

# Len Wilding - the artist who put Alton in the picture



*Len Wilding, as he will be remembered by many - using watercolour to record the beauty of a local scene.*

THE SUDDEN loss last week of Alton artist Len Wilding has sent a wave of sadness through the local community.

Described by fellow artist Joan Wingate as "a gentle gentleman," Len Wilding was known by many for his attractive watercolours of local views.

He could often be found, a lone artist, recording the depth and colour of the surrounding countryside, and was a driving force behind the Alton Art Society.

In paying tribute to a close colleague, Joan Wingate spoke of "the shock I felt," and still feel, at losing Len, both as a friend and a fellow artist.

"We used to discuss work together a lot and were in the process of organising our third joint exhibition, planned for next June.

"Len was a very talented water colourist and sculptor.

He worked very quietly in the background, always striving to improve. He was the only one in the town I could discuss my work with and I shall miss him terribly."

Well-known in her own right, Joan Wingate had great respect for Len Wilding. He was, she said, "a remarkable man" who, having suffered a severe heart attack some nine years ago, managed to change direction and completely rebuild his life as a much sought after local artist.

Len Wilding was "a very keen member" of various art societies but particularly Alton, and had served on the committee for many years.

"He always worked hard, in fact it was often difficult to stop him," reflected Joan, whose sympathy goes out at this time to Len's wife, Val, and his daughters, Elizabeth and Celia.