

ALTON ART SOCIETY
53rd ANNUAL EXHIBITION
 Opening MONDAY, OCTOBER 1st, at 6.30 p.m. by the Town Mayor of Alton, Councillor C. O. G. Smith
 Then daily from 10.30 a.m. to 7.00 p.m. until Saturday, October 6th.
PAINTINGS AND POTTERY FOR SALE
ADMISSION FREE

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GAZETTE 3-10-84

ALTON HERALD 5-10-84



Town Mayor Mr. Cecil Smith and Mrs. Smith (right), together with show secretary Mrs. Joan Taylor, admire one of the paintings in Alton Art Society's annual exhibition

Impressive exhibition gives pleasure

THE 53rd Annual Exhibition of the Alton Art Society was opened on Monday evening by Town Mayor, Mr. Cecil Smith. He told those present, who included vice-presidents Sir Hugh Smiley and Mr. Percy Cox: "Although I love art I am no artist so I can only envy people who have the gift." There are nearly 200 exhibits and Mr. Smith described them as "magnificent" saying: "The exhibition must give a lot of people a lot of pleasure; it certainly gives me a great deal of pleasure." It was the second time Mr. Smith had had the job of opening the society's exhibition and he was obviously impressed. He said that Alton had a good reputation for sporting achievement and he was now sure that it would become well-known for its artistic talent. The exhibition at the Assembly Rooms, Alton, will be open daily from 10.30 a.m. to 7 p.m. until Saturday, October 6th. In conjunction with it the Alton Camera Club is holding its annual exhibition at the Assembly Rooms for the same period.

TOWN MAYOR OPENS ART SHOW

ENVIOSLY, Alton Town Mayor Mr. Cecil Smith declared Alton Art Society's annual exhibition open.

"I love art and I always have done so, but I can only envy you people who have the gift of communicating through the medium of art," he said. In declaring the Art Society's 53rd show open, he paid tribute to the unsung heroes of Alton's artistic community. "Alton has often been seen as a town of sporting achievements and facilities," said Mr. Smith. "After this exhibition we shall now be known as a town of artistic ability as well." The exhibition, which includes some new names as well as new exhibits, runs all week at the Assembly Rooms. "It is a question of communication and you people are able to transform your ideas into a variety of artistic mediums," said Mr. Smith. "I cannot understand some of the more futuristic forms of art, but it is still a way of communicating and I envy the ability," he said. Earlier, Mr. Hugh Smiley apologised for the absence of the Society's President, Lady Charlotte Bonham Carter, who could not make the opening. Visitors to the show, which continues until Saturday, can cast their vote for their favourite exhibit, the winning artist receiving a fine trophy presented to the society by sculptor Jack Riviere three years ago.



Town mayor Mr. Cecil Smith and Mayoress Mrs. Lillian Smith admiring some of the sculptures after the opening of the 53rd annual exhibition of the Alton Art Society.