

# Wokingham Art Society Newsletter – November 2011

[www.wokinghamartsociety.org.uk](http://www.wokinghamartsociety.org.uk)

Editor Chris Parry



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It was great to see Chris Parry's painting, "Rhapsody in Blue" this year's 'People's Choice' winner, published in the October's issue of Leisure Painter: a beautiful painting and a great advert for our Society. Well done Chris and Annet too, for sending it to the magazine.

We enjoyed our first interactive demo led by Dee Cowell last month and I have heard nothing but enthusiasm for the entertaining and very successful evening. Thank you Dee.

**Don Lowey has tendered his resignation as Treasurer effective from the next AGM in June. His hard work has been**

**greatly appreciated.** I asked for a volunteer at the last demo and Rebecca Johnson offered immediately. **Thank you so much Rebecca.** We have co-opted her onto the committee with a view to her taking on the role if approved at the AGM. Of course if anyone else is interested we need to know beforehand . .

**.Being on the committee is a great way to make friends and become really involved with the Society and we always need more help - so if anyone is interested in joining us or perhaps just helping out in a less formal way we would love to hear from you. Our current committee is very long serving and I fear for the Society if we all resign at once! We need to know who is 'waiting in the wings' so to speak! I sometimes wonder if we don't avail ourselves of all the opportunities available to us as we already do so much. So please let us know if there is anything more you want from us and keep an eye on the website which is the only effective**

way to communicate such opportunities between newsletters. There is not much else for me to say that is not already featured elsewhere in the Newsletter so I will point you towards those in case you don't notice them.

**Last chance to book for the coach trip to Tate Britain on November 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**Help needed for the Annual Tree Festival – see template**

- **Two exciting workshops on offer – a genuine reason to book early to avoid disappointment! I already have!**
- **Amendments to the constitution attached**  
We still have our Christmas Demo with Brian Woods to enjoy but, as this is the last newsletter until February, I **Wish you all a Happy Christmas and New Year**

*Sue*

## Drawing Workshop, 18th October with Dee Cowell

For those who hadn't met her before, Dee started with a little reminder of her early life in Southern Rhodesia and South Africa and of how, despite studying towards veterinarian qualifications, she decided quite early to concentrate on art.

More than anything else, when drawing a person Dee is interested in making the dynamism show. She does this by drawing a sort of skeleton: a rough circle for the head; a single curve of the torso continuing into a leg; smaller circles for shoulders and hips; single lines for the bones in the limbs; even smaller circles for the heels and finally triangles-with-toes for the feet (bigger than you think).

Then rough oval "sausages" can be added for the muscles etc, remembering that most of these are to one side of the bones (little on the spine or shins, for example).

She gave each of us four sheets of coloured pastel paper, lent us boards and white chalk and sold us "self-sharpening" charcoal pencils (much cheaper than in the shops).



As a warm-up she got us to sketch imagined symmetrical vases:

- line down the centre;
- a best try shape for one side of the vase (we won't mention the "cheat" who immediately folded the paper down the centre-line so the charcoal transferred!);
- horizontal lines top, bottom and at every point where something interesting happens (changes of direction);
- using a separate piece of paper, measure the distances along these lines from the centre-line to the vase edge and then slide the paper across, make little ticks the same distance on the other side and join them up
- measure appropriate small distances above and below the top line and form an ellipse for the rim (and similarly for the base if it's visible). Remember, ellipses have no points at the ends! The main part of the evening was drawing, inspired by photos. "Always use black and white copies, not colour".

She doesn't find the various rules about the body being 7.5 heads, and so on, very much use. Do your own measuring.

For her first example she divided the subject into six slices, starting with the distance from the top of the head to the shoulder and noting how well this fitted with other notable points. Detail could then be built around this framework. For the second example we were all given an A5 copy of the same drawing and invited to draw along with her as she was demonstrating. On this photo she divided the body up with only four lines and drew corresponding lines on the paper.

As usual, Dee started with the head and the lovely curve from there down to the knee and beyond. Rough "sausages" or circles located torso, hip, thigh and knee.

Paying more attention to the negative spaces than to the outline of the body, she put harder lines where the bones were nearer the surface. The most important negative spaces were between arm and head, between arm and knee, between underarm and spine and under the knees.



Next came tone. The darker areas were well blackened and smoothed out with a finger. The same process was used with chalk for the light areas. This was the start of a repetitive process of (a) reinforcing lines, (b) adding charcoal and pulling it into adjacent white and (c) adding chalk and pulling it into adjacent black.

