

Dear WAG members

Waterside Art Group Early Spring 2023 Newsletter

I am sure that we are all very pleased that our group has come through the pandemic and is able to make plans for 2023. Last year we had a successful exhibition and you all seemed to enjoy the critique evening, the Saturday workshop and the demonstration. Your committee has recently met to discuss how we can build on last year's successes, and the following is a summary of our thoughts.

There is no doubt that coming together on Tuesday evenings to paint and to socialise with like-minded people is the core of our existence. However, most people also enjoy the occasional additional or alternative event. The John Edwards critiques are always well received, so to kick off our calendar of events we have organised one for **Tuesday 18th April commencing at 7.30pm**. For newer members who may not be familiar with the critique sessions, we may each take along a painting with which we are pleased or one with which we would like some help - or, indeed, one which is "work in progress".

The committee has also organised a workshop with local artist Alan Langford on **Saturday 13th May** with the subject of "Forest scene with ponies" with a medium of your choice. Please let Chris Jones (inmyshed@talktalk.net) know if you would like to take part. The cost should not exceed £25.

We are very excited that we have managed to arrange for the internationally-known artist Soraya French to demonstrate her very lively and colourful techniques. "The evening will be packed with information but fun at the same time plus teaching painting techniques during the demo - mainly acrylics mixed with other media such as pastels". This will be on **Tuesday 3rd October**.

At our Tuesday evening session on 28th February we sought the views of the (large number) of members present on some other ideas. The one with a large show of hands was to have an occasional still life session where a display is set up on a central table and we draw or paint the subject. Of course, this is optional and those members who wish to continue their normal painting may do so. Another "fun" activity is for each member to bring along a smallish object to draw and then the objects are passed to the next person every ten minutes or so. At the end of the evening we should each end up with a "collage" of the subjects on a single sheet of paper. This idea did receive some support but less than the still life suggestion.

A couple of ideas that were of less interest were to have a clothed life drawing session not unlike the ten minute approach above and to have an untutored Saturday workshop. These two suggestions will be kept "on the back burner".

Of course, the event that focuses us in the summer is our annual exhibition. Once again we will be holding this as part of Hampshire Open Studios. It is never too early to start thinking about and preparing our entries. More details will be shared with you in due course. The exhibition will commence on Saturday 19th August.

As information about our activities becomes available it will be published in our comprehensive website **www.watersideartgroup.co.uk**.

Finally, the committee wishes you happy and successful painting and drawing as the season unfolds. Do let us know if you have any thoughts about the group. Remember that the members of the committee are **your** elected representatives to organise our activities for the benefit of all.

Kind regards

Peter York
Chairman