



Exhibit of the Year in Alton Art Society show is Mrs. Gwen Lambourn's painting of Beddgelert in Wales, much admired by Town Mayor Mr. David Crocker, who opened the exhibition and presented the trophy

WELSH BEAUTY SPOT INSPIRES ARTIST GWEN

THE famous Welsh beauty spot of Beddgelert inspired Gwen Lambourn to produce a winning painting for this year's Alton Art Society exhibition.

Every spring, she and her husband Nelson holiday in Wales, taking camera and sketch pad in the hope of capturing the magic of the countryside.

It was two years ago that they visited Beddgelert and the picturesque bridge over the silver stream appealed to her artist's eye.

She sketched the scene and photographed it, looking forward to the day when she would put it on canvas for others to admire.

But it came as something of a surprise to Mrs. Lambourn when, at the close of the week-long exhibition at the Assembly Rooms on Saturday, Town Mayor Mr. David Crocker announced that her painting had gained most votes in the "Exhibit of the Year" competition.

She and her husband had returned only a few hours earlier from a holiday in Italy. "What a home coming," she said. "I'm so pleased but I really did not expect to win."

Mrs. Lambourn, of Salisbury Close, Alton, was especially proud to receive the trophy because she attends arts classes held at Medstead School by Mrs. Tana Riviere, whose late husband, Mr. Jack Riviere, the blind sculptor, made and presented it to the society.

Mrs. Lambourn, whose husband frames most of her work, says modestly that she has been "trying to paint" for some 20 years. She used a palette knife technique for her winning effort.

Runner-up spot in the competition was shared by Kathleen Page's pristine "White Chrysanthemums" and Arthur Wren's

handsome seascape, "Leaving Poole Harbour."

In contrasting style but nevertheless attracting as much attention were Mr. Wren's distinctive portraits, particularly "Happily Retired, Thanks" with its "Spitting Image" quality.

This year's exhibition, full of fun and colour as well as fine technique and creative ingenuity, attracted a record number of visitors with 42 of the 146 exhibits selling for a highest ever total of £2000.

The Town Mayor congratulated the society on the success of the show, reading a letter from Vice-Chairman Mrs. Dorothy Howard, who was unable to attend the closing ceremony because of illness.

She paid tribute to Mr. and Mrs. Bickerdike, Secretary Mrs. Sheila Trimming and the organising committee for setting up the exhibition.

The Town Mayor, who also presented a certificate to Jean Greaves to mark her success in the 1966 show, handed out prizes to winners of the children's classes as follow:

Group award—Four Marks School. 6-8 years—1, Ruth Jones (St. Lawrence's); 2, Simon and Brian (Four Marks). 9-11 years—1, Sean Nicholas (Four Marks); 2, Nicola McCardle (Alton Convent). 12-14 years—1, Oliver Trunche (Eggars); 2, Sarah Vaux (Eggars). 15-17 years—1, Emma Barron (Eggars); 2, Rachel Wilson (Amery Hill).

Held in conjunction with the art show was Alton Camera Club's annual exhibition which featured a panel of prints by Barry Evans, F.R.P.S. of Streat-ham Camera Club.