One difference between Dee and the rest of us was that we had all been given coloured paper. For us, the paper itself provided a mid-tone but Dee, using white paper, had to create all the mid-tones as well.

Next came tone. The darker areas were well blackened and smoothed out with a finger. The same process was used with chalk for the light areas. This was the start of a repetitive process of (a) reinforcing lines, (b) adding charcoal and pulling it into adjacent white and (c) adding chalk and pulling it into adjacent black. With some people drawing and others not, she really had to multi-task. But it was quite a challenge for us too, to remember what we had been told earlier in the evening, apply it to our drawing from new photos and at the same time listen to Dee as she talked us through her live sketch.

Dee gave us a super evening, very unusual but it really worked, and, by the end, everyone was smiling.

*Sam Dauncey*

## Workshop with Chris Forsey

February 4th 2012 at the Wade centre Wokingham

Cost £16

Subject - Landscape

Medium - Watercolour/ Acrylics/ Oil pastel for detail

Paper - NOT paper and strips of stiff card / mount board as liners .

### Please note

There are already 7 names on this list, so as you see the list is filling up fast, so, if you wish to put you name down, please contact either

(Brenda Baldwin on 9784481 or

Chris Parry on 9783040)

## Are you going on the Tate Britain Trip?

Did you know that you can take a boat up the river from Tate Britain to the Tate Modern and come back again to pick the coach up at Tate Britain.

### Tate Boat

The Tate Boat runs every forty minutes during gallery opening hours between [Tate Britain](#) and [Tate Modern](#).

### Tickets

Tickets can be purchased [online](#), from Tate Modern, from Tate Britain or by calling **020 7887 8888** (9.45-17.50, Monday-Friday). Advance tickets are valid for use all day.

Tickets can also be purchased on the boat subject to availability.

### Prices.

**Adult single £5      Tate members £3.50**

**If you haven't booked yet** – get your skates on as Liz will be opening the outing to other groups if there are seats available . **To Book – Phone**

**Liz Manley on 9772569**

## **Amendments to the constitution**

Amendments to the constitution were proposed by the Committee and **approved by over 70** members at an **Extraordinary General Meeting on October 18<sup>th</sup> 2011**

### **2.7 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

- a) There shall be an Annual General Meeting of Full Members and Associate Members held once a year, at such time and place as may be arranged by the Executive Committee.

### **2.10 CHANGES IN THE CONSTITUTION**

- a) The Clauses of the Constitution can only be changed at the AGM or with the consent of a General meeting especially convened for the purpose. At such meetings 20% of the membership shall constitute a quorum.
- b)

**Please attach these amendments to your current copy of the Constitution.**

The Treasurers report can be obtained from the Treasurer upon request.

Sharon Hurst -  
Fantasy Painting in  
Watercolour,  
20 September 2011

Before the demo, I'd expected to be able to say "Here are some pictures of the way the demo progressed, but for details just look at the write-up from 2007." There are similarities but I still landed up with quite a few notes.

This is destined to become Sharon's 2011 Christmas card: a starry sky; Christmas lights and a Christmas angel, slightly one-over-the-eight, loosely holding a nearly-empty champagne bottle and a sprig of mistletoe. Sharon gets her models from fashion and lingerie magazines and she Googles to pick up details like the lights and the mistletoe.



She uses 140lb unstretched Bockingford paper because it is sized all the way through, doesn't absorb colour enough to stop you lifting it out (with sponge, brush or salt), is very tolerant of bad treatment and its wrinkles vanish as it dries.

Sharon had already spent a long time composing the

picture, lightly drawing all the significant lines and then liberally applying her own, blue, easy-to-see *Sharon Hurst masking fluid*.

"Forward planning is essential". A 1.5" hake wet the areas around the lights before she dropped pure colours in. These spread out to form diffuse patches which were then well dried. She speaks highly of Shin Han watercolours: organic, transparent, permanent and inexpensive. Transparency is essential for multiple glazes.

Next the sky above the lights was wetted and a staining mixture of Indigo and Prussian Blue liberally brushed into it.

No great care was needed, except to catch the occasional runs, because the masking fluid protected the lines.

For skin she uses multiple glazes of a very well diluted mix of burnt sienna, burnt umber (20%) and alizarin (10%). This is applied as a flat wash (keeping a line of wet paint as you work down the paper) and then thoroughly dried. For darker edges, the subsequent glazes are less diluted and blended in (repeatedly apply, rinse brush, remove excess water from brush, lift off). For the darkest skin shadows French Ultramarine are added .



