



TAS TIMES



“Deepest Winter” By Hazel-Ann Willson

TAS President

Heather Strong

We are delighted to announce that Heather Strong agreed to stand for election as our next President, and was duly elected to the post at the AGM. Heather has been an enthusiastic member of the society for many years, and has a wide knowledge of art in its many forms – she is a very accomplished potter, as well as a successful painter in watercolour, ink and latterly pastel.

Heather was Chairman for three years, and at the same time she filled the post of Exhibition Secretary, so should have no trouble coping with the demands of the President's role.

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Members,

You'll be pleased to read that last month's Grumpy-Pete has been replaced by Smiley-Pete following my letter in last month's newsletter we have had, wait for it ... not 1, not 2, not 3, not 4 but FIVE new committee members come forward, as well as a number of other offers to help with the running of the Society. So it gives me great pleasure to welcome to the committee:-

Richard & Virginia Holmes

Sue Watkins

Teresa Grant

Wendy Vlasto.

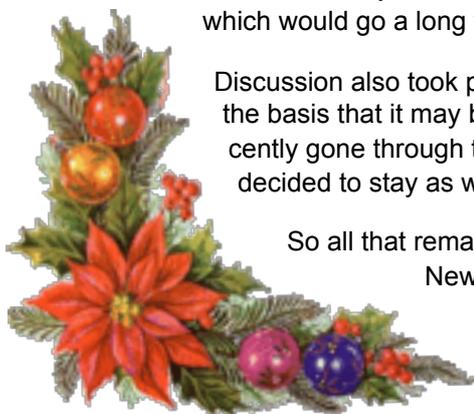
For those of you who were not able to attend the AGM, we discussed the finances of the Society at some length - although we still have a healthy bank balance, we are losing money each year so have decided to raise the annual subscription by £2 to £17 per year, with effect from the renewal in January. This still leaves us as the local art society with the lowest annual membership fee, and in my biased opinion, represents very good value. One reason for the losses is the higher rates we are paying to attract better speakers to our meetings, and this seems to have paid dividends as we are seeing higher attendance figures each month. There is a list in this newsletter of all the bookings that have been made so far for next year.

At the meeting we also agreed a rise in the price of tea and biscuits at these monthly meetings from 40p to 50p - I'm really hoping that this will not reverse the rise in attendances I've just been talking about! Following discussion we also decided to try the experiment next year, just for the Spring Exhibition, of not having the AA signs, and see what if any effect this has on attendance there. The saving is quite significant (about £275) which would go a long way towards the loss made by each exhibition this year.

Discussion also took place about changing the name of the TAS to remove the word "Society", on the basis that it may be discouraging younger members to join. After hearing that Taunton had recently gone through this exercise, and it had resulted in the society splitting into two factions, we decided to stay as we are!

So all that remains is for me to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year ... and don't forget, to misquote Sir Bruce .. Keeeeeeeeeeeeep Painting!

Peter.



NEWS LETTER EDITOR PLEA

We are always on the look out for articles, images and ideas for the News Letter. So if you want to write something about an exhibition you have visited, or review a particular art product you may have used, maybe an article on your favourite form of art, even a step by step explanation on how you created a piece of art. In fact anything, you feel other members may be interested in, then please email your ideas to:

info@tivertonartsociety.co.uk

ESTHER HOUSE

Following the death of long-time member, and former chairman of the Society, Esther House, on Tuesday 26th November, Ivor Watts has written the following appreciation:

Esther was Vice-Chairman during my chairmanship, and was outstandingly supportive throughout. I was delighted when she succeeded me as Chairman in 2001 and served until 2004. These were years when the Society was developing rapidly, and Esther's experience, commonsense and firm hand were invaluable. She was a good personal friend; I am sure that all Members share my sadness at her passing.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Please could you remember to renew promptly next year - if you don't think you'll be attending the January members' meeting it would be very helpful if you could send your subscription to **Shirley Walton** at

The Eastern Close, Thorverton, EX5 5PS.

Please enclose an SAE to help keep our costs down. Payment can be by cheque, or by bank transfer to sort code 52 30 42 A/c 43744192, using your name as the reference. If you do pay by transfer, an SAE to Shirley would still be appreciated please. New cards will be issued in January.

A Meeting Of The Mid Devon Art Groups

A beautiful sunny Saturday saw Lindsay Wall and myself (Wendy Vlasto) in Topsham attending a meeting, chaired by Roger Bishop, of eleven local Art Groups. It proved to be a very interesting lively and informative morning. The meeting covered a wide range of topics. Items discussed included membership fees, exhibitions, interest groups, sources of information, publicity

and websites. A suggestion was made that we could consider sharing the cost of travel and overnight accommodation for speakers from outside the S.W. What impressed me most was that our activities, concerns and costs were broadly similar and it was agreed we should meet again in the near future.

