



NEWSLETTER

June 2017

Introduction

We move into a busy time of year for the Society. This Newsletter reports on the successful Spring Exhibition, the monthly meetings, the forthcoming workshop and painting day, and the wider links with Open Studios Exhibitions and the Retford Arts Festival.

Spring 2017 Exhibition Report

- The opening of the Exhibition on 26th April was bright and positive, with St Swithun's church crowded with guests and members for the Preview. The focus in our catalogue was on paintings by Harold Rickells, one of our memorable and loyal members, who died last year. Wendy Ramshaw, a close friend of Harold, gave a moving tribute to the man and his art and craftsmanship.
- Society Chairman Andy Massey thanked and praised the efforts of the numerous members and friends of the Society, who had taken a part in mounting the exhibition. A high quality and wide range of work reflected a Society in good health. The impressive artistic talent of the young students from Ranby Primary School was also showcased at the Exhibition.
- Andy thanked the leaders and staff of St Swithun's Church for their warm embrace of the Society and its work, over many years. We wish Tony Walker, the parish vicar, every success and happiness as he moves to a parish in West Yorkshire.
- Again, many thanks to all who helped in any way, and in particular to those who were involved with erecting and dismantling the boards and lighting. A bonus has been the re-coding of all the boards by Mick Thomas, which should make the process in future much simpler. Thanks, Mick.
- Thanks also to Margaret Presley for coordinating the Exhibition, Daphne Sidney for coordinating the stewarding, and Treasurer Wendy Smith, who oversaw the finances.

- The numbers visiting through the 3 weeks of the exhibition were encouraging, especially on Charter Day. Overall, some 690 visitors saw the exhibition.
- There was a healthy number of sales: - 25 framed pictures and 15 unframed pictures were sold. Card Sales came to just over £320.

Monthly Meetings/ Demonstrations.

In April, on a gloomy wet night that probably kept many at home, we had a treat, when Dr Maureen Ille explored for us the ways in which art and illusion can overlap.

The May meeting at the Post 16 Centre, by contrast, was on a hot, steamy evening, and Tim Fisher showed an array of skills and practical knowledge as he painted a watercolour and pastel painting of a boating harbour.



On 29th June, Janet Mayled will lead us up the garden path with “Gardens in Acrylics”; don’t miss it!

Workshops

- Sheila Robertson is the contact for future Workshop events; 01909 476287 or e-mail at sheilar45@hotmail.com.

The next workshop at Clarborough will be on Saturday 10th June when Julian Bray will lead a session on the broad theme of “Flowers and acrylics!”

If, in future, you are booked in for a workshop and decide not to attend, then please let Sheila know in good time, as there is usually a waiting list.

Studio Sessions

The Swan Studio will be open for normal sessions, with Life Drawing on Wednesdays from 7.00pm, and informal groups on Tuesday evenings and Friday afternoons.

Painting Day

The painting day is planned for Thursday 24th August, at Bolham Manor, courtesy of the owners, Butch and Pam Barnsdale. Just on the edge of Retford, it's a beautiful brick building with exquisite gardens and hidden treasures.

To help with planning numbers, will you please e-mail/contact me, Andy Massey, if you want to attend this event?

Open Studios and Retford Arts Festival

Late May and June are busy times locally for celebrating art, and many of our members have been involved in Open Studios and/or the Retford Arts Festival. The latter took place over the May Bank Holiday weekend, in venues across Retford, such as St Swithuns, Goodwin Hall, The Bay Tree, the Hub, and Spencer's on the Square.

Open Studios venues with our members included Bassetlaw Museum, Askham, and Carol Eason's studios. These events coped with the vagaries of the weather, and it was good to see – and hear – such a high quality of artistic talent from local people.

Website

The Retford Art Society website continues to develop, thanks to Warren Cookson, and with your help he can make it even more appealing. If you haven't already done so, please let Warren have, by e-mail, a short account of yourself and your interest in art, and some images of your work.

PCT Art Displays

The next date for entering or collecting pictures at the PCT on North Road is Monday 11th September, at 4.30 in Room 5.

To make the system easier, we are not restricting entrants to a named list; all you need to do is to take along one picture to Room 5 at the PCT at 4.30pm on that date.

Retford Art Society Annual Meal

We are planning to have our annual get-together meal at a different time and place this year, so hopefully more members and their partners/friends can join us. Instead of an evening in the dark Christmas time, we are looking at a lunchtime in autumn.

The planned date is Wednesday 4th October 2017, at 12.30 pm, at Retford Golf Club.

The caterers there, Greg and Abi Wood, are building an enviable reputation for excellent food and service, and we would have the restaurant area for our Society. The meal would be a carvery, with plenty of choices including vegetarian options, and a choice of desserts, for about £15 per person. With good parking and disabled access, it should meet everyone's needs.

I will provide a booking form nearer the time, with more details

50 Years of Art

Looking ahead to 2018, we are hoping to celebrate our 50th anniversary as a Society, with a range of events. We are looking at a dinner/dance, a coach trip to Hull, the City of Culture, painting events, and others.

If you have any ideas of what might be good celebratory events, we'd love to hear from you, so please contact me, or any of the committee.

With best wishes

Andy Massey; June 2017