



Retford Art Society

Supported by



NEWSLETTER

November 2017

This will be the last RAS newsletter of 2017, so we look back at the recent events held, and ahead to Christmas, and the New Year of 2018.

Autumn 2017 Exhibition at St Swithuns

As ever, the combination of a beautiful setting in the church, professional- style presentation and work of great variety and quality attracted a large number of visitors.

There were over 500 visitors in the course of the three weeks, and a healthy balance of sales of art works and cards was the pleasing outcome. 40 pieces of artwork and nearly 250 cards were sold.

It was good too to get the positive feedback from church staff, who value the complementary and mutually beneficial links between the Art Society and the Church. Many thanks to everyone who worked to make the Exhibition a great success.

Painting Day, August 2017

*On **Thursday 24th August** some 15 members, with several family accomplices, visited Bolham Manor, a distinctive Edwardian house on the edge of Retford, for a day of en plein air art. Sunshine and clouds allowed a lot of drawing, painting and chat, with subject matter ranging from the house and creatively arranged gardens and hidden caves, to the garage with its vintage car workshop. Our thanks go to Pam and Butch Barnsdale, the owners of Bolham Manor, for hosting us and providing refreshments throughout the day.*

Annual Lunch 2017

Responding to concerns about difficulties in making the traditional Art Society Christmas Dinner a popular and successful event, the RAS Committee decided to move the event to a lunch time in the autumn.

This allowed us to find a good venue at reasonable prices, and allowed many Members who were unable to get out to an event on a winter's evening near Christmas to join us.

*The pleasing outcome was a lunch, arranged at Retford Golf Club on **Wednesday 4th October 2017**, on a crisp, sunny day.*

Some 30 RAS Members and their guests gathered in the restaurant room of the Golf Club, with views over the 1st Tee, 18th Green, practice putting green, and distant vistas westward to the A1.

Though many Members were licking their lips at the artistic possibilities of painting some of the superlative views (albeit wearing hard hats and body armour to fend off errant golf balls!), the lip-licking soon turned to the succulent carvery provided by Greg and Abi Wood, caterers at the Golf Club.

With a choice of meats and vegetarian dishes, and tasty puddings, Members were impressed by the venue, and quality and value for money of the meal.

Andy Massey, RAS Chairman, thanked everyone for coming, and the Golf Club and caterers for hosting us. We hope this could be an event to repeat in our 50th anniversary year in 2018.

Monthly Meetings/ Demonstrations.

- *In September, Jane Lazenby internationally known for her portraits and equine paintings, captured one of our members in a beautiful demo of portrait drawing.*
- *In October Raymond Riley demonstrated the subtleties of wet- in-wet oil techniques when painting flowers and mountain landscapes.*

Forthcoming Events

- *Our November Demo at the Post 16 Centre has been moved to **Thursday 7th December**, to accommodate a parents' evening. Our visiting demonstrator on December 7th will be Richard Holland, whose theme will be landscapes in watercolour.*
- *We contribute to the Christmas Tree Festival at St Swithuns Church each year. Mary Fenwick is kindly providing a model, tree and backdrop with the theme "The First Noel". Pat Lyon and Margaret Presley are coordinating the Society's work, and the erecting of the display at St Swithuns Church took place on Friday 24th Nov. Many thanks to those who have contributed.*

Studio Sessions

- *The last Friday session for this year will be on **15th December** and sessions will recommence on **12th January 2018**.*
- *The Tuesday group will finish on **12th December** and start on **9th January 2018**.*
- *Wednesday evening Life sessions end on **29th November** and recommence on **24th February 2018**.*

Primary Care Trust

*The next meeting is on **Monday 8th January 2018** at 4.15pm in room 5, so please remember to pick up any pictures then that you have on display. If you want to submit a picture for exhibiting at the PCT for the next four months, please bring your picture to that meeting. Pictures need mirror plates for attaching to the walls. They mustn't have any sale price info, but you should have your contact details.*

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 18th January, 2018

- *As in 2017, for easier access and parking, we have booked the Labour Hall in New Street, from 7.00pm, for our AGM. All Art Society members are invited to attend. If the weather is foul, we will postpone until Thursday 25th January.*

