



BRUTON ART SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

www.brutonartsociety.co.uk

Lectures * Workshops * Exhibitions * Coach Trips * Painting Days

This year the Society sadly lost its long-serving President, Mrs Joy Barnes. Joy was the moving spirit behind the founding of the Society in 1953. She was its first chair, and subsequently remaining an inspiring presence as its President. She will be much missed. There is an appreciation of her in the inner pages of this Newsletter.

Perhaps the best tribute that the Society could have made to Joy was the organization of our highly successful exhibition this year. We had an increase of more than 100 works submitted, and showed a record number. The quality was generally acknowledged as being extremely high. We also sold a higher number of works than previously and had more than 1,000 visitors. Many thanks to our exhibition team, in particular our organizer Fletcher Robinson and the Exhibition Curator Sue Hardy. We also appreciate very much all the volunteers who helped us with the running of the exhibition. Once again we benefitted from being able to stage our exhibition in the fine Memorial Hall at Kings Bruton; Many thanks to the Headmaster and Governors of Kings for making this possible.

Our Annual General Meeting is on Thursday 16 January 2020, at 2.30 p.m. This will be at Caryford Hall in Ansford (BA7 7JJ). We do encourage you to come to this. It is the time when you can voice your opinions about the society and vote members on to the Committee.

As well as this Newsletter, you can also keep informed about the Society's activities by visiting our website at www.brutonartsociety.co.uk and our Instagram, Facebook and Twitter accounts that provide much information.

William Vaughan, Chairman

The 66th Annual Exhibition at Kings School Memorial Hall, Bruton



Exhibition Award Winners

VICTORIA GARLAND "Winter Hedgerow II" Etching
Sponsored by Bruton Art Society

ANNIE FRY "Annie & the Nightingale" Oil
Sponsored by Cockhill Press

ALEXANDRA DRYSDALE "Compost Bed" Crayon
Sponsored by Gillian Zanetti

MARY ROLFE "Pots Jamboree" Collage
Sponsored by The Gardens Group

THEA DUPAYS "Harbourside" Oil
Sponsored By CPRE Somerset

SARAH WALTERS "High Water" Linoprint Collage
Sponsored by The Old Barn Framing Gallery

EILEEN WALKINGTON "Cascade" Mixed Media
Sponsored by Bruton Art Society

CORINNA LEIGH-TURNER "Suspended Flight"
Found Objects. Sponsored by Bruton Art Society

MRS JOY BARNES BRUTON ART SOCIETY SHOW



Bruton Art Society members prepare their exhibition of work held at the Win-
canton Church Hall, North Street. In the group are: Chairman (Mrs. J. Barnes), Mrs
C. Bowie, Mrs. H. Ruthven and Vice-Chairman (Mrs. J. Davey).

Fig.1 Old newsprint of Joy Barnes and other committee members hanging an exhibition in the 1950s

The names of Joy Barnes and Bruton Art Society are so closely linked that it is hard to imagine them apart.

Joy Barnes established the Bruton Art Society, in 1953. She was supported in this venture by Nora Ruthven and Claudine Bowie (who acted as the first secretary). [Fig.1] Joy was deeply committed to the Society, serving first as Chair and then as President. She played a central and fully active role in the Society's activities until, at the age of 100, she had to retire to a nursing home. She retained a keen interest in the Society until the end; and it is in that sense fitting that her death, while much regretted, should have occurred when the Society was celebrating one of its most successful annual exhibitions in recent times.

