



newsletter

November 2011

Chairman's letter.....

A recent talk to the society by Jillie Moss of Pallant house about Ivon Hitchens got me thinking anew about what is important to me in art and how I should integrate it into my life. How can I make the best of the reality of daily working life? Since I was first introduced to Hitchens' art I have admired the man and his work from what little there is to know for sure about such a private man. Hitchens deliberately restricted his exposure to the world and drew his inspiration from a relatively restricted space around his home. He built the sort of concentrated and meditative daily practice that would still be highly respected and valued in Japan, for instance. The contemplative monk and writer Thomas Merton knew well that discipline and deliberate deprivation make us more sensitive and our responses more appropriate. In this light art becomes something much more meaningful because small differences become significant and we are better prepared for them. My life is dominated by 'grey commuting' to offices suites that are uniformly grey, as is the current neo-modern fashion. In essence my life and that of many others today is not that far removed from that of a monk. The visual and emotional poverty of most of my working world is an opportunity to really see and respond to small things. As I was driving along a windy M25 recently on the way back from another grey meeting in a grey room in a grey building a local splash of hard light lit up a line of mature common Silver Whitebeam trees that I have never noticed before. Words are not adequate but in that moment an impression and a feeling was stained into me and I want to work to capture the concept somehow. Now winter is on its way I can look forward to the daily practice of a few moments looking at the changing colours of the woods on either side of the A3 gap in South Downs as I commute at dawn and twilight to an office in Fareham.

The reality of the Farnham Art Society is on my mind as we approach the AGM and the 2012 spring exhibition. It has been a patchy year. The spring exhibition has been the main event driving our efforts and again we have had a full programme of lectures, workshops and outdoor painting days. Attendance at some events and paintings days has been especially disappointing this year and one unfortunate result has been the resignation of Jenny Thorne who has been the organiser of outdoor painting days this year. Attendances have not made her effort worthwhile or fulfilling and the future of outdoor painting days is now in doubt. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jenny for her contribution to the society's events programme.

The experience for both parties at the selection of exhibiting members needs to be improved and we need to find a new way of involving the membership in an innovative autumn event. The committee has received a

proposal to combine selection for the spring exhibition and selection of exhibiting members into a single day a few weeks in advance of the handing-in day. The committee has approved this proposal and we will offer more detail of this change at the AGM. So, if you have views about this change please become involved. Replacement of the autumn exhibition with a small works 'art market' near to Christmas has been proposed and the committee would like your reactions and offers of help to organize it. So, change is afoot! There are some new things coming in and some old things may go. Please come to the AGM, tell us what you think and influence future events. The AGM will take place on 16 November in the Tindle Room at the Farnham Maltings between 7.30 and 9.30 pm. I look forward to meeting many of you there.

Chris Hall – Chairman.

CONGRATULATIONS to our members:

(If you have any highlights and accolades in your art-life, please tell us, and don't forget our Facebook page. We want to know all your news.)

Peter Clarke had 6 pictures in this year's Armed Forces Exhibition in The Mall Galleries, one of which was awarded a certificate as "Highly Commended"

John Bryce had 2 watercolours and one wood engraving accepted for the Royal Society of Marine Artists (RSMA) annual exhibition at the Mall Galleries, London and 2 wood engravings accepted for the New English Art Club's (NEAC) 125th Anniversary exhibition (25th November - 4th December 2011) also at the Mall Galleries, also 2 wood engravings have been selected for the Ashmolean Museum/Society of Wood Engravers Print Archive in Oxford.

Charles Bone, Jean Robinson, Paul Banning, Roger Dellar, Terry Mckrivagan, Chris Forsey and others are exhibiting at the Minster Gallery in Winchester from October 13th until November 12th, they are members of the RI (Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours) and are having an "Out of Town" show there.

3D Election Days

In future the 3D election to exhibiting status day and exhibition selection will take place at The Farnham Pottery, Wrecclesham.

Steve, the Removal Man

This gent has given us invaluable help and sterling service over a number of years with our exhibition requirements and also individual member's removals. Should you need him, he is **Rowledge Removals** telephone 07798 712451.

