

## Local artists' works on display

THE Alton Art Society has been enjoying its 73rd annual autumn exhibition at the Assembly Rooms recently.

A selection of styles, techniques, materials and themes informed the contributions this year with mixed-media art rubbing shoulders with the more traditional acrylic and water-colour efforts.

Last weekend saw the organisers stage a prizegiving ceremony for the best entrants in the junior artists' competition.

Emma McNally, Emma Burgess and Jacob Channon were among the winners.

Pictured is Michael Cross, a water colourist, one of the many local artists with their work currently on show.



## Local artists in the spotlight

THE Alton Art Society's "new look" autumn exhibition will open on Thursday, September 23, with an opportunity to view a wide range of work by local artists.

To run until Saturday, October 9, at Alton Assembly Rooms, the doors will be open from 10 am to 6 pm each day and admission is free.

With a smart new presentation, new black display screens and improved illumination, the society is looking forward to staging a diverse, interesting and very affordable show of members' work.

Included will be exhibits by well-known local artists such as Mary Janaway, Sue Bryant, Rosemary Miller, Toni Goffe,

Jill Bardwell, Jennifer Lines and many more.

There will be watercolours and oils, pastels and acrylics, perhaps a gouache or two - framed and unframed - of landscapes, seascapes, still-life, figures but, assures art society spokesman John Hearn: "no installation art and nothing pickled!"

The art work will be supported, as always, by a selection of pottery pieces and sculpture.

Building on the success of its last two exhibitions, the society will also have on sale a wide choice of limited edition greetings cards reproduced from members' paintings and useful for all occasions.

And, for the first time, it will be trying something really different - the compilation of the

Alton Art Society's first ever calendar.

To be produced for 2006 the idea is to ask visitors to the exhibition to select three paintings that they think are "Best in Show" and drop their votes into a box.

This is expected to narrow the field down to perhaps 30 or 40 pictures and from these a panel of experts will select the 12 most appropriate for use in the calendar.

"Most importantly, the net profits from calendar sales will go to the Rainbow Trust Children's charity," explained Mr Hearn who, in urging people to take part, added: "Votes will help us to put a smile on the faces of children who have so little but need so much."

This year, and after 75 years,

the Alton Art Society has also taken the monumental decision to rebrand itself.

"Up to now we haven't had a corporate identity - a visual 'something' that's immediately identifiable, is really modern, looks attractive and projects the society in a strong and forthright way, but now we have!" said a delighted Mr Hearn who was referring to the society's smart new logo.

His message is clear: "Our new look represents a membership now approaching 300 accomplished artists and sculptors. And a warm invitation is extended to all to come to our autumn exhibition, the annual showcase for our best and most recent work, and judge for yourself!"