



# newsletter

## APRIL 2020

WINCHESTER ART CLUB

### Notes from the Chairman

Apologies that the newsletter is late, events have been moving rather fast and we have struggled to keep up-to-speed. As a precaution we postponed the AGM, which was due to be held on 28th March. Unfortunately, in accordance with Government instructions, we have now had to cancel all future events until further notice.

We await advice before confirming any future dates. I had a serious viral infection for four weeks, so have had my own early lockdown!

Looking to the future, it is so sad that a 100 year old art club does not hold workshops any longer - please can someone come up with a solution!

This was Jane Nicholson's last year of organizing our annual educational trip, sadly cancelled of course. Please can someone take over this job? We owe a huge 'thank you' to Jane, she is a very active presence, and we will miss her organizing skills.

Hilary Archer

### Secretary

I would like to thank the Committee and the Club for their patience and help as I pick up threads from the back of the class to becoming your new Secretary, through the very sad and unfortunate passing of Ken, our wonderful past Secretary.

Reluctant though he was to take over from Derek, he did a superb job and held the Club together with his humour and encouragement.

Whilst keeping all the plates spinning, I would like to say that our Christmas Lunch, held at the Royal Hotel, Winchester, last year, was a great success, and they are pleased to have our booking again this year. More information, of course, closer to the event.

Thank you, and best wishes for a continued and active Club - when future circumstances allow!

Tricia Spink



### Exhibition Secretary

**Annual Exhibition 2019** - Our first five-week exhibition went well, naturally with a few hiccups, but all-in-all a success. For the first time, we had labels beside each piece of work giving simply the artist, title and medium - no price. If you wanted to know this you had to buy a catalogue but, unfortunately, not enough people did! Labels had been requested by members and visitors and we shall use them in the future, adjusting the number of catalogues that we print to avoid wastage. Due to arrangements in the City Space for merchandise relating to the Upstairs Gallery exhibition, our supervisor's table was placed differently and this didn't work for us - we weren't the first point of contact for visitors and consequently we couldn't welcome people, suggest they buy a catalogue or offer words of wisdom. After discussion with Kirsty, the exhibitions' curator, we did get the table moved but it was still not ideal. There were also unforeseen manning difficulties with City Space personnel, which meant that the gallery was closed for several days of our exhibition - we aren't allowed to man the gallery alone, as an employee has to supervise visitors, sales etc. Visitor numbers were good but sales a little disappointing, considering that we had an extra two weeks.

Our '100 Competition' was a success - we had 27 entries of which 20 were exhibited. The winner found 17 of these, which was way ahead of anyone else, including me!

Assuming that normal service has been resumed, our 2020 Annual Exhibition will run from 27th November until 3rd January with Handing-in on Saturday 21st November.

**Autumn/Winter Hospital Exhibition 2019** - As you probably know, the hospital boards are used for private artists between our two exhibitions here. They always hand-out on a Saturday and we have always handed-in on a Saturday, which results in empty boards for a week. After discussions we decided that this is a bit pointless, so all future exhibitions will hand in on Sunday mornings - the next (viruses and restrictions permitting!) will be on 11th October. As our Spring/Summer exhibition was cancelled, we were asked if the private artists could leave their work on display rather than take down and leave nothing for hospital patients, staff and visitors to look at, so we agreed that this was a good idea.

Note: There will be a new 'rule' for entries - when submitting paintings you must bring a sticky label that replicates the information on the back of each painting i.e. Artist - Title - Medium - Price. Black or blue pen only, no red, green or rainbow colours. These will be stuck on the boards next to your picture - this will save a lot of work for Tricia and your Ex Sec, so it is a good thing!

Speaking of Hon Sec Tricia - she came up with the brilliant idea of '**The Little Exhibition**' which has graced your screens over the last few weeks. 59 paintings, prints and even a sculpture were sent in by keen members - thank you all so much for taking part, it really lifted the spirits. You may well ask why the Hon Sec came up with this idea rather than your esteemed Ex Sec - simple answer: she's cleverer than I am! Tricia has suggested that, should this 'isolation' continue for many more months (horror!) we have an 'End of the Summer Exhibition' - so watch this space.

