



Verve

The Newsletter for the Rowlands Castle Painting Society

Number 82 Autumn 2022

rowlandscastlepaintingsociety.co.uk

From the Principal

The Society has enjoyed another very successful year. Our Chairman, Barbara, has worked with tireless enthusiasm and given outstanding leadership to ensure the Society has been able to recover from the restrictions of the Covid pandemic.

Members were given the opportunity to display and sell their work at the Autumn Exhibition. This was well attended with good sales of both paintings and cards. April saw the annual Silver Cup Awards. The 50th Anniversary Celebration, delayed from 2020, was a resounding success with members enjoying a sumptuous buffet and entertainment by the Havant Light Opera Company. A special mention needs to be given to Barbara and her Committee members for the organisation of this event which was much appreciated by those attending.

The Committee members have been working hard to ensure that the new programme of events, including demonstrations by visiting artists, is in place for the new season. The Society offers a wide variety of opportunities for members to develop their artwork, try new techniques and share their experiences with others. It welcomes new members of all levels. There are opportunities to work outdoors, try portrait and live model drawing and attend demonstrations by professional artists. Members of the Society also arrange afternoon drawing and painting experiences. There is something for everyone.

It is with great sadness that I share with members the sudden death of Barbara's beloved husband Leonard. Leonard was a stalwart supporter of both Barbara and the RCPS and will be greatly missed. We extend our condolences to Barbara her family and friends.

Joan Burnett
Principal

50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

What a success!! After the pandemic had caused the postponement of the planned 2020 Celebration the event finally took place on the 14th May 2022.

The main hall was set up with balloons and gold decorated tables to seat sixty three diners. A Prosecco reception organised by Ian and Pat Hoper began the evening in a relaxed and happy atmosphere which was followed by a superb buffet style 2 course meal provided by caterer Jane Kirk, finishing with coffee and After Eight mints.

Chairman Barbara Wood welcomed everybody then spoke about how the Society had coped with the challenge of the pandemic and gave the encouraging news that the membership was now returning to strength. Some of our long-serving members were recognised and thanked for their past and continuing support. Barbara concluded with a poem she had written entitled "The Year of the Coronavirus"

Patron Paddy Holmes reminded us of the original objectives and aims of the Society laid down in the rules by first Principal, Jennings Wood; that the Society would be open to all abilities and that there would always be an element of instruction in the programme. Paddy also emphasised the importance of members taking responsibility to ensure the continued running of the Society. Paddy then proposed a toast to the Rowlands Castle Painting Society.

Paddy then made the draw for a £30 Hobbycraft gift vouche which was won by Yvonne Bromley.

A surprise gift of an engraved trifle bowl was then presented to Barbara in recognition of her contribution to the Society - complete with trifle!

A table was laid out with some of the Society's archives showing past activities and the original Minutes of the inaugural meeting in September 1970 with the election of Jennings Wood as first Principal of the Society.

The evening concluded with entertainment by the Havant Light Opera Company with a programme of musical items taken from shows and songs that everyone could join in with.

A huge thank you to all who contributed to this special occasion - it was worth waiting for! An evening to remember and enjoyed by all who attended.

Best wishes from Barbara



ROWLANDS CASTLE PAINTING SOCIETY

MINUTES OF AGM

29th MARCH 2022

APOLOGIES: Joan Burnett, John Davis, Steve Driver, Nicky Verrecchia,
Gill Merret, Martha Dornbey, Poh Yung Tan, Maureen Molyneux.

APPROVAL OF 2021 MINUTES: The 2021 AGM differed from the usual date in March to 28th September because of Lockdown. The motion was proposed by Jan Cooper and seconded by Bob Payne.

PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS: C.H. read Joan Burnett's address in her absence which can also be read in the latest edition of Verve. Joan gave background information on her time as Head Teacher at Compton & Up Marden CE School. On retiring, she took up painting and enjoyed taking part in the Chichester Art Trail and more recently entered the Rowlands Castle Painting Society's Exhibition. She commented on the many talented artists in the group and looked forward to meeting them. Joan thanked Jill Dollery, her predecessor, for her service to the Society and wished her well in the future.

TREASURER'S REPORT: P.D. presented the Yearly Accounts to the members who all had access to a copy of the accounts from 1st September to 31st August 2021. He explained why there had been changes made to the membership fees during the lockdown. This situation was now resolved with the Society back to normal. P.D. stated the finances were alright at the present time. He asked for acceptance of the Yearly Accounts. Carol Millford was Proposer and Jill Dollery, Secunder.

