

Peter Wickham's Bequest to the Society

As many of you will know, Peter was associated with art in Tiverton and Tiverton Art Society for many years prior to his death in 2009. It was a generous act on his behalf to bequeath a substantial part of his art collection to the society to be sold for the benefit of the TAS. To bring you up to date on what has been happening to this bequest we'd like to summarise the situation here.

The bequest, which includes two additional works kindly gifted to us by Pam Pebworth, amounted to 66 works in total, 54 by Peter himself, and 12 by other artists that he had collected over the years. 33 of these were exhibited at Tiverton Hospital from November 2010 to May 2011, four of which were sold. We next held an exhibition at the Museum for three weeks in June last year at which 10 of the 31 works hung were sold. For our own summer exhibition last year we showed 10 of his works in the foyer of the school hall, and we offered two of his works as the Raffle prizes at the summer exhibitions in 2010 and 2011; also in 2010 a second picture at the exhibition raised £500 for Children's Hospice SW. Finally, an exhibition of his work has just finished at Tiverton Golf Club, involving 12 pictures, one of which was sold.

In total we have so far raised £1,610 from this bequest, and we intend to continue taking advantage of any opportunity to sell the remaining works over the next few years. It is our intention to publish a full list of the 66 works on our website, and update it from time to time as works are sold. We will let you know when it is available so that anyone without access to the internet can request a copy.

Mid Devon Show

This year the Mid Devon show and the TAS Summer Exhibition coincide and open on the Saturday 28th July.

What better opportunity to show people what we have to offer, and also advertise our own Exhibition on Opening day.

So we are taking a Stand which will be situated outside the Craft Tent. Lindsay Wall and myself will be manning the Stand, but if any members are thinking of going to the Show, they might want to give us a bit of a break, which would be much appreciated. Glory Radford.

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Summer 2012

TAS TIMES



Tideway and Calstock Viaduct
by J Vallis

Summer Exhibition Dates

Handing in Day - Tuesday 24th July 9:30am - 11:00am
Preview Evening - Friday 27th July 7:00pm - 9:00pm
Opening Day - Saturday 28th July 10:30am - 6:00pm
Closing Day - Saturday 4th August Closes 3:30pm, Collect from 4:30pm - 5:30pm

Dear TAS members,

I'll start by looking back at the Spring exhibition which seemed generally to be well received, with a wide variety of works receiving awards; I thought perhaps David Maunders' magnificent sculpture could have been rewarded, but there were three non-picture awards in total. So what is collectively called "3D" was recognised by the judges. It is impossible to predict which works are going to be chosen, and this is part of the appeal of having two external adjudicators, something that few other art societies seem to have. I'd like to thank all the members of the Art Society who worked hard to bring the whole exhibition together and put it on so successfully. We are always looking for more volunteers to help with work that goes on in the background so if you'd like to be involved with the Summer exhibition in some way, please get in touch with me, or Keith Benge, the Exhibition Secretary.

Apart from the many plaudits regarding the exhibition, I have received some constructive criticism and comments. In particular I'd like to call your attention to the letter I received from our President, Tom Warbis, the main text of which is included in this newsletter. He is concerned that we are allowing too many submissions that are straight copies of published work, which is firstly against copyright rules, and secondly can lead to a reduction of the overall standard of exhibitions. It is obviously important, and a vital part of learning to paint, that we copy other work to learn techniques and styles in order to settle on our own. When you fill in the entry forms included with this newsletter please take a minute to study the reverse of the form before signing the declaration. Please be assured that we are very concerned not to put people off submitting to our exhibitions, so if you have anything you would like to discuss on this matter, please get in touch with me.

Probably more controversial, and therefore requiring more consideration is the whole subject of Digital Art. As a society we have to decide what our collective view is and somehow define some guidelines (rules?) on what is acceptable to be shown at our Exhibitions. Perhaps we have a separate section for digital art, perhaps a separate category whereby work can be submitted but is not eligible for an award, or perhaps we treat it in exactly the same way as other submissions? The Committee will be debating this at the next few meetings and I hope we can put forward a proposal to the members at the AGM. Your thoughts on this subject would be very valuable so again, please contact me if you'd like to put forward any suggestions.

I'd better close here as, between us, Tom and I have taken up more than our fair share of this newsletter, but just before I go, apologies to everyone who was booked on Greg Wellman's workshop last month which had to be cancelled. We do intend to re-schedule it, but it's a question of trying to find a date in Greg's busy schedule that suits us and the bookings at the Heathcoat Centre. In the meantime, enjoy your Art in all its forms.

Peter Radford-Gourlay – Chairman TAS.



I have spent quite some time thinking about this since our spring exhibition, and believe it to be a subject that ought to be addressed:

The spring exhibition on the whole was pleasing to look at, but I didn't think it was as striking as some of our previous exhibitions. I think it was diminished by the presence of several pictures that were clearly straight copies of published images. Whatever one thinks of these works, unless they throw some entirely new slant on the image, they are still only technical exercises of the sort students undertake in art galleries, and cannot fulfill the declaration we make on the entry form, to wit: "I declare that these works are my own, unaided and original."

When I first joined the Society this ruling was pursued with great severity, not so that budding artists might be intimidated but so that exhibitions should always appear fresh and vibrant. Formerly, as many members will remember, we used to invite a selection panel to choose the works exhibited in the Summer Exhibition, and part of their remit was to reject any works they were satisfied were copies. If members increasingly take the lazy way out, and do not create their own images, the resultant decline in standards will eventually put off important contributors from exhibiting with us. I should grieve if this were to happen, and I think many other members would too.

The Society is obviously keen to provide support and encouragement to beginners and new artists. By all means develop your skill by copying – but use your own ideas to develop original images and treatments when it comes to exhibiting.

Tom Warbis - President TAS



Air Ambulance Collection

At the June members' meeting, Tom and Margaret Warbis set up a table of art materials they wish to dispose of, because of 'down-sizing'. We're pleased to report that this raised £35.60 for the Air Ambulance.



Tivvyfest

On Sunday 6th May TAS put on a small display at the Pannier Market for Tivvyfest.

Fifteen small but diverse works were shown and membership leaflets available. As various other clubs and societies had stands we thought this a good way to promote the Society. The public were very interested although no paintings sold.

We might gain a few members or some more people attending exhibitions.

A worthwhile day.

