



Founded 1958

Newsletter

February 2020

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Welcome from your Chairman

Greetings to one and all, I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and are now working hard on your New Year resolutions.

The Christmas social evening was a great success. Thanks to the faithful few for their time and energy, without those few there would have been no social evening. I must also thank you all for your generosity in the raffle and auction.

We are now full steam ahead for our AGM in March, where we will need people to come forward as committee and non-committee helpers. If WAG is to continue to run as a thriving group attracting new members, we need fresh ideas and contributions.

Don't forget, everyone, that this year's exhibition has moved one week right to the final week of August. There will also be new pricing arrangements for both pictures and crafts, and stricter controls on framing. Think ahead don't get turned away on handing in day.

Look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the AGM. It is your chance to have your say.

Take care everyone and have a good artistic year.

Chris Francis, Chairman

Obituary - John Tudor

Former Group member John Tudor passed away in December. He was very gifted in his woodwork creations, as well as faithful on his British Legion rounds until a very advanced age. He was always very friendly and will be sadly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with John's family and friends.

Annual General Meeting 2020

Thursday 5th March

St Mary's Church Hall, Warsash

Please arrive for 7.30pm

Wine and soft drinks will be provided.

Bring a painting or work-in-progress to display.

This year's Agenda and last year's Minutes have been sent to Members by email with this newsletter. The corresponding file attachment is AGM2020.pdf

Subscriptions

Subscriptions are due for renewal on 1st April. We are increasing the fee from £16 to £20 this year. This is a bigger jump than we've had before, but please understand that the Group needs to cover the increasing costs of providing a full, varied programme of activities, including tutored classes, artist demonstrations and the Annual Exhibition. We also need cash in the bank for contingencies, such as possibly needing to pay for storage of equipment in future. Please complete the Membership Renewal Form and send it to the Membership Secretary, not forgetting your signature and payment. For the majority of members receiving this newsletter by email, you should have received this form as a separate pdf attachment: MembershipForm2020.pdf

Please note that to be eligible to submit work to our Annual Exhibition in August, you need to have renewed your membership by 1st June.

On the form, you will also need to give your consent for Warsash Art Group to use your personal details. This is to comply with GDPR Regulations. There's a tick box for your *GDPR Consent (name, postal address and phone number)* and a separate box for your *Electronic Consent (email)*. You can tick yes or no for both, but the Group is now sending out newsletters and all forms, including Exhibition Entry Forms, electronically to minimize printing and postage costs. With email, we can also keep you up to date with WAG happenings, including any last minute changes of plan. "We" here means the Committee (usually the Membership Secretary and the Secretary), members of the Exhibition Team and the organiser of tutored classes. We will not share your details among ordinary Group Members or third parties.

NB - If you change your email and / or postal address during the year, please let the Membership Secretary, and the Secretary know. We wouldn't like anyone to miss anything they are entitled to receive or participate in as a paid-up WAG Member.

New Members Welcome to Claire Eden who joined Warsash Art Group in November.

Painting and Sketching in Warsash and Around

Some of our Members have been among the intrepid people gathering to sketch on or near Warsash Quay on Monday mornings, weather permitting. If you'd like to join us, meet in the Warsash Quay car park, at 10.00am (approx April-Oct) or 10.30am (Nov-Mar). We usually sketch for about an hour then have a coffee in The Rising Sun. Occasionally we've caught the Pink Ferry over to Hamble-le-Rice and sketched at Hill Head. If you're on Facebook, visit the *Sketching in Warsash* group, run by Martin Barnett and Sheila Macgougan, to view and post sketches. Otherwise, please speak to / email Joan or Sheila. Bring your usual sketching kit and layer according to the weather. It's always cooler and breezier by the water. Don't forget sunglasses for bright days and a sketching stool or chair is useful. Weatherwise this winter has been a mixed bag, with two recent Mondays of contrasting weather. A windy, bleak session on the second Monday of January cowering behind a wall until the pub opened as a storm approached; followed by fine sunshine and calm, as a particularly intense anticyclone prevailed a week later.

Team WAG 2020

The Committee Nominations sheet for the year 1st April 2020 – 31st March 2021 will be displayed at our evening meeting on Thursday 6th February. Though this is the last meeting before the AGM, Members can add their names until Thursday 27th February, a week before the AGM. Any paid-up Member can stand in addition to or against any of the nominees there already. You will need a Proposer and Secunder which can be any two individual Members. Eight members of the current Committee are standing again and have indicated that they can continue in their present roles. Two Committee members will be standing down at the AGM:

Brian Gray is retiring after eleven years on the Committee, nine of them as Secretary. During the 2010s, he handled much of the Group's admin; edited the newsletter, assisted the Exhibition Team, helped ready St. Mary's Church Hall for evening meetings; and did lots of things behind the scenes such as managing storage of the Group's equipment and electrical safety testing. During my ten years as a member of WAG, I've been very grateful for everything he's done, including assisting me as Newsletter Editor and helping me find my feet as Secretary.

As Jane Moody steps down after five years as Programme Secretary, we should also appreciate the work she has put into arranging speakers and demonstrating artists at our evening meetings. She has booked a full programme through to February 2021. For it to continue any further, however, we will need someone to replace her. Likewise Chris Madden who has organised tutored Tuesday classes and Saturday workshops for the same length of time. You do not necessarily have to be on the Committee to replace either of them, just pass on any developments as they happen.

If you think you can help, please make yourself known to Chairman Chris Francis or Secretary Joan Lee. We'd be delighted to hear from you.

