



newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2019

Notes from the Chairman

I have started our Newsletter with some sad news in recent months but my heart is truly broken to announce that Derek Butler died in late July. He had had heart problems for some time, including a triple bypass, but it is still a ghastly shock to learn that his cheery voice is no more. Many people owe a great deal to Derek for his help, advice and guidance over many, many years. To say that he will be missed is an understatement. Both personally, and as a Club, I would like to send Kate our prayers and thanks for always being there as a help and support to Derek.

I would like to greet two new Committee members - Bryan Funston (Publicity) and Neil McDowall (Courses) - you are most welcome additions. Graham wishes to resign as Programme Secretary but has gallantly offered to stay in post until we can find a replacement - many thanks Graham!

I have taken over the exhibition and sales at the BUPA dental surgery. Some of the work has been there for a very long time - we need changes and, I hope, sales. Please contact me if you have paintings there or want to exhibit.

Hilary Archer

Secretary

Derek joined the Club 26 years ago and for 22 of those he was Club secretary. He stepped down from an active role as secretary just over a year ago and for year or two before that I started to help him out. It was during this time I grew to realise just how much he was doing for us; the Club did really revolve around him and we owe him a great debt of gratitude for his efforts.

When Derek made it clear he was going to retire from the job it was sort of assumed that I would take over from him. I refused the job on the grounds I could just not take on that volume of work. Eventually I accepted the position of Club secretary when some of the tasks that Derek was covering were taken on by other committee members.

He still continued to help me when I struggled with some of the computer programmes he had written and never failed to come to my rescue.

I, along with nearly every other member of the Club, am going to miss him. Our thoughts and sympathy are with Kate and his family.

Ken Pothecary



WINCHESTER ART CLUB

Exhibition Secretary

The last **Hospital Exhibition** handed out on 13th July - despite my eccentric assertions on the paper entry form that this was to happen on not one but two other days - oh cripes! Many thanks go to all who helped, as ever. 24 paintings were sold - which is pretty much a record for the Spring Exhibition. Thanks go to Jane as always for her sterling work organising sales. Our Autumn/Winter Exhibition hands-in on October 19th, so there is still time to do new, exciting masterpieces in anticipation of excellent Christmas sales. Please note: We will now accept online entries, in advance, only. We will have 'emergency' paper forms available at handing-in for disorganised people - like your esteemed Exhibition Secretary - who miss the online cut off! Oops ...

Annual Exhibition - This year - see previous Newsletters - is later than our usual slot, running from October 11th to November 17th. We have five whole weeks, including six weekends, so this means that we will have many more rota slots to fill. Please be prepared to help out as much as you can.

After discussions with Kirsty Rodda at the City Space, plus a look around the Photographic Society's Annual Print Exhibition, we have decided to put explanatory labels beside each piece of artwork. Both Club members and some of the visiting public have requested this at previous exhibitions. Our numbering had become non-sequential, due to complications of catalogue design and the need to get the artwork to the printers in good time. The Committee had considered labels over the last couple of years and dismissed them as both unnecessary and too much work. We also worried that doing this would mean that our catalogue would be redundant.

The Photographic Society have proved us wrong on both counts - the City Space staff will prepare the labels and we will still have a catalogue, which provides welcome Club income. Win-Win!!

2019 is our Centenary Year. Unfortunately we have received only one suggestion from 'the floor' (actually in Sainsbury's!) but luckily it was a brilliant one - very many thanks indeed to Carol Parsons. See details below. In view of the fact that we won't need any extra space for this competition, The Big Draw will still be featured in this year's exhibition - contrary to assertions in previous newsletters. I like to keep you on your toes, so get drawing!!

Sheila Bushnell

centenary celebration!

Carol has come up with a brilliant idea for our centenary. Simply 'hide' the numerals 100 somewhere in your painting

for example:

*as a door number on a building
on the sail on a boat
on a ticket on an object in a still life
etc etc*

(I'm sure you can think of many more!)

Your entry can be in one, two or all three of your submitted paintings.

This is not separate from the normal entries and there is no extra fee.

There is no prize for this - it is just a bit of fun and something different to mark our centenary.

We are looking to run a simple competition for visitors to the exhibition:

Spot every picture with 100? Prize: £100!

