

Waterside Art Group

Chairman's late-spring Newsletter

Dear WAG members

I thought it was high time we had a newsletter, so here goes!

People

I am delighted that having been elected as Secretary at the AGM and having pulled back from her work commitments, Frances (King) is taking up the reins of secretary with much enthusiasm! Frances has a wealth of experience in related skills and is already applying these to the job. Amongst other things, Frances is happy to write our edits for The Herald - something that I started many years ago. With some of us ageing rather it is great to have a younger, able person taking on these responsibilities so that the group is not left in the lurch if/when we become unable. I think they call it "succession planning". So thank you Frances for offering to take on this role.

Our "Big Brush" workshop

Our fairly recent workshop led by John Edwards was a great success, with the use of large brushes meaning that our work had to be "loose". We invited members of other art groups in addition to our own, and the feedback from all of them was extremely positive. By making the workshop "open" we were raising the profile of art in the area as being promoted by Culture in Common, who supported the workshop. A different approach to art like John's has encouraged some members to try techniques not previously attempted - for example by one member who normally uses fine coloured pencils! I must mention new member Nicola who really took on board John's mantra of "use of tone is much more important than colour". Her near-monochrome of John's cottage sketch in the afternoon was amazing. Well-done Nicola!

John Edward's "critique"

This always-popular event is the next one in our schedule. It will be on Tuesday 13th May starting at **7.30pm**. This is to allow John to transit from his previous appointment. As always, attendees are invited to bring along a painting or drawing for John to pick out the good points (he always does!) and, perhaps, to suggest where the art could be enhanced. Again, this will be an "open" event where any artist may bring along a piece of their art.

Recent WAG Committee Meeting

At our recent first meeting since the AGM there was much looking forward to already-fixed and possible events future events. Following the success of our recent workshop it was agreed that we should have another one, probably in the autumn. Frances will

be exploring the possibilities. She is also researching a demo. With the cost of these having increased significantly since Covid, we can no longer hold them at the frequency of the past so we want to ensure that those we do have are of high quality - and, obviously, of interest to our members and others.

Before long, Frances will be making available all the relevant information for our Summer Exhibition. There will be new ideas this year so please do reply ASAP so that further plans can be made.

Our Community Centre room

You will be aware that our number of members is quite reduced (but very healthy), which means that the cost of hiring our room is inevitably higher per person - with a reflection in the subscriptions. We always try hard to keep the subs as low as possible. With less people normally attending Tuesday evenings, we have explored the possibility with the Centre of using only half of the room - and therefore reducing the rent. They have agreed with this and we will experiment from now onwards. It has been agreed with the Centre that the arrangement will remain flexible. For example we need the whole room for demos, workshops etc - and, of course, if our number attending increases.

Wall-hanging facilities in the Centre

You may have noticed in the passage that a wall-hanging system has been installed, funded by Culture in Common. As the Centre has explained in the Herald, the idea is that art users of the Centre will be invited to display their work for sale or otherwise. We will let you know when they have the system in operation.

Well, I think that's all for now. Do let me know if you have any ideas or queries, and don't forget to keep yourselves informed of everything to do with WAG in our website, which is always kept up-to-date by Mary. Thank you Mary!

Kind regards

Peter
athelingvillas@gmail.com