



## High standards at Alton exhibition

THE 58th Annual Exhibition by Alton Art Society is on show in the Assembly Rooms, Alton, until tomorrow (Saturday).

I thoroughly enjoyed my visit and it was a pleasure to see the work of this thriving society.

The paintings, sculptures and drawings are of the highest standard and I am sure that the people of Alton are proud to have such a group of artists in their midst.

There are over 170 works which fill the walls and display screens and many more unframed pieces, far too many to comment upon all of them here. However, I have selected some but I have no doubt that if I walked round again I would choose an entirely different set.

Of the seascapes, the stormy "Running for Shelter" by D. A. Pelling and "Evening Calm" by L. H. P. Wilding, caught my eye. There are excellent studies of the nude by P. Hale and M. J. Kirby.

From the collection of landscapes I particularly liked "A Corner of Newton Valence" by George Carter, "Bighton" by Robert Bickerdike, "Alton from Mount Pleasant", by Gina Aronsberg, "Entrance to Les Garennes, Dordogne" by Jean Greaves, and "Assini Greece" by Jane Stevens.

I thought Paul Banning's water-colour "Yew Trees, Hawkley Church" was well drawn, as were the flowers of Pru Tappley, Joan Shortis and Kathleen Page and Dorothy Dean's "Ballet Sketch".

One can smell the leather and dusty air in Joan Blacker's "The Shoe Mender" and there are fine portraits by Phil Dunthorne and Arthur Wren.

To complement the work of the society, there is a lively collection of paintings, drawings and collage by children from local schools.

The following youngsters received prizes; in the five and under section, first prize went to Ashley Little, second to Elsa Jones, and Joshua Flack was highly commended.

In the six-eight years section: 1 Nathan Broughton, 2 Emily Coates, and Claire Tilbury highly commended.

In nine to 11s: 1 Ross Grant, 2 Tom Frostick, and Gideon Frater highly commended.

In the 12-14s: 1 Kate Franklin, 2 Sammy Eldridge. In the 15-17s: 1 Rebecca Jenkins, 2 Vicki Halstead, and Lindsay Carr highly commended.

The group prize went to Four Marks Primary School.

It must have been very difficult for the judges to choose from such a strong submission and all the exhibitors are to be congratulated.

The exhibition is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

David Walker

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Alton Herald



Joan Wingate receives the Jack Riviere trophy from Pamela Jones.

## Exhibition is 'the best'

ALTON Art Society's 58th annual exhibition was the best so far, according to chairman Pamela Jones.

During the week at the Alton Assembly Rooms, over £3,000 worth of pictures changed hands.

The trophy for the most popular exhibit went to Joan Wingate for the second year running, and Pamela paid a special tribute to Joan and to Robert Bickerdike who have masterminded the event for the past five years.

"We have enjoyed ourselves immensely," said Robert, "but it's time to let someone else take over."

## ALTON ART SHOW BRIGHTEST YET?

Alton Art Society's annual exhibition opens at the Assembly Rooms on Tuesday.

Society Chairman, Pamela Jones, says this is one of its brightest shows, reflecting this year's glorious summer.

This will also be the last display to be managed by Joan and Robert Bickerdike, both talented artists, who, for some years now, have masterminded this major event in the Society's calendar.

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Four Marks School's "Owls" collage — a very wise choice as winners of the group prize in the children's section at Alton Art Society's annual exhibition