From the start Joy and her devoted group of supporters ensured that the Bruton Art Society set a high standard. As she made clear in an interview with John Baxter for the Bruton Art Society Website in 2013, she was 'insistent that the society should be dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in art'. At the Society's inception she secured the distinguished German émigré sculptor Professor Ernst Blensdorf as its first President. Membership was by election and the quality of exhibits strictly surveyed; so much so, she later recalled, that she became known to some as 'beastly Barnes'. But her surveillance had its results, and the high reputation of the Society was established. At the same time an active programme of lectures, workshops and visits was initiated. It is a sign of the quality of these events that one of the early speakers, in the late 1950s was Mr. Eric Newton, then one of the most distinguished art critics in the country and a celebrated broadcaster. Other prominent visitors included the fashion historian James Laver and the artists Roger de Grey, Rowland Hilder and Patrick Proctor. This tradition has been maintained. Bruton Art Society continues to run a rich variety of activities. It has become well known as one of the leading exhibiting bodies in the region.

It should not be forgotten that Joy was herself an exceedingly fine artist. Trained at Chelsea School of Art, where Henry Moore was her tutor for sculpture, and Graham Sutherland for illustration, she retained a strong interest in contemporary and progressive art. Her work was much appreciated locally and examples can be found in many collections. A personal favourite of mine is a painting in the Methodist Church in Castle Cary, which shows a view of the building that Joy painted from her home opposite.[Fig. 2] She also retained an open mind and continued to develop and experiment in her own work. Her later pictures were some of her boldest, combining modern themes with dramatic abstract effects.

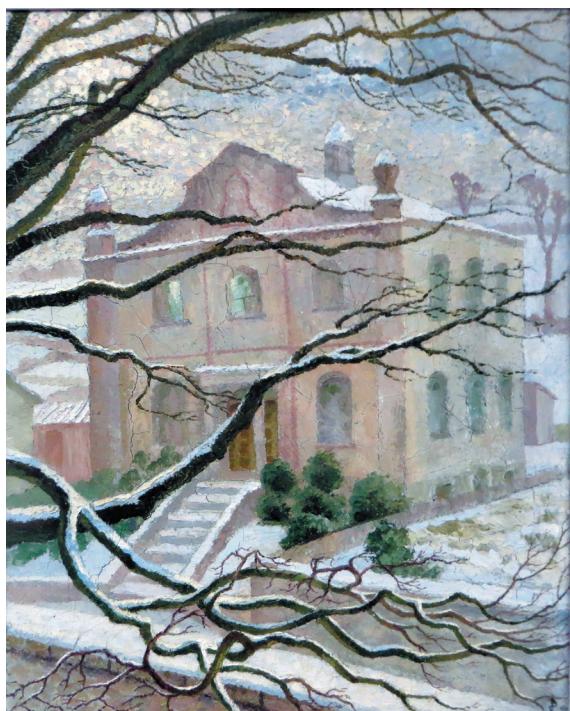


Fig. 2 Joy Barnes' painting of Castle Cary Methodist Church, 1954
©Castle Cary Methodist Church

This curiosity and interest also extended to a concern to support others. She was broad minded and sympathetic in her appreciation of the work of fellow artists, and there are many members of the society from earlier years who have attested to her discerning support and kindness. When news of her death became known, I received several messages that made this clear.



Fig. 3 Joy Barnes holding one of her Wind Turbine Paintings. 2013

Here are some of the comments from members that I was sent:

"I have felt privileged to have known Joy. She was an amazing woman and B.A.S. is indebted to her."

"She was most helpful in criticising my paintings constructively ("That isn't a sea green - that's grass!"); and I admired her work enormously."

"She was an amazing woman and quite determined but also very kind to me as a comparative newcomer to the art world."

"I remember Joy so well and how she opened up her house and garden to welcome new members of the Society. A very inspirational lady with a warm smile and generosity to everyone. She pursued her passion for the arts throughout her long life and I have very fond memories of her and the work she exhibited in the annual exhibitions. A painting that sticks in my mind is one of the wind turbine, an incredibly adventurous composition and subject for a nonagenarian. Fabulous lady." [Fig.3]

We shall miss Joy, her warmth, interest and support.

But I believe that the inspiration that she provided will last for a long time, encouraging us to continue to develop the Society that she founded with such success.