Workshop: Life Drawing with Flora Gare on 24 September

The consensus of opinion from this workshop was that Flora had given us a wonderful opportunity to practice our drawing skills and had challenged us to experiment and extend our approach to life drawing. The morning provided us with quick warm up poses to loosen up and a range of exercises to bring variety to our work.

The afternoon brought more time for concentrating on longer poses and some time looking at negative spaces. Mick was an experienced model and brought us some challenging poses to work on. Comments were as follows:

"Flora's suggested methods were a great challenge and kept us concentrating all day." "Useful, experimental approach with challenging poses," "Demanding but interesting workshop requiring all our powers of concentration but giving plenty of reward for the effort." "Excellent tuition and time for practice. A worthwhile and interesting day for us all. Please come back again!"

This was a popular workshop with requests for further work in the future to extend our experience into different media.

Thank you Flora

ELECTION TO EXHIBITING STATUS

The election to exhibiting status held Monday 12th September 2011 was run as usual by Pam Epps and we extend a big thank you to her for all the hard work and organization she puts in to this. Thanks also to Ian Watridge and Jenny Reynolds for their help on the day. Our judges for this session were Nigel Moores, Roger Dellar and Vicki Nigoumi, well known professional artists in their own right and three very different people with their own opinions. After much care, interest and detailed discussions between them about all the work put forward they eventually arrived at the same conclusions and our congratulations go to the following members who reached exhibiting status: Vicki Goodluck, Ewa Adams, Jo Quigley, Ronnie Ireland, Barnaby Howe and Lisa Bartlett. The judges then stayed to discuss the work with the artists and offered a valuable critique on all the artwork put forward. It is hoped that those not yet elected found the discussions with the judges helpful and will put forward work at our next exhibiting status election day.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER

Articles and information for the February 2012 Newsletter should reach the Hon Secretary on or before **Monday 16 January 2012**. Post to Lindsay Gooding Berry, 14 Elm Road, SHERBORNE St JOHN, Hants, RG24 9JL or email to farnhamartsociety@hotmail.com

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Autumn Programme

**Saturday 5th November 10.00am – 4.00pm,
St Joan's Centre**

Workshop – Where to From Here? – with Paul Nelson, Associate Dean, UCA.

Following Paul's stimulating critique in May this workshop has just a few places left. Be quick to secure one!

**Monday 7th November, 7.30 – 9.30pm
St Joan's Centre**

Illustrated Talk - A discussion of the differences and concerns between working in the areas of 2D and 3D by Flora Gare and Nigel Moores.

**Wednesday 16th November 7.30 – 9.30pm
The Tindle Room, Farnham Maltings, GU9 7QR**

Annual General Meeting – A chance to contribute your ideas! Your chance to make your voice heard about what you like or don't like, what your committee can do for you and what you can do for your committee.

**Monday 5th December, 7.30 – 9.30pm,
St Joan's Centre**

Christmas Party – At the reintroduction of the Christmas Party last year, much fun was had by all who attended. We are hoping to see more faces this year, particularly our new members.

Illustrated Talk: The Landscape of Ivon Hitchens by Jillie Moss from the Pallant House Gallery on 19 September

On the 19 September, we had a brilliant talk on Hitchens' Landscape paintings, his Nudes and his Flower paintings, by Jillie Moss from The Pallant House Gallery in Chichester.

Hitchens was a prolific artist, and although we were shown a good selection of his works, his pictures do not become stereotyped or banal, as so often happens when an artist remains constant in one style, and in Hitchens' case remains especially in one place. It was interesting to note that Hitchens' career really took off with his 1922 picture "*Curved Barn*" where the FORM was based on the academic theories of Clive Bell. Later, of course, he resorted to large splashes of vibrant colour. e.g "*Red Centre*" which is used as the logo on the membership cards of the Friends of Pallant House. We learnt that his very personal, and inherently different response to landscape was an emotional response to what he saw rather than a representational reaction. His art is a fusion of abstraction and the figurative.

