



**Retford Art Society**

Supported by



# **NEWSLETTER**

**November 2019**

*This will be the last RAS newsletter of 2019, so we look back at the recent events held, and ahead to Christmas, and the New Year of 2020.*

## **Autumn 2019 Exhibition at St Swithuns**

*A pleasing and successful exhibition reflected the hard work and organisation of the artists, committee and helpers. Local artist and tutor, Gary Ashton, opened our Preview evening and complimented the Society on how the quality of exhibitions had developed over the years he had been attending.*

*Though visitor numbers, about 550, and overall sales were down slightly, perhaps reflecting the poor weather during October, the exhibition was still a financial success.*

*Many thanks to everyone who worked to make the Exhibition such a great success.*

## **Annual Meal 2019**

*Over 30 members and guests braved the November thunder and rain, and enjoyed a fine carvery lunch at Retford Golf Club. Many thanks to Committee Members Jill Walker and David Brown for organising that, even though neither was able to attend!*

## **Monthly Meetings/ Demonstrations.**

- *In September, Richard Holland led a session on snowy landscapes in oils, with a fetching pink base layer, “tonking” (dabbing off paint with newspaper) and bold use of flat brush strokes. We look forward to his full day workshop in September 2020.*
- *At the end of October Julian Bray took a 3 hour workshop in Life Drawing, which proved very popular, with requests for further sessions next year.*

### Forthcoming Events

- *Our November Workshop/Demo at the Post 16 Centre is on **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November** and will be led by John Redfern harris, working on Christmas scenes in multi- media for cards and gifts*
- *We contribute to the ChristmasTree Festival at St Swithuns Church each year. Fay Evason is coordinating this project. The setting up will be on Friday 22ndNovember, and the festival runs from 30<sup>h</sup> November to 7th December . Many thanks to those who have contributed.*

### Life Drawing

- *The final session of the three full day Life Drawing events at Treswell took place on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November. Many thanks to Warren for organising such a successful programme.*
- *This is a good lead-in to the RAS Life Drawing Exhibition at Retford Museum in January to March 2020. Look out later for more details about entries and selection for this event.*

### Annual General Meeting

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2020, at 7.00pm**

- *We are planning to hold the AGM at the Labour Hall on New Street. All Art Society members are invited to attend. If the weather is foul, we will postpone until Thursday 30<sup>h</sup> January.*
- *We will decide on the rate of annual subscriptions at the AGM. We propose to retain them at the current rate of £30. Renewal forms will be issued after the AGM, once the subscriptions are confirmed.*
- *The AGM agenda and 2019 Minutes are included in this Newsletter.*
- *The programme of events for 2020 will be made available on our website in the New Year, and in future newsletters, as well as on a small card.*

Andy Massey

Chairman

14.11.19

## ***Retford Art Society Annual General Meeting***

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the 52nd Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held in the Swan Studio, on **Thursday 23rd January 2020**, at 7pm, with the following agenda:

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Apologies**
- 3. Approval of Minutes of Jan 2019**
- 4. Matters Arising from 2019 Minutes**
- 5. To receive the Chairman's Report .**
- 6. To receive the Treasurer's Report.**
- 7. To approve the Financial Accounts for 2019.**
- 8. To elect the Officers of the Society. The following have been proposed**  
**The Chair- Mick Thomas; Secretary –vacant; Vice Chair – Margaret Presley; Treasurer – Penny Murch**
- 9. To elect the members of the General Committee.**  
**There are two members of the 2019 committee who have been elected and continue in office for 2020. There are eight other vacancies; five of the current Committee are willing to stand for re-election.**
- 10. To appoint the financial examiner for the Society.**
- 11. To agree the annual subscriptions for 2020**
- 12. To conduct any other relevant business of the Society.**

**Minutes of the 50<sup>h</sup> Annual General Meeting, held at The Labour  
Hall Retford on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

***Attendance 16***

- 1. Andy Massey, chairman, welcomed those attending.***
- 2. Apologies for absence  
Val Moore, Daphne Sidney, Brenda Bond, Sheila Robinson, Clare Kenrick  
Rose Elkington***
- 3. Minutes of 2018 AGM were approved***
- 4. No matters arising from the minutes***
- 5. Chairman's Report. See separate sheet***
- 6. Treasurer's Report. See separate sheet***
- 7. The financial statement for 2018 was approved.  
Many thanks to Wendy Smith for all her work over the years.  
It was noted that a new venture initiated by Kara collected sponsorship  
money of £220. Kara arranged and paid for the design and printing of new  
style catalogue for the Autumn exhibition and she paid for the wine for the  
preview evening. Much appreciated. Kara had not been informed of the  
protocol; however, this ought to have been shown on the financial  
statement and will be noted for the future.***
- 8. Annual subscriptions for 2019.  
Proposal Annual subscriptions to be £30 per annum - Andy Massey  
seconder - Warren Cookson  
Passed - Nem Con***
- 9. Amendments to Society Rules  
Rule change 1 Proposed Andy Massey Seconder Warren Cookson***

***Original rule 8c***

***Audit***

***The accounts of the Society, made up to 31st December in each year, shall be audited by an auditor nominated annually.***

