

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2010

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AUTUMN LEAVES TO MINCE PIES

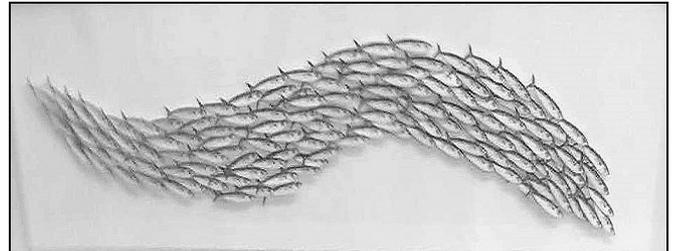
As the year is coming to an end, we remember what a good year it has been for our Society. Our summer programme took us to some wonderful locations – from bluebells at 'Bavins' in Shalden, to Chawton House, and many other attractive locations including the Odiham Canal. We thank Jenny Dunk and Angela Woodruff who made it all happen. Added to which they've already arranged another exciting programme for 2011.

Now to the exhibition; the pinnacle of our year. So many members helped with the organisation and special thanks go to Naomi White who oversaw everything with a wonderful team of helpers.

At times, it was like the concourse at Waterloo Station with a constant stream of visitors enjoying a wide range of exhibits encompassing all mediums -oils, pastels, inks, acrylics, silk scarves, jewellery and many examples of beautiful 3D works. There were 273 exhibits in all. Also, a plethora of greeting cards, sold for £1.50 each with buyers queuing to purchase these.

Sadly sales of exhibits were down on last year as cautious consumers put off major spending – artworks included – thanks to persistently weak consumer confidence and worries about the future.

The adults didn't have it all their own way, on the stage at The Assembly Rooms was the Children's Exhibition and competition, all beautifully organised by Denise Olley and Kate Davis. Prizes were in the form of tokens to spend at The Little Green Dragon Bookshop. The artworks of these young budding artists were so much admired. What a credit it is to these young people, their families and teachers.



The best exhibit, as voted for by members of the public, was the amazing 'Mackerel Swarm' (above) by Jackie Bicknell (Schou), with Jane Pascoe-Absolom in hot pursuit with her 'Wolf Warrior' and 'Scrubland Grazing'.

But, may I suggest, money isn't everything. We are in The Society to enjoy art in whatever form it takes, offering many opportunities for members to meet, paint and share experiences in their work. We all have to start somewhere, and in learning we hope to have fun too. Our Group at The Maltings on a Thursday afternoon has been running for a year now, many thanks go to Kate Davis for keeping this going. Come and join us whenever you feel you can.

Our autumn/winter programme is up and running well with Saturday 18th December holding a demonstration by Stephen Foster 'Palette Knife and Oils' – added to by mulled wine and hot mince pies. Hope to see you there to enjoy some seasonal spirit.

Let us think of our good friend Jean Heathcote who was badly injured and is recovering from a very serious fall. Our good wishes for a speedy recovery Jean.

As it is almost Christmas I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families joy and happiness in the coming weeks and beyond.

John Hearn - Chairman

Initially I would like to thank all the members of our Society for giving their time and effort for making our 79th annual exhibition a visually rewarding success - if not lucrative!

Our throughput of visitors this year totalled over eight hundred which, despite the atrocious weather was surprisingly good; however sales were down on previous years.

There seemed to be a general downturn as most still regard the purchasing of artwork as a luxury - unless of course they just 'Must Have It'

There were lovely works on display, including ceramics and pottery, and of course the paintings, all exhibits being much admired.

The painting by Jackie Schou – 'Mackerel Swarm' won Best in Show and was a worthy winner - It has been purchased by our Chairman, John Hearn. Selling one's work always gives a lovely boost to the artist, especially when, in this case, the purchaser is such a fine artist himself!

This will be the last year for me as Exhibition Organiser, and I hope that my successor will inject his/her talents into making our exhibition an even better affair next year.

We really need to attract a few more younger people, with vitality and innovative ideas, in order to drive the Society forward.

I wish my successor well for the future.

Once again, a very BIG thank-you to all who have supported and encouraged me over the last three years.

Naomi White

Shalden Church Painting Day – 3rd August

The weather was perfect for our painting day at Shalden. Twenty three people attended and painted in a variety of places.

The churchyard with its lovely views and the church itself, were popular throughout the day, as were several of the lanes in the village.

Our thanks must go to Valerie and David Menzies at 'Horsley', Roxanne and Henry Wilson at 'The Old Forge', also Sarah and Tom Floyd at 'Clover Farm', who generously invited members into their gardens to paint.

