

"What a high standard of work. It gets better every year". This was the comment most frequently heard over the weekend. Well done to all who exhibited and congratulations to those who sold work. To make this event run smoothly considerable work goes on beforehand and the Exhibition Committee first met last April. I am sure you will agree that the invitations, posters and flyers (500 were pushed through doors in our area) were eye-catching. Our thanks to Diane Welsh for her design. Publicity was handled by Julian Routledge who used his commercial savvy to flood the geographical area and the digital spaces around Odiham with details of the event, then helped produce the catalogue. The admin team of Kristine Walker was supported by Karen Davison and the raffle was organised by Jan Mabbott. Just as importantly teas were masterminded by Anna McGeough. Maureen Ashworth was responsible for the Preview which was another successful evening and a crucial member of the team was Paul Batchelor who looks after our exhibition equipment and erects the signs around Odiham.



The numbering system we introduced this year reduced the pre-exhibition typing and most visitors were happy with the catalogue system. The luggage label hanging over the top of each picture certainly eased the work of the hanging team led by Jayne Perkins along with Trish Kearney, Anne Morris, Diane Welsh and Jan Mabbott. We sold more paintings than usual and the overall footfall was increased on previous years but perhaps the Preview was a little less well attended. We enjoyed the opening remarks from Ranil Jayewardene MP and the artistic reflections of Graham Mobbs from Lord Wandsworth College who judged 3 paintings worthy of artistic merit awards (but he did say he could have chosen 10 or more pictures).



The awards went to Christine Sharp for 'Winter Beach Walk', Julian Routledge for 'Little Wren' and Suzie Gearing for 'The Cruise.' Graham's comment was that he enjoyed paintings that tell a story and he felt this informed his choices. Karen Davison won the Best in Show Award, chosen by public vote, for 'Who's afraid of the Big Bad Wolf' with second place going to Len Murrell who got equal votes for two of his paintings – 'Brixham Harbour' and 'Bayards Cove'.



Our Treasurer, John Kynoch, has analyzed the finances and has the following remarks to make; "Sales figures were higher than ever with over £3,000 worth of paintings sold, despite there being appreciably fewer artists contributing than for some years. The number of pictures hung dropped to 131 from 162 the previous year. Whilst it was still a very successful exhibition we will need to continue to keep our processes under review in the expectation of financial improvement next year."

I have spelt out the contributions made by everyone who worked behind the scenes and would encourage anyone who would like to be involved next year to get in touch. The jobs to be done are varied but, with enthusiasm and a little time from each team member, were easily completed. If you intend to exhibit next year please do get involved in setting it all up, not just manning a stall on the sales desk over the weekend. Putting on the exhibition gives all members a golden opportunity to get to know fellow artists as you share the jobs and meet others in our group.

So it is a very big thank you to this year's team and I congratulate all the exhibition committee members on a job well done.

Joan Crawford
(Chair, Exhibition Committee)