



newsletter

NOVEMBER 2018

WINCHESTER ART CLUB

Notes from the Chairman

On a personal note, I would like to thank all those who helped me when I broke my ankle and was incarcerated for 8 weeks. It was a horrible time and your help was invaluable.

We have such an efficient secretary in Ken Potheary, and I would like to express our thanks to him. He is on a steep learning curve and doing brilliantly. Thanks also go to his 'glamorous assistant' Tricia Spink, who deals with all the Secretary's duties during his, somewhat frequent, absences. We also must thank Mike Ellis, always there with ideas and help.

I'm sure all of you share our sadness at the passing of our former Vice Chairman, Richard Plincke, who died in September. The obituary in the Hampshire Chronicle was a moving tribute, detailing his many accomplishments. We were so lucky to have him and still miss him.

Lastly, next year is our centenary - we were founded as Winchester Art Club in 1919 and we're still going strong. We must celebrate that occasion. If you have any ideas how we can do this please pass them on to any member of the Committee

Hilary Archer

Treasurer

The financial measures we put in place two years ago to improve the Club's finances have continued to achieve the desired effect. At the end of October the Club's funds stood at £5,758, which is £500 higher than the same time last year. At the 2018 AGM I forecast a surplus of £750 this year compared with £1,125 last year, and after the end of the year I will be able to calculate the actual surplus.

Sales at the annual exhibition were significantly better than the last two years, we sold 19 paintings (three more than 2017, and one more than 2016) but at a significantly higher total value of £5,400 compared with £2,840 in 2017, and £2,413 and 2016. This was partly accounted for by the sale of a £1,400 painting by our club president Tony Hunt RI, the highest value painting we have ever sold.

As soon as I receive a list of sales and payment from Hampshire Cultural Trust I will be in a position to pay all the artists, so please bear with me.

Courses - After our former Courses Secretary, Tricia Spink, stood down at the AGM in March no one has offered to take over this position, and so we decided to survey members to find out whether there was still a demand.

We would like to thank all members who responded to the survey, which received 83 responses and was many more than anticipated. There was overwhelming support for continuation of courses and you have provided us with detailed information on the format and content you would like courses to have in the future. We are pleased that several members have expressed interest in taking over the position of Courses Secretary and we are currently pursuing this and hope the position will be filled shortly.

Unfortunately, the long lead time to book course tutors and venues may mean that few if any, courses may be possible next year, but only time will tell.

Simon Churchill

Exhibition Secretary

Annual Exhibition - Apart from the usual minor hiccups at handing-in - too many running repairs, especially involving miles (not kilometres!) of sticky tape - we arrived at 3pm on Tuesday 11th September with a super exhibition. Our three judges did an excellent job of whittling down our entries to the number that the City Space can accommodate. We had 218 paintings and drawings entered and, sadly, we had to lose 48 of these. Several were rejected on presentation and, even more unfortunately, a prize was also lost because of presentation. The mountcard and frame were deemed unacceptable by the judges. This is such a shame! It is nice to hope that a fabulous painting will be acknowledged as such, regardless of presentation, but they do go hand-in-hand. At the risk of repeating myself again and again (!) how we present our work matters. A style of frame and mount should enhance our work, so please

don't just brush the dust off any old frame that's been lurking under the bed and think "it'll do" - it won't. The judges notice!

Getting the exhibition hung in record time was helped hugely by the new (improved) management team at the City Space - specifically Kirsty and Ioannis. We arrived on the Monday morning after judging to find clear decks - unlike on former occasions when bits of the previous exhibition lingered. Most notably a couple of years ago when a dinosaur was reluctant to leave the gallery (I can't believe I just wrote that!) and hung on - literally - for a couple of days while we worked around it.

We were officially opened by the Mayor at the Private View on the 14th, followed by our well-known and loved Skeggs Lecture.

Next year, instead of our usual September start, we drop into October. But the better news is that for our 2019 exhibition we have a full five weeks, including six weekends. Dates for your diary: Handing-in on Saturday 5th October with judging the following day and the Private View and Skeggs Lecture on Friday 11th October. The exhibition closes on Sunday 17th November.

