

September 2025 - Forest scene (Watercolour, Heather Jolliffe)

It was a joy to have Heather return to give us a demonstration of her watercolour techniques. Having studied at the Royal College of Art in London, she could not wait to return to the countryside. She resides near Lymington Town and draws and paints in areas mostly between Lymington and Hurst Spit. Although primarily painting in Acrylics, when she goes en - plain air to paint, she takes watercolour tubes, 'Premium by PWC'.

This evening she used round brushes with a point and synthetic square flat brushes. Her subject was a New Forest scene with a stream, water reflections and dappled light. She uses Sanders Waterford and Bockingford papers usually and chose a Bockingford paper this evening, and filled her pallet with zingy colours.

Beginning with a lemon yellow and a chisel edged brush she applied dabs and dashes to eliminate the white paper. Building up shapes emphasised by the use of brush edges from left and right directions. She suggests using a limited 'family pallet' to unify the pictures' colours. Her early influence was Hockney and his treatment of water and use of bright colours.

Her choice of bright colours starts the painting singing, introducing cooler hues to push back and soften the colours, while losing whites in the background. Her pointillistic technique involves creating images using small marks of pure colour in patterns to form the overall picture. While painting the picture she displayed styles of painting on a separate sheet and used a couple of her studies of Manet to explain blending of colours in reflections. Her sketch book was passed around during the demo, in which her observations and drawing skill with the use of biro, soft pencils and paint was evident.

Heather creates artistic impressions, commissions, weekly art workshops and sketching out sessions. She also offers 1-2-1 personalised tuition.



