

# Budding artists are recognised



Children's Art Society winners with Jenny Lines who presented the prizes.

LANDSCAPES through the seasons feature strongly in the Alton Art Society annual exhibition at the Assembly Rooms which brings together work in different media.

More than 200 pieces make up the exhibition which was opened last Friday by the Mayor of Alton, Paddy Mendham, and gives local artists a chance to display their work.

A steady stream of visitors over the weekend has made for a successful start to the exhibition, and organisers have been pleased with the number of pieces, as well as the quality of the work submitted this year.

The styles and subjects of the exhibited work vary enormously, and while some artists depict still-life paintings, others focus on portraits or landscapes to convey a mood and sense of place.

Local scenes feature in different pieces throughout the exhibition, and the villages, surrounding countryside and distinctive features of Alton are reflected.

The outer gates and stone walls of Jenkyn Place are featured in a watercolour painting by Gina Aronsberg, and Catherine Curtis evokes a view of Holybourne in her painting of Church Cottage.

A delicate pen and ink piece with a watercolour wash of the bridge at Froyle Mill by Wendy Bennett evokes the beauty of the scene.

In another piece she paints a vibrant scene of the Market Square in Alton, and depicts the bustle of activity within it.

Elsewhere in the exhibition more exotic scenes are painted, with the landscapes of Provence, Venice, and northern Africa conjuring up a mediterranean light.

The patterns of the seasons are present in several pieces in the exhibition, and the hazy heat of last summer is shown in contrast to the crispness of autumn.

In his piece entitled, Summer Day Ewsbot, Jack McArthur paints golden meadows before the harvest, and evokes a scene of peace and tranquillity through his use of watercolour.

This provides a contrast to Norah Coggin's piece, Shady Path, which depicts the verdant coolness of a sheltered woodland glade.

A Touch of Autumn, by Julia King gives a very seasonal feel as she vividly paints an autumn scene. The sprays of hips, sloes and blackberries which frame her oval piece, curl over the edge and to create an effect of nearness and tangibility.

The exhibition accommodates work of a variety of styles, and gives a glimpse of the talent of local artists.

The work exhibited was chosen by a selection panel which included a professional artist, as well as members of the Art Society. A winner will be chosen by popular vote, and will be announced at the end of the exhibition.

The exhibition was supported by grants from Alton Town Council and the Community and Leisure Services Committee of East Hampshire District Council, with help from local companies.

As well as its adult section, the

exhibition incorporates the high quality work of local young people in the children's section.

This section is divided into age groups, and allowed school children the chance to display their work. The winners were announced last Friday (September 29), and awarded with their prizes by Jennifer Lines, representing the Alton Art Society.

Young talent is in evidence in pieces from paintings to sculpture and textiles, and organisers were impressed with the work submitted.

Results for the nine to eleven years section; 1 Lucy Parrat, 2 Dickon Armstrong.

Six to eight years section; 1 George McColl, 2 Craig Tedder.

Five years and under; 1 Hannah Christmas, 2 Rebecca Le Vay.

Groupwork section; 1 Selborne Upper Juniors, 2 Selborne Junifant Class.

Handcraft section; 1 First Medstead Guides.

The exhibition is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Alton Assembly Rooms until October 7.