

Winter Newsletter 2010

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Chairman's Report

Black Ice to Bluebells

Unfortunately, I had to postpone our demonstration on the 16th January, when Carol Ellis, an AAS member, was to have demonstrated the art of wax. But, like so many of us, Carol was unable to get into her studio to collect her equipment for the demonstration, due to the snow and ice.

Wendy Horne was also unable to bring the audio and visual gear as her drive and the hill on which she lives were totally ice bound. My own car was cocooned in snow, so with dustpan and brush I removed all the snow, only to discover it wasn't my car! 'I tell a lie,' but we were all on the same sledge together, as it were. However, Carol will be with us on another day.

The Art Society Painting Group, which now meets weekly on a Thursday at The Alton Maltings, goes from strength to strength. The sessions run from 1pm to 4pm and each

session costs £3, to cover the cost of hiring the room. The sessions have a 'loose' theme but it is merely a suggestion. So do what you will and enjoy it.

We have two more demonstrations in our winter programme and then we move into the summer programme of painting days. We start with an absolute winner at 'Bavins' at Shalden on the New Odiham Road. Come armed with every hue of blue in your palette, with the faintest touch of magenta, to capture the colourful brilliance of millions of bluebells. Further on in the summer calendar we have more exciting venues in Chawton, Selborne, Bentley, Tilford and others, arranged by Jenny Dunk and Angela Woodruff. Do come! They are wonderful days out. A full programme of events is enclosed with this newsletter.

John Hearn - Chairman

Workshop

17th April

Four Marks Village Hall

10 am – 4pm

Subject: figures in paintings

Medium: oils or acrylics

Please bring the following:

Easel, rags, canvas boards, or jesso treated boards. Acrylic paints or oil paints, preferably water based oils. Also photographs showing figures, preferably taken by the artist.

Remember to bring a packed lunch

Contact:

Maureen Morrison 01420 561648

IMPORTANT

On Saturday 20th March we will be having the AAS Annual General Meeting at 2pm, **prior to the demonstration by Anthea de la Roche on pastel portraits.**

So, dear members, would you like to serve on our committee? It is not an exclusive club. We have all given our services and time to what we believe is a very fine, rewarding and friendly art society.

Further details are on page 2 of this newsletter. Please think about it and give me a call on 01420 80965 if you are interested and want to find out more.

John Hearn

AGM – 20th March 2pm followed by Demonstration by Anthea de la Roche – Pastel Portrait.

AGENDA:

- Apologies for absence
- Minutes of the last AGM
- Chairman's remarks
- Treasurer's report
- Election of officers
- Election of other committee members
- Any other business – Issues to be discussed, or from the floor
- Full minutes of the 2009 AGM will be available at the meeting upon request to the Secretary.
- A summary of the changes approved at the meeting were reported in the Spring Newsletter April 2009.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: this is your opportunity to voice opinions and concerns and help guide the Officers and Committee in how you wish the Society to be focused. You may add items to the agenda by contacting Robin Lees, as outlined below, no later than 1st March. We shall also take items from the floor as time allows.

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Please forward the names of any persons willing to serve to: Robin Lees 01420 86665 or email: lees45@tiscali.co.uk no later than 1st March 2010.

Existing Nominations:

OFFICERS TO BE ELECTED

Chairman: John Hearn - Treasurer: Bob Dewar
Secretary: Robin Lees - Exhibition Secretary: Naomi White
Children's Exhibition Secretary: Margaret Hill/Denise Olley
Membership Secretary: Jennifer Lines
Winter Programme Secretaries: Maureen Morrison & Denise Olley.
Summer Programme Secretaries: Angela Woodruff & Jenny Dunk
Newsletter Editor: Ann Sayer

Elected Committee Member: Steve Cook

Other Volunteer Assignments:

Librarian: Linda Pescod, Anna Aungiers, Mary Fairley
Demonstration Tea Rota Organiser: Margaret Hill
Archivist: Denise Olley
Demo Video Camera Rota: Wendy Horne, Charles Stuart

If you wish to find out more information about any of these roles, please do not hesitate to ask either the person currently filling the role, Robin Lees or John Hearn.

AAS Painting Group – The Maltings Alton

The Thursday weekly painting group, in the Target Room, is proving to be very popular, with an average of 13 members attending each session.

Unfortunately the first 2 weeks of January were snowed out, but we resumed once cleared.

Hopefully, there will be some warm Spring sunshine soon and we will be able to spread onto the patio outside the Target Room. The room is very pleasant and the tables provided are suitable for any form of painting from watercolours, pastels, acrylics to oils.

There is friendly chat amongst the members and painting advice on hand also, if required. We are always looking for new members to join our group.

Each session is from 1pm – 4pm every Thursday. There are parking places on the site. The cost is £3 per person per session to cover the hire of the room.

Artists do not have to attend every week, but if a person cannot come to a session, if we know in advance the place can be offered to another member of the AAS.

Contact: Ann Sayer – 01420 84526 or Kate Davis 01420 543458 for further information.



Do come and join our painting group. Relaxed, friendly atmosphere.

Peter Atkins In the Footsteps of Turner

Watercolour 21st November 2009

J. M. W. Turner was born in 1775 and is thought of as having 3 distinct periods; in his 20s he was learning his craft, his work being of similar quality to many of his contemporaries. His middle years were his mountains, rocks and water phase. Then from 1810 onwards he produced his loose, ephemeral ground breaking pictures in his search of light. Turner didn't try to paint the colours of nature but used tonal colours that would work together, using a (blackened) mirror to help view the scene, unhindered by colour distraction.

