**Newsletter January 2014**

**A Happy New Year to all our members!**

First of all can we extend heartfelt thanks to the generosity of all the members who donated art materials and items for auctioning at our Christmas “do” on Thursday 6th December at the Memorial Hall. The auction made over £450 and after the cost of the hall and food, David Evans, our Treasurer, was able to bank £256.93 for Society funds! The general feedback about the Auction was positive and if you feel you would like something similar for the Christmas gathering this year, please let us know and we can book the Hall again in good time. Thanks must go to the sterling efforts put in by Jen Britton and Sue Moir for the catering and to Val Mackenzie for handling the cash. If you would like to visit our website you can see what a great time we all had!

At the start of 2014 there must be many members wondering what’s in store for this year. Our newsletter last year did say that a decision had been made to reduce the number of events, and try to focus on artists that have experience of delivering workshops and talks that would have a wide appeal to the membership. It is hoped that this reduction in meetings will mean greater support for both talks and workshops. In case you have not got last November’s newsletter to hand this is the programme for 2014

**Wednesday 19 February 2014 2pm** Max Hale will be back by popular demand, this time demonstrating techniques in watercolour based on his renowned Masterclass.\* He will follow this up with a day’s workshop held later in the year

**\*Tuesday 11th March** **2014** AGM. Election of new committee with “Oscart” competition 2pm

**\*PLEASE NOTE –The AGM will now take place on Tuesday 11th March at 6.00 pm. In the Memorial Hall. Please tell other members**

**Tuesday 15 April 7pm** We have hauled Paul Deacon out of retirement to give us a demonstration entitled “Colour and depth in painting using acrylics.”\* He will follow on later in the year with a day’s workshop

A date in **June** will be earmarked for an outdoor drawing/painting session- more details later

**Thursday 21 August – Wednesday 27 August** Annual Exhibition 2014

**Tuesday 16 September 7pm** Tracey Elphick, a resident artist from the New Brewery Arts in Cirencester, will demonstrate her amazing collage and mixed media techniques. \*She will also be holding a workshop later in the year.

 **Wednesday 19 November** **2pm** Jon Whiteley , senior curator at the Ashmolean will give an animated and informative talk on the intriguing title of **“** The Ten most important treasures to be saved from the fire in the Ashmolean Museum! (Along the lines of desert Island discs)

**Workshops for 2014**

**Saturday 26th April 2014 Max Hale** – a follow-on from his demonstration of !9th February at 2pm. The workshop and demonstration will be based on his watercolour masterclass.

\*We are hoping to run follow-on workshops based on all our demonstrators, and of course we have Clarissa Lloyd’s workshop, and Brian Britton’s print  and life drawing workshops already earmarked for 2014 [dates to be confirmed] We will be taking bookings and payment for workshops on the night of each artist’s demonstration unless they have demonstrated before and are known to the members.

Lastly may we wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year and we look forward to seeing you at our next event.