***Proposed rule 8c***

***Audit***

***The accounts of the Society, made up to 31st December in each year shall be approved by an auditor or independent examiner who shall be approved by the Committee annually.***

***Passed - Nem Con***

***Rule change 2 Proposed David Brown Seconder Andy Massey***

***This is an additional rule; 9a (i)***

***Non-members of RAS will not be allowed to attend the RAS AGM***

***Passed - Nem Con***

***Rule change 3 Proposed Andy Massey Seconder Warren Cookson***

***This is an additional rule; 10a (i)***

***In the absence or non-election of any of these Officers of the Society, the Committee will continue to function to the best of its collective ability, until such time as that proves impossible. At that point, a decision will be made to suspend or dissolve the Society.***

***Passed - Nem Con***

***Rule change 4 Proposed Helen Lems Seconder David Brown***

***This is an additional rule to section 3***

***The final date for joining or renewing membership of the Society will be 31st December.***

***Voting:- 5 for, 10 against, 1 abstention. Proposal defeated***

- 10. Jane Brown was appointed as the independent examiner of the Society's finances for 2019 Approved - Nem Con***

- 11. AOB. No items***

- 12. Election of the Officers of the Society***

***The Chair - Andy Massey elected unopposed***

***Vice Chair - Kara Wilkinson-Holmes elected unopposed***

***Honorary Secretary - Warren Cookson elected unopposed***

*As there was no one willing to stand for the post of Treasurer Warren resigned the post of Secretary and offered to take on the role of Treasurer.  
 Honorary Treasurer - Warren Cookson elected unopposed !  
 Honorary Secretary - Fay Evason elected unopposed.*

**13. Election of 5 members of the General Committee.**

*Mick Thomas, Pat Lyon, Sheila Robertson, Helen Lems and David Brown.*

**14. Next committee meeting: Friday 8th February 2019, 4.15pm in Swan Studio**

## **Chairman's Report 2019**

*From Andy Massey*

*2019 was a landmark year for Retford Art Society, as we reached our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Back in 2017, the Committee had an enthusiastic range of ideas to celebrate this, but the muted response from the Society meant we had to curb that enthusiasm considerably.*

*Nevertheless, we have a number of positives that I'm pleased and proud about, and I thank all the volunteers, mainly from the Committee, who have put in the time and effort to make those a success.*

- *Our two big Exhibitions in St Swithun's were notable for the quality of artwork and the subsequent sales, but also for the Preview evenings, enhanced by the very enjoyable buffets.*
- *We arranged an ambitious programme of monthly demonstration evenings at the Post 16 Centre, as well as the Workshops and regular Life Drawing sessions. In addition, we also held the summer Critique here in Swan Studio, and the annual painting afternoon at Ellicar Gardens.*
- *We've tried to widen our involvement as a Society, inviting Members to take part in the Bassetlaw Art Exhibition in April, and the Spa Lane Mural Project in the spring, in association with the Civic Society. There was also an inspiring course on "Art and the Great War" which we ran at the Well in May.*
- *December saw our involvement in the St Swithun's Christmas Tree Festival, and, against the odds, we managed to have a very good celebration meal at Markham Moor Inn.*

*It hasn't all been plain sailing.* *We've been confronted with a range of problems, often beyond our control. Members will be aware, from the concerns mentioned in the regular Newsletters in 2018, of the issues of our loss of a Treasurer in 2109.*

- *The problems of working without a full Committee in 2018, and the impending problems of not having a Treasurer or Auditor for 2019, have stretched us.*
- *The change of management and function at the Post 16 Centre threatened our continuing use of facilities there – though we hope that is now resolved.*
- *The future of Ebsworth Hall, where we store our Exhibition equipment, has been under a cloud, though, again, that seems to be on hold, for now.*
- *The mysterious removal, by the local Council, of one of our Exhibition advertising banners, meant time and frustration in trying to sort out that – and it's still ongoing.*
- *The stark realization that our income as a Society does not keep pace with the cost of all our activities, and that any cushion in our funding will not last, forces us to make realistic decisions and changes as a Society.*

*Looking ahead,* *we try to stay positive. Our membership numbers remain about the same, and we have already planned a provisional calendar for 2019, which includes a full programme, of two Exhibitions at St Swithun's, 3 Workshops at Clarborough, a range of demonstration evenings at the Post 16 Centre (with, this year, several of those directly linked to the Workshops at Clarborough) and the Life Drawing and informal sessions in Swan Studio.*

*The continuing concern about keeping the Society running* *prompts me to propose some changes, in our Constitution/Rules. (See item9)*

*These are to give us, as a Committee and Society, more flexibility in how we run the Society. In a perfect world, we could continue as in the past; but for us it is far from perfect, so we need to have more room to manoeuvre, rather than being tied by some restrictive rules. For example, if we stuck strictly to our current Rules, about having specific Officers on the Committee, we would have been breaking our own rules for the whole of 2018.*

*I hope you, and the Society as a whole, will support what I'm trying to do, and that we all have a successful, artistic, 2019.*

*Andy Massey*

*Chairman*

*January 2019*