

Landscapes prove popular at Alton art show

The standard of work in the Alton Art Society's 60th annual exhibition was as high as ever, with no less than 238 drawings, paintings and sculptures on display.

There were also some fine pieces of wood carving and pottery on show.

Landscapes proved ever-popular, although there were some very good flower and animal pictures.

Intricate

Artists used charcoal, oils and watercolours to help bring their work to life, with some paintings showing intricate

brushwork while others were very simple, such as Helen B. C. Dunkley's "Snowdrops."

Many exhibits, such as "Allen Gallery Garden" and "Autumn Hedgerow" by Pamela E. Pell used bold, vibrant colours and were very distinctive and stylised - virtues shared by J. R. Hüster's "St. Nicholas Church."

Clever juxtaposition of paintings helped highlight the differences between them.

The striking blues in "Meadow Flowers" by Sallie J. Ellis complemented the pale simplicity of Barbara Shaw's "Wild Rose," for instance.

Street scenes were quite popular with some very good examples, including "Window Shopping" by Paul Banning; a very "alive" piece of work which draws the viewer into the picture.

However, a few examples needed something to give them interest. Christine Radford's "St. Lawrence Church Street" showed Church Street looking possibly the quietest it ever has; it wanted by Kate Brommance of people to at.

Barbara Howe's "Batsmen" and "Guinea-Fowl" were both very simple but effective wood carvings. S.M.



Sharing their admiration for one of the exhibits in Alton Art Society's show are Town Mayor Mrs Jacqueline Martin, society chairman, Pamela Jones and show secretary, Arthur Wren (Kimroy Photography)



Budding young artists pictured with their award winning work in the junior section of Alton Art Society's annual exhibition at the Assembly Rooms (Kimroy Photography)



Success for the second year running for Christine Radford as she receives the "Exhibit of the Year" trophy from chairman Pamela Jones (Kimroy Photography)

Young artists with a free spirit

Town Mayor, Mrs Jacqueline Martin congratulated Alton Art Society on consistent success when she opened their 60th exhibition.

She said she was impressed by the high standard and by the variety of work on display.

But what took her eye most of all, she said, was the work of the children and especially that of the youngest group.

Yet to be shackled by the conventions and technicalities of art, their drawings and paintings had a sense of freedom and free spirit that delighted her, she said.

This year's show included a panel of paintings by the late Percy Cox, its former chairman and vice-president.

Mr Cox, who died last year aged 90, had joined the Society in 1926, the year after its formation.