

ODIHAM ART GROUP NEWSLETTER

December 2015

www.odihamartgroup.org.uk



Chairman's notes



Season's greetings to all our members. These dark days could not be better spent than looking at art books, art magazines or planning that painting holiday. Some of us may even get down to serious painting!

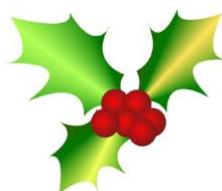
Our winter programme is well under way with many more treats to come. The December demonstration on 'simplifying watercolour' with John Hoar is not to be missed – and mince pies will be available.

I must take this opportunity of thanking Bill Searle, who collects the key and prepared the room for each demonstration, and Jan Mabbott who organises the teas. They do an excellent job but always appreciate offers of assistance so please offer to help with chairs and teas whenever you can.

The committee's project for this winter is to revamp the website so that members can refer to it and find all the latest information about events, as well as news of things to come. Once the new site is up and running next year we envisage the frequent emailing may reduce as members get into the habit of visiting the website more often. We hope to expand on the gallery and refresh the pictures more frequently; more information on this initiative can be found inside the newsletter and we welcome all suggestions on what you would like to see on the new site, so do let us know of any ideas you may have.

I must repeat the call for new committee members and in particular remind you that the chair will be empty come July, so please speak to any committee member if you would like to contribute a little of your time and join us.

Finally, of course, I would like to wish everyone a healthy happy Christmas and good painting in 2016!



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Please send any news items of interest to the OAG to the Newsletter Editor, Christine Sharp, at oagnews@gmail.com and she will endeavour to put them into the next issue if appropriate.

Review of the Odiham Art Group Annual Exhibition 2015



Many congratulations to everyone who displayed work in our show this year. The atmosphere was cheerful and there is no doubt that the standard keeps rising. It was especially good to see work from people who had not exhibited before and from our new members.

The show would not be a success without the work behind the scenes so we owe Jane Mackay and all the committee and helpers who made it run smoothly a heartfelt thank you, along with Diane Welsh who once again designed our invitations and poster, and Jayne Perkins for achieving a splendid hang.



The footfall is hard to assess but the general feeling was that we had a few less visitors this year. Despite that our Preview was a success with lots of members, family and friends enjoying a convivial evening drink whilst browsing through the exhibition – it is no surprise that quite a large percentage of the sold works went that evening. Jan Baker from the Frame helped to decide the winners of the prize for Artistic Merit and her commercial eye along with the professional artist opinion of Jayne Perkins led to much discussion. First prize was awarded to Carol Southgate for

'Melting Snow' with Joan Crawford's 'Cool Boots' as runner up, both pieces being considered alongside the standard of artist's work overall.



As you know, the Best in Show prize and Peter Adams Trophy is voted for by the public over the three days of the show and this year it was won by Elizabeth Makin-Bradshaw for her work 'Malacology', the runner up being Gail McGarry for 'Needlework'. Our congratulations to Elizabeth (pictured left) and we trust the trophy will have pride of place on her mantelpiece this year.

In all 73 artists exhibited and we had 199 pictures to hang and 73 folios on display. We sold just over 10% of the pictures but, as the price of those sold were generally low, we took less money than last year. Landscapes formed by far the most popular subject matter with 65% of sales. Card sales were very much down on last year and the sum of sold work was £2,500, a drop of just over £500.

However, financially there are no big surprises from the exhibition: we took no commission from sales the individual spread of figures will look different from previous years but we had very successful raffle and tea sections which counterbalanced the loss of commission to the Group's accounts, so our treasurer will be happy when she comes back from her travels overseas. Overall we made just over £330 profit for the group which is in line with last year's end result.



The Odiham Art Group Website



Many of you will know our current website has been difficult to update and expand upon over the past year and our current provider is moving on to pastures new, so it seems an excellent opportunity to reinvigorate the site with a new design and refreshed content. A small sub-committee has been formed who are currently working on a 'wish list' for the new site and they have pulled together the following criteria as a basis to work on;

The new OAG website should aim to:

- Inform members of forthcoming events with regular updates
- Showcase members work and those of the group as a whole
- Be a platform for the exchange of members' news and art-related activities
- Act as an information source and promotional tool to attract new members

Obviously there is a bit of a way to go but we aim to have things in place ready for the launch of the new site in late spring/early summer. In the meantime please send us any links to recommended websites that you think are worth looking at – remember, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery! Once the website plan is at the appropriate stage there will be a general call for up-to-date photos of members work but we will circulate more information, along with any technical instructions (e.g. size of file) nearer the time. Watch this space!



