



newsletter

AUGUST 2018

Notes from the Chairman

Some sad news to start. After long and faithful service to the Club, Richard Plincke has resigned as Vice President due to ill health. We are all delighted that Tony Antoniou has agreed to take his place. A very warm welcome to our ex-Chairman, who will be wearing this new hat - one that will fit him very well!

We did not have a grand tour of London, as we did after the visit to the Tate last year. BUT this time we saw two huge fields of richly-red poppies from the coach on our way to Oxford, for an interesting visit to the Ashmolean Museum, which set us up for an exceptional day out. Jane gave us 'doggy bags' with maps and information, so a big thank you Jane for your excellent organisation. We had a great day with minimal travel and home in time for tea!

From 2019 the Club will no longer be running courses, as nobody suitable has offered to take over the role of Courses Secretary. Should anyone want to volunteer, please get in touch with me. Graham will still be organising a full programme of talks and demonstrations so there is still the opportunity to get together on Saturdays.

Hilary Archer

Secretary

This is my first newsletter after taking over from Derek as Secretary and I must extend my thanks to him for all his help and guidance in taking over a job that he has excelled at for so long. I will probably still need help! Also thanks to Tricia Spink who has been helping me as assistant secretary, and stepping in when I keep disappearing on holidays etc.

You may well have heard recently about GDPR, General Data Protection Regulation, which came into effect a short while ago. The Club, like all other organisations which hold personal information, must abide by the rules. Our data storage is very secure and we do not pass on your personal information to anyone else, which means we comply with GDPR. However, if at any time you do not wish the Club to hold your information (name, address, telephone & e-mail) then please contact me and I will remove you from our data bases. This will of course mean that you can no longer be a member of the Club, as we will have no means of contacting you. That's the serious stuff out of the way, and I hope you will be patient with me as I ease myself into the job; please let me know if you think I am doing things wrong or how you think I can improve.

Ken Pothecaray

WINCHESTER ART CLUB

Exhibition Secretary

Spring Hospital Exhibition - we handed out on 7th July and many thanks go to all who helped, as ever. 16 paintings were sold. We had some problems at handing-in, mainly due to some members presenting work that was 'unhangable' without remedial work by those of us trying to design boards etc. This resulted in a backlog of work reaching the hangers who, understandably, became somewhat grumpy simply kicking their heels waiting for paintings to hang. PLEASE read the instructions on how to present your work with the correct mirror plates (affixed in the correct place on the frame!) **Note 1:** It is impossible to fix mirror plates to plastic frames. **Note 2:** Ensure there are NO projections on the back of the frame which prevent the painting sitting flush against the wall. Tricia, our esteemed Secretary 2nd string, has had a brainwave about our handing-out process for these exhibitions - please see her piece at the end of my waffle. What took her so long to think of it, we ask?

Important 'heads up' (again) for the Autumn/Winter Hospital Exhibition - unusually this year we hand in on Saturday 6th October, two days before the Annual Exhibition hands out on Monday the 8th. The Club has no control over these dates, they are given to us and we have to fit our programme around them. This means of course that we can't simply take unsold work from one exhibition and hand it in to the next. So, it's either get the 'old stuff' out of the attic or paint new stuff!

Annual Exhibition - We hand-in on Saturday 8th September so there is still time to paint that masterpiece - just!

The response to the request for a publicity image was somewhat underwhelming - two entries - so I sent around an obviously desperate-sounding email which resulted in 105 images hitting my in-box. Hurrah!

There are exciting developments for the future with regard to the City Space. The focus is changing, with more emphasis being put on liaison between exhibitions there and the Gallery upstairs in the Discovery Centre. While this will hardly impact on the Club, what will effect us is that management

wants exhibitions in the City Space to be of longer duration. After discussions with Kirsty Nutbeen, the Exhibitions Manager, it was agreed that our Annual Exhibition will most probably run for a minimum of four weeks instead of the present three and possibly even for six weeks. This can only be beneficial with, we hope, commensurate increase in sales!

Sheila Bushnell

Important Collection Changes at the Hospital Exhibitions!

To make things easier for everyone involved in collecting their paintings after the Hospital Exhibition ends on 5th January 2019, please go straight to the Butterfield Wing Link Gallery. There will be a member of the Committee at each end of this corridor for security, and exhibitors are asked to go straight to their surname initial where their paintings will be stacked ready for collection. Please make yourself known, collect your work, use the table to wrap your work, and then depart. The hanging team will already have left so congestion will be minimized.

Tricia Spink

2019 - Our Centenary!

Next year is the centenary of the Club. If you have any ideas how we can celebrate this milestone, please let one of the Committee know your thoughts.

Membership Secretary

We have had six new members since my last report and I would like to extend a warm welcome to Angela Chambers, Paula Crosskey, Diana Carter, Loeswantri Hodgson, Robin Moore and Cindy Brooks.

We now have 263 Members and would like more! Our monthly meetings are carefully chosen and varied in content - they are a great way to get to know other members and discuss your talents, so do please come along.

Celia Brown

Douglas Skeggs Lecture

Following the Private View on Friday 14th September 2018 will be a lecture by Douglas Skeggs on 'Krakow: The City of the Dragon'

Douglas Skeggs is an internationally renowned art lecturer. He read Fine Art at Magdalene College Cambridge and has been a lecturer on paintings since 1980. In that time he has given over 4000 lectures to universities, colleges and art societies. He has lectured in Belgium, France, Germany and Spain, and has taken numerous tours around Europe. He has written and presented various TV documentaries, notably Omnibus.

