



BRUTON ART SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

www.brutonartsociety.co.uk

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

Dates for the 2018 BAS Annual Exhibition for your diary

The 65th Bruton Art Society Annual Exhibition of members' work will be held again in August at the Memorial Hall, Kings School Bruton, by kind permission of the Headmaster and Governors.

Sending-in day will be on Saturday 11 August. Names beginning with A-M, 10-11am. Names beginning with N-Z, 11am-12pm.

The Private View for Society members and guests will be held at the Memorial Hall on Friday August 17 6-8pm. The Exhibition runs from Saturday 18 - Saturday 25 August, 11am -5pm.

Members can collect their work on Sunday 26 August from 11am to 12pm. As always, we depend very much on volunteers to help set up and man the exhibition and if you can help this year please kindly contact Mrs Damaris Lee, the BAS secretary, on 01963 32671, or one of the Committee members.

We hope all members will match the fantastic effort made in 2017 which made for such a memorable exhibition, and will get their family and friends to attend, and will help advertise the event.

Please email me on robinson.fletcher@gmail.com if you have any queries.

Fletcher Robinson
Exhibition Secretary

Chair's Report

The Bruton Art Society has had another strong year. In August we held our Annual Exhibition at King's School Bruton. This was a great success, with a record number of exhibits and sales. We were also pleased to be able to offer an increased number of awards, a trend that will continue in the coming year. We are most grateful to the Headmaster and Governors of Kings for allowing us to use their premises.. This year the exhibition was masterminded by Fletcher Robinson, ably supported by committee members Sue Hardy and Marissa Weatherhead.

We have also had a fascinating series of lectures and workshops. One innovation was the inclusion of a one-day Saturday workshop. This was most successful, and we will be continuing to hold such workshops in the future.

In the next few weeks we will be sending out a draft of our revised constitution. This will be put to the Annual General Meeting on Thursday 18 January 2018. There are no major changes in the constitution, but it was felt that it would be advisable to bring it up to date and to address some matters not considered in the original constitutional document of 1953. We would be most grateful to receive any comments that you may have on it, particularly if there are matters that you feel need to be considered before the document is put to the membership.

Will Vaughan



BAS Annual Exhibition Review 2017

The 2017 Annual Exhibition in our new venue was a great success, with record numbers of sales and visitors. Nine artists received 'Highly Commended' awards from the Committee, and the following prizes were awarded:

Joy Barnes Award: Swan Lennard Payne

Landscape Award: John Chick and Tessa McIntyre

Still Life Award: Ann Warren

Portrait/Figure Award: Angela Scott

Abstract Award: Beryl Fraenkel

Most Popular Work: Sue Hardy

Sculpture Award: Mary Rolfe

Profile: Sue Hardy



On visiting Sue in her home for this profile I was greeted enthusiastically by her dog and the first picture that caught my eye was her painting of that dog. Pet portraits can often be disappointing but this one stands out as exceptional. It tells us so much not only

about a much loved and loving pet, but also about Sue's exceptional abilities as an artist.

Sue can draw with rare skill and sensitivity, and that means anything, animals, people, portraits, trees, landscapes and cityscapes. She draws using pencil and charcoal, and when moved to paint she is able to produce beautiful works in pastel, watercolour and oil showing a rare mastery in each medium.



Starting from her pencil or charcoal sketches, or from her own photographs she then develops her compositions, even adding figures and animals from imagination and memory.

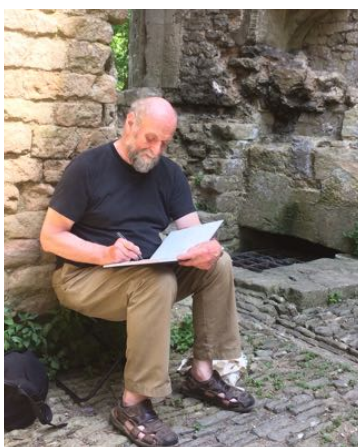
Since joining BAS Sue has made her presence felt both as a hard-working and thoughtful committee member; assisting Fletcher Robinson in planning and organising our annual exhibition, and as an artist whose work has attracted considerable attention and the winning votes for the most popular pictures of 2016 and 2017.

So what of Sue's background and artistic formation? Which art school or brilliant teacher stands behind her? At school she told me, "The French teacher said, "If you are

going to sit there and doodle in my lessons, you might as well go to the Art Room." This she happily did and later at sixteen saw the careers adviser hoping to go to Art College. She was dissuaded and told to stick to Biology, her other favourite subject. This led her to a degree in Horticulture and Plant Science at Wye College in Kent, then part of the University of London and she embarked on a career as a horticulturalist, including a short stint as Head Gardener at Kingston Lacy. After some years she met up again with Richard who she had known at Wye, they married, had three sons & created & ran a plant centre together. Richard is now the MD of Orchard Park Garden Centre in Gillingham which Sue also helped develop & worked at for some years.

How then with all this going on did Sue develop as she has as an artist? In the nineties she became ill with a debilitating condition from which she gradually recovered. During this time she painted watercolour landscapes for various members of the family. From there she became fully engrossed in Art, drawing, painting, reading and practicing, but all done without classes or a teacher. She then entered local art shows with great success. Sales, awards, prizes and commissions followed. She now has a fine studio and sees art as her profession.

Together with the consummate skill her works show, when it comes to animals and people her work conveys a deep, unsentimental empathy, and her landscapes convey a real love of nature and the countryside, qualities which seem central to the person she is.



Exciting happenings in our 2018 Programme - give yourself a lift by attending our workshops and gallery visits in 2018. Here is a preview:

April 5-6: Melanie Deegan is returning with her Wire Sculptures.

April 12: James Budden - 'A Practical Approach to Portraiture'.

May 17-18: Fiona McIntyre - Painting Tree Landscapes.

June 13: Visit to Southampton City Art Gallery.

Sept 8: 'Get Drawing' - Nick Andrew is tutoring our second one-day workshop.

Sept 20-21: Anthony Connolly - Portraiture with two models.

Oct 10: Our annual visit to RWA Bristol.

Nov 8-9: Catherine Pitchford returns with 'Experimental Printmaking' using surface textures and lino printing.

Dec 6: Christmas Lecture by Alexandra Drysdale 'Red Vibrations'.

Hopefully there will be something here for everyone.

We are always keen to welcome new members and if you are interested in joining Bruton Art Society please contact Maggie Knight on 01963 350226 or email her on mcknightcm@btopenworld.com