We're also grateful to various Members who have helped on the Exhibition Team, at evening meetings and with newsletter preparation. Among them: Sue Gray and Karen Clements for catering help; Cindy Sherman, Sylvia Allen and Linda Amor who have helped with newsletter preparation over the past year; and Nicky Ballingall who oversees the untutored Wednesday sessions at the Sarisbury Green Parish Rooms.

Artists' Websites

Vic Bearcroft – demonstrating artist September 2019
<https://www.vicbearcroft.co.uk/>

David Boag – photography lecture November 2019
<http://naturalfocus.co.uk/>

Pip McGarry – demonstrating artist February 2020
<https://www.pipmcgarry.com/>

Ronnie Ireland - demonstrating artist April 2020
<https://www.ronnieirelandart.com/>

Dates for your Diary 2020

Thursday 5th March – Annual General Meeting
Monday 1 st April – Subscriptions due for renewal
Thursday 2 nd April - Artist demonstration: Ronnie Ireland – <i>The Humble Pencil</i>
Thursday 7 th May - Artist demonstration: Dave White – <i>Sea and Sky in Acrylics</i>
Thursday 4 th June – Lynda Appleby - Appraisal
Thursday 2 nd July - Talk: Douglas Skeggs – <i>Poets, Painters and Private Lives in Venice</i>
Wednesday 26 th August – Exhibition Preview Evening.
Thursday 27 th – Sunday 30 th August – Exhibition open to the public

Next Newsletter

The next newsletter will be produced for our evening meeting on Thursday 2nd April and distributed to Members, like this one, by email. Please then, let me know if you change your email address or if the current one on our records needs amending. This is especially important at this time of year, as Subscription Renewal approaches. Contributions, including write-ups of evening meetings and news of members' art activities are always welcome. Please could I have them by Monday 23rd March.
Contact details available to Members of Warsash Art Group.

Newsletter edited and produced by Joan Lee

The Art Appraisal

The group assembled in the hall
Were local artists one and all.
All amateurs and very keen
As members of the arty scene.
They signed the book and took a seat
And talked about tonight's rare treat.
Two famous artists were invited
And both had said they were delighted,
To come along, provide critique
With some advice, well, so to speak.
The most well known, a portly man
Who somehow kept an all year tan.
It was a funny orange shade,
A little bit like orangeade.
His hair was dyed as black as jet,
His clothes the best that he could get.
A tight fit on a portly fellow,
It was a kind of sickly yellow.
His name was Julian Pallet,
But coming from the moneyed set
Preferred 'Pallet' pronounced 'Pallay'
It sounded posher said that way.
The second man was Mungo James
Was up there with the famous names.
He had a limp caused by a fall
When writing rude things on a wall.
He was a scruffy kind of Erk
Reflecting well his kind of work.
All splodges, scrapes and bits of muck,
Well anything that he could chuck
At canvases laid on the floor,
To make it easier to pour
Some paint to make a messy goo,
And other things he'd throw in too.
How he looked he didn't care,
With unwashed skin and uncombed hair.
His T-shirt was a washed out black
With obscene logos front and back.
Very often could be seen
Clues to what a meal had been.
The jeans were trendy, ripped and torn
Just as the modern youth's are worn.
One of the tears was rather high,
Right up in the inner thigh.
The ladies in the front row there
Could see he wore no underwear,
For as he walked came poking through
A little bit of howdy do.
The ladies tried to hide their giggles
Each time he moved it kind of wiggles.
They didn't mind, not in the least
Each time they glimpsed that little beast.
They struggled hard to hide their laughter
Hoping they could last 'till after.
Why is he here? I hear you ask.
What will his part be in this task?
Jules saw him posing in the buff
And thought, 'Hmm lovely bit of rough'.
He hardly speaks, just grunt and sniff
Dependent on the strength of spliff.
Well, getting to the job in hand
I think you need to understand

That Julian is quite a snob.
He views critiquing just a job.
It keeps his name in public sight
And so he'd do this one tonight.
These art groups were a lowly lot,
And for their art cared not a jot.
He thinks it crass as you could get
All landscape, seascape, the family pet.
Well, as he's here he'd wait and see
What they'd produce to earn his fee.
A painting was put up on show.
His first reaction was 'Oh No!'
A full face portrait of a man
Done by a member known as Stan.
The subject had a cross eyed stare,
Was looking neither here..nor there.
Big ears, he was an ugly chap,
His front teeth had a nasty gap.
'Ahaa' cried Jules 'oh yes. Such fun
A cartoon for our number one.
The artist really has done well
To make us laugh, and you can tell
That he has got a comic style.
It makes me chuckle, it makes me smile.'
He turned around to face the hall
Intending to address them all.
And sitting on the third row in
Was cross eyed Stan with a gap toothed grin!
Realising that he'd made a gaff
Broke out in a nasty rash.
The paintings went up thick and fast
Until he saw the very last.
'Oh me oh my! This one's divine
I really wish this work was mine.
The lines, the colour, the subject matter
The brush strokes and the lovely splatter.
The way the artist placed each figure,
And drawn some small and some much bigger.
The style is modern, primitive
So we must use initiative,
Think deeply what the artist meant
In depiction of this crude event.
Is the artist here tonight?'
He gazed around and hoped to sight
The creator with such artistic skill.
Nobody made a move until
A person sat near cross eyed Stan
Stood, faced our Jules and then began,
"Sir, with the greatest of respect
I recognise your intellect,
But I perceive a certain doubt
In what you think that we're about.
After all is said and done
We paint for pleasure and for fun.
Your taste in art differs from mine
That's good, I think, that's really fine.
Especially when I reveal to you
The artist of your last review
Is my young niece Beatrix,
A little girl aged just six!"

Vic Bettridge