Peter Atkins demonstrated painting a mountain and lake scene in the style of Turner's middle years, using mixes made up of magenta, Berlin blue (like Windsor), yellow ochre (and a little cobalt blue).

The sky, the secondary subject, was put in avoiding addition of clouds, as the focus was to be the mountains and lake scene, painting tonally in washes in one hit. Peter had removed the points from his brushes to allow the colour to drop straight on to the paper. Once he had washed in the mountains, mopped back a bit with damp kitchen roll, he turned

to the lake. The trick with water is not to overwork it, load the brush and work across quickly. Then add darker colour as reflections of the mountains. Although the washes were broad, he still allowed dry brushwork effects creating light sparkles in the water

Trees were added loosely. Extra yellow to one side at the sunlit tops, moving one colour into another darkening the lower parts as he went, leaving lines of light for branches and trunks rather than painting them in.

Bluer greys in lighter tones for trees further back. Mid-tone foreground rocks were put in, leaving areas of light. Then putting a dark rock face against the light to throw out the face of the rock - light against dark. Where tones were too similar to the background, he pulled it forward with a darker tone. Finally applying dry brushwork to add texture to the foreground.

Peter Atkin's parting painting tip is to know what you want to do before you do it, and then do it with enthusiasm!

Kate Davis

David White – Landscape in Acrylics- 19th Dec

On a treacherously icy day a few brave souls ventured forth to the Assembly Rooms to see David White's demonstration.

On 27th April 2004 David was given early redundancy and his life as an accountant came to an end. When his daughter came home from school she asked for his help with her art homework and from there it all started! That day he painted his first ever picture of moving water and from there he continued to paint, becoming a professional artist and cert Ed teacher, feeding his family entirely from the income he generated from art. The biggest problem artists have is handling colour. To minimize this problem David forgets about colour to start with! In the first half of the demonstration he worked merely in grey tones (using Mars black - made up with a lot of blue - and titanium white - which has the most platelets of white). The old masters used to use red oxide to do their under-painting. David started to put in rough tree shapes. Having made a tonal work the structure of the painting is there for analysis eg: too many trees, make some thicker etc.

In the second half, using watercolour brushes,

David put glazes of colour over the tonal painting. By putting a glaze of sap green on the black it became a hookers green hue, whilst the glaze over the white makes the yellow shine through! Instead of mixing, he used different colour glazes e.g. white, cad red, then cad yellow on top. With the white behind light passes through the glazes and bounces back off the white to produce a brighter image. The transparent acrylics are best for glazes (acrylics, like watercolours, have opaque, transparent and translucent colours - test them!). Starting from the background, David works towards the front of the picture, moving from glazes, to painting structures before finally painting the foreground in thicker paint, building the picture up in layers of distance.

This was a refreshingly different approach to painting and an effective way of minimizing tonal colour problems. It was also a lesson in how far drive and enthusiasm can take you if you are determined enough!

Kate Davis

Change of Address

To friends of Maureen Sixsmith.

Maureen recently broke a hip, but is now recovered. Due to the deterioration of her eyesight Maureen has decided to move into Brendan Care in Alton.

Address: Brendan Care, Adams Way, Alton.
GU34 2UU

If, and when, she has a telephone number we will let you know.

Many thanks to Sheelagh Foort for this information.

Membership News

A warm welcome to two new members of the Society – Annabel Young and Maureen Smith, both from Alton.

My sincere apologies to two members who were omitted from the welcome in the November newsletter – Geoff Sutton from Kingsley and Joanna Wilde from Binsted.



Jennifer Lines – Membership Secretary

NOTICEBOARD.....

Bentley Friday Art Group
will be holding their
Annual Exhibition in
The Memorial Hall, Bentley
Friday 9th April - 12 noon to 5 p.m.
Saturday 10th April, and Sunday 11th April
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Any visitors will be made welcome
Wendy Bennett

Remainder of Winter Programme

AGM 2pm Demonstration 2.30pm
20th March – Anthea De La Roche
Pastel Portrait

17th April – Workshop – Roger Dellar
Figures in Painting – Acrylic/Oil
See front page for full details.

Painting Days

Froyle Village Hall
Mondays
Contact Sheila Edwards if you are
interested in joining
.01252 713750

Editorial Comment

The closing date for the next newsletter is
Friday 9th April 2010
Members, please remember this is your newsletter. If
you have anything you would like entered into the next
newsletter please contact me.
Success stories, painting groups, exhibitions etc.
Please include a contact name, phone number and,
where possible, an email address.
The Editor's decision is final for all entries to the
newsletter.
Ann Sayer – Editor
Contact details:
1 Gauvain Close Alton GU34 2SB
Telephone: 01420 84526
Email: roseanne8SAY@aol.com



An exhibition of paintings
by
Pam (Pell) Jones
at the Allen Gallery
from
Tuesday 2nd February
to
Saturday 27th February 2010

The Gallery is open from
Tuesday to Saturday, 10am- 5pm

Admission Free

Fine Framing

4 Weyside Park Newman Lane
Alton GU34 2PJ
Offers 10% Discount to all fully
paid up members of AAS
Membership Card for the current year
must be available.
Discount applies to picture framing
on new frames only.
Contact Steve Cook Proprietor
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Little Green Dragon
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on all art materials.

Call Claire Hearse 01420 87801 for
more details or
[*Email-info@littlegreendragon.co.uk*](mailto:Email-info@littlegreendragon.co.uk)

Art Classes

St Andrew's Church Hall
Medstead - Mon: 7pm-9pm
Wed: 11pm-1pm or 2pm-4pm
Tutor: Tana Riviere
Relaxed friendly atmosphere
Summer Term begins in May
Details: Ann Sayer 01420 84526