Hitchens used a long horizontal format, a double cube, that was to characterise his post war landscapes. He used this format with white unpainted spaces inspired by Japanese "*Notan*". Notan means the manipulation of harmony of light and dark spaces to promote beauty. The patches of white that Hitchens left in his paintings he called "*flows*" like ice flows, and he used them to encourage the viewer's eye to wander over the painting. He learnt this when he was a student from the American painter Arthur Wesley Dow who wrote a book about composition which was published by Dover in 1899. Dow put forward the theory that the artist need not imitate nature and should be concerned essentially with filling a space in a beautiful way.

We saw works by Hitchens alongside other artists such as Paul Nash, Gainsborough, Turner, and Winifred Nicholson, and it was interesting to see how the comparisons enabled one to better understand what Hitchens was achieving, with a fusion of abstract and topographical representation. Music was also a great influence in Hitchens' life, and he wrote, "*I often find in music a stimulus to creation. And it is the linear, tonal, and colour harmony, and rhythm of nature that interests me. What I call the musical appearance of things.*" He wrote in his notes on painting, "*My paintings are painted to be listened to.*" and we were shown several slides to illustrate this. The one that stood out most for me was the throbbing colours of "*Red, Black and White Tulips*" which you really can hear.

We were also shown some slides of some very large murals painted by Hitchens, including a detail from his gigantic mural, painted over a period of four years from 1950 at the Cecil Sharpe House in Regents Park, this ambitious project is 69 feet long and 20 feet high. In summary, Jillie showed us some lovely slides, gave us some good explanations of the techniques used by this complex artist, and demonstrated how much we can learn by studying Hitchens. She certainly did him justice.

Peter Clarke

REMINDER TO MEMBERS who have not paid their subscription

Annual subscriptions for the coming year to 31 August 2012 were due on 1st September 2011.

At the time of going to press we have arrears in subscriptions for **173** of our members with the following membership numbers remaining unpaid:

1014,1018,1023,1025,1026,1028,1029,1031,1036,1041,1045,1048,1050,1061,1064,1066,1070,1073,1074,1078,1081,1085,1090,1097,1100,1102,1109,1110,1115,1116,1121,1125,1129,1130,1133,1136,1137,1162,1169,1171,1175,1176,1181,1187,1189,1200,1201,1210,1212,1222,1226,1227,1228,1235,1238,1246,1251,1255,1271,1280,1283,1286,1291,1300,1301,1303,1315,1320,1330,1331,1336,1339,1347,1351,1353,1359,1360,1366,1368,1369,1371,1383,1403,1407,1408,1410,1411,1413,1415,1416,1423,1433,1446,1454,1455,1456,1458,1459,1460,1472,1473,1475,1476,1477,1485,1487,1491,1492,1494,1495,1512,1518,1521,1522,1526,1527,1530,1533,1539,1540,1545,1550,1552,1553,1556,1560,1565,1570,1576,1580,1582,1583,1586,1587,1589,1590,1591,1592,1593,1595,1597,1598,1599,1600,1601,1603,1604,1605,1606,1609,1611,1612,1613,1618,1620,1622,1623,1624,1625,1626,1628,1629,1631,1632,1633,1636,1637,1638,1640,1643,1616,1647,1648

If you have not received your new membership card and your number is listed here, if you still wish to remain a member please send a cheque for £16 immediately to: Membership, c/o 14 Elm Rd, Sherborne, St John, Hampshire, RG24 9JL

Please remember you are not eligible to attend meetings, workshops or exhibit your artwork if you have not paid your subscription.

Bistro 27

Farnham Art Society has been invited to take the opportunity to hang paintings in the new Bistro 27 (formerly The Bishops Table). It has been suggested that three or four artists work is exhibited on a four month basis. This seems like a good way of getting publicity for our Society and displaying our work for people to see and hopefully buy. The paintings would need to be labelled and priced by the artist and the staff would handle any sales. Insurance would probably be covered by Bistro 27 but we are unsure of this aspect, so if this is of concern, then perhaps exhibiting here is not for you.

