

ERIC'S THE ART LOVERS' (DEMOCRATIC) CHOICE

MR. Eric Street of Selborne won the new "exhibit of the year award" — chosen by visitors' vote — at the Alton Art Society's 51st annual exhibition last week.

He received it from society chairman, Mr. Pat Edwards, who said he felt the innovation had made the visitors look at the exhibition with a closer view.

Mr. Street's picture of Kings Pond at Alton had had a clear lead in the voting by the 1,000

or so people who had visited the exhibition during the week. Tying for second and third places had been Seascape by Gordon Trimming and Concerto by Mary Towsey.

OVERWHELMED

Mr. Street declared himself "quite overwhelmed" and said that he and all those members in the years ahead who would win the annual award would treasure it with joy and pleasure and great gratitude to Mr. Jack Riviere for donating it to the Society. He had sculpted it and the base had been executed by his grandson.

He later told the Herald that he had painted his prizewinning picture earlier this year. It, like the other two pictures of Kings Pond and of Gracious Street in Selborne which he had entered into the exhibition, had been sold.

Mr. Street has been a member of the Art Society for over 18 years and uses both oils and watercolour to paint his pictures, which are always landscapes.

Also that same Saturday evening, at the conclusion of the show, the child prizewinners received their awards to much applause and acclaim. In the section, eight years old and under, the four to six year olds at St. Lawrence School in Alton got the first prize for their collage of Puff the Magic Dragon. Second was Mark Cocks from Anstey Junior School.

WINNERS

In the 9-11 years section, the winner was Leon Warren (10) from Selborne School with a drawing of a clarinet; 2nd, Catherine Evans from Alton Convent.

Twelve to 14: 1. Jonathon Mitchell from Amery Hill School; 2. Chris Weeks, Amery Hill School. 15-17: 1. Jane Harris from Eggar's School; 2. Sandra Skinner from Eggar's School.

Winners in the handicraft section were: 1. Helen Dodson; 2. Nicholas Barr (9) from Selborne School.

Mr. Edwards spoke of the very high standard of the children's exhibits. It had been a very exciting exhibition.

He also spoke of the great deal of work that had gone into the exhibition and mentioned especially exhibition secretary, Mrs. Joan Taylor; Mrs. Patricia Dodson who had organised the crafts; and Mr. Sam Ayres, caretaker of the Alton Assembly Rooms where the exhibition was staged.

Mrs. Taylor told the Herald that the number of visitors had been about the same as last year. A lot of interest had been shown by the public who had looked much more closely at the paintings because of having to vote.

The Alton Camera Club were also dismantling their exhibition in the Assembly Rooms on Saturday evening after a week in which they too had received nearly 1,000 visitors. The Herald was told it was felt the exhibition had been more successful this year — their 25th anniversary — than previously from the point of view of visitors.

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The first winner of Alton Art Society's new "Exhibit of the Year" award is Mr. Eric Street, who was presented with the trophy by Chairman Mr. Patrick Edwards after his painting of King's Pond, Alton, received most votes from visitors

FIRST WINNER OF ART SHOW AWARD

Visitors to Alton Art Society's 51st annual exhibition at the Assembly Rooms last week chose a local view as their "Exhibit of the Year."

Most of their votes were for Eric Street's painting of King's Pond, Alton, winning for him a new award presented to the society by blind sculptor Mr. Jack Riviere.

The trophy was handed over by the society's chairman, Mr. Patrick Edwards, who said its introduction had been a popular move with the public.

Sharing the same number of votes for second place were Mary Towsey's "Concerto" and Gordon Trimming's "Seascape."

Mr. Edwards also presented the children's prizes as follow:

Handicrafts — 1, Helen Dodson; 2, Nicholas Barr. Under 8 — 1, St. Lawrence School Infants; 2, Mark Cocks. 9-11 years — 1, Leon Warren; 2, Catherine Evans. 12-14 years — 1, Jonathan Mitchell; 2, Chris Weeks. 15-17 years — 1, Jane Harris; 2, Sandra Skinner.

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