

Lichfield Society of Artist Newsletter November 2025

Flower Painting Group – The next meeting of the Flower Painting Group will be Friday November 7th at the Holy Cross Church Community Room, Chapel Lane, Lichfield from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. (A small charge applies)

Sketching Group – The Sketching Group has now finished for the winter break and will resume in March next year.

Demonstration Evening – The next meeting will be Wednesday 12th of November. This month we will be welcoming Ryan Everson RBSA who will be demonstrating Urban Landscapes in Oils.

“My work derives from urban photography and many miles walking through some of the UK’s cities. I use layers of glazed oil paint over a grisaille underpainting. Often working under a magnifying glass to achieve highly detailed areas.”



Future Demonstration Evenings

December 10th - Xmas Social Evening

January – No Meeting

February 11th – TBC

March 18th AGM

April 15th Pascale Bigot? (TBC)

May 13th – Neil Rodgers, Portrait in Charcoal

June 10th TBC

Painting Evening –The next Painting Evening will be on November 26th, 7.30pm at Saxon Hill Academy. This will be the last Painting Evening of the year.

Painting evenings will resume in March 2026

Portrait/Still Life Group – The next Portrait Group will be on Sunday November 23rd 10am to 1pm Darwin Hall, Heathcot Place, Lichfield WS13 6RQ. (near Waitrose)

Date, times and venue for next year TBC but will hopefully be in the December Newsletter.

During the portrait group Dennis Harper has offered to give help and advice on framing but only if members request this. To book an appointment please contact Dennis in advance by email at dfh.art@icloud.com

October 2025 Exhibition Report

I'm not sure quite what I was expecting when I took on the role of Exhibition Organiser but four days before the closing date for submissions I was wondering whether we'd have enough entries for an exhibition at all. I shouldn't have worried; by the deadline I was wondering if we had too many!

Fortunately, I had Barbara Weaving's experienced hands to help me with checking in this rush of art on Friday morning and Dennis and the hanging crew worked a minor miracle to accommodate it all. Many people chose to 'go large' this year and we had a splendid riot of colour and styles. Despite our initial worries, we were ready and waiting when a slightly damp Carl Knibb arrived too judge. Unfortunately, Storm Amy had come along too and was well into her stride by lunch time.

Many of you know Carl as an excellent professional artist, tutor and semi-finalist on the Landscape Artist of the Year. Carl also demonstrated for us in February this year. He had a tough job on his hands to narrow down the Award winners, there were so many wonderful art works that he felt deserved to be acknowledged.

Ultimately, he chose an eclectic mix, including some very contemporary paintings. This was the first outing for the recently revamped awards including three new awards: The 'Best

Newcomer' was won by Derek Griffiths for his striking landscape 'View from the Atomium', The Flower Art Award was won by Helen Appleby for her impressionistic embroidery 'Wisteria', and the 'Wow' Award for innovation / creativity was won by Mariana Karasel for her dreamy 'Silent Voyage'. Best in Show took Carl quite some time to settle on and went to the very deserving portrait 'Ma Copine' by Nikki Carpenter. I was delighted to meet Nikki's model in the flesh later on the Saturday.

I was glad to see so many people brave Storm Amy to attend the opening and private viewing. Our opener this autumn was Mrs Lynda Jones, a lovely lady and chair of the Shenstone Library, once in danger of closure and now, thanks in a large part to her efforts, a thriving community hub including a coffee shop and gallery. Lynda's speech was witty and uplifting and set the tone for a cheerful and informal affair while Amy continued to howl outside. Adrian Holmes the Town Crier arrived to declare our exhibition open but sadly, the wind and rainswept city centre was now largely abandoned. It was not an entirely auspicious start as only a few hardy souls braved the weather to come in and view the exhibition that afternoon.

I arrived first thing on Saturday to find picture labels on the floor like fallen leaves. This was to be a theme through the rest of the exhibition, the darned things just would not stay put! The storm continued to blow through Saturday, and the winds were strong enough that the market was cancelled, as were some events associated with the Folk Festival. However, we had a steady stream of visitors, perhaps appreciating the respite from the weather as much as the art. Sunday's weather was much better, and also on Monday and Tuesday which brought more people in than we expected. In total we had 833 visitors.

Art sales were a little slow to start with but a late flurry on Tuesday brought us up to nine hanging artworks sold and 13 from the browser. Shop sales were steady, especially when the inventory was placed in a more prominent position. Jacqui Gray's lovely wildlife themed cards proved especially popular. However, an exhibition is not just about sales, we also had many people stop to tell us how much they enjoyed a moment of peace, just taking in the art, and quite a few expressed an interest in joining the society. We actively encouraged people to vote for their favourite and given the sheer variety of art, it is unsurprising the 661 votes were widely distributed. The 'People's Choice Award' ultimately went to Dennis Harper for 'School Lane, Hints'. Honourable mentions go 'Winter in Dalwood, Devon' by Christine Taylor and 'Across the Brook' by Lynne Kirby.

Close down was a reverse whirl of activity, the exhibition evaporating before my eyes in less than an hour. I send my sincere gratitude to all those who responded to our SOS requesting help to transport our display boards.

There are so many people to thank for the success of the exhibition. Some 30% of the membership was involved and it was just great to see you all because without your art, there is no exhibition. I must particularly thank Barbara Weaving, without whose guiding

hand I probably would have fallen flat on my face. I thank the crew who get together to magically build the exhibition under Dennis' exacting eye (I daren't name names in case I miss someone, you know who you are). Thanks to Tony Barancevicz for providing the beverages. Thanks to all of you who undertook stewarding, dutifully chasing visitors with voting slips and overcoming the fear of the Sum Up. I am grateful to all those who helped publicise the exhibition (especially Jan Flynn on Facebook) and brought their friends to have a look around. Finally, special thanks are due to all those heroes who help to transport and look after our equipment between exhibitions, especially Freda and Oz Harris who solved our transport difficulties but were rewarded with a parking ticket, and Maggie Wilcox who is accommodating our display boards while we try to find them a new home.

The next exhibition is scheduled for the end of April 2026. I'm bracing myself already!
Sasha Lauer



'Silent Voyage'
Mariana Karasel
Wow Award for Innovation / Creativity



'Winter'
Sasha Lauer
Eilidh Bamardo Award for Drawing



'School Lane, Hints'
Dennis Harper
Peoples Choice Award



'View from the Atomium'
David Griffiths
Award for the Best Newcomer

Kind regards,
Stuart Burn