- *We hope to keep subscriptions at £25. Renewal forms will be issued after the AGM, once the subscriptions are confirmed.*
- *The AGM agenda and 2017 Minutes are included in this Newsletter.*
- *The programme of events for 2018 will be made available on our website and in future newsletters, as well as on a small card.*

50th Anniversary Plans

Thank you to those members who have responded to our request in the August Newsletter for celebration ideas for 2018, our 50th anniversary. Based on that, we are looking into timings and pricings for several events, including

- *Visiting the RA summer exhibition in London*
- *Visiting a regional art exhibition, eg Leeds, Hull, York*
- *A meal at a local venue*
- *Widening our twice yearly Exhibitions, with Life Drawing and a buffet supper for members and supporters*

Other Events

- *Carol Eason , one of our Members, has an exhibition of her work at the Hub, from 25th November to 29th December. Members are warmly welcomed to her preview evening on Friday 24th November, from 7.00pm , at the Hub.*

Andy Massey

Chairman

25.11.17

Retford Art Society

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 50th Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held in the Labour Hall, New Street, Retford, on Thursday 18th January 2018, at 7pm, for the following purposes:

- 1. To receive the Chairman's Report .***
- 2. To receive the Treasurer's Report.***
- 3. To approve the Financial Accounts for 2017.***
- 4. To elect the Officers of the Society***
The Chair- Andy Massey; Honorary Secretary –Warren Cookson; Treasurer – Wendy Smith, who are all standing for re-election; Vice Chair – vacant;
- 5 To elect the members of the General Committee.***
There are five vacancies, and three of the current Committee are willing to stand for re-election.
- 6 To appoint the auditor for the Society.***
Lavinia Swannack, a retired accountant, has again offered to serve as auditor.
- 7 To agree the annual subscriptions for 2018***
- 8 To conduct any other business of the Society.***

Minutes of the 49th Annual General Meeting, held at The Swan Studio on Thursday 19th January 2017

Present

18 members attended

Chairman's Welcome

RAS Chairman, Margaret Presley, welcomed all present to the 49th AGM and thanked everyone for attending.

Apologies from Committee Members

Barbara Sparks, Sheila Robertson, Cliff Warnes, Margaret Harrod

Minutes of 2016 AGM

David Brown proposed acceptance of the minutes, Mick Thomas seconded and they were unanimously accepted.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Chairman's Report

Membership

Margaret Presley reflected on another positive and active year. Our Society continues to flourish; at the present time we have nearly 90 members, with new members joining as others go. Margaret thanked all the members who had worked behind the scenes during 2016, improving safety at the Swan Studio, organising exhibitions, workshops, sessions and demonstrations. Margaret reflected on the sad deaths of Christine and John Fitton, and Harold Rickells, all long-term members of the Society, and Ian Telfer, Sally's husband, who had helped behind the scenes on many occasions.

On a happier note, the Society was pleased to make Ann Everitt an Honorary Life member, for all her work and support over the years.

Events

Our two major exhibitions at St. Swithun's Church were successful, though sales were a little down on last year, but the number of entries was high and reflects the wide and attractive range of art produced by members. The Spring Exhibition was opened by Alistair Murray, Chair of Governors at Thrumpton School (whose students had also contributed paintings for the exhibition), and the Autumn Exhibition was opened by Gary Clarkson, the new Mayor of Retford.

A Painting Day was held in late August at Newstead Abbey, but the bleak weather limited the turnout to a few hardy artists.

Graham Laughton led our summer Critique, at the Swan Studio, which was well attended and very instructive.

For the Christmas Tree Festival at St. Swithuns Church, Mary Fenwick provided a bold backdrop, and there were beautiful decorations produced by our members. Thanks go to all those involved in making a display of high standard.

The Christmas Dinner was held at the West Retford Hotel with 20 people enjoying good company.

Monthly demonstrations at the Post 16 Centre have been of a very high quality, and Margaret Presley has kept the programme running during the year. As ever, the help of Mick Thomas on technical issues, Warren and Julie Cookson in providing refreshments, and donations of raffle prizes from other members, keep the costs viable and demonstrate the willingness of members to support our events.

Sheila Robertson has continued to work hard to arrange the very well attended workshops at Clarborough Village Hall, with an eclectic range of themes and high quality leaders.

