

# Art society celebrates milestone with staging of autumn show

THE Alton Art Society has celebrated its 75th birthday in fine style with the staging at Alton Assembly Rooms of a bumper 69th autumn exhibition.

A constant flow of people passed through the Crown Hill venue for the duration of the exhibition, with more than 60 paintings sold within the first week, every one the work of an AAA member.

With no selection committee appointed for this milestone exhibition, and a maximum of four pieces per person, the society rose admirably to the challenge, with over 300 pictures hung, 89 folios on display and 18 sculptures.

They came in every shape, size and medium, with watercolours and pastels brushing shoulders with acrylics, oils and pen and wash. There were landscapes, sea scapes, still life drawings, wildlife, plants, flowers, portraits and abstracts.

With the sense of occasion very much to the fore, Meridian Television got wind of the special birthday exhibition and arrived to capture the event on camera, to be featured within the next few weeks on the Three Minute slot running alongside the regional news.

Opened officially by Alton town mayor Pat Cole, accompanied for the occasion by daughter Victoria and husband, Tony, over the nine days visitors were able to vote for the exhibit they had enjoyed the most.

The winner, Jan Harbon from Passfield, near Lipbook,

received the Jack Riviere award for the most popular exhibit for her mixed media representation of 'Goose'.

Runner-up was the '98 winner of the award, Four Marks member, Arthur Copus, with a watercolour entitled 'By Pearse (Angus)'. His picture of 'Lymington Bottom in the Snow' has actually been adopted by Wessex Cancer Research for this year's charity Christmas card.

Several local schools took part in the children's competition, judged by head of art at Alton College, Allen Thomas, and organised by member, Pam Jones, who was delighted with the standard of work.

Exhibits for the senior section had been received from Amery Hill and Eggars school pupils, while six primary schools battled it out in the younger age groups.

They included Medstead, Chawton, Four Marks, Andrews Endowed School Holybourne, St Lawrence C of E School, and Whitedown Special School, both in Alton.

The winners, who received vouchers from the Little Green Dragon Book and Art Shop were as follows:

Five years and under: 1. Sybery Russell (Four Marks); 2. Savannah Blanks (Four Marks)

Six to eight years: 1. Francis Carne (St Lawrence); 2. Jamie Wright (Four Marks)

Nine to 11 years: 1. Bethan Jones (Andrews Endowed); 2. Flur Parisi (Chawton)

Twelve to 14 years: Louise Gibson (Amery Hill); 2. Fiona Praen (Eggars)

Fifteen to 17 years: Tom Causton (Eggars); 2. Simon Barber (Amery Hill).



Winner of the R. Briton Riviere sculpture for the best exhibit on show, Jan Harbon receives her award from Alton Art Society chairman, Mary Janaway. (Picture No 40/43/30A)



Dickon Armstrong (14) from Eggars School pictured with his bold painting of a mighty steam locomotive which is to be featured shortly on 'Watercolour Challenge', an art programme presented by Hannah Gordon. (Picture No 39/65/3)

## Art Society names winners



Left, Jan Harbon, complete with winner's trophy for her composition 'Goose', presented to her by Mary Jannaway, society president. (photo order 41000MS/18)



Arthur Copus, with his third placed entry, 'Evening Light in Findochty' (top). Mr Copus won first prize in 1998. (photo order 41000MS/19)