

Lichfield Society of Artists Newsletter March/April 2025

Dates for your Dairy

New Portrait & Still Life Group, Sunday morning painting.

March 30th, April 20th, May 25th, June 29th and July 27th.

As new members have pointed out to us, there are scant opportunities to socialise in the society. With this in mind, we have arranged to hire the light and airy room in Darwin Hall for monthly painting sessions. They will run from 10am until 1pm, with a half hour permitted setting up period beforehand and again allowing a half hour to clear up.

The hall has a great kitchen area, ideal for preparing refreshments for our half time breaks, and newly refurbished toilet facilities. There is a good parking area for approximately 25 vehicles, with Waitrose adjacent for any overspill. We would also have the use of a substantial private grassed area for those who wish to paint outside.

To view the premises, visit the on-line web site at darwinhall.org.uk

I propose to split the room into two areas, at one end six small tables will accommodate still life items with a larger table before each one for two persons. I'd like this in a circle, the other end will be for portraiture, and for the first session we will have the Town Cryer in full regalia.

Feel free to circulate and look at each other's work, this is a social event after all. You are also not limited to working on the sets, bring your own projects along if you wish.

The Still Life tables. If you have any interesting items, we would like to include them, and we would appreciate your contributions for the settings. We will need, tablecloths (small), flowers (in pots or vases). (fruit and veg (dish or bowl), ceramics (pots or figurines), glass and fabrics. Miscellaneous items, such as tools, shoes, clocks etc...Please bring them a little early (before 10am) for set up.

Portrait. We have a model for March but if you can recommend other suitable persons (not children!) i.e., Historical re-enactment persons, attractive young (or ancient!) persons, anyone willing to sit still for two hours, let us know.

As at Saxon Hill, we will charge a small fee at half time to cover costs. Currently set at £3.00 per person.

Future Workshops.

Things to try our hand at.

"Let's try" sessions:- pastels, oils, pallet knife painting, etc.

"In the manner of":- Pointillism, cubism, etc. Or pick one of our famous painters (Van Goch, Picasso, Munch, Pollock, Dali, Monet)

Any suggestions for further workshops gratefully received.

Directions to Darwin. From Lichfield, St Foy Avenue, turn right into The Whytmore, and then into Heathcote Place. If along the Walsall Rd, left onto Falkland Rd (towards Waitrose) left into St Foy Avenue, left into The Whytmore, and left into Heathcot Place.

Do NOT follow the directions signposted, they are WRONG. And do not park in the pub carpark.

Flower Painting Group – Friday 4th April at the Holy Cross Church Community Room, Chapel Lane, Lichfield from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. (A small charge applies)

Sketching Group - The next sketching group meeting will take place on Thursday the 10th of April meeting by Richer Sounds by Birmingham Road/Greenhill Road 10am to 1pm (all welcome)

Demonstration Evening – The next demonstration evening will take place on Wednesday 9th April at Saxon Hill Academy from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. This time we will be welcoming Mark Hollway.

Painting Evening – The next painting evening will be on Wednesday 23rd April at Saxon Hill Academy 7.30pm to 9.30pm. (A small charge applies)

A Message from our new Chair Guy Williams

As the new Chair of the Society, I'd first like to add my thanks to outgoing Chair Sue Crudginton for all her efforts and commitment.

My intentions as Chair are threefold:

1. To make use of sub-committees to pursue specific activities and events.

This will allow any interested members (especially those who don't feel able or wish to be involved as a committee member) an opportunity to get involved in a less committed but more structured way. The first sub-committee is dealing with our involvement in FUSE 2025. If you'd like to be involved in any aspect of FUSE 2025 (planning, organising, helping out on the day, or just being there) then please contact us.

2. To increase member numbers.

As membership fees are our main source of income, clearly the more members we have the better. Plus of course, new members will bring new ideas and new skills with them. I don't think any of us profess to know all there is on a subject.

3. To increase member participation.

We currently have a range of activities available to members though the focus tends to be towards painting. I'd like to extend available activities to the other artistic endeavours I know are pursued. Pottery, sculpture, calligraphy, mosaic, digital and so on. At present perhaps half to two thirds of our members engage with provided activities. I'd like to see this engagement level increase.

I look forward to working with you to help us develop our Society.

Guy

AGM

Thank you to all members that were able to attend the AGM on Wednesday 19th March. It was agreed at the AGM that any members that want to receive society information by post only will have to pay £30.00 membership fee for 2025/2026.

There were also several positions on the committee that we not filled including Minutes Secretary, Communications and Publicity officer, Membership Secretary and Demonstrations Officer. If you were unable to attend the AGM but would like to be considered for one of these roles then please contact the society.

FUSE Festival 2025

After the success of taking part in last year's FUSE festival the LSA committee have decided to take part in this year FUSE Festival which will take place on July the 11th, 12th and 13th. For us to take part we need to have a subcommittee of volunteers prepared to help organise our participation and to help with setting up and running workshops during the weekend of the event. If you are interested in helping, please email contact@lichfield-soc-artists.co.uk

Kind regards,

Stuart Burn
Secretary