Jenny Dunk

Basingstoke Canal Thursday, 2nd September.

Twenty-five members of the Art Society enjoyed a stunning late summer day at the Basingstoke Canal. There were plenty of subjects to paint: various canal boat trips came and went as did the swans, families taking day trips on the river and people just out enjoying the tow path.

The Waterwitch pub came in very handy for lunch, if you hadn't brought a picnic. Even that was made more convenient with picnic tables and benches nearby. This was a good day on which to finish the outdoor programme.

Angela Woodruff

Ali Cockrean is an expressionist abstract painter known for her texture & colour. Having started as a traditional artist she has grown to love the ambiguity of the abstract and has broadened her experience through experimenting. Acrylics are forgiving and allow for mistakes, which can be easily corrected. Taking risks whilst correcting mistakes is part of the process. Student quality acrylics have improved so much that Ali uses these for her work as they are economical, which makes a huge difference when working on highly textured large works. From a basically primary colour pallet Ali can mix almost any colour.

Acrylic paint will dry with a matt finish.

However, if painted thickly on to a smooth plate, left to dry for 3-5 days then peeled off, the side against the plate is shiny, this can be torn, or cut, and applied to the picture using paint or pva. A completed picture can be varnished, intensifying the colour.

With a trowel shaped palette knife the paint can be moved around thickly or thinly depending on the angle the knife is used. Pick up the paint as if you are buttering toast. With 3 colours on the palette knife scraping across the paper produces a lovely colour mix & starts to resemble something. This is a good place to start an abstract painting, from which to play, experiment and refine. Another starting point for an abstract can be a magazine image: using just a section, turn it around, see what works, start to paint, see what happens, focus in on the canvas not the image.

Ali never works from photos, but from her sketches, what she remembers, emotions, poetry, music or a conversation. Abstract delves into the parts of an artist's mind not fully understood – reactions to form and colour.

In a twist away from the loose abstracts Ali showed one of her more traditional style big sky scenes, sailing over a misty seascape beautifully rendered in subtle cloud hues. This was produced using a cloth square (cut up t-shirt or household cloth) wrapped around the finger, folded over & held down with the thumb. Dip the finger in water, squeeze out any excess, put in the blue paint and pull across from one side to the other, gradually moving down. As it starts to drag, re-wet. Once there are a couple of layers on the surface movement in any direction can be made. With white on the cloth, scrub cloud in with small circular movements, getting more translucent as you work. Apply more paint & carry on in thin layers. Also try more strong, violent colours - it becomes more subtle as it is worked in. Then go back in with white, working from the centre of the cloud outwards. Work faster than your brain can think so clouds look more irregular.

This was an excellent demonstration encouraging the audience to engage with abstract art and new techniques, inviting us to look at abstract pictures in galleries... if a picture does nothing for you move on to one that does. It is the artist who has failed to communicate with you!

Kate Davis

NB: There will be a write up on the picture framing demonstration by Russ Calver in the next newsletter due out February. This will be nearer to the next exhibition. Members will then have an early reminder about preparation and cost saving for 2011. Kate Davis

Suggested Colours

<u>Warm</u>	<u>Cold</u>
Ultramarine	Cobalt Blue
Cad. Yellow	Lemon Yellow
Cad. Red	Alizarin

WINTER PROGRAMME

2010/2011

2.30pm – 4.30pm

18th December:

Stephen Foster
Oils with palette knife.
Mulled Wine and
Mince Pies included

15th January

Dee Cowell
Improving your Drawing
Techniques

19th February

Heather Jolliffe
Wildlife in Wetlands
Watercolour.

19th March

AGM – 1.15pm
Carol Ellis
World of Wax – 2pm-4pm



Ladies who Lunch – Shalden – 3rd August



Painting Day Basingstoke Canal 2nd September



Ann Sayer - Editor.

Wessex Cancer Christmas Cards

These are now on sale in
Alton Library

A bargain at 25p each.
Local views are always
welcome for selection.
Submission must be
by early January 2011.

Congratulations to
Jennifer Lines for 'Carol
Service at Medstead',
And the late much loved
Arthur Copus for
'Four Marks Church'

The Little Green Dragon
Bookshop and
The Alton Maltings Centre
are displaying a limited
number of

Art Society members'
paintings.

These paintings are for
sale. Each site would like
further artworks to allow
for changes.

Enquiries to:

James Shrubbs LGD:
01420 87801

Robin Coulson The
Maltings: 01420 81950

A SPECIAL THANKYOU TO ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPICE SHOP

For a wonderful display in
their window of Art Society
members art works, during
the week of our exhibition.
This caused a lot of attention
from passers by, which
encouraged people to visit
our exhibition.

