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Chairman's Report

Didn't we do well!!

The Show's over! And what a show it was. Over 2,200 people visited us over the new shortened format of five days. On occasion it was like Waterloo Station on a Bank Holiday weekend.

As constantly remarked, the quality of the exhibits goes up each year and it was a joy to look at members' entries. Such a variety of subjects in various media and so many variations on a theme.

Wild Life as a subject seems to be an ever increasingly popular theme, with reptilians and invertebrates. How about Jackie Schou's 'Flight of the Dragonflies' and Lyn Mansfields wonderful 'Lizard's eye and scales'?

Animals won the day with Jenny Kennish's 'African Siesta' and Jane Pascoe-Absolom's 'Lobo' taking joint 1st prize in the Best Exhibit Award.

Our 3 dimensional display was an award winner in itself with a dazzling array of exhibits. The children's exhibition, arranged this year by Denise Olley and Margaret Hill, attracted great interest, showing a wide diversity and aptitude for the next generation. Our eight 'artists in residence' did well to interest our visitors as they passed through.

So, to everyone who helped, particularly to Naomi White and her team – I say thank you all for a truly memorable 78th Annual Exhibition.

The new Painting Group, meeting on alternate Thursdays at the Maltings, has got off to a great start. So great in fact, we shall be meeting weekly in 2010.

Sadly, our Autumn/Winter programme of demonstrations started with a damp squib. 'Watercolour Techniques' had so many washes and wet-into-wet that it was a complete washout. So many of us were unable to hear it, which was probably a blessing in disguise. Still, Aurora Spain set us all thinking about acrylics and abstracts. We move on to Peter Atkins as we walk



Artist at Work – Jenny Kennish

into the footsteps of Turner.

Even more exciting demonstrations are on the programme for the remainder of the winter months, particularly the last in 2009 on 19th December with hot mince pies and mulled wine which will set us up for Christmas, when I wish you all a very happy time.

John Hearn



Centrepiece Children's Exhibition

Report from–Naomi White-Exhibition Secretary

Firstly I would like to thank everyone involved with our 78th exhibition for making it such a fine occasion despite some unfortunate hiccoughs along the way! The standard of work presented was, as usual, of a very high quality indeed, and I think that our visitors were suitably impressed.

I have had various members' feedback about this years' exhibition, which has been in the main, complimentary. No one seems to have been unduly concerned by the reduction in the number of days the exhibition ran and our sales did not suffer as a consequence, which is excellent news.

We can look forward to our 79th exhibition next autumn when we will strive to do even better. Despite the ongoing gloom of a recession, hopefully by next autumn we will have managed to find our way into the sunshine again!

Alton Art Society Painting Group 1st Session – Thursday 8th October – Kate Davis

It was a balmy autumn day' when 14 eager artists gathered with their equipment (and their £3) at the Alton Maltings Centre Target room.

The theme for the 3 hour session was 'Holiday Memories' and the majority of the Group worked to the suggested theme, using watercolour, pastel, acrylic, pens or oils.

Everyone agreed that this first session had been a great success and all were looking forward to the next one! (Though it is unlikely that the weather will be so kind!)

The Painting Group has now filled up the available 19 places and has started a waiting list. As there will be times when we need to fill up the spaces, due to holidays etc, those on the waiting list should find that they will have plenty of opportunities to join in. The theme for each session is merely a suggestion, not compulsory, nor is a finished piece of work expected at the end! The sessions are designed to provide a space to work at your own pace, whether you are a complete beginner or a seasoned artist.

From the first session back after the Christmas break on Thursday 7th January

Alton Art Society Painting Group will meet

EVERY Thursday between 1pm & 4pm.

If you would like to be added to the waiting list please contact: Kate Davis 01420 543458.

Or Ann Sayer 01420 84526 email:

roseanne8SAY@aol.com

St. Michael's Hospice Charity Shop

High Street Alton

Will accept AAS Members greeting cards for sale at £1.50 each.

The Charity will deduct 20% from sales.