Patron's Exhibition

At the beginning of December Alan Cotton held an exhibition of his recent work at his home and studio in Colaton Raleigh. A number of us attended on the Monday afternoon, in the company of a group from Budleigh's art society. The works on show included the local area of Hartland, but extended to Ireland and Venice. However, the main attraction of course was a new series

of stunning paintings following Alan's recent expedition to Everest with David Hempleman-Adams, showing his characteristic painting-knife technique to great effect. As well as an interesting and very humorous talk by Alan, we were also able to look through his sketchbooks to see how the paintings had been developed.

Facebook



Thanks to Karen's hard work, Tiverton Art Society is now on FaceBook, with a growing number of followers.

<https://www.facebook.com/TivertonArtSociety>

If you have a Facebook account, please pop over and say 'hi'.

THE PAINTING GROUPS EXPLAINED

Date	Group
13 January - 7 April (Monday)	Water Colour Group
15 January - 9 April (Wednesday)	Oil Group
23 January - 27 March (Thursday)	Portrait Group

The three painting groups during the autumn and spring terms are held at the Old Heathcoat School Community Centre, Kings Street, Tiverton which has a lovely café serving good coffee and tea, lunches, cakes and flap-jacks. Sorry, I digress, back to the groups...

All are run in a relaxed, supportive, encouraging atmosphere. There are periods of quiet and concentration.... and then there can be coffee and chat! There is no official teaching but someone is always on hand to ask advice and discuss ideas with if you wish but there is never any obligation to put advice into action and no offence is taken if not! Many find painting together is both encouraging and stimulating.

The Thursday group is dedicated purely to portrait work in any medium and the participants all help, at some point, to organise a model. The Monday Watercolour and Wednesday Oil groups have evolved over the years and now you will also see acrylics and pastels on a Monday and watercolours, acrylics and pastels in the oil group. So if you are a water colourist but can't make a Monday you will be welcome to join the Wednesday group. Participants bring their own materials and ideas/photos/sketches to work from.

The cost varies depending on the length of the term and the number in the group but it is somewhere between £14 and £20 for the term.

The summer Wednesday group, from April to end of August, is on a roll up basis, you pay £2.50p when you attend, and work is in any medium. More information in next newsletter.

Hilary Tosdevin



MEMBERS PROFILE

To launch a new series profiling members of the Society, we start with Georgina Ford who joined recently. She writes:

I would like to introduce myself as a new member of Tiverton Art Society. I live just outside Crediton in a hamlet called Preston. I have my own very large studio where I work and teach Art as well as Pottery.

I hold a general class each month which lasts 2 hours and costs £7.00 + free coffee, where you can come and create whatever you like.

I prefer water colour as well as ceramic painting as I like the challenge of doing very fine detailed work.

Check out my website for examples of my work: I exhibit with The Exeter Open Studio's & I am also a gold member of the Society of Amateur Artists. My Website is www.hollyvalleyartstudio.co.uk



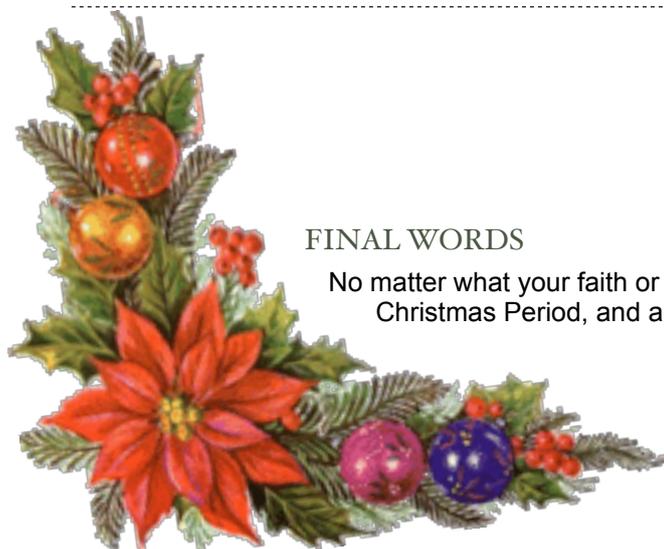
Holly Valley Art Studio & Guest House

Come Try Your Dreams in the Studio



Georgina Ford

Speakers for 2014		
Date	Speaker	Subject
8th January	Howard Jones	St Ives & the Newlyn School
12th February	Alan Cotton	A Painter's Journey to Everest
12th March	Bertie Matthew	Critique of Members' Work
14th May	Thorie Hinds	Demo: "Line Land Sky" (+Sales table)
11th June	David Cowell	Digital Art
10th September	Dugald Stark	Oil Seascape Demonstration
8th October	Ray Balkwill	Illustrated talk, (subject tbc) (+Sales table)
12th November	AGM	
10th December	Greg Wellman	Demonstration & Talk (subject tbc)
Workshops for 2014		
Date	Artist	Workshop
22nd February	Dugald Stark	Oil Workshop
3rd May	Greg Wellman	Fast & Loose, a Wildlife Workshop
20th September	Michael Harket	Life Drawing



FINAL WORDS

No matter what your faith or beliefs are, have a safe and wonderful time over the Christmas Period, and a 2014 full of art and enjoyment.