



# BRUTON ART SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Lectures \* Workshops \* Exhibitions \* Coach Trips \* Painting Days

## 2014 Bruton Art Society Annual Exhibition

The 61st Annual Exhibition of members work will be held in August this year as it was felt by the committee that one week at Easter was too short. The Head Mistress Mrs Nicola Botterill and the Governors of Bruton School for Girls have kindly agreed that for 2014 the exhibition can be held over 17 days during August.

Sending in day will be on Sunday August 10th, names beginning with A – M, 10.00 – 11.30am  
Names beginning with N – Z, 11.30 – 1.00pm.

The Private view for Society Members and Guests will be on Friday August 15th 6.00 – 8.00pm.

The exhibition runs from Saturday 16th August until Sunday 31st August, 11.00am – 5.00pm. and closes on Sunday 31st August at 3.00pm. Members can collect their work between 4.00 – 5.00pm.

To help make this years exhibition a success we will need help from members on the sending in day, hanging day, stewarding the exhibition and helping to take it down.

Please contact **Clive Dand**, the Exhibition Secretary if you are able to help or if you need any further information on 01747 840 500.

We hope that all members will support us in helping to make this years exhibition more successful than previous years by entering their most exciting work, getting friends to attend and by helping to advertise the event.

We are grateful to solicitors **Dyne Drewett** who are supporting this years exhibition



Painting by Tessa McIntyre

### Have a Mini-Gallery

Have A Mini Gallery of Your Work on Our Website for no extra charge. Every member of BAS who wishes to do so can have a mini gallery of 6 images, a photo and notes about themselves and their work on the site. See the examples already set up by going to **Members** and click on the name and their images and a link to their website will open up. We think such publicity adds to make joining worth while and helps us know each other and our work better. For more information go to the BAS website we will be pleased to hear from you.

[www.brutonartsociety.co.uk](http://www.brutonartsociety.co.uk)



## Prizes for Young Artists

produce their very best work not only for their examination, but also because it will be placed on the Bruton Art Society website. There it will be displayed for everyone to see how good they are and because they might win a valuable cash prize or be singled out for commendation.

Finally the students and their teachers will meet together at the Market House in Castle Cary when the winners will be announced with the press present on 21<sup>st</sup> May. And what are the prizes? First prize £50, two runner up prizes of £15 and certificates of commendation for other works of excellence.

Bruton Art Society has been going now for sixty one years and has built up a reputation for striving for excellence in art in our own work. It is also keen to promote art in all our local schools, the work of young artists and a connection between the schools and the society feeling we can all benefit from this.

**John Baxter**

### Bruton Art Society Five Schools Art Competition.

This year Bruton Art Society is launching an art competition for those students who are taking GCSE Art at the five senior schools in our area, Ansford Academy, Bruton School for Girls, King Arthur's Wincanton, King's School Bruton and Sexey's School.

The aim is to encourage students at all five schools to

How will it work? The teacher responsible for Art at each school will choose six works from those entered for GCSE this year, will photograph them and send the images to the BAS website. They will then be placed on the site by 12<sup>th</sup> April.

Bruton Art Society judges will then visit the schools to decide on the winners after looking at the actual works – not just the photographs.

### The Annual General Meeting of the Bruton Art Society

The AGM was held at Caryford Community Hall, Castle Cary on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2014 at 2.30pm. 26 Members of the Society and Seven members of the committee were present. The Treasurer, Maggie Knight, reported that the Society was in good condition and had made a profit of £586.35, compared to a loss in the previous year of £758.45. Cost of member has been raised from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 to £15 for single and £25 for joint membership. This is due to increased cost in

postage and printing. There are currently 167 members. 18 new members had joined in the last year. Clive Dand, Exhibition Secretary, reported that the 2013 exhibition had been well received and that the standard had been high. The 2013 popular vote for Best Painting was won by Tessa McIntyre with her "Distress 1"; she duly won the Joy Barnes Award. Second was Sue Hardy's "High on the Downs".

There had been an active programme of visits, workshops and lectures during the year. A similar programme for the coming year was approved. The

meeting was followed by a lecture on Paul Klee by Will Vaughan

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## A DAY AT THE RIJKSMUSEUM

' My wife and I [ and our three year old Amelia] decided to escape rainy cold Somerset in February for a week of being culture vultures, and flew Easy Jet to Amsterdam from Bristol Airport. We can thoroughly recommend B and B Alexander for art lovers, a lovely 19thC house [ with two steep staircases, like many Dutch houses] conveniently situated near the Van Gogh, Stedelijk and Rijksmuseum. The last of these recently reopened after a 10 year closure for renovations, and its worth the wait. Locals and visitors alike are delighted with the restoration. The highlights are Rembrandt's 'Nightwatch' and 'Jewish Bride', but for me its all about Franz Hals, and the great painting 'The Militia Company of District X1'. Hals quickly found himself at odds with his subjects over the lively way he painted them, and the last seven had to be finished by the less flamboyant Pieter Codde. On the opposite wall is a staggering 40 foot long painting of 30 life size members of another militia, by Bartolomeus Van der Helst, surely one of the greatest feats of portraiture of all time.

