

Christine wins Exhibit of the Year award

ALTON artist Christine Radford carried off the "Exhibit of the Year" Award after Alton Art Society's annual exhibition.

She had five paintings in the show and visitors voted her landscape, "From the Church Stile, Newton Valence," the best of over 240 exhibits.

According to exhibition secretary, Arthur Wren, she won by a large margin, with Peter Prescott's "The Bathing Belles," showing cattle taking a dip, second and Geoffrey Ainley's "Bosham Tranquility" third.

For Mrs. Radford, it was her second exhibition success of the year because she won the Allen Gallery's open event in the spring.

Mrs. Radford, who was runner-up for the Art Society award two years ago, is a former pupil of Amery Hill School and she modestly claims that painting has been "just a hobby" for four or five years now.

Miniatures

A mother of two, she paints in what spare time she has, encouraged by Anna (9) and Simon (5).

Best known, perhaps, for her miniatures, Mrs. Radford applies the same technique of a fine brush and endless patience to her landscapes, preferring water-colours to oils.

The trophy which she holds for a year takes the form of a bronze figure created by the late Jack Riviere, who continued to work as a sculptor, after losing his eyesight.

It was presented to Mrs. Radford by Chairman of the Society, Pamela Jones, who also handed over the children's prizes as follows:

- Five and under—1, Jesse Hennings (Holybourne School); 2, Adelle Clancy (St. Lawrence's); 6-8—1, Rosie Marnan (Selborne); 2, Henry Jupe (Boys' Brigade); 9-11 (junior)—1, Laura Sherman (Holybourne); 2, Paul Schofield (Holybourne); 3, Matthew Johnson (St. Lawrence's); 9-11 (senior)—1, Neil Smith (Eggar's); 2, Michelle Pearce (Eggar's); 12-14—1, Daniel Wells (Eggar's); 2, Chris Dell (Eggar's); 15-17—1, Kate Franklin (Eggar's); 2, Sarah Rogers (Eggar's); 3, Rebecca Haran (Amery Hill).

Handicraft—1, Suzanne Terry (Holybourne); 2, Dana Kabeji (Holybourne). Group work (4-7)—Class 1, St. Lawrence's; (8-11)—Junior section, 2nd Alton Company, the Boys' Brigade.

A. Gazette Oct 90

Sir Hugh Smiley: Former High Sheriff

Funeral service was held Tuesday for Sir Hugh Smiley, 3rd Baronet, of Alton House, Bentworth, near Alton, whose death was reported last week, at the age of 84.

Born on November 10th, 1905, he was the eldest son of Sir John Smiley, 2nd Bt., and Valerie, daughter of Sir Claude Clouston de Crespigny, 4th Bt., who was a steeplechase rider and balloonist.

Educated at Eton and Sandhurst, Hugh Smiley entered the Grenadier Guards in the late 1920s. He later served as a Captain during World War Two. In 1950, he succeeded to the baronetcy and his income was reputed to have been £5000 a year, an equivalent of well over £100,000 today. However, the family property at Larne and Paistey, and interests in shipping, cotton and the Northern News newspaper had been sold by the 1920s.

Sir Hugh is known to have married to authoress, Nancy Mitford, several times, but was always turned down. He eventually wed Nancy, the sister of Evelyn, photographer, Cecil Beaton. They were married at St. Margaret's, Westminster, in January of 1933.

Sir Hugh was a J.P. for many years and became High Sheriff of Hampshire in 1959. From 1975 to 1982, he was Vice Lord Lieutenant. He was also honorary secretary of the Jane Austen Society from 1953 to 1965 and President from 1969.

Sir Hugh is survived by his wife and son, Lt. Col. John Philip Smiley, born in 1954, who now succeeds to the baronetcy.



H. Percy Cox — the perfect English gentleman.

Percy Cox — a man of honour

THE funeral of one of Alton's oldest and most respected citizens, H. Percy Cox, took place at Chawton Parish Church on Friday.

The service was conducted by Rev. K. Daubney, and Mr. Cox's younger son, Ronald, delivered a eulogy in which he spoke of the many remarkable events in his long life and his high standard of integrity and consideration for other people.

Born in 1906 in Wavertree, Liverpool, he soon showed his potential as an artist, and also proved to be equally talented

the great liners. The problem was in remembered going down to the screw tunnels of the Lusitania, and on another occasion, he was shown the cabin on the SS Montrose which had been occupied by Dr. Crippen.

The next step was one which launched him on his life's career. He answered an advertisement for a junior clerk for the clerk to the commissioners of Inland Revenue, and was accepted.

The work was grueling as Income Tax offices in those days combined the duties of both the present day collectors and inspectors. Mr. Cox still went to art school in the evenings.

In 1918, he was called up for the Royal Naval Air Service.

At the age of 19 he found himself in charge of the Warrant Officers Mess at Spa in Belgium, where the advanced headquarters of the RAF were set up. His duties included looking after the RAF concert party which included many famous stars of the time such as G. H. Elliott and Tommy Handley. The Duke of York, later King George VI, was permanently attached to their unit, and Mr. Cox remembered him joining them for Christmas dinner.

After receiving a signal from his father, Mr. Cox was demobbed and spent a year in industry before being persuaded by his future bride to apply for his old tax job.

He was only 22 when he was put in charge of two districts in Birkenhead, including the responsibility for conducting prosecutions in court cases.

November at the community centre.

Speaker for the evening was Hermione Thorton Lofthouse, a popular practising and teaching artist from Farnham, who conducted a critique of members' work.

She had much to say about the many styles of work that had been brought along, and her comments were spiced with wit and good humour.

Alton Art Society has been enjoying a considerable increase in membership lately and has had a record run of exhibitions this year.

The next meeting is on December 11th when the subject will be picture framing.

Herald Nov 16 1990

Annual Exhibition NOW OPEN

at the Assembly Rooms, Alton

10 a.m. - 7 p.m. daily until Saturday, 6th October

ADMISSION FREE

Alton Gazette 3.10.90

of the Parent Teachers Association present two computers to headmistress and Geoffrey Murray can't

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RECORD ENTRY ART SHOW

Alton Art Society's 68th annual exhibition at the Assembly Rooms attracted a record number of paintings this year.

Exhibition Secretary Arthur Wood and his team spent the weekend setting up the display from nearly 500 works that members had sent in.

"By tradition, there must always be a selection, but to ensure that nothing of merit is left out," he said.

The result is that nearly 200 works are on show together with nearly 200 unframed and inexpensive pictures, together with a lively entry from local school children.

The exhibition was opened by Lady Wren on Monday and remains on view until Saturday, when nearly everything is for sale.