



Verve

The Newsletter for the Rowlands Castle Painting Society

Number 83 Spring 2023

rowlandscastlepaintingsociety.co.uk

From the Chairman

Dear members

The Pandemic resulted with an inevitable impact on membership numbers but is now regaining in strength with the Society attracting new and younger members and we look forward with renewed confidence. The last 2 decades have seen a change in the Society's objectives and activities. I joined the Society in 1995 when the membership was over 200 with evening demonstrations sometimes boasting an attendance of over 100.

I feel we are now needing to reassess the Society's programme with a focus on what today's priorities and interests are. Life Groups and afternoon Demo/Workshops have proved popular but evening Demonstrations have suffered with poor attendances and needing a proven, well known artist to attract enough members to make it financially viable.. Often the excuse for not venturing out in the evening is the hazards of night driving therefore evening demos have been booked early or late in the programme to take advantage of lighter evenings and hopefully better weather. I recommend all members to support these demonstrations as much can be learnt

from watching a professional artist complete a painting from start to finish explaining each stage of the process.

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We are also considering a restructuring of the Society's Committee. I have had it questioned whether it is necessary to have a Principal and a Chairman. It is usual for Art Groups to appoint a Principal to be a figurehead and represent the society but it is arguable that this can be undertaken just as well by the Chairman. As Joan has had to step down as Principal the Committee, after consideration, feel it is now opportune to put this resolution to the Members to be voted on at the next AGM:

Change of Rule 8 of the Society's Constitution to read:

" The business of the Society shall be conducted by a Committee consisting of:

Chairman; Vice Chairman; Secretary; Treasurer; Membership Secretary; Programme Organiser; Exhibition Co-ordinator; Media Correspondent and 2 Committee Members. Five shall form a Quorum"

I have made it known before Covid that I wish to step down but so far I have been unsuccessful in finding someone to take on the post of Chairman or Vice Chairman. These are key positions to ensure the efficient running of the Society and I am reluctant to leave without these posts being filled. I have served on the Committee for 11 years, the last 9 as Chairman and recently without the backup of a Vice Chairman and feel it is time for a younger member to take up the reins. . I am therefore offering to continue for one more year on the condition that I have a Vice Chairman who can have time to establish the responsibilities before taking over in 12 months time. IF NO-ONE COMES FORWARD TO BE THE VICE CHAIRMAN THEN I SHALL RESIGN AND THE SOCIETY WILL BE WITHOUT A CHAIRMAN OR VICE CHAIRMAN TO OVERSEE THE BUSINESS OF THE SOCIETY.

Those who commit to the Non-Committee posts contribute greatly to the ambiance and smooth running of the Society's activities - we are indebted

to them all and extend our gratitude and appreciation for their important input.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the Committee for all their hard work and especially their continued support for me over a very difficult year with the unexpected death of my dear husband Leonard who freely gave his time and assistance helping me in many activities of the Society.

With Best Wishes Barbara

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Membership Report

Membership is now standing at 73 paid members plus 2 Honary members (Paddy Holmes and Gillian Dollery) Membership fees at £40.00, were increased this year unfortunately, but we believe it still is great value for money.

We have 11 Life Groups booked ; 3 Demo / workshops ,and 1 evening demonstration by professional artists; 6 Members workshops; not to mention our Autumn Exhibition, Christmas Party and Silver cup Awards evening. Not to forget we also have 10 Summer Painting outings to local locations 9 and unofficial ones organised by the group themselves. Members have been unwilling to come to evening Demonstrations hence we only have 1 this year. We have been forced to change our programme from previous years due to the Covid Shutdowns causing loss of members and a subsequent loss of income.

Don't be afraid to talk to friends and relatives about our Society ; invite them along for a taster afternoon !

John Davis Membership Secretary

Obituary = Bernie Hoad

It was with sadness that we received the news that Bernie Hoad one of our longest serving members who joined the Society in 1982 passed away in December. He lived in Portchester close to past Principal Gillian Dollery and they took it in turns to drive each other to the meetings at Rowlands Castle. Together they had successful exhibitions held in Portchester and Titchfield Parish Rooms. Bernie supported all the activities of the Society, taking workshops usually of his favourite subject

boats and participated in an art holiday to France organised by our Patron Paddy Holmes. He particularly enjoyed the outside painting days which he continued to attend until quite recently with the help of his son Mark driving him to venues. Bernie also set up an Art Group in Cosham (Drayton) which ran for many years.

Bernie was a talented watercolourist and was always a genial and cheerful companion. We shall miss him.

EXHIBITION REPORT 19 – 20 NOVEMBER 2022

The Exhibition of Member's work was a great success a. with 150 paintings displayed and 20 sold. Cards were also very popular with visitors. This made a good profit for the society that you can see in the society accounts. The success was helped tremendously, for the 2nd year, by collaboration with Rowlands Castle WI who ran refreshments and their Winter Fair in the small hall. The double event certainly attracts the public.

Barbara Wood, our chairman, raised more money than ever on the Tombola. The presentation and hanging of paintings was done with their usual attention to detail by Nicky Veracchia and Terry Devaney. Martin Gebbett shared the organisation of the event with Edward Girard who also liaised with the WI to make the combined event work so well.

The stewards worked hard and made the event run very smoothly. Past stewards had shown a preference for working a morning or afternoon shift rather than doing a number of shorter shifts. This worked well. Also, we had 3 stewards at a time allowing one to attend to visitors and make the exhibition extra welcoming. Last year we introduced a card reader

for payment by credit card and this year nearly all painting payments were made this way. The stewards showed their versatility by mastering the system and making it work well.

Edward Girard's painting was voted 'Best in Show' by visitors and his certificate was presented by our Patron, Paddy Holmes.

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CHRISTMAS PARTY 6th Dec 2022

There was a double booking for the small hall which previously has been used for the buffet and drinks which meant that the eats, wines and soft drinks were all laid out within the main hall.

However, as this arrangement seemed to work well with all the festivities contained in the same room we will continue to do this in the future which will also make a saving on the hall hire!

The finger food brought by the members, together with the wine supplied by the Society was all attractively presented & served by our catering ladies Carol Milford and Jan Croker,

Sally Williams with husband Andy again did a brilliant job organising the games and quizzes.. The quizzes proved a lot of fun with laughter and teamwork with the little grey cells being put to the test as people tried to match artists with pictures. The naked Sean Connery was the “winner” in the terms of female interest !!

Andy’s “guess what” quiz produced more interaction with his zany alternatives to the correct answer.. Again. Plenty of joking and quite a bit of cheating – but a good time was had by all.

Members were invited to enter 3 competitions – The Silver Salver for a Holiday painting being won by John Robinson for his painting of Hadrian’s Wall;. Bob Payne won the Photographic Cup and the original Christmas Card Trophy was won jointly by Edward Girard and John Robinson. Patron Paddy Holmes presented the awards.

The evening concluded with the draw for the popular Christmas Raffle which raised over £60 for the Society.

Many thanks and congratulations to all those who contributed to making this a really happy and enjoyable evening, I would like to see a few more members support the Party this year – so make a note of the date and don’t miss out!

Barbara

Chair, RCPS