The following day we did the wonderful Van Gogh Museum. As an artist, I particularly enjoyed the top floor displays. For example, one section deals with the practical matters of how Van Gogh actually drew and painted. It seems he disliked charcoal, despite trying repeatedly to work with it. The roughness with which he generally wielded his tools demanded strong materials, and in this regard the carpenter's pencil was better suited to him. There is also a fascinating display of balls of coloured wool which he owned: he used them to experiment with colour combinations. Elsewhere they show digital reconstructions of paintings whose colours have faded, placed against the actual painting. The ground floor houses the permanent collection, which includes two wonderful Monets, a Pissaro of haymaking, and the famous Gauguin portrait of Van Gogh in Arles.



After an excellent lunch in the new cafe at the Van Gogh Museum, we were equipped to cope with the modern art at the next-door Stedelijk, not quite our cup of tea, but it did include a delightful Bonnard and a superb early Stanley Spencer self-portrait.

Rembrandt's house in the old Jewish quarter is also well worth visiting. Now surrounded by trendy apartments and offices, it is a little oasis of 17th Century life. The superbly restored house is not at all the tacky tourist attraction we were expecting. As well as enjoying a fascinating exhibition of his drawings and those of his followers [ based on a newly discovered drawing which some attribute to the master, and others to one of his pupils] , visitors can do their own drypoint etching, ink up the plates, and print off their efforts themselves. Luckily we had a packet of wipes for Amelia's blackened hands.

Later in the month we went to London and saw the revamped Tate Britain. Many wonderful pictures not seen for decades have been hauled up from the basement, including the magnificent ' Their Majesties Return from Ascot' by Sir Alfred Munnings PRA, and the brooding 'Mrs Siddons' by Sir Thomas Lawrence PRA. For reasons best known to the curators, both artists have been stripped of their titles in the new signage: one feels that Munnings in particular must be turning in his grave.

Lovers of contemporary art can now see Martin Creed's work No 227 in a vast empty gallery: The Lights Going On And Off. Unfortunately it is rather difficult to read the floor to ceiling explanation of this no doubt iconic work when you are plunged into darkness every ten seconds!

By **Fletcher Robinson**



## News

International Arts Centre and Gallery Coming to Bruton known for its schools and its hilltop dovecote, but soon the little town of Bruton will boast a new attraction – an international arts centre and gallery that could attract thousands of visitors a year. Hauser & Wirth – one of the world's leading commercial galleries – until now has only had sites in financial centres such as London, New York and Zurich. It has won planning permission to convert a range of historic farm buildings and build a new gallery at Durslade Farm on the edge of the Somerset town. The gallery's founders say the new venture will be 'a destination for experiencing art, [architecture](#) and the remarkable Somerset landscape through new and innovative exhibitions of contemporary art'. It added: "Hauser & Wirth Somerset will also provide an extensive events and education programme inspired by the exhibitions, the countryside and the local community."

**Membership is open to both amateur and professional artists** working in such media as pencil, watercolour, oil, acrylic, pastel, mixed media, printmaking and sculpture.

**The society also welcomes those who do not draw or paint** but are interested in our programme of lectures, workshops and visits.

**To join** either go to our Web Site [www.brutonartsociety.co.uk](http://www.brutonartsociety.co.uk) and click on Membership Form or fill in the form below and send to our Membership Secretary Maggie Knight.

## 2014 Calendar

**April 10 & 11th** Workshop, Monoprints and Collagraphs.

**April 24th** Talk by Hendrika Foster. American Painting in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries.

**May 15th & 16th** Workshop. Review of Pastel Technique and Picture Construction by Richard Turner.

**June 5th** Coach Trip to Pallant House, Chichester to see Stanley Spencer: Heaven in a Hell of War and Artists studies: From pencil to Paint.

**June 24th** Painting day at Cutterne Mill.

**July 22nd** Painting Day at Alfred's Tower

**September 9th.** Painting Day at the Well House

**September 25th & 26th.** Workshop: Gerry Dudgeon: Abstracted Landscape

**October 16th.** Coach Trip to RWA Bristol

**November 6th & 7th** Workshop.: Anthony Connolly: Centred on the Model, Painting and/or Drawing

**December 11th.** Christmas Lecture by Dr Alexander Sturgis: Rowlandson at the Holburne.

**January 22nd.** AGM. Reports, Elections, Future Programmes and a Talk by Dr. Sarah Sparke on 'Pricing your work'.

**Details and Fees of these events can be found on our Website under Programmes for 2014.**

[www.brutonartsociety.co.uk](http://www.brutonartsociety.co.uk)

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM** Please complete this form and send it with a cheque payable to "**Bruton Art Society**" to the Membership Secretary. Address below with a stamped address envelope

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
POST CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Fee is £15.00 for a Single Membership. Joint Membership is £25.00

I wish to join the Bruton Art Society. I enclose my Cheque for £

**The Membership Secretary, Bruton Art Society, The Old Vicarage, Castle Cary, Somerset BA7 7EJ  
Telephone: 01963 350 226**