The lecture is from 7:30 to 8:30 in the Discovery Centre Performance Hall, and is open to members and non-members. Tickets are £8 (£6 for concessions) and available in advance from the Art Club, Discovery Centre Box Office, and Newbury Building Society, 143 High St, Winchester; and on the day at the Preview Evening.

Treasurer

At the beginning of June the Club's bank balance stood at £5,114, which was £103 lower than the same time last year, which is not of concern. Courses in 2018 ran at a deficit of £302, compared with a deficit of £383 last year. The reduction in deficit was partly due to an increase in course fees from £20 to £25, and one course being cancelled due to insufficient registrations. There are still some of last year's members who have not yet renewed and a number of members whose standing orders were paid at the old rate of £12, and if all payments are received this will amount to a further £153 in the Club's account.

Simon Churchill

Publicity Secretary

It won't be long now before the annual exhibition is upon us and also the public lecture which sees the return of Douglas Skeggs to the Discovery Centre, when he will be delivering the lecture "Krakow - City of the Dragon". This will be a personal tour of Krakow in search of its gems of art and architecture. It promises to be an hour of fascinating insights, wonderfully well presented. Tickets, as always, will be available from the Discovery Centre box office, at handing-in on 8th September and at the door on the evening of the lecture on 14th September. I hope you will encourage as many of your friends and family as possible to come along, perhaps after attending the private view. The annual exhibition is our showcase to the general public and again I hope that you will encourage others to attend. We have a number of regular advertisers in the exhibition catalogue which both generates income and symbolises the way in which the Club is supported by the wider community. But advertisers come and go and this year Creative Crafts will no longer feature following its sad closure; it was always one of our greatest supporters. We have, though, signed up a new advertiser in the shape of Cass Art, a national supplier of art materials, which will be taking over the running of the shop at the Winchester School of Art. Any suggestions from members about potential advertisers and sponsors will always be gratefully received. And last but not least, we have commissioned a specialist company to erect a number of bespoke direction signs to the exhibition on routes into Winchester. We hope this will be an improvement on the home-made signs of previous years and of course there will be no excuse now for getting lost.

Chris Sealey

Programme Secretary

I have attempted to produce a programme with a great deal of variety that will both educate and entertain you. I am mixing old favourites with others who will be completely new to you. I am aware that our members have a wide variety of interests and I try to cater for everyone. That does not mean that I would wish for you just to attend the meetings that feature the area you are interested in but hope that you will come along and widen your interest into unfamiliar areas.

In the first few months of this year we have had a talk about Eileen Agar through to a demonstration and talk about creating a plaster of Paris/modruc sculpture. A demonstration of computer art and an illustrated talk/demo on Caricature. There have also been talks/demos on acrylics, watercolour and Richard Plincke using mixed media, watercolour and acrylic. The remaining talks/demos of the year I hope will be entertaining and that you will attend.

I am now looking towards the programme for next year. I am attending talks/demos with other clubs and also receiving reports on artist that feature in their programmes. I have also received reports from our own members about potential speakers and this is very helpful. If you see someone who you feel would interest this club please pass me the details.

Graham Compton

A Message from Derek

I wish to express my gratitude to Club members for the £490 cash present that they gave me on my retirement from the Committee. When considering how to spend the money I felt that it would be appropriate if I chose some art-related activities. The conclusion that I came to was to build a trip to London with my wife Kate that revolved around the National Gallery "Monet & Architecture" exhibition. We booked three nights in the Amba Charing Cross Hotel starting on Friday 27th April where we arrived late afternoon, having already booked tickets for a concert that evening in St Martins in the Fields church.

With a few hours to spare we walked the short distance to the National Gallery and took in some old favourites like the Impressionists and Stubb's 'Whistle Jacket' and then went back to the hotel for dinner. This gave us plenty of time for the even shorter walk to St Martins where we listened to the ten-strong chamber group, London Concertante, playing through an excellent programme that included two movements of Vivaldi's Four Seasons, Pachelbel's Canon and Monti's Hungarian Czardas.

The next Morning we went to a National Trust Property in Hampstead called Fenton House. This is a 17th/18th century house with an excellent china and porcelain figurine collection and a good walled garden. This was mostly for my flower arranging wife. I think that she enjoyed the garden even though it was raining and bitterly cold. In the afternoon we avoided the cold by visiting the superb Wallace Collection. We completed that day by a visit to Westminster Cathedral followed by dinner with my daughter and son-in-law in a favourite family-run restaurant near Victoria Station that they use often.

On Sunday morning we had tickets for a 10am slot at the National Gallery, Sainsbury Wing. Here we lingered feasting on 77 of Monet's pictures. They were nicely hung in a way which picked up his various themes in a roughly chronological order. The price included a small explanatory handbook and the limited number of people admitted meant that viewing was comfortable.

In the afternoon we took a bus east to the Guildhall Art Gallery. This is the modern successor to an earlier gallery that was bombed during WWII. It is spacious and well-lit and we had the place almost to ourselves. There is no entry charge and the main part of the gallery specialises in Victorian art with Millet and Rossetti well represented. The building also includes, in the basement, the preserved remains of part of the Roman Amphitheatre which was discovered during the building of the Gallery. It is nicely lit and well presented. That evening we had a quiet meal in a local Italian restaurant and then turned in early.

On Monday it was raining and very cold so we checked out of the hotel, then dived down the tube to Waterloo and came home to a warm house. In spite of the weather we had spent a memorable weekend and done everything that we planned to do.

With our grateful thanks to all who donated!