STOP PRESS; NEW ALI LINDLEY WORKSHOP FOR OAG, SATURDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 2016



We are delighted to confirm that we have a third workshop to add to this year's calendar. Ali Lindley is a creative artist specialising in watercolour and mixed media work. She has recently been made a full member of the Society of Women Artists with whom she won, in 2013, the prestigious HRH Princess Michael of Kent award for the most outstanding watercolour. Working in her own unique style, colour and texture are the stimulus for a piece of work which is often finished with the addition of gold leaf.

The fee for this workshop will be £30 and we anticipate that spaces will be much in demand, so if you wish to book please email Diane Welsh at diane.floralart@googlemail.com as soon as possible.



The OAG 'POP-UP SHOP' at the Odiham Christmas Fair



The OAG were delighted when Mary Hooker, the owner of Mary's Hair Salon on Odiham High Street, very kindly offered us the use of her premises during the Odiham Christmas Fair on the last weekend in November.

Mary and her staff manned a stall outside the salon on the High Street with proceeds going to the RNLI so we decided that entry fees for to the necessarily small exhibition (the salon is quite tiny inside) would go to the same charity and we raised £140 from entries for this worthwhile cause.



Mary's generosity gave us a presence at this well-attended local event and allowed us to showcase Odiham Art Group to an audience who would not normally attend our annual exhibition.

At the end of the day 22 members took part and there were framed works in all media as well as portfolio pieces and cards. Unfortunately sales were very disappointing as we did not sell any art work, although several artists sold cards. However, we had several membership enquiries from local people wanting to join the group so it was a worthwhile promotional event.

OAG paintings at Hook and Hartley Witney Surgeries

Hello everyone

It was my intention to do a changeover in November following the Annual Exhibition at Robert May School - however I ran out of steam (!) and have now decided to do the changeover in January instead, dates to be advised.

As before, there's only room for 24 paintings at Hook and eight at Hartley Witney surgery. Each painting should not be too large and should have a label on the reverse with your name, title, medium and the price. An email will be sent out in January confirming the date and time of the next changeover, and more details on where to take your paintings on the day, so make a note and get painting!

If it's not too early, may I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Regards

David Phillips





OAG COMMITTEE NEWS

Joan Crawford has been Chairman of the OAG for several years and has been a driving force behind the group. However, she feels the time has come for someone else to take up the reins and she has announced that she will stand down as Chairman at the next AGM. We are all very sorry to see her go but rest assured she has not escaped entirely – she has agreed to take over as Membership Secretary next year as Marguerite Bradley will be stepping down from that role.

The committee holds the entire group together and it is vital that members continue to come forward to put themselves forward to be part of the running of the OAG – after all, it is your art society and everyone should have a voice and input into how it is run. If you are interested in becoming a committee member please either email OAGnews@gmail.com or make yourself known to any of the current committee members at the next demonstration or workshop. Don't worry, it is not an onerous task and, as the saying goes, many hands make light work!

A warm welcome to our new members Tracy Talbot and Paul Turner, we look forward to seeing you at future demonstrations and workshops.



Forthcoming diary dates for Odiham Art Group

Demonstration by John Hoar; 'Simplifying Watercolours'	Saturday 5 th December
Demonstration of soft pastels by Graham Oliver; 'The Incomparable Medium'	Saturday 2 nd January
Demonstration by Bettina Schroeder; 'Spontaneous Luminous Watercolours'	Saturday 6 th February
Workshop by Ali Lindley; SEE STOP PRESS	Saturday 13 th February
Demonstration by Maggie Cross; Chinese Brush Work	Saturday 5 th March

And some diary dates for the outside world.....

R. Soc of British Artists Annual Exhibition 2016 (Mall Galleries)	Entries close 11 th December 2015
R. Inst. Of Painters in Watercolour (Mall Galleries)	Entries close 8 th January 2016
SAA Artist of the Year 2016 (online)	Entries close 31 st March 2016
R. Inst. Of Oil Painters Annual Exhibition (Mall Galleries)	Exhibition open 2/12/2015 – 13/12/2015
Brothers in Art; drawings of Watts and Leighton (Watts Gallery, Compton GU13 1DQ)	Current, until 19 th February 2016
Goya Portraits, National Gallery	Current, until 10 th January 2016

Members News

Do let the Newsletter Editor know of any relevant news items such as private views of your work in galleries, exhibitions you would recommend others to visit, prizes won in art competitions etc and she will try to include them in the appropriate newsletter, space permitting. Please send the information to oagnews@gmail.com

And last but not least.....

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to you all