William Vaughan

Ivan Rose We were very sad to hear of the recent death of Ivan Rose. There is to be a tribute to him on the website. www.brutonartsociety.co.uk

News from the Committee

Dorrie Peat, our **Membership Secretary**, replaces Fletcher Robinson as **Newsletter Editor**.

Damaris Lee has become **Deputy Chair** & continues as **Secretary** to the Society.

Sue Hardy will continue to manage the exhibition with a new title: **Exhibition Curator** with **Fletcher Robinson** maintaining his role as **Exhibition Secretary**.

John Baxter has passed his position as **Website Manager** on to **Sue Hardy**. John has worked hard to build our website presence and will continue to write Profiles of Artist Members for the Newsletter and provide more great photos for both the Newsletter & the Website.

**Next Newsletter
July 2020.**

Send your news
to Dorrie Peat
by mid June



Message from our Treasurer

The cost of membership remains at its current level of £15 for an individual member and £25 for a joint membership. There are several ways to pay your annual subscriptions: by standing order, by BACS direct from your bank account, or by card at the AGM. Bookings for workshops in 2020 will also be taken at the AGM and payment can be easily made at the same time.

If you have any questions about payment just drop me an email: paybrutonart@gmail.com and I'll be happy to help. **Richard Cumming**

The Programme for 2020 Looking ahead, we have 5 exciting workshops, 2 gallery visits, 4 painting days and 3 lectures to look forward to.

January 16: AGM followed by a talk given by **Professor Christiana Payne**, *'Silent Witnesses: Trees in 19c. British & American Art'*.

Feb 15 (Saturday): Drawing from Film. Great films, like great paintings, are rich resources for visual ideas. A film will be shown, with participants drawing from stills. Interval for food and drink.

Saturday 14 March: Luminous flowing Watercolours with **Catherine Beale**.

Catherine is an award-winning watercolourist and popular tutor from Bath. She is a member of the Society of Women Artists and has exhibited with the Royal Watercolour Society.

April 2-3: How to Paint Atmospheric Landscapes in Acrylics with **Fraser Scarfe**. Fraser studied at the Royal Drawing School in London, where he is now the Postgraduate Programme manager. He is the author of a highly acclaimed book *How To Paint Atmospheric Landscapes in Acrylics*.

April 15: Live painting demonstration with **James Budden**.

May 13: Visit to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford to see **Young Rembrandt**.

May 14-15: Life-drawing and Portraiture with **Anthony Connolly**. Anthony is a Member of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters and has twice been awarded the Prince of Wales Prize for Portrait Drawing.

Painting Days in June, July, August & September.

Sept 17-18: Paint a Story with **Mariella Polignano**. Taking inspiration from Banksy, Basquiat, and other graffiti artists, we will paint our own story (personal, political, environmental etc.) using collage and mixed media.

Oct 7: Our annual visit to the **RWA Bristol**.

Nov 5-6: The Art of the Ipad with **Diane Seidl**. We shall be taught how to draw and paint on our Ipad.

Dec 10: Christmas Lecture by **James Russell**. *'Lover, Teacher, Muse or Rival?'* Couples in Modern British Art.

'Back to Basics' Drawing with Alex Cree

Fourteen BAS members signed up for the 1 day workshop with Alex Cree. The comments speak for themselves!

'I, for one, was put through my paces. I was made to think about what is meant by Drawing and then taken through each element.'

When we saw what had been produced it was an eye-opener to most of us. Without the guidance and enthusiasm of the tutor I doubt whether we would have been so adventurous.'

Tessa McIntyre

Monoprinting & Ghost Plates with Jackie Curtis

Printmaker Jackie Curtis gave a really informative & enjoyable couple of days at Hadspen Hall with lots of demos & guidance.

It was amazing to see how feathers, leaves, fabrics, leather, string & all sorts of other unlikely stuff can produce such beautiful monoprints. Many such prints were produced by the group; some really stunning. She also worked tirelessly turning the press!

It was a really worthwhile couple of days and we may well see some of the results from this workshop in our next exhibition!