To ensure any work is of the type and style specified by Bistro 27 and to the high quality associated with FAS there would need to be a form of selection and the committee is looking for a sub-committee team to run and co-ordinate this project. If exhibiting here appeals to you and you would be prepared to help organise this, please contact Carole Cunningham Jones 01252 687541 or Andrea Franklin 01428 606152.

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NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to:
Margaret Alderson, Ronnie Ireland, Rosemary Cook,
Alison Ridgeon, Sue Adams, Hugh Winter from
Farnham, Ewa Adams from Alton, Barnaby Howe
from Farnborough, Margaret Harker from Haslemere
and Jane Deutsch from Guildford.

FINE FRAMING

Fine Framing in Alton would like to offer members a discount on bespoke framing in the run up to Christmas.

Bring two items in to be framed between 1st November and 23rd December and get 25% discount off the second frame.

Call 01420 82324 for details.

Monteagle Gallery

Mill Lane, Yateley, GU46 7TF Tel: 01252 872337

A Report on the Private View on the 7th October 2011 of the Retrospective for Linda Adams, with recent pictures by Rosemary Miller SWA.

The Gallery were pleased to welcome Art Society members to the PV. We had a full house when Lady Portal, Deputy Lieutenant for Hampshire officially opened the gallery. Her speech held much praise for the new gallery space which certainly has every facility necessary, together with superb lighting, for any artist to put on an exciting exhibition.

We were fortunate in the choice of Deputy as she has an artistic background and was able to empathise with the lot of an artist. Linda's pictures were so evocative of the style we have learnt to recognize and it was very poignant to see such a large collection, maybe for the last time. Lady Portal immediately recognised Rosemary's style as she had admired her work in a London gallery recently. The wine and food flowed and paintings sold together with pottery and jewellery.

As you know this is a gallery for artists or groups to hire on a calendar month basis at a very reasonable cost. Every help will be offered by the gallery Admin. Staff who will produce your labels and assist in a Private View. The gallery is booked into next year. The next exhibition for November will be Signum Artists whom, as many of you will know, are all local. They are joined by a group of potters from this area. If you have yet to visit the gallery it is well worth a visit. The terms are very favourable.

Please email peter.nita@btinternet to arrange a booking or to obtain more information.

artonweb

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Andrew.lievesley@ntlworld.com

FARNHAM ART SOCIETY

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY WILL TAKE PLACE
ON WEDNESDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2011 AT 7.30PM
IN THE TINDLE ROOM, FARNHAM MALTINGS, BRIDGE SQ, FARNHAM, GU9 7QR

We are looking for more members to join the Committee and continue the good work already being done by Committee Members. Without more volunteers the Society will not be able to survive so please think seriously about whether you want it to continue. The society is run by its members and there have been many members who have already taken their turn and served on the committee and many who regularly help, all of whom would like to see the Society continue. The AGM is an ideal way to have YOUR say on Society matters and take a turn in ensuring it continues in the way YOU want it to, so come to the AGM and participate in its management.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last AGM
3. Matters arising
4. Chairman’s Report
5. Honorary Treasurers Report and Accounts for the year ending 31 August 2011.
6. Spring Exhibition
7. Autumn Exhibition
8. Election to Exhibiting Status Procedure, 2D and 3D
9. Programme of lectures, workshops and outdoor painting days
10. Election of Committee members and Trustees
11. Any Other Business

If you wish to make any nominations please detach the section below and then keep this part of the document to refer to when you attend the AGM

FARNHAM ART SOCIETY AGM - 16 NOVEMBER 2011 - NOMINATION PAPER

Please return to the Honorary Secretary: Mrs L J Goolding Berry, 14 Elm Rd, Sherborne St John, Hampshire, RG24 9JL

I wish to nominate the following members as:

Chairman.....	Vice Chairman.....
Treasurer.....	Hon. Secretary.....
Membership Secretary.....	Newsletter Editor.....
Exhibitions Coordinator.....	Programme Secretary.....
Election Day Coordinator.....	Outdoor Painting Coordinator.....
Committee Member	Committee Member
Committee Member	Committee Member

The above person must have agreed to be nominated

Your Signature..... Date.....

Print Name.....