

President's Report

Hello again everybody and welcome to our mid-summer round up, of all things Huddersfield Art Society. We look back on the last workshop and demonstration of the pre-summer syllabus. Stephen Ashurst rounded off this session with a well received portrait demonstration producing an excellent portrait our new member Steven Lee. However great though this demonstration was it will always be remembered as a farewell to our great friend and long respected member Bill Brassington. The last conversation I had with him sums him up. He was keen to ensure that Steven the model should be allowed a free meeting as he had volunteered to sit, a request I happily approved. It is a nice memory to have of as many members commented 'a friendly and gentle man'. Bill was taken ill shortly after the meeting and passed away a few days later. Many have paid tribute to Bill and said that Pat and Bill were always together and fellow artists often with a very similar style. We automatically say, "are the Brassingtons coming today". A great artistic double act supporting each other and enjoying their shared hobby. I was pleased that several members represented the Society at Bill's funeral.

A few days ago I was invited to Pat's house to collect some art materials, kindly donated in Bill's memory, some for distribution to a local school to support new and upcoming artists and some will be brought to our meetings in September. I was amazed to see the great collection of what must be hundreds of paintings produced by Bill and Pat over the years. I have selected a still life of Bill's for the Annual exhibition with funds from any sale going to MIND. Pat has been touched by the lovely letters that she received and will soon be leaving the area for a new life in Hampshire, although she promises to keep in touch. Needless to say our good wishes go with her for her new beginning and we will hold Bill in our memories.

Just before the summer Mark Milnes came to the end of his secondment at Huddersfield Art Gallery and all agreed that he did a great job introducing the Facebook promotional updates and the regular Art Gallery craft fairs which have been well supported by our members. He also was a great support to our Annual Exhibition and I am happy to report that he has agreed to be our selector again this year. Best wishes to Mark on your future ventures. However a warm welcome back to our friend Ruth Gamble after maternity leave and already a new craft fair is planned for 19th September, so glad to see this great idea continuing. I'm sure our exhibition team are looking forward to working with Ruth again.

Another great venture which brought our many styles together was the 'lay flat' sketchbook. A great new idea which is brilliant in its simplicity. A hard backed sketchbook with a flat spine which allows a double page

spread. In a clever promotional venture, the SAA have distributed these free to Art Groups with each member invited to produce a page. It was a challenge to do this away from the regular meetings but we did fill it and what a great range of styles and subject matter. There is an overall prize of art materials for the best club and individual prizes awarded for the best page. David informs me that this has arrived safely so fingers crossed and well done and thank you to all who took part. Good luck in the judging.

We are well into the Summer outdoor painting days. The Yorkshire Sculpture Park was a little wet but a hardy bunch battled through the rain and made use of some well placed trees and enclosures to hide from this deluge but a great range of work was produced. The recent one to Cawthorne saw better weather although I was unable to attend this one unfortunately. The third day is at Upperthong Village Hall on Saturday August 16th. Thanks as always to David for his great organisation.

David has arranged a great new syllabus which starts on 19th September with a watercolour demonstration by Phil Biggs. As always a great range of subjects and styles with a few new ideas along the way. October 10th sees a new venue at the Gallery where members are invited to take part in a workshop led by Linda Downs. A great way to see our exhibition and demonstrate our skills to the visitors, a type of group demonstration. Also, something I have requested for a while, a members life drawing session led by Jill Moynan. A good way to give this a try if you are unable to attend the popular weekly sessions.

I am also looking into various options for the Pat Pridmore memorial trophy in relation to portrait or life painting. my initial thoughts are for an engraved rose bowl and I will be putting these ideas forward at Council.

Our annual Christmas gallery visit and meal will be in York this year.

One change, due to room availability at Gledholt, is that our workshops will now be afternoons only although we felt this would not affect their effectiveness and we may be able to extend later into the late afternoon. The shortened session will also be reflected in the price. We also welcome back our friend and honorary Welshman Andrew Jenkin for a talk and demonstration of his work.

Lots to look forward to as always and I look forward to seeing you all again in September. Enjoy the rest of the summer and happy painting.

Matthew Evans, President.

MR BILL BASSINGTON

A TRIBUTE

Having been in the Huddersfield Art Society for many years, I remember Mr. Bassington being introduced to us with great pride and love by Pat when they were newly wed. A loving middle aged couple both full of enthusiasm for ART.

Pat and I had met many years earlier when I was painting bluebells in Grimescar Woods. Pat lived adjacent to the woods. Later we were both to join H.A.S.

Bill and Pat have been sincere and forthright members for many years. They joined in with every aspect of the society and produced some good work which they regularly exhibited in our annual exhibition.

Olwen Kitson

Dear Bill, he is sadly missed. I first met Bill Bassington at our portrait group and found him to be friendly and easy to talk to. Later when I took a turn at organising our annual exhibition Bill helped with the drinks and welcomed Members and their families and friends. Later on, I remember him saying to me in his kind but forthright way, 'Jill, don't you think that you might be spreading yourself a bit thinly'. He was certainly right, I found it all too much.

Bill was an enthusiastic member of our life drawing group and attended regularly. He worked mainly in pastel and enjoyed the challenge of drawing the figure. Bill is a great loss to us all. We will remember him when next we take up pencil, brush or pastel to respond to our next artistic challenge.

