



Art's in the right place as Pauline Tompkins, chairman of Alton Arts Society and Gina Aronsberg, the exhibition secretary, show town mayor, Paddy Mendham and his wife, Annis around the society's 1995 exhibition (JRP Photographic)

## Alton's art is in great shape

The Alton Arts Society's 64th annual exhibition is a show for all seasons.

Over 200 exhibits are on display and they cover a wide range of subject, style and substance.

It may be that time distorts the memory but it's hard to avoid the feeling that this is the best show mounted for several years.

Virtually all of the exhibits are for sale at prices starting from £20 and many of them seem sure to be destined for the homes of visitors to the exhibition.

Amongst the traditional topics of landscape, seascape and portraiture, a fine range of animal studies stands out this time around.

Susan Jackman's *Dog Tired*, with its faithful beast entrancing eyes pick out the visitor from a distance.

Caroline Hawkey displays a rare eye for the characters of the animal kingdom. She catches the majesty of a *Champion Bull* and the personality of dog and master in *Big Jim* but for capturing the

essence of a contented cat, *Tim's Chair* has to be her finest hour and had this reviewer thinking twice about his bank balance.

In the landscape category, Christine Radford scores highly with her amazing eye for detail in *After The Harvest*, an astonishing piece of work so real that you could imagine yourself in a country lane rather than the more austere surroundings of the Assembly Rooms.

Jack McArthur's splendid *Sliema, Malta* would be worthy of a prized spot in many galleries and his *Silent City of Mdina* calls the viewer from a distance.

The warmth and wit of a perfect teddy bears' picnic shines out in Pat Gregory's *Once Upon a Time*, while include *Audrey Wears* Turner-esque *Ships in the Thames*, Mrs Callender's vivid *Marbles in the Grass*, Sadie Ogas's shadowy, welcoming *Autumn, Drove Lane, Alresford* and Gerald Woolley's unusual and effective view of *Bentley Show*.

But don't take my word for it. Visit the exhibition yourself and cast a vote for the item you feel is the best.

The result will be published in next week's *Gazette*, along with pictures of the prizewinners.

The exhibition, along with a junior section, is open from 9.30am to 6pm daily until Saturday, October 7th and admission is free. Programmes cost 30 pence.

**ASSEMBLY ROOMS ALTON**  
**SAT 30th SEPTEMBER - SAT 7th OCTOBER**  
**9.30 - 6.00 DAILY**      **ADMISSION FREE**

ALTON GAZETTE, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1995



Christine Radford receives her trophy from Pauline Tompkins, chairman of the Alton Art Society, for the best exhibit (*After the Harvest*) at the society's 64th annual exhibition. Roger Dellar, whose *Early Morning, Cornish Lane* was voted into second place, was unable to attend the presentation ceremony but third placed Paul Banning (*Low Tide at Albert Bridge*) and Margaret Cole, fourth with *Scottish Highlands* are pictured with their certificates (JRP Photographic)