



The Basel

Newsletter of Rugby & District Art Society

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Black & White Success

For our annual fun evening on 7th August a good crowd of curious members took up the challenge of producing silhouettes. Special two-sided paper was provided, and powerfully projected shadow images from volunteer sitters encouraged everyone to have a go. Hesitatingly at first, but with more and more enthusiasm, a wide range of (mostly!) delightful images appeared across the worktables, and many participants expressed their pleasure at being introduced to, and involved in, this much-neglected medium. We would not be at all surprised to see some further samples in our forthcoming exhibitions. Many thanks to all who participated.



Annual General Fun

It was heartening to see a full room of attendees at the Annual General Meeting on 4th September. The president gave a summing-up of what had been quite an eventful year, and the accounts were clearly and comprehensively presented and accepted. Three new committee members were elected to replace those who were stepping down, and the committee agreed to look at some future projects including subscription rates and an extra meeting each month.

After the break Sue Langmead entertained us with her enthusiasm and baked art (salt-glazed dough) designs. Bright and colourful, these unusual artworks brought various looks of amazement to members' faces when they found out how they were made. Her delicate yet vibrant abstract images, though small, have a powerful impact, and resulted in a lot of questions from the audience. This was Sue's first talk about her work - remember, you saw her here first!



Some of Sue Langmead's miniature marvels

Old & New

Three long-standing members stepped down from the committee at the AGM, and we thank them all for their hard and conscientious work in support of the Society. Gisèle Pellegrini worked as our publicity guru with particular skills in social media, David Judd handled video matters and designed our printed leaflets and posters, and Joe Douse is an ever-enthusiastic workhorse as well as joint organiser of the Arnold exhibitions. All have expressed their willingness to maintain their membership and to continue to help where they can, for which we are most grateful.

The newly elected representatives are Colin Bywater, Ralph de la Croix and Robert Mitchell, and we welcome their support and involvement.

Arnold Postponed

Due to redecoration at the Arnold Restaurant the next changeover will now be on Thursday 7th November. We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused due to the short notice.

RDAS Committee 2019-20

- Paul Torr: President**
- John Lines: Vice-President**
- Madelaine Prager: Treasurer**
- Leslie Read: Membership Secretary**
- Sue Bond**
- Colin Bywater**
- Cynthia Chandler**
- Ralph De La Croix**
- Margaret Linnett**
- David Newell**
- Robert Mitchell**
- Jan Watts**

Visits

The coach trip to Criccieth in Wales in the summer was fully subscribed and a great success. The food was good, the visits eye-opening, and certain members also distinguished themselves on the dance floor (photos retracted to protect the innocent - *Editor*).

As previously agreed there will be at least one single day visit organised this summer – details later.

A good number of members travelled individually to the annual Patchings Art Festival, and it has been suggested that a communal coach might be worth considering in future, so watch this space. The revived Waterperry Arts Festival was also visited by some members, but featured mainly commercial crafts and only a limited range of other arts.

Subs etcetera

If you haven't already paid your subscriptions, please make sure you do so immediately! We rely on this income to keep the Society going. Posters and leaflets are available for you to display and distribute. Visitors are always welcome, so encourage your friends – and anyone else – to come along to a meeting. We value all help and publicity that members can provide.

The Big Rugby Bake Off

As requested by some members, here's Sue Langmead's perfect(?) recipe and baking instructions for salt-glazed dough:

Ingredients

400 grams plain flour
200 grams salt
260ml lukewarm water

Preparation

Mix dry ingredients in a mixer, adding the water slowly as you go.

Knead for a good few minutes, wrap in cling film and chill for 30 mins minimum.

Roll out/cut shapes on a good quality, non-stick baking tray dusted with flour.

Pre-heat oven to 80-100 degrees. Don't be tempted to go hotter!

You can air dry, but this takes considerably longer.

Depending on the size of the shape and thickness of the dough, bake for up to 8 hours for larger shapes, turning over very carefully halfway through; 2-4 hours for smaller items, but make sure they're not warping. Warping can be corrected by spraying with water to re-soften and weighting down carefully with a book.

Leave for a few days before you prime them with acrylic gesso, paint with acrylics and varnish with acrylic varnish.



Costume Life Evenings

These will be held on Thursday evenings in the warmth of the Bilton Methodist Church Hall, CV22 7ND, from 7.30pm on 14th, 21st & 28th November 2019, and again on 6th, 13th & 20th February 2020. £15 per 3 sessions. Contact Leslie Read on 01788 810697.

Exhibition News

We currently have two exhibitions in the diary for the coming season: the Annual Awards Show in the town centre Floor One gallery (Saturday 23rd November - Thursday 5th December) and a Spring Show in The Barn at Houlton (Saturday & Sunday 16th & 17th May). The prizegiving for the former will be at the scheduled Dunchurch meeting on 4th December.

New entry forms are being issued containing new rules, so please read them carefully. Floor One entry forms are already available, and must be returned no later than Wednesday 6th November, complete with titles (and payment!). Collect forms at meetings or from the website. Only fully paid-up members can exhibit.



A plea from the editor

Whenever I do a mass mailing to members, a number are returned by the server as 'not known, box full, etc. Please ensure that I have your up to date email address, then you will receive all the full-colour goodies from the society in your mailbox.

Thanks, Jim Watson

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