They are currently interested in winter or Christmas Scenes – Contact: Robin Lees
01420 86665

Report on Children's Exhibition 2009

Denise Olley

This was another very successful year for the Children's Exhibition, as part of the Alton Art Society's Annual Exhibition at the Assembly Rooms. Many schools and pre-school groups contributed work of a very high standard. The Head of the Alton Art College reviewed all the pieces submitted and allocated the prizes. He praised the quality of all the exhibits.

Not all the works could be displayed on the screens, as this would have led to overcrowding to the detriment of the children's work. However, any pieces not on the screens could be viewed in the racks provided and the Judge ensured he viewed every piece of work.



Sadly, the work from one school had omitted the year of each artist from the group's submission. These works could not be judged, but were displayed and received praise from the Judge.

The number of people coming in primarily to view the Children's Exhibition was high, it was delightful to see the excitement and enjoyment on the children's faces as they saw their own work on display, and those of their friends.

Our thanks to all the children and schools who took part. We hope to see you all again next year. Margaret Hill and I really enjoyed being involved in arranging the Children's Exhibition this year.

TREASURER'S REPORT by Bob Dewar

Despite recent reports that we are the only major country failing to show any recovery from the recession, we had a very successful Exhibition as the table shows:

	Artwork	No.Sold/No.	Entered		Net Profit
Year	Sales	Paintings	3D	Folios	Or (Loss)
	£				£
2007	4536	27/251	11/31	27/127	383
2008	3556	18/213	3/29	19/140	-343
2009	5162	34/225	13/46	17/103	463

The average price of paintings sold was £106 as compared with £137 last year, which is not too surprising, but we sold nearly twice as many! The average price of sold 3D items and folios was £39 and £37 respectively.

There were some minor anomalies in the figures so, if any of you feel that you have been overcharged, underpaid, or even overpaid, please do get in touch with me at 01420 588115.

The profit of £463 represents about 7% of turnover, which is not excessive and very gratifying.

Summer Painting Days 2009

Stella Strachan, who is one of our members, once again kindly allowed us to paint at Bentworth Hall. This is a popular venue and as always the garden was full of colour and obviously planned with an artist's eye.

In August we ventured out to Easton Village near Winchester. The 12th century church with its shingled tower was a popular choice with the added advantage that when the temperature rose to 30 degrees the mature yews offered deep and welcome shade.

We finished our Summer Programme with a return visit to Lee Farm Herriard which had been rained off last year. Once again the weather was not kind to us and, as well as the intermittent rain, there was a high wind to contend with. The wind blew the trees and loose corrugated iron around banging and crashing in an alarming manner. We had hoped to go out with a bang but not quite in this way!

Finally, A BIG THANK YOU to all those who have supported us during our time as Summer Programme Secretaries. We have tried to give you as varied a programme as possible and we hope you have enjoyed the venues old and new. We are sure that Jenny and Angela will have new ideas for 2010 and we wish them luck and hope they enjoy putting the programme together as much as we have.

Wendy Horne & Linda Pescod

Atelier Interactive Acrylic and Abstract. 17th October 2009

Aurora Spain, in her trademark hat and dark glasses, came to demonstrate the advantages of the new interactive acrylics. A non-toxic paint that can be used like watercolour, or oil paint, with a high pigment strength. It can be 'unlocked' when the paint has dried on the painting through the use of the unlocking formula sprayed, brushed or ragged on. The paint becomes workable again and can be blended or lifted off.

Aurora then went on to talk about abstract art, which can prove difficult to approach. She suggested if stuck for a starting point try a stylised name. Or entwined initials, painted in colours close together on the colour wheel, then the image merges and doesn't look obvious. Priming the canvas with a mid-tone helps to judge the tones to paint on top more easily.

Abstract art gives the freedom to experiment with all sorts of mediums and styles. Anything can be used – scraps of paper for testing colours, wood shavings even fish tank sand mixed with old paint and old paint tins from the shed. Try tonking - taking off excess paint to create texture by pressing scrunched newspaper on & lifting off. Also scraffito (used by the old masters to portray lace etc), drawing into thick wet paint on top of dry under painting.

