

## January Workshop Report

How to use a Sketchbook . . .

. . . 'and fill in boring winter evenings' was the sub title Anne Lee, our tutor, wanted adding and the idea of the workshop was to entertain ourselves on a drear January morning shortly after Christmas, but actually it was a bright day with just the slightest frost. Eight of us arrived at the Guide HQ with a sketchbook and any art items we had, as requested, but Anne had provided a wonderful array of materials to use. The morning was taken up with her showing various different techniques which we then 'tried' to copy. Never has a workshop been so silent with coffee being hurriedly taken back to our masterpieces? so we could continue. These consisted of a landscape using sponges and candle wax to give the effect of ruts in a field when coloured; taking a section of a larger picture using a card frame and reproducing this in watercolour crayons with detail added with a biro; and drawing our coffee mugs with a fine liner and blending this with a brush to show the shaded areas. With time running out Anne gave a quick demonstration of using a Sharpie to draw something and showing how it will show on the back of the paper. This provides an instant tracing that can be outlined - something to do to entertain grandchildren. Being given lots of ideas to think about Anne suggested that 30 minutes practise a day would improve technique, so maybe we will fill in boring winter evenings as she had suggested! It was a thoroughly enjoyable morning and our tutor was greatly thanked for coming along to run this workshop. She reminded us that the u3a Painting Group meets on the second Friday each month in Startforth Community Centre.

Hazel Yeadon  
The Workshop Committee

