

Waterside Art Group

Chairman's Spring Newsletter 2026

Dear WAG members

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter. There are lots of flowers in our gardens now - some were so early this year that they have even gone over already - and we are seeing wonderful blossoms on the trees. A lot of opportunity for being inspired to get painting!

About our people

We are very pleased to welcome all our new members. They are very enthusiastic and definitely becoming active members of the Group, with one even volunteering to join the committee! We hope that they not only enjoy "normal" Tuesday evenings but also our special events such as Tuesday demonstrations, Saturday whole-day workshops and, for the first time for ages, "Plein-aire" painting and drawing locally on Sunday afternoons. The remainder of this newsletter includes the activities that we have planned until, and including our Summer Exhibition.

Review of our paintings by John Edwards - 17th March

On Tuesday 17th March, commencing at **7.30pm**, John will be coming to help us see our paintings and drawings through the eyes of a professional artist. He will highlight the positive points of them and also gently suggest where we could enhance them. Each member and non-member is invited to bring along one piece of their art for John to review. Remember that the framing is part of the art so don't spoil it with an inappropriate frame or a damaged one! The entry fee for members and non-members is £5.00 to cover the cost of the evening.

Plein-aire sketching/painting/drawing - 12th April & 14th June

This is an activity that we haven't attempted for many years. It was suggested at our AGM so we are going to give it a try! On Sunday 12th April at 2.00pm we have planned to meet at Prospect Place in Hythe at 2.00pm for some outdoor art. This could be sketching, drawing or even painting. There is lots of subject matter including old buildings, an old tree, the water, the pier and the Marina. All you need to do is to bring your chosen art materials and a picnic-type chair. Parking is available in Jones Lane car park, and take-away drinks can be purchased at cafes in Hythe. Plein-aire can initially seem to be rather a challenge but once you settle down it can become quite absorbing and relaxing. Give it a go!

Demonstration by Ronnie Ireland - 21st April

For the first time we are very pleased to be welcoming this professional artist and tutor. Ronnie will be not so much endeavouring to just produce a finished self-portrait (again a subject suggested at the AGM) but to be showing us *how* to approach this. All of this

should be very relevant as we are hoping to have a display board devoted to self-portraits by members at our Summer Exhibition. Member and non-members are equally invited for the entry fee of £5.00. Usual starting time of 7.00pm.

Saturday Workshop with John Edwards - 16th May

We are delighted that John has agreed to devote a Saturday to the Group to conduct a workshop with the theme **"Back To Basics"**. Once again this idea has been suggested by members and is intended to go about the process of starting with sketches for first ideas. John will be providing charcoal but please bring some paper for the sketches and watercolour or acrylic paint for use in the afternoon when we will colour the morning sketches. The cost for the day will be a great value £30. Drinks will be available throughout the day from the Community Centre Cafe. Places will be limited to 12 and will be on a first come basis. Booking forms can be obtained from our secretary Frances King.

Demonstration by Lynne Davies - 14th July

This will be a welcome repeat visit by Lynne when she will be demonstrating the use of acrylics and the subject of "wild animals". As usual members and non-members will be equally invited (tell your friends!!) for the demonstration entry fee of £5.00. We will start at 7.00pm as usual.

Summer Exhibition 22nd to 29th August (excluding Sunday 23rd)

Taking place as part of Hampshire Open Studios, Frances will be providing detailed information and registration forms nearer the time, but you can access our website **now** for first ideas of what the exhibition is all about. Remember that it's not too early to be thinking about creating paintings and drawings to exhibit from now onwards.

Autumn Programme

Your committee have already had their "hats on" and are planning to arrange another demonstration and a workshop for this term. Watch this space!

Kind regards

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PS Don't forget that there is always masses of up-to-date information about our group in our website:
watersideartgroup.co.uk