Jill Moynan
Life Drawing Group Administrator

THE LIFE DRAWING

The group meets on Thursdays at Gledholt
THE LIFE DRAWING GROUP
1.30 to 4.15pm. All Members are welcome.

We start the new programme on Thursday 24th September.

Jill Moynan 01484 863759

Life Drawing Group and Newsletter Editor.

If any member would like to contribute an article to the newsletter please get in touch.

THE PORTRAIT GROUP

The Group is held at Paddock Quakers Meeting House on Mondays 6.45 - 9pm.

If any member, their family or friend would like to sit for the group please contact James to arrange a date

James Fitzpatrick
Mobile - 07415101235 Home - 01484 362303

COUNCIL MATTERS

If you are interested in taking a more active role and joining our council please contact:

Matthew Evans: President,
01484 722713
or David Whiting: Vice President 01484 547485

119th ANNUAL EXHIBITION and Syllabus Introduction

Our Exhibition

The opening date for this year's exhibition is fast approaching! As I write on 18th July there are only 60 days to go and by the time you read this there will be far less. We open to the public on Saturday 12th September for six weeks. It's time to seriously consider which works you want to exhibit and to get mounting and framing!

Everything you need to know is in the enclosed letter but just to draw your attention to a few things, in completely random order:

- The new award in memory of Pat Pridmore is for the best portrait or life portrait
- The six week run = 72 duty sessions.....please consider volunteering your time, even if you are not exhibiting
- The demonstration sessions were advertised last year and attracted more visitors, maybe you could do this?
- The Big Draw Initiative will once again happen during our show, this year the Theme is "Every picture tells a story" I will be liaising with Ruth at the Gallery to organise a drawing session
- You will see in the syllabus that our meeting on 10th October will be at the Gallery.
- During our run, the Gallery will hold an Art Market on 19th September. For £15 you could have your own stall. Contact Ruth Gamble for more information.
- The restriction on picture size has been removed, large work is welcome

Please get your entries in as soon as possible, this helps me spread the work load!

Linda Downs, Exhibition Secretary

The Syllabus

Members can look forward to not just more of the same – but even more of the same!

I am increasing the number of Saturday meetings from 14 to 15, with a shorter Easter break.

Members' workshops were again well received, so I have put in one more of these, while reducing tutor-led workshops to two. The portrait session, based on the practice of the Monday evening portrait group, was very well attended, so this year we are bringing life drawing to a Saturday, which Jill has kindly offered to organise.

It is a little unfortunate that we are no longer able to have the room at Gledholt for whole days, but members' workshops work well in an afternoon anyway, and I am confident that tutor-led workshops can be compressed yet be just as worthwhile as in the past.

A further difficulty I have had in booking Gledholt occurs in October, when we cannot meet there on October 10th. However, I feel that meeting within our own exhibition at the Art Gallery could be really interesting, and I have Linda's support on this.

Another success, hopefully to be repeated, was the presentations by Hamer award winners (ably organised by Trevor Ferguson). To accompany this event in 2016 I have asked Andrew Jenkin to give a short talk and demonstration.

Attendance at the AGM was a little higher this year, perhaps helped by putting on a talk by Bruce Mulcahy, but in 2016 I am not arranging a visitor but plans are beginning to emerge for an 'in-house' event – watch this space.

Finally there will as ever be demonstrations by accomplished artists, which I hope will continue to be very informative to us all whatever our experience of art.

*David Whiting
Syllabus Secretary*

OUTDOOR PAINTING DAYS



In response to our discussions last year, at the happy and successful day at High Flatts, I have indeed put on an extra painting day this year, in August. Both days so far have gone well, and a good number of members are on the list for August 16th. Whilst we do not have the sort of numbers that enabled me to run a minibus in the past, there now seems to be a regular group of around 15 members taking part.

Yorkshire Sculpture Park June 14th.

We had to battle against constant showers at YSP, but attendance was still good and I think we produced a creditable body of work by the end of the day. It was an advantage that we were able to work inside the Henry Moore exhibition galleries. John preferred the camellia house to Henry M, and Kin as always persisted outside to produce a painterly 'green scene'. Our room, the Hayloft, was very pleasant and enabled us to work from views out of the windows, and having a café in the same building proved very welcome. I was pleased with the organisation by YSP staff, allowing us free car parking by giving in our car registrations.

Cawthorne July 11th.

This time the weather was in our favour, cloudy at the start and end but sunny (but not too hot) during the middle of the day. Once again we had a very pleasant room, with historic old wood beams, but lunch was taken sitting outside in the sun. The village's attractive houses interested many of us, but the most popular subject was probably the avenue of trees leading up to the church. Karen scored a first by portraying the local cricket match, but the players would keep moving! I have only been organising these outdoor days for a mere 13 years, so inevitably I may choose venues that have been visited before. Beryl amazed us by showing photos of a previous HAS visit (we think about 25 years ago) and even the work she did on that day! Some members certainly go back a long way, yet we have also been pleased to welcome a very new member, Martyna, to our group.

If you have looked at the HAS website recently, you may have noticed new pages featuring activities and outdoor days. There you can see more images of members' work in addition to those shown here.

David Whiting

OUTDOOR PAINTING Cawthorne and Bretton Sculpture Park

