

GETTING STARTED

A/ To get the group started **we will write to members and people who have enquired about joining in your area.** Could you please arrange a suitable venue and let us know the time and date - please allow at least three weeks notice.

Ideas for first meeting.

You may already have in mind plans for the first meeting, and these ideas which have proved to be successful may be helpful.

The objective of the meeting is to establish the group, and to plan what to do together in the future. If there are any non-members present it is an opportunity for them to decide if they would like to join in.

Our research has shown that members are looking for three things: Encouragement, tuition and to meet other people with a common interest.

Outline agenda for meeting.

- i/ Introduction - Tell everyone about you, your painting, why you joined the SAA and why you volunteered to be an RSC. Ask everyone present to give you their name, address and phone number, so you can contact them again.

- ii/ Local Groups - Explain the reasons for the local groups and outline your ideas for the future: these can include regular meetings for painting inside and outdoors, local exhibitions, visiting exhibitions, bringing in demonstrators or professional teachers. Bring paintings to meetings for constructive criticism sessions, set the group projects and exercises to do before the next meeting - the list is endless.

- iii/ Enlist Help - There is absolutely no reason why you should have to do all the work! Many people are only too happy to help. Ask for volunteers, a secretary, a treasurer, and one or two helpers.

- iv/ Local Funding - The cheapest way to fund local activities is by asking members to put £1.00 in the pot at local meetings. This will cover tea, coffee, venue hire, telephone and postage. If this is not enough then it can be increased if a surplus develops then it can be used to buy something for the group.

- v/ Future - Discuss the plans for the future and most important of all - set up the next meeting. This will ensure that the excitement and momentum will continue.

It may be possible to bring along a professional artist. If so the format would be as follows:-

Meeting begins at approximately 11.00 am - 12.00 noon

Professional Artist demonstrates 12.00 noon - 12.30 pm

Break for Lunch

Workshop in the afternoon for 3 hours for up to 20 people. Charges would probably be from £10 - £20 per person depending on the artist.

B/ **Display the enclosed posters in prominent positions in your area** - try the library, art shops, village store, etc. Encourage all would be artists to get in touch and help them to enjoy painting as much as you do.

C/ **Visit your local art suppliers -**

- i/ What services do they offer, eg framing, exhibition space, local information, special offers, etc
- ii/ Which manufacturers' products do they stock
- iii/ Do they sell art instructional videos
- iv/ Do they support the Society

If they have not heard about the Society, tell them about it and your plans for your group. The more shops which are seen to support the Amateur Artist, the more real beginners will have the confidence to "have a go".

D/ If you belong to an art club, society or group, or any other group for that matter, tell them about the SAA and encourage them to join or come along to your local get together.