50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION 14th MAY: Preparations were now in hand for this special event which originally was to take place in May 2020. It was cancelled due to the first lockdown which was imposed in March. Any members who had yet to reserve their places were asked to add their names to the list by the Attendance Book and buy their tickets from P.D. that afternoon. B.W. asked members to start collecting gifts for the tombola from now onwards as last year the tombola ran out of prizes!

EXHIBITIONS: M.G. was able to give a glowing report on the outcome of the RCPS 2021 Exhibition. The collaboration with the Rowlands Castle W.I. had been a resounding success, possibly due to holding the Exhibition in October, nearer to Christmas. It was decided to hold the 2022 Exhibition later in November working again with the W.I. The collaboration had been beneficial to both Societies. M.G. will continue in the post of Exhibition Co-ordinator.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: The Minutes of the 2021 AGM highlighted the vacancies for the Committee Posts of Media Correspondent and Vice Chairman. Despite efforts being made through emails, leaflets, announcements and personal approaches, this brought no results and the posts remain vacant. B.W. made it clear this was impeding the Society from operating smoothly - without a MEDIA CORRESPONDENT there was no publicity for our activities, reports on exhibitions, other significant events and attracting new members. B.W explained it was not an arduous task and could easily be carried out at home. T.D. who was Media Correspondent for a number of years offered to work alongside a volunteer to ease them into the Post.

B.W reiterated she was going to step down at the next AGM. It is important a member steps forward for the Post of VICE CHAIRMAN to have time to become accustomed to what is involved before taking over as Chairman. B.W. emphatically pointed out if nobody steps forward, there would be a big hole in the Committee and it would not bode well.

Efforts to co-opt before next AGM would be made. B.W then asked for a proposer and seconder to re-elect EN BLOC the following seven COMMITTEE POSTS.

Principal - Joan Burnett

Vice Principal - Cathy Hales

Chairman - Barbara Wood

Secretary - Terry Devaney

Treasurer - Peter Dixon

Programme Organiser - Lorraine Boyes

Membership Secretary - John Davis

David Collier was Proposer, Pat Hoper was Secunder.

B.W read out the names of the NON COMMITTEE members. Special thanks went to the Catering Team comprising Carol Millford and Jan Cooper who provided welcome refreshments at our meetings, Andy Kerr for organising top quality models for the Life Sessions, the Art Mart Team, Joyce Quin and Martin Gebbitt who so ably kept the website up-to-date. Thanks also go to Jennifer Quaintance for finding the venues for the 2023 Outside Painting Days. B.W asked the members to let Jennifer know of any suggestions for suitable sites - bearing in mind that toilets need to be available.

FUTURE OF EVENING DEMONSTRATIONS: B.W. put it to the members that evening demonstrations had always been part of the Society's programme. Unfortunately the numbers of those attending had dropped considerably, the average attendance struggling to

reach twenty five. At the last demonstration, there were only fourteen people present - four of those were Committee members.

The Demonstrators are professional artists and command fees of £150 - £200 per session. Then there are the hall Hhre costs, the lack of support makes these meetings unsustainable, B.W asked the floor for their comments on the situation. What suggestions could the members think of to remedy this, why people were not attending evening demonstrations, should the meeting start at 7pm and end at 9pm? The comments put forward ranged from people still wary of contracting Covid, to whether it would be possible to have more Professional demonstrations in the afternoon with member participation, more of a professional type workshop? People not wanting to drive at night time, finding car lights in eyes a problem. Having a Professional demonstration on a different day to our normal Tuesday, possibly on a Saturday? L.B. explained this would incur extra costs as the hall hire is more expensive at the weekend. Bob Payne asked if a list of Professional Artists could be made accessible to the members so they could indicate their preference of artist. B.W did not think that would be possible. David Collier said all societies, clubs and churches all suffered from the same problem of low attendance. He felt it was due to technology, mobile phones, screens etc. having an anti-social effect on people.

B.W asked for a show of hands regarding sending out an email listing ideas for the members to consider. It appeared that a more varied programme was favourable with more afternoon demonstrations and not so many in the evening.

The AGM ended at 3pm.

Membership

The membership this last year (2021 -2022) has held up really well with eighty four members.

We now need to see if we can encourage more friends and relatives to join to bring our numbers back up to the hundred and twenty mark. So don't be frightened of talking about us .

We have had to increase our Subs this coming year to £40, unfortunately. At £40 we are still incredible value for money.

The new Membership Form is now available. Please complete it over the Summer and send it to me from August/ September/ October.

The New Membership/Programme cards will then be sent to you. Don't forget to send a SAE, for card postage, with your application.

Regards

John Davis
Membership Secretary