Publicity Secretary

I have been concentrating on signing up advertisers for the Annual Exhibition Catalogue and am glad to report that most of our regulars have agreed to support us again this year. The Minster Gallery have decided not to put an Ad in this time but many thanks to them for all their support in the past. Two new companies have joined the list, Cross & Hamblin and Pullingers Concession in the same store which seems to be doing very well. It was very useful to get the 20% discount offer from Cass Art and I hope some members have already taken advantage of this. When I called in to Winchester Framing and Home, they showed me many of the new ranges they now have in stock for artists and also mentioned the possibility of a discount to Club members.

I did submit a short piece about the Hospital Exhibition to the Hampshire Chronicle but as I am new to the club as well as this post, I would welcome any suggestions from members about other publications I could contact.

Bryan Funston

Activities Secretary

The trip to Tate Britain in July went very well, thanks to the excellent participants and bus driver - no worries about using phones to navigate this time! The Van Gogh exhibition was surprisingly good. It was interesting to see how he was influenced by artists during his stay in England. I am still trying to find out what is on next year. So far, The Ashmolean tell me that they have Rembrandt in the Spring and "Something Eastern" in the summer! No one else seems to be ready to share what they are planning!

Jane Nicholson

Treasurer

At the end of July the Club's funds stood at £7,089, compared with £5,668 at the same time last year. This was partly due to the cancellation of two courses which would have been unviable due to the small number of registrations, though courses tend to run at a slight deficit even when well attended. Those of you who attend the Saturday afternoon events will be aware that the Club has recently purchased a new PA system, and I hope you are finding it easier to hear the demonstrators. I'm pleased to announce that the previous system has been purchased by the Theatre Royal, and so continues to be in good hands.

I would like to express my gratitude for the experience, wisdom, and counsel that Derek Butler has provided me as Treasurer, which made the role much easier knowing I could count on his support.

Simon Churchill

Christmas Lunch
2019

Saturday 7th December
to be held at
the Royal Hotel, Winchester
from 12.15 to 4pm

£19.50 for three delicious courses

**Due to constraints of space
places are strictly limited
so please get your form and cheque
back to Tricia asap!**

Forms are with this mailing
so please act now if you want to enjoy
this annual Club event

Programme Secretary

We are now more than halfway through the 2019 programme and so far the demos have worked well. You are all well aware that I am not very good with the camera but have had it working properly recently, although I could never get to grips with the old sound system. Simon worked his magic and sold the old system for a good price and came up with a new sound system. It is essentially a 'buskers' set and it does work. You plug it in and turn it on and it is working ... We tried it with Clare Graham, Jerry Smith and Kim Page. When both camera and sound system are working it enhances the demonstration so we will keep going until it is perfect.

I have started to assemble the programme for 2020 and already have a few names. Many of you are also members of other clubs and if, when you attend your other club meetings and you see or hear of any outstanding or interesting speaker/demonstrator, please pass me the details so that I can look at them for consideration. When I assemble a programme I try to ensure that there is something for everyone. I also look to a mixture of tried and tested favourites right through to someone entirely new to you. My time is a little restricted now and I do not have the time to go out and search as I did before. Any help is appreciated.

Graham Compton

Membership Secretary

We have maintained a steady membership of around 250 members this year, some sad losses and a few new enquiries. New members will be welcome and I am happy to send an application form to anyone who is interested in joining our Club.

Celia Brown

Courses

I have been a WAC member for only a few years. I renewed my interest in painting as a way of filling a gap in my evenings, which was previously occupied playing tennis until a string of injuries put me on the bench.

My main reason for joining the Club was to attend workshops and demonstrations, to develop my skills in a range of media, to eventually establish my own vocabulary and also to meet like-minded people.

With this in mind I felt that when the Courses Secretary role became vacant for a second time within a year - and seeing a lack of volunteers - it was time to step up and offer some assistance. I work full time but hope that I can offer some interesting opportunities for courses in a sociable and forward-thinking range of study. All I need to make this happen is your input by offering suggestions and most importantly attendance on courses of your choice.

Neil McDowall

Art Materials Sale!

The club has just been contacted by a lady in Winchester whose late parents ran an art shop and all their remaining stock is being sold at about half price. The sale in Winchester will be on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th September and includes: paints, pastels, pencils, craft knives, brushes, canvases, sugar and quality paper and pads, mounting and other coloured card, palettes, easels and portfolios, beginners kits etc etc

**For further details and a full listing
of items for sale, see the Downloads page
of the Club's website.**

