



The 2016 annual exhibition got off to a flying start with a very well attended Private View on Friday evening. The exhibition was officially opened by Julia Cassels, professional artist, and she spent a lot of time going round the show and was tremendously impressed with the standard of work on display.



As well as officially opening the exhibition Julia kindly judged the three sets of prizes that were introduced this year and the winners were (drum roll).....

Jan Mabbott won the prize 'Artistic Merit in Watercolour' for her painting 'Still Life'.



Anita Breckon won the prize 'Artistic Merit in Oil/Acrylic' for her painting 'Waiting for the Tide'.



And last but never least, Bill Searle won the prize 'Artistic Merit in Mixed Media' for his painting 'Rugged Coast'.



Huge congratulations to all three artists, each of whom received a £15 gift token and rosette as their prize. Well done!

In total there were 167 hung paintings and 59 folios entered this year, compared with 199 hung/76 folio in 2015 and 185 hung/70 folio in 2014. Due to the drop in numbers entry fees were also down on last year. Eleven paintings were sold plus two folios, against 15+4 last year and 19+6 in 2014. Interestingly however more cards were sold this year; 185 sold (by 22 artists) against 128 in 2015 and 170 in 2014.



Despite the drop in numbers, display space was at a premium, presumably from an increase in the size of paintings entered. A small number of members also took advantage of the option to show one big painting. The new grid display walls were well received but it is agreed by all that we need to ensure more eye-level display area for the future as, due to space constraints, a few paintings were low down. This will be addressed for next year. We had invested in a credit card machine for this year and all but one of the paintings were paid for by card so it was seen as a worthwhile investment.



Once again the exhibition can only happen with the help and commitment of members giving of their time freely in the run up to and during the show. Special thanks must go to David Phillips who once again managed the set up

and breakdown of the exhibition stands but who has now quite rightly decided he has done his fair share and has retired from that role. To this end we are still looking for a replacement to fill David's shoes next year and would welcome offers of help from any member willing to step up to the plate.

At the end of the weekend the votes for 'Best in Show' were counted and it was a very tight race, with the winner being Pat Burt for her lovely acrylic painting 'Pont Francais' (shown below), and Jayne Perkins the runner up with 'Misty Morning'.



Congratulations to Pat, who was awarded the Peter Adams Trophy, to be retained for one year, plus a £25 gift voucher.