multi-storey office blocks, warehouses, churches, large houses and bridges."

His preferred painting medium is oils, but he will often use acrylics as the undercoat. "I also do the occasional watercolour to keep up a basic skill with that medium so that I can paint on holiday," he says.



A keen sailor and windsurfer he often paints sea-scapes or just colourful waves inspired by those sports or places he's visited.

"I find creating paintings very therapeutic but also quite intense and difficult, so to counteract this level of concentration I unwind by cycling, going to the gym or playing golf."

"I would like to try painting on glass or aluminium this year," says Mike "so, if anyone wants to get rid of a toughened glass shelf I would be very interested!"

A Warm Welcome to new members

Andrea Findlay, Karen Fox,
Catherine Pascoe and Sheila Topley

NEW TROPHIES CREATED

We have enlarged our 'trophy cabinet' by creating three new awards in memory of much-loved former members of the society, and the new trophies were presented at our September meeting.

The new trophy for the *Best Acrylic painting*, (won by Richard Cox of Old Alresford) was a classic Dartington vase chosen by **Graham Marsden's** family. Graham had been a Chairman of the Society and had given years of dedicated service and support to members. He had stepped forward to tutor our beginners' classes in watercolour when they first began, and many have taken their first brush strokes under his watchful eye.

Our second trophy had been created in memory of **Ann Wadman**, a keen sculptor, artist and another past Chairman of the Society. This was a cast head of a choir boy, created by Ann, who had been a guide at Winchester Cathedral and who loved the choral music tradition. It was donated by Ann's son Robert Wadman to Wessex Sculptors of which she had been a keen member, and they kindly donated it to the Art Society in her memory. This award for the *Best 3D* was presented to Jen Boardman.

Zella Smith was also commemorated in the creation of a beautiful glass trophy, which was presented to *Best New Exhibitor*, Virginia Ridley.

On sale at the meeting was a selection of original watercolours and prints by Zella which had been donated to the Society and, along with the proceeds of a sale of art materials, £520 was sent to Winchester GOLD, a charity very dear to Zella's heart.

"Zella was a beautiful soul, as well as a beautiful watercolourist," said President Sue Gentry. "She was always willing to show new painters techniques and encourage them on their artistic journey."



Winners all: Clifford D'Souza - Best Floral painting, Richard Cox - Best Acrylic painting and also People's Choice Winner, and Jen Boardman - Best 3D exhibitor.

AUTUMMN MEETINGS

Warming mulled wine and mince pies signed off the old year at our last meeting when textile performance artist Harriett Riddell wowed us with tales of her travels and her creative skills, finishing with a live sketch of our Secretary, Jen Boardman.

Harriett has travelled the world with her trusty sewing machine and a bicycle to provide the pedal power. In record time she 'stitched' her portrait while chatting away to Jen, talking about her interests, which were then stitched into the work and



signed off with, of course, a stitched signature.

In October we enjoyed a demo of a rainy street scene in pastels by Rick Holmes.

Rick lays down a base of acrylic ink applied with a roller before applying pastels when it has dried. The result produced a vibrant and atmospheric painting and his follow up workshop was a great success. And, in September, Dave White showed us his techniques for painting the eyes, nose and fur of a beautiful red setter in acrylic. He is well known for his wonderful animal portraits and takes commissions for people's pets, sometimes *after* they have died!

SUBS REMINDER

Just a reminder that your subs are due on the 1st April and remain at the bargain price of £15.

If you would like to set up a standing order you will find a form on our website on the JOIN US page or you can pick up a form at any members meeting.

Should you already have a standing order, please can you make sure that it is paid to us **on the 1st April** and that it is for the *correct amount* and you haven't set up more than one - yes, this did happen last year!

All queries to Veronica Bliss on 01962 713382 or email veronicabliss9@gmail.com.

CLASSES NEWS

As a new term starts, we are delighted to have 50 members enjoying a range of classes:

- **Oils** with Rachael Alexander on a Tuesday afternoon at The Colour Factory in Winchester.
- **Watercolour** with Christopher Cole on a Thursday morning at The Christy Hall in Old Alresford.
- **Watercolour for Beginners/Improvers** with Sharon Hurst on a Thursday afternoon in Old Alresford, and,
- **Watercolour** with Sharon on a Friday morning.

Also our Monday afternoon **portrait and still-life in oils** classes with Juliet Bonham-Carter in her studio, will start again in April and we will be looking for sitters! Acrylic painters are always welcome to attend oil classes.

For more information; to volunteer as a sitter, or to book a place, please contact Nikki Flannigan at nikkicartwright@btinternet.com

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

ELAINE REED

Ocean waves in watercolour

Saturday 8th February

10-4, Christy Hall, Old Alresford

FRANK WALTERS

Draw with a brush in watercolour

Saturday 15th March

10-4, Christy Hall, Old Alresford

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

JANUARY DEMO

Elaine Reed, will demonstrate Ocean Waves in Watercolour at 2.30pm on Friday 24th January.

Elaine trained as an illustrator and graphic designer at the Southampton Faculty of Art and Design and then did a year of Fine Art at L'Ecole des Beaux Arts in Le Havre.



She is inspired by all aspects of the natural world and is intensely interested in geology, astronomy, botany, biology,

folklore and myth and the mathematics of pattern in the way that things grow and evolve whether mineral, plant or animal.

Elaine will hold a follow up workshop on Saturday 8th February from 10-4 in Old Alresford.

MARCH MEETING

Jonathan Newey returns with a change to his subject and medium as he will be tackling A Big Cat in Acrylic at our meeting on Thursday 27th March at 7.30pm.

Jonathan is an award-winning artist with over 25 years experience in both drawing and painting in a wide range of mediums and subject matter, but specialises in drawings and paintings inspired by nature. He has over 20 years experience as a teacher and lecturer around the world. He is a member of the David Shepherd Wildlife



Foundation and has been selected for their 'Wildlife Artist of the Year' exhibition at the Mall Galleries for the last seven years.

FEBRUARY MEETING

Another new visitor is Frank Walters who on Friday 28th February at 2.30pm will demonstrate Capturing Atmosphere in Watercolour. His follow-up workshop is on 15th March from 10-4.

Frank is a compelling and captivating teacher of his great passion, watercolour landscape painting. He is the water-



colour tutor at Kew Studio in West London and holds regular weekly Zoom tuition. This summer he will host painting retreats in Seville, Crete and on the Côte d'Azur.

APRIL AGM & TALK

Douglas Skeggs will follow the business of the AGM with an illustrated talk on James Whistler on Thursday 24th April at Bishops Sutton Village Hall.

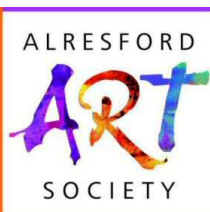
Whistler was an American painter in oils, watercolour, and a printmaker, active during the American 'Gilded Age' but based primarily in the UK. He eschewed sentimentality and moral allusion in painting and was a leading proponent of the credo 'art for art's sake'.

Fans of Douglas Skeggs know that he can lecture on any number of subjects with ease. He is an art historian with an inter-

national reputation; has written numerous books and given thousands of lectures around the world and will enthral us, as always.



Whistler's Mother



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

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