

Joan Wingate: Loyal and popular friend of Alton

AN ALTON mourns well known artist Joan Wingate, a tribute from local librarian Gordon Frater, sums up the feeling towards a talented friend.

Joan Wingate had three great loves in her life - animals, her art and her friends. She was best known for her delightful paintings of plants, birds and animals which brought such pleasure to many, and a tribute to her work is given by the Alton Art Society, of which she was a long standing member.

Joan had a great love for animals of all kinds, from her garden show worms to the timber wolves of Alaska, and she was a keen supporter of many animal support, rescue and charitable societies. Joan's great concern was to improve people's understanding of animals and their needs, and to emphasise our responsibilities towards them.

She was particularly devoted to her own pets and made several friends while walking Donna and Annie in Flood Meadows. For several years she and her husband ran a pet shop in Winchester which enabled her to indulge herself by raising, if only temporarily, several exotic foreign pets.

Though Joan would often claim that she ad worries - and one who took a delight in



Joan Wingate, as many will remember her, setting up a display of her work for exhibition at the Assembly Rooms.

sharing their joys.

"In addition to these qualities, I always admired Joan's sturdy independence, her courage, her strength of character and her scorn of humbug and pretentiousness. Though life was not always fair, she was never bitter and above all was typical of the best of us - you would only find out that she was ill, afterwards.

"However bad she felt, the

care and wellbeing of her pets came first, and she would struggle to ensure that they were fed, walked and cared for whatever her own condition. Joan's sense of humour was a great asset against the trials she faced - no situation was so bleak or so desperate but that in many qualities, her ready hospitality, her bright outlook, her concern for other creatures, for the joy she gave through her

painting but most of all for her staunch and ready friendship. There are many who mourn her with me and we will carry for the rest of our lives a picture of Joan in her chair, a half finished painting in front of her, her dogs at her side and a cigarette in her fingers as we exchange news, opinions, reminiscences and banter. I find it difficult to believe that someone so alive, so full of colour and character is gone. I have lost a dear friend - and so have many others."

Joan Wingate (72) joined the Alton Art Society in October, 1969, and chairman, Pauline Tompkins, adds to Mr. Frater's tribute by expressing the society's sadness at the loss of a talented artist and "valued" member:

"As an artist in the community the popularity of Joan Wingate's pictures has grown from strength to strength and she has gathered many collectors of her work.

"Joan will be well remembered for her meticulous detailed paintings of birds and animals. In particular, I shall always remember her pictures of barn owls with their soulful Joan, particularly at exhibition time."

The funeral service for Joan Wingate was held at Aldershot Crematorium on Wednesday.

Herald

17th Nov 1995

Payment out of order

Sir, - I have just visited the Farnham Art Society exhibition. I was surprised that only a selected few exhibitors were allowed to display their names and prices beside their work. This was a selling exhibition. To discover the asking price of an item for sale one is expected to pay 50p.

I can think of no other examples where one has to pay for a price list, where there are no additional costs such as postage involved.

At all other galleries and p.v.s that I have ever attended a list of exhibits for use in the exhibition has always been provided, with copies available either free or for sale if required to take away. I wonder how many sales will be or were lost by this approach.

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