Kate Davis

Wessex Cancer Trust

Congratulations to four Art Society members who had their designs accepted for 2009:

Catherine Curtis

Sheila Dawson

Julia King

Jennifer Lines

These cards, at 20p each, are always popular and some of the designs are already sold out. The cards are on sale at Alton Library.

Designs for 2010 Christmas cards should be submitted on A4 paper early in January 2010.

Further details from Jennifer Lines – Tel: 01420 563312

Jennifer Lines

Membership News

It is always a pleasure to welcome new members who visited the Exhibition and were stimulated to join the Society so we give this group a special welcome.

Celestine Carroll

Chawton

Julia Poole

Four Marks

Linda Innes

Four Marks

Hannah Lee

Alton

Janet Johnston

Alton

Alison Hamblin

Four Marks

Jan Lennox

Four Marks

Paul Colburn-Jackson

Alton

I have also contacted seven people who expressed an interest and left a name and address. So I hope to have applications back from them too. Our membership now stands at 273, but of these 71 have not yet renewed their subscriptions. Reminders are included with the Newsletter, so I hope to hear from them soon.

Jennifer Lines-Membership Secretary

Remainder of

Winter Programme 2009/10

Alton Assembly Rooms – 2.30pm – 4.30pm

19th December – David White – Landscape acrylics

16th January – Carol Ellis – The Art of Wax

20th Feb – Stephen Foster – Line and wash – subject TBA

20th March – Anthea De La Roche – Pastels – Portrait

17th April – Workshop – Roger Dellar – Figures in Painting – Acrylic/Oil

Contact Maureen Morrison for details
Tel: 01420 561648

Charges to be announced later depending on numbers registering.

Please apply early to ensure a place.

NOTICEBOARD.....



An exhibition of paintings
by
Pam (Pell) Jones
at the Allen Gallery
from
Tuesday 2nd February
to
Saturday 27th February 2010

The Gallery is open from
Tuesday to Saturday, 10am- 5pm

Admission Free

Little Green Dragon Alton

*Offers discount to AAS Members
on all art materials.*

Call Claire Hearse 01420 87801 for more
details or

Email-info@littlegreendragon.co.uk

Editorial Comment Future Plans

The AAS would like to produce a written history of the Art Society. If you have any significant information which would be of interest for this project, eg: Photographs, stories, press clippings etc, I would like to hear from you, in writing please.

The AAS committee would also like to hear from anyone who could advise them regarding setting up a website for the AAS, eg: the costs and technicalities involved, to help them make this important step forward.

Please contact the editor (details below) regarding the above two items.

The closing date for the next newsletter is Friday 5th February

The Editor's decision is final for all entries to the newsletter.

Ann Sayer – Editor

Contact details:

1 Gauvain Close Alton GU34 2SB

Telephone: 01420 84526

Email: roseanne8SAY@aol.com

Selborne Arts & Crafts Exhibition

5th & 6th December

Venue: Selborne Village Hall

Times: 11am to 5pm

Anyone entering paintings must be there between 4pm and 6pm on Friday

December 4th, and must collect unsold between 5pm and 6pm on December 6th.

Contact: Trisha Oliver- 01420 511338

Email: tricia.oliver@btconnect.com

Art Classes

St Andrew's Church Hall
Medstead

Mon: 7pm-9pm

Wed: 11pm-1pm or 2pm-4pm

Tutor: Tana Riviere

Relaxed friendly atmosphere.

Autumn term finishes 9th Dec

Spring Term commences

Mon/Wed 11/13th January

Details: Ann Sayer 01420 84526

Fine Framing

4 Weyside Park
Newman Lane
Alton GU34 2PJ

Offers 10% Discount to all fully paid up members of AAS Membership Card for the current year must be available.

Discount applies to picture framing on new frames only.

Contact Steve Cook Proprietor

4 Weyside Park
Alton GU34 2PJ
01420 82324

www.fine-framing.co.uk

Painting Days

Froyle Village Hall
Mondays

Contact Sheila Edwards if you are interested in joining
.01252 713750

