

In memory of Sharon Ellis, 1946 to 2023
A devoted and talented long-term member, Secretary,
Chairperson and, since 2022, President of the Lechlade Art Society

Sharon's biography for her gallery on the Society's website:

Since retiring from a successful career in graphic design and publicity spanning more than thirty years, Sharon has focused on portraiture. She enjoys the challenge of capturing a likeness. Using a variety of approaches, she can produce a faithful rendering of people or animals using the medium of oil, pastels or pencil.

Jim Ellis, Sharon's son, wrote in her eulogy:

"On occasions I had admitted to her that delivering her eulogy was something which I dreaded. So, to alleviate my anxiety, she pre-arranged her own cremation, penned me some notes on her life and even reserved the cemetery plot around which we now stand [in Cricklade Cemetery with her brother and next to her mother and father]".

"Sharon was always considerate of others. She recognized that she had formed many friendships over the years - some by chance, others over a shared passion, often close and long lasting. Sharon wanted to ensure that all those who knew her had an opportunity to mark her passing and this gathering is part of the observance of her wishes. I would expect no less from my Mum; she would always think of others despite the hardships which life presented to her."

An LAS member writes about Sharon's contribution to the Society:

Sharon was always the mainstay of the Committee producing most, or nearly all, of the many newsletters. She had excellent inter-personal and organisational skills which she applied very ably to help make a success of our demonstrations, workshops and annual exhibition. When Sharon moved from Lechlade to Cirencester she stood down from the Committee for a couple of seasons but, missing the Society, was easily talked into returning as Chairperson.

It was Sharon who initially approached Lord Faringdon some 10 to 12 years ago to become Patron of the Society. This was the start of the annual Buscot Park painting day and also the Patron's Award for the best entry at the exhibition.

Sharon, and some other of our members who were at the time doing a portrait painting course with Mike Skidmore, were invited to paint portraits of our Patron and his wife to include their little terrier.

Sharon indeed had boundless energy to drive things forward and was, in all things, very innovative with a good sense of humour and fun - a very popular leader. We miss her sunny, smiling persona.

In the Chairperson's report at the recent AGM of the Lechlade Art Society:

"I would like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt "thank you" for the support that she [Sharon] has given me as I served my apprenticeship as Secretary, and for her enormous contribution to the Society."

Fellow LAS members wrote tributes and memories:

"It is so sad that such a lovely, warm hearted and kind person has been taken away from us. A great loss for her family and friends."

"Oh so very sorry to hear this news. Such happy memories of Sharon and the dedication she so willingly gave to Lechlade Art Society. May she rest in peace."

"So saddened by that news. Sharon was a lovely person, always full of encouragement and advice. RIP"

"I am so shocked to hear the news. Sharon was always so bubbly and helpful so will be sadly missed."

"How sad. We liked her very much."