

# BRIDPORT ART SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

### OCTOBER 2018



#### NEW MEMBERS:

Current membership is 167. Welcome to the 22 new members who have joined since the April Newsletter.

#### COMMITTEE VACANCIES

We're starting with this item because it is so important. In addition to the current vacancy for an Exhibition Co-organiser, there will be three other committee positions to fill at the next AGM. As well as electing a new chairman, we will have two office-holder positions:

**Chairman** – this person chairs meetings of the committee and the AGM; fronts events and monthly meetings; selects and liaises with the judges at the annual exhibition; and generally ensures that the society functions as it should. Talk to Clive Baynes for more information.

**Exhibition Organiser** – Keith Groves is stepping down at the AGM owing to other commitments. The role of exhibition organiser can therefore be filled by either one or two people. Briefly, the organiser makes sure that venues are booked; equipment is maintained and delivered; helpers, hangers and stewards appointed; and that exhibitions are set up and run smoothly. A detailed checklist and guidance notes are available. The organiser will not be alone as there is a team of experienced people who help with organising and running our exhibitions. Clive Baynes and Keith Groves will be available to help and advise.

**Publicity Officer** – the role involves writing a brief report of each monthly meeting to submit to the Bridport News together with promoting the activities of the society, notably our exhibitions. The latter involves putting up posters, placing advertisements in local free publications and using social media. A more detailed description of the work involved is available and Julia Baynes will be happy to talk about what's involved.

The committee has just three set meetings a year – in January, April and October. All committee members help out at exhibitions and take turns with duties at our monthly meetings.

#### **PLEASE DO NOT WAIT FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO STEP IN – THE SOCIETY NEEDS COMMITTEE MEMBERS IF IT IS TO SURVIVE.**

Very sadly, Axminster Art Society is closing at the end of the year because it has struggled and failed to find committee members, in spite of being an active and successful club. Please don't let this happen to our group.

#### VENUE FOR MEETINGS

Those of you who were at the last meeting will know that there was a possibility of moving our meetings back to King Street provided that the day was changed to a Friday. That produced a mixed reaction from members. Bearing in mind that next year's programme is substantially arranged, the committee have decided that we should stick with the town hall for the next year at least. In order to address two of the issues members have with the venue it has been agreed that we should acquire radio microphones and a spotlight.

In addition, we are purchasing a new camera. We do need to find **someone to operate the camera equipment**. Clive Baynes has been covering this task, with some difficulty given his other duties as chairman, and does not intend to continue into the new year. If you are willing to take on this role, please contact Clive. Again, if no one comes forward this important facility will be discontinued.

## ANNUAL EXHIBITION 2018

The annual exhibition went well, with over 1,000 visitors. There were a record number of entries this year (301 works were hung). Sales were also above average with 26 exhibits sold, along with folios, prints and cards.

With so many entries, the hanging team did a marvellous job. A lot of people thought, however, that the number of entries per member should be restricted to three. The problem with doing so is twofold: first, hanging fees provide the main source of income for the society (if entries had been limited to three this year we would have lost about £130, which is c.70% of the profits); and secondly, we cannot be sure whether this year was an exception rather than the new norm. The committee have therefore decided to stick with four entries for the time being but to limit the number of large (over 30") paintings to one per member. This will be reviewed after Easter and again after next year's annual exhibition.

The healthy sales this year may have been helped by the facility to pay by credit or debit card. This facility does cost the society 2.5% of the price and the committee have therefore agreed to raise the commission charged at future annual exhibitions from 10% to 12%.

This year's award winners were:

Keith Cast Cup for Best Oil Landscape or Seascape -	Jacqueline Walker
Holloway Cup for Best Watercolour -	Eva Boston
Al Watkin Cup for Best Acrylic -	Pippa Harvey-Tkachuk
Mary Johnson Award for Best Pastel -	Anne Thewles
Michael Chappell Award for Best Mixed Media -	Richard Butterworth
Kathleen Quick Award for Work in Any Other Medium -	Janet Whight
Greyhound Trophy for Best Seascape -	Liz Bowers
Pat Bayliff Award for Best Animal -	Elfride Vaughan
Groves Rose Bowl for Flowers -	Sonia Rose
Sally Roper Award -	Marion Beresford
Batten Cup (public vote) - 'Sea Swell'	Val Ravenhill

Thank you to all who entered and those who helped in any way. 73 of the 96 entrants volunteered to steward; if you weren't selected or if you thought you were chosen for too many sessions please be aware that in future we will endeavour to ensure that as many members as possible are asked to steward and that as a general rule you will only be asked to cover one session. So please keep volunteering!

## EXHIBITIONS 2019

There will be two exhibitions next year. The dates are:

Salt House, Easter: Fri 19 – Tues 23 April 2019 (hand-in on Thurs 18<sup>th</sup>, collection Tues 23<sup>rd</sup>)  
Annual: Weds 24 July and Sat 3 August. (Hand-in Sun 21 July; preview Tues 23 July; collection Sun 4 August.)

The Salt House has unfortunately been booked by another organisation from 6pm on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup>. The exhibition will therefore close at 2pm that day with collection between 2.30 and 3.30pm. As a way of increasing the engagement of visitors and adding a little extra for members, we are also introducing a public vote for most popular painting at the Easter exhibition. The prize will be a £25 voucher for Bridport Arts and Crafts.

## **2018 CHOSEN CHARITY – DORSET AND SOMERSET AIR AMBULANCE**

At the annual exhibition we collected a £264.04 for the Air Ambulance through the collection boxes and sale of work donated by members. With the £126.81 raised at Easter, the total at our two exhibitions this year amounts to £390.85.

## **BAS WEBSITE**

Michele Westwood is investigating the creation of a new BAS website. In the meantime, she has revamped the existing website to make it more suitable for modern requirements. It contains news and information for members as well as things that potential members or the general public might be interested in. If you don't already keep an eye on it, please give it a go.

Visit: <http://www.bridportartsociety.org.uk>

## **DATA PROTECTION AND MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

To comply with the new General Data Protection Regulation we have updated our privacy statement (which can be seen on the website) and undertaken an audit of the information we store, how we use it and when we destroy it.

We will also be issuing membership renewal forms with the January newsletter. This is an innovation designed not only to ensure we have explicit consent from all members to the methods by which we contact them, but also to make it easier to track the payment of subscriptions.

## **SALLY ROPER**

The death has been announced of Sally Roper at the age of 97. Sally was the last of the founding members of the Allington Art Club and continued as a member until this year in spite of moving to Devon to be near her family a few years ago. She was one of the early secretaries to the society and more recently donated the award that bears her name. Condolences have been sent to the family and, in view of Sally's long association with the society and her contribution to it, a donation has been made to the chosen charities.

## **MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS**

The next two evening meetings are:

- 22 November – Jane Coxhill: *Natural Forms* - watercolour/experimental (plus a pre-Christmas drink with mince pies!)
- 24 January – Michael Chappell: appraisal of members' work (this session is always enjoyable and instructive – please bring along **no more than two works**; if time is short there will be a critique of just one piece per member; the work does not need to be finished)

Workshops will resume in the new year.