The demo's time constraints had made her depart slightly from her 'order of creation' rule of thumb (sky, background, skin and finally clothes) but she was greeted with gasps of horror, just before the coffee break when she took the dark sky down over the lower half of the picture. This completely obliterated the coloured light patches until she re-exposed them by lifting the wet paint out with a cloth.

In the interval, while the dark paint was still damp, she put the board flat and sprinkled table salt onto the lights to give a granulated effect. This effect depends on the size of the salt grains (the background of the small picture below was done with dishwasher granules).

The salt takes the dark paint off the lights  
● dark paint puddles on the masking fluid (you should remove excess wet paint from masked areas)  
● fine white lines were made with masking fluid and a size zero rigger (well soaped to preserve it).

Other things we had been told in 2007 (many of which I had forgotten) were repeated.

● Don't paint finger nails

until the very end

● Wings were started with Quinacridone Magenta, Windsor Violet being added later

● The edges of the feathers are little triangles of Payne's Grey

● All overlapping areas cast a dark shadow ● Shadow edges curve to follow the contours

● Apply masking fluid with a single stroke and don't leave it on for more than about 24 hours. It can be removed and re-painted several times in a single painting

● Stars and other texture can be added onto the dark sky with white gouache. Cover any areas that don't need the spray, be careful not to have the paint too wet and avoid oblique spray (which gives teardrops instead of little circles). So ended another fascinating evening. Sharon is an artist with her own intriguing style. I nearly said "inimitable" but no-one, even with no wish to paint fairies and angels, can fail to want to try out some of her techniques.

*Thank you, Sharon.*



*Sam Dauncey*

## *Festival of Christmas Trees*

*This year we have decided to decorate the Christmas Tree with little framed paintings.*

- 1. The whole piece, picture and frame being on a piece of card, 4 inches by 3 inches*
- 2. Both sides need to be decorated.*
- 3. The frame can be made out of card and decorated to suit the miniature, so that it looks jewel like, and festive.*
- 4. Attach a pretty string or ribbon for hanging on the tree.*

*It would be nice to see the members participate and show their unique talents - so please have a go and send your finished piece to Sue Smith / Chairman*

*Do go along and take the family or friends to see the festival on Christmas Trees, each society will have decorated their tree to showcase their craft.*

*Delicious lunches / homemade cakes / tea and coffee are served for the duration of the festival - a real afternoon out, and the children will love making their choices as to the winning tree.*

## Message Board

*Do you have a message for the board, perhaps you have found something of interest to the society and you would like to share it.*

*If so please contact me, Chris Parry  
Tel 0118 9783040 or email on [parryhouse@aol.com](mailto:parryhouse@aol.com)*



## Video Library

There is a selection of art videos and DVD's at the monthly meetings for hire by members of the society. Hire charge is £1 per item. Please return item promptly at the next meeting.

For more information, or if you have any suggestions, please contact

**Alison Messias**  
**0118 9783188**

Society Member  
Rosemarie de Goede  
SWA

*We are thinking today of Rosemarie who is in hospital, at the moment fighting a respiratory infection, and I know that you will want to add your voice to those of the committee to wish her a speedy recovery.  
With love x*

## Hawk Printing Ltd

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## V & A Traynor Fine Arts

### Picture Framing

8, Victoria Place,  
Terrace Road North, Binfield, RG42 5JB  
Tel; 01344 425508

## Arts and Crafts Market

Bracknell's Town Manager Graeme Mountford has given the go ahead to using the indoor market for selling art & crafts. We are looking to hold the first **Arts and Crafts market, preferably before Christmas (Fri 9th & Sat 10th Dec) and there will be NO CHARGE.**

If anyone is interested in the first one in December, or even if you can't make it but want to be involved in any future ones, please get back to me. Please also pass this email on to any other artists that you think may be interested.

Kind regards  
Lesley

**01344 648343**  
**07969 431597**  
[www.leslymelia.com](http://www.leslymelia.com)

## .Cornerstone

Just bring your paints and turn up

**Every Monday 2.00 until 4.30.**  
**£2.50** includes refreshments.

**For more details call**



**Barbara Thompson**  
**0118 9791443**

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**Alison Messias**  
**0118 9783188**

## Carol Reed

It is so sad when we have to inform the group of a death within the Society – Carol was a stalwart member of Cornerstone and the Emmbrook group of painters. When she was well, she always supported Society workshops and outings; and will be remembered for her gentle ways and smiling face.

Our sympathies go to her family and friends.

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## 20% Discount At T & G Galleries

Corner of Easthampstead Rd

This is 20% off framing for all members of the society who produce a valid membership card