Autumn/Winter Hospital Exhibition - we handed in on 6th October and many thanks go to all who helped, as ever. Despite the fact that our Annual Exhibition didn't hand-out until the following Monday, we had a record number of paintings! We filled all available boards with 24 left to store and use for filling gaps produced by sales. Apologies if all your entries weren't initially hung - hopefully they will be soon. At time of writing, sales are going well and we have, as always, had lots of compliments!

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

Activities Secretary

The annual outing for 2019 is to Tate Britain, Millbank, London on 9th June 2019. The cost is £24 for the coach only. The current exhibition is 'The EY exhibition, Van Gogh and Britain'. I am currently trying to negotiate a slightly lower price for entry.

The exhibition brings together 40 works by Van Gogh, and it aims to reveal how he was inspired by Britain and how he inspired British artists. The latter include Francis Bacon, David Bromberg, and the Camden Town painters.

There will be more information in the next newsletter so put the date in your diary now.

Jane Nicholson

Publicity Secretary

Not surprisingly the publicity effort in the last few months was directed at the annual lecture and exhibition. And as usual some things worked well and some not so well.

We didn't manage to attract the level of attendance for the lecture as in previous years and one of the lessons for me as publicity secretary is that we need to start press and website advertising earlier and with a wider distribution of posters. A greater attendance means of course an increase in club revenues.

We managed a good level of publicity in the local press for the exhibition both before and during the exhibition, thanks in part to Mike Ellis who covered for me in my absence during the handing-in period.

An innovation this year was the yellow directional signage in the city and on one or two approach roads. The committee thought that this had been helpful in directing people to the exhibition and will consider increasing the number of signs next year, budget permitting. Any feedback about the success or otherwise of the signage would be welcome. We managed to maintain the number of advertisers in the exhibition catalogue with a very slight increase in revenue.

Finally, a reminder that I shall be resigning the publicity secretary's post at the next AGM after 5 years of varied and very interesting tasks. At present there is no replacement but if it's any encouragement I think it's a post which could be well suited to a job share. I would of course be very happy to talk to anyone interested.

Chris Sealey

Programme Secretary

As we approach the end of 2018 I hope that I have been able to provide a programme of diversity and interest. There were two demos that were out of the ordinary, one planned and the other as a result of an emergency. Neal Griffin and his plaster of Paris Modroc sculpture was planned as an experiment. It went smoothly and was extremely well received by those attending. Many attending said it was good to see something in 3D instead of just a flat painting. Neal is also a wildlife artist and he will be back next year conducting the Spring Appraisal.

The second was the demonstration in January by Paul Arnott of Computer Art. Paul stood in at very short notice but provided an extremely interesting demo. I have tried it as my computer has a simple programme. Unfortunately my art with all the help of modern technology is still best described as 'rubbish'.

I have completed the programme for 2019. I have tried to make it interesting and varied. I believe that those in the list are very talented and will provide excellent demonstrations and critical appraisals. I have aimed for some faces we know, some who are in their own right well known and others who are completely new to you.

I hope you will find it interesting and that as many of you as possible will attend the Saturday meetings at the All Saints Church Hall. I am already looking to 2020 and have two or three pencilled in for an early appearance and also others I can call on should I need to find a replacement at short notice.

Graham Compton

Membership Secretary

We have had four new members since my last report and I would like to extend a warm welcome to Mike Dudfield, Clive Roberts, Peter Marsh and David Wykes.

We currently have 259 Members in our Group and are keen to encourage more aspiring artists to join our happy and talented membership. Our demonstrations are carefully chosen and provide a good opportunity to get to know other styles of painting and artwork and our exhibitions are looked forward to by many Winchester citizens.

Celia Brown

Secretary

I am still finding my feet as Secretary and still leaning on Derek Butler's technical skills to help me along and Tricia Spink to keep me on the straight and narrow.

I have fallen into the habit of e-mailing members to remind them of upcoming meetings, exhibitions and events and I hope you all find this useful.

As a new boy in the job, please let me know if you think there is more I can do.

Ken Potheary

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.**