In a mad, desperate moment I found a jigsaw puzzle 'Butterfly Garden' in a cupboard and decided to spend some quality time and have some fun. A week later (!) it was finished - though in my defence it was 1000 pieces. The cats helped by sitting on it and in the box of pieces but, apart from removing a fair amount of cat hair, not a single piece was lost! I sent a photo to Tricia but she said there wasn't a jigsaw category and I should probably spend my time a bit more productively - oh.

At the end of this enforced period of seclusion/isolation/boredom we should not only have sparkling houses, tidy and organised cupboards, perfect gardens, shelves of books read and music listened to but also - lots of new, exciting pieces of artwork to share at future exhibitions. No need to recycle the same old seen-too-many-times-before-at-the-hospital pictures (Sheila!) just five nice, shiny new ones. And three fabulous paintings, a drawing and even sculptures for the Annual Exhibition in November.

Apologies for waffle, in the absence of news from publicity/courses/activities it was a question of Phil Space ...

**Sheila Bushnell**

### **Treasurer**

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In 2019 the Club made a surplus of £656.61 compared with £830.33 the previous year.

Compared with 2018, the surplus was reduced by a number of factors including £182 less from low sales of catalogues, and no income was generated from the Skeggs lecture, as it was cancelled. At the end of 2019 the Club's funds stood at £5,711, well over the reserve level of £3,000, and so we remain in a very healthy financial position.

In 2019 we increased the sales commission at the hospital from 10% to 20% and split the total income from sales commissions and handing-in fees 50:50 between the Magic Wand Appeal and the Winchester Hospice Appeal, which we are supporting for the first time, with each receiving £775, a significantly higher total donation than in previous years.

Unfortunately, the cancellation of the Spring hospital exhibition will result in a halving of our charitable donations to the two Winchester hospital charities we support, assuming that the Autumn exhibition goes ahead.

Following last year's annual exhibition, payment for sales of artwork was once again held up through difficulties in reconciling card sales as sales records did not tally with the number sold, and not all sales were attributed to individual artists, and this took a considerable amount of time to resolve. It is hoped from this year that Hampshire Cultural Trust will barcode cards to eliminate this problem. From this year on, to simplify the payment process, artists selling cards at the annual exhibition will not be permitted to sell them at more than one price. Also, payment for sales of artwork and/or cards will be made by bank transfer rather than by cheque. It is hoped that members will understand the rationale for these changes.

**Simon Churchill**

#### **Art Club Lecture - 27th November**

We are privileged to have Linda Smith, an Art Historian, Lecturer and Guide with London Art Studies, to come and give us a talk on the night of the Private View. The subject we have chosen is on William Hogarth.

### **Programme Secretary**

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The year 2020 got off to a really good start with the illustrated talk by Tony Sexton entitled 'The Artists of St Ives'. The number of people attending was very high for a Saturday (47 or possibly more) and that is very encouraging. I believe that the very informative e-mail circulated by Trish a few days before the event does remind potential audience members and encourage them to attend. The topic was well researched and presented. Thank you Tony.

Almost all of the remaining demonstrations for this year will be given by artists who have appeared before our members on previous occasions. I was a little short of time for research but next year I should have more time to spend looking for artists, especially those who will be new to us. If you do see or hear of someone who has impressed elsewhere, please let me have their details so that I can follow up. I am in touch with other programme secretaries in the area and we do exchange details in the hope that we can improve our programmes. I have already booked an artist for 2021 who will be completely new to us and I am in touch with a second who is new and is likely to come along to our meetings.

**Graham Compton**

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### **Postscript**

#### **from the Newsletter Editor**

*Unfortunately, as you all now know, all future events such as workshops, demonstrations and exhibitions are cancelled until further notice.*

*As and when we can re-commence our events we will advertise full details on our website and Tricia, our Hon Secretary, will email members with relevant information.*

### **Membership Secretary**

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Due to the effects of Coronavirus on us all, I am not able to give an accurate number of current members but sadly it is considerably lower than usual.

Normally at this time I am contacting members, both longstanding and comparatively new, to see if they wish to continue membership but a number of people I have spoken to are not willing to commit at present, which is understandable but disappointing.

Hopefully when things get back to normal and the country recovers we can move forward and keep a high number of talented and enthusiastic artists in our Group.

Our thanks to everyone who has paid their subscriptions this year and please all keep safe and well.

**Celia Brown**