Other Exhibition Venues

Members have continued to exhibit work on a four monthly rolling programme at the Primary Care Centre, which is coordinated by Dr. Andrea McDonald, and to whom we are very grateful for enabling this important link.

David Brown has continued to organise an ongoing exhibition of work at Jones and Co Solicitors.

In July, Warren and Julie Cookson arranged a very successful, and over-subscribed, Life Drawing Workshop at Treswell Village Hall, with Ann Everitt providing helpful guidance, and this builds on the sessions arranged there last year.

Our regular Life Drawing sessions at the Swan Studio have continued, with the help of Margaret Harrod and Daphne Sydney and other volunteers, and will resume in March. A Life Drawing exhibition will take place at the Bassetlaw Museum in March and April of 2017.

Publicity and Future Initiatives

Website

Warren Cookson has continued to develop our website, and it contains all the information about current and planned future events, and is regularly updated. This has enabled us to drop the annual production of a diary card of events, which inevitably became out of date when events had to be rearranged. The website also provides the best showcase of our members' work, and so we have not published a Society calendar, which had become a loss-maker.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions for 2017 will be kept at £25, the same rate as in previous years. Helen Lems is our Subscriptions Secretary, and subs forms and payments can be sent to her at Matron's Cottage, Trinity Hospital, Trinity Road, Retford DN227BD, (but, please, not taken in person to her place of work).

The programme of events for 2017, as shown on the website, is busy and varied, and we will also keep members updated on what the Society is doing with our regular, bi-monthly Newsletter (where members will also find a copy of the subscription form).

Treasurer's Report

Wendy Smith presented a detailed report of our finances, with the statement audited and verified by Lavinia Swannack. Lavinia does the job as a favour, but it was again agreed to give her a donation, increased this year to £70. Most of the Society's activities and events break even, and where there is a small loss, such as the annual critique and the monthly demonstrations, our healthy balance sustains that. Our balances are just over £10,000. It was therefore agreed that we would keep all our current charges at their present level.

Acceptance of the financial report was proposed by Warren Cookson, seconded by Helen Lems, and agreed unanimously. Wendy was thanked for her hard work as Treasurer.

Amendments to Society Rules

The RAS Committee has reviewed the Rules and proposed a number of amendments, mainly to simplify and clarify the language, and also to scrap the Selection Committee, which is redundant, and to not require that non-Members should join after attending three Society meetings. All the proposed changes were unanimously accepted. The new Rules will be sent out to all members with the next Newsletter.

Elections

Election of Officers

Chair: Andy Massey was proposed by David Brown, seconded by Mick Thomas, and unanimously accepted. A vote of thanks was given to Margaret Presley, for all her work in front of and behind the scenes for the Society. Thankfully she will remain on the Committee.

Vice Chair: Margaret Presley was proposed by Mick Thomas, seconded by Andy Massey, and unanimously accepted.

Treasurer: Wendy Smith was proposed by Andy Massey, seconded by Sally Telfer, and unanimously accepted.

Secretary: Warren Cookson was proposed by Margaret Presley, seconded by Mick Thomas, and unanimously accepted.

Election of General Committee Members

Barbara Sparks has resigned from the Committee.

Fay Evason was proposed by Margaret Presley, seconded by Mick Thomas, and unanimously accepted.

The re-election of Mick Thomas, David Brown, Rose Elkington, Helen Lems, Cliff Warnes and Sheila Robertson was proposed by Andy Massey, seconded by Warren Cookson, and unanimously accepted.

Other Committee Members remaining in post (as their tenure is not up for renewal) are Daphne Sidney, Sally Telfer, and Margaret Harrod.

Any Other Business

- *David Brown proposed, and it was agreed, that the Committee look into a different type, and possibly timing, of the annual meal for the Society, to get round the low take-up for a Christmas evening dinner.*
- *Plans were mentioned for the involvement of the Society in the Retford Arts Festival over the weekend of May 27th-29th, 2017. It is intended that we put on short, simple workshops, for children and adults, on the Saturday, possibly in Swan Studio. More information will mbe included in our Newsletters.*
- *The date for the next Committee meeting was set for Friday 3rd February 2017, at 4.00pm at Swan Studio.*
- *Mick Thomas was thanked for arranging this AGM at the Labour Hall, Committee members for bringing light refreshments, and all those present for attending.*

The AGM was closed by the Chair at 8.00pm.