

Waterside Art Group

Chairman's autumn Newsletter

Dear WAG members

Having just completed our Summer Exhibition, and looking forward to our Autumn Term, it seems to be a good time to share some thoughts with you!

Autumn term starts....

On Tuesday 9th September. Hope to see you there with your new autumn projects - or maybe continuing something started last term, like me!

Our 2025 exhibition

I hope you agree with me and our visitors that this was a highly successful event. Of course, exhibitions can only happen if artists produce their paintings and drawings, and mount and frame them where appropriate. So a big "thank you" to all those members who displayed their work and acted as stewards. With a smaller number of exhibitors this year, the opportunity to have the use of 'whole boards' was much appreciated, and visitors commented positively about this. We received 500 visitors over our seven days of opening. The country's uncertain economic situation undoubtedly affected sales but we did well selling 12 paintings and more than 70 cards. Congratulations to Kathy Hammond for winning the Favourite Painting with her 'Front row seats' deckchair painting. There is no doubt that holding this vote encourages visitors to take a closer view and a 'repeat look' at the exhibits. Children found this fun as well! The raffle brought in just over £100 so was worth doing. Many thanks to Fran, Chris and Kate for contributing their prizes.

As well as offering the pictures for display, a tremendous effort goes into actually staging the exhibition. So enormous thanks to everybody involved in the administrative and financial aspects, the assembly of the display boards, the arranging of tables and chairs (and, of course, the disassembly and putting away of all these!), the maintenance and erecting and taking down of the yellow road boards and pink arrows - and many thanks to the helpful relatives of artists in their contributions to all of this.

To finish off this section of the Newsletter here is a selection of positive comments from visitors:

"Lovely welcoming exhibition"

"Amazing local talent"

"The best layout and display in the area"

Looking forward to the autumn term

Demonstration by Stewart Beckett 14th October 2025

We are looking forward to Stewart's demonstration of a Coastal Scene using oils in a loose manner. You may have seen his work at Palais des Vaches in Exbury or even attended one of his many workshops there. Admission is £5.00, and the evening begins at 7.00pm at Hythe and Dibden Community Centre in our usual room. Do invite your friends to the demonstration for the same admission price. Remember that admission can be paid by card.

Workshop by Sue Kerrigan-Harris 22nd November 2025

This will be a pastel workshop painting a wintry scene. If you don't have pastels, don't worry because all materials will be provided! The all-inclusive price will be just £30.00, subsidised by a much-appreciated grant from a local councillor. Numbers will be restricted to 12 artists. If that number is not reached with members, then the workshop will be opened up to non-members at a cost of £35.00. This will be a full day workshop commencing at 10.00am and finishing at 3.30pm. We will break for about an hour for lunch (drinks will be available from the cafe). Frances will shortly make the booking form available electronically and will also bring paper copies to art on Tuesday evenings.

Christmas dinner

Your committee has decided once again to have a Christmas dinner at The Boathouse on 9th December (the last painting evening this term will be Tuesday 2nd December) Kate has kindly agreed to arrange this, and details will be available nearer the time.

The spring term 2026

We will recommence art on Tuesday **13th January** and the last evening of the autumn term will be Tuesday 2nd December.

The AGM will be on Tuesday **3rd February**. You normally support this opportunity to reflect on the previous year and to look forward to the coming year. We hope that you will do so this time and share ideas for 2026. Your committee has decided that due to the uncertain economic climate, we will not increase the annual subscription. So it will remain at £60.00 for the whole year plus the Community Centre membership fee (currently £5.00 per person per annum)

Finally

..... I hope that you enjoy your painting with us this term and hope that you will rejoin the group in 2026.

Kind regards

Peter