

## DENNIS HILL

Dennis joined PEDAS in the early 1960s and became a key member of the club, serving as Treasurer for some years. We all knew him as a very generous, gifted and prolific artist. Born in 1924, we were intending to celebrate both the club's centenary and his own 100th birthday.

Dennis described his early years: "When I was seven, I started reading avidly any book or magazine on painting I could lay my hands on. I came across the magazine called The Studio which must have been the forerunner of The Artist. I continued drawing and I was quite prolific until courtship, career and the war slowed me down. It was later that I went to evening classes for life drawing and met Edward Lister, who taught me to paint and to 'see'. He opened my eyes and became a great influence on my development".

We can't resist quoting Dennis **on his approach to painting:**

*"My approach is pretty simple. For me there is nothing like painting on the spot. My aim is to produce something with impact, uncomplicated and yet direct. When I see something that excites me, be it a flash of light on the bark of an old tree, an old boat beached at a funny angle, or an old oil drum being used as an incinerator, this will be my starting point and all my energy will be directed on it. All other features will be sublimated and repositioned to dramatize this main interest. I call this "design" and of course this is just what it is. I am generally not interested in just recording. Light plays an important part in all this too. I suppose my motto would be, keep it simple and clean, and don't even think about failure, but accept it if it happens."*

Dennis recalled an incident when he was younger - whilst painting on location at the water's edge in Poole and responding to the scene in front of him, when a dockworker

approached and told him he remembered seeing Augustus John sitting in that same spot painting the very same view many years ago!

Dennis, best known for his watercolours, also painted in oils and acrylics. He had work exhibited at: The Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolour (RI) at the Mall (uninterrupted over 20 years); The Royal West of England Academy (RWA) Bristol; The Royal Society of Marine Artists (RSMA) London and The Royal Society of Watercolour Artists (RWS), Bankside. His work has been bought and held by: Poole Maritime Museum, Royal Ordnance Survey, Dorset County Council, British Petroleum, Russell Cotes Art Gallery and Museum, Bournemouth and Longleat House, Wiltshire. He has had solo exhibitions at 'The Gallery', Dorchester; the 'Peter Hedley Gallery' and the 'Acanthus Gallery', both at Wareham.

A very popular much loved artist who we will all miss but can still treasure his wonderful art.

We will be opening a 'Personal Recollections Page' for your memories of Dennis. Send messages to [publicity@pedas.org.uk](mailto:publicity@pedas.org.uk)