

Waterside Art Group

Newsletter Autumn 2026

Dear Waterside Art Group members

Here is an autumn update on WAG information.

Summer exhibition

I hope that you all agree that our recent exhibition was extremely successful. I would like to give many thanks to all members who took part in a wide variety of ways. We had more or less 600 visitors and we received very positive comments from attendees. Congratulations to our relatively new member Elaine Allsopp whose painting 'Scottish Wildcat' was awarded the Visitors' Favourite Painting. With so many more groups and individuals now partaking in Hampshire Open Studios (HOS) it is inevitable that, although we receive just as many visitors, we are going to sell less paintings - especially "larger" ones. We have decided to take part in HOS again next year because, if we are going to open, it is much more rewarding to welcome twice the number that we would have had without being part of it.

Demonstration by Jamil Akib on Tuesday 6th October at 7.00pm

Jamil demonstrated for us some years ago and was very well received. He produces colourful and exciting vibrant paintings, holds a BA Honours Degree in Illustration and is an award winning artist. This should be a very "special" demonstration and we encourage you to attend as well as letting as many of your artist and non-artist friends know about it. Admission fee is only £5.00 and we can take payment by card as well as cash.

Possible autumn workshop

Just to let you know that we are investigating the possibility of a "Christmas Card Workshop". We will let you know if this comes to fruition.

Christmas meal

Your committee is planning a meal at the Boathouse on 8th December. More details will follow.

2027 WAG membership fee

In order to meet increasing costs of Hall hire and demonstrator fees the Committee has decided to increase the WAG annual fee by £5.00 to make it £65.00. In order for the Group to benefit from preferential hiring rates it is necessary for us all to hold Centre Membership (currently £5.00) Because some of our members belong to more

than one activity related to the Centre, we have agreed with the Community Centre that the Centre fee will from 2027 be paid directly to the Centre and not via the Art Group. Further details about payment method will be provided towards the end of the year.

2027 term dates

The following are the dates for the year:

Spring term starts 12th January

AGM 2nd February

Summer term ends 27th July

Exhibition 21st to 28th August (excluding 22nd)

Autumn term starts 7th September

Autumn term ends 7th December (Christmas meal on 14th December)

Spring term starts 11th January 2028

AGM 1st February 2028

Committee changes

Those of you who were WAG members at the beginning of the year will recall that at the 2026 AGM I indicated my intention to retire as Chair at the following AGM. The committee has been working hard during the year, especially at Exhibition time, to enable this by ensuring that all the relevant paperwork is made available to the committee. We are looking for people to take over the responsibility of Chair and also for one or two additional "ordinary members" to join the committee. If you have any interest in these posts please discuss it with any committee member - or think about it seriously if approached by a committee member.

Mary is also retiring from the committee at the AGM. She currently organises the WAG website and will continue this through next year. But during that time we will be looking for somebody to take on that responsibility. So anybody who is experienced in running websites or who is willing to learn during the year should talk to Mary in the first instance. The site we use is Wordpress, which is relatively straightforward to use.

Kind regards

Peter York
Chairman
Waterside Art Group