Also, throughout the year,
the shop sells members
greeting cards.

John Hearn – Chairman AAS

Membership News

We are pleased to welcome the following who have recently joined the Society

New Members 2010

Marinda Bone Binsted
Celestine Carroll Chawton
Jackie Epps Alton
Susan Forster Alton
Claire Maxfield Alton
Philipa Momber Hawkley

Jason Passingham Alton
Mo Serge Lower Froyle
Pauline Smith Farnham
Gail Williams Alton
Elizabeth Williams-Foreman Alton
Jean Wiltshire Whitehill

Welcome back to:

Jacky Dando
Sachiko Mason
Molly Mitchell

This now means we have 259 members on our books. Subscriptions came in very well this year, with a record number paying on time. A reminder is enclosed for those I have not heard from, I do hope you will stay with us.

Jennifer Lines – Membership Secretary.

Treasurer's Report

This was not an auspicious year for big spending and we embarked on the Exhibition in some trepidation. Remarkably, however, we virtually broke even. This is how we compared with the previous two years:

	Artwork	No. sold / No. entered			Net Profit
Year	Sales	Paintings	Folios	3D Works	Or (Loss)
2008	£3556	18/213	19/140	3/29	(343)
2009	£5162	34/225	17/103	13/46	463
2010	£2736	20/230	13/118	8/43	(4)

Total sales were almost half of last year and the average price paid for paintings was £81 as compared with £106 in 2009. Sales of folios and 3D works were also down but the average prices paid were up - £50 for folios as against £37 and £59 for 3D works as against £39.

There were the usual discrepancies in the sale of cards but I hope these have now been sorted out.

Finally I should like to thank those members who made donations to the Society during the course of the Exhibition. Special thanks are owing to Alton Town Council who gave us a large discount on the rental of the Assembly Rooms. But for the generosity of the Council, the loss would have been £252 rather than £4.44.

Bob Dewar - Treasurer

NOTICEBOARD.....

AAS PAINTING GROUP THE MALTINGS EVERY THURSDAY

1pm – 4pm
Come along and join us.
The hours are flexible.
Cost: £3.00 per session
To cover rent of room.
The group will be closed
Christmas week.
Re-opening Weds 6th Jan
Details: Kate Davis
01420 543458

Selborne Art & Crafts Exhibition/Fair

Friday 3rd December
6pm-9pm
Saturday/Sunday
4/5 December
11am-5pm
Details and entry form from:
Tricia 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.
WinterTerm commences
Monday 10 Jan 2011
Further details 01420 84526

Pullinger's Farnham also offer discount to Art Society
Members – Membership Card must be shown at sales desk.

Editorial Comment

Thank you for the support and help I received with the
Summer Newsletter, including all the enclosures.
Also all the assistance with the advertising for the
exhibition. Well worth all the hard work.
We now have a website installed, details under
logo on front page.
If you have success stories, painting groups, exhibitions
or anything you would like the members to know about
contact me, details below.
Please include a contact name, telephone number
and an email address (where possible).
The closing date for the next newsletter is 5th Feb 2011
The Editor's decision is final for all entries.
Ann Sayer – Editor
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Email: roseanne8SAY@aol.com

Give your art a home!

Stone Pillow is an organisation in the Chichester area
helping the homeless and vulnerable
(www.stonepillow.org.uk). The Old Glassworks is one
of their day centres that has recently been redecorated
by volunteers and artworks are needed to brighten up
the place.

If you have any paintings, prints or similar works of
art (preferably bright and cheery!) that you feel you
could donate, please contact Louise Turpin who will
arrange to collect them and ensure that they get to
Stone Pillow.

Let's use our talents to make a difference to the
lives of those a lot less fortunate than ourselves.
Louise tel: 01730 892560. Mob: 07828 194260

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
for new frames only.
Contact: Steve Cook - Proprietor
01420 82324
www.fine-framing.co.uk

SPRING WORKSHOP DETAILS

Saturday 16th April 2011
**Watercolour – wet-into
wet**

Jean Haines.
Venue - Four Marks Village Hall
10am till 4pm.
Those attending should bring their
favourite watercolour equipment.
Also paper in various sizes.
Jean works on Bockingford 140lb
extra rough paper.
Please bring whatever you feel
comfortable with.
Cost TBA.
Contact Maureen Morrison

Little Green Dragon Bookshop Normandy Street Alton

Offers discount to AAS Members
on all art materials.
Contact:
James Shrubb 01420 87801
James has recently
taken over the shop, he plans to
extend the art materials stock early
in 2011.

