



Wokingham Art Society April 2014 News



Chairman – Sue Smith – 0118 979 2030
Secretary – Madeline Hawes – 978 3898
Treasurer – Rebecca Johnson – 973 4360

www.wokinghamartsociety.org.uk

What a difference in two months! The ground is dry and the sun is shining. Lambs and blossom are everywhere: beautiful.

And with the spring, as always, the committee and hopefully the rest of you, too, turn our creative attention towards our fast approaching exhibition. So I hope you are all busily putting the final touches to your pieces, choosing captivating titles and making tricky decisions re pricing.

If you are a full member you will receive the forms through the post very soon; so keep them safe until you are ready to send them in. The instructions are very detailed so please read them carefully. And write legibly as much time is wasted if mistakes are made.

There will be an opportunity for all members and their families to see the exhibition in its entirety on Friday July 25th from 5.00 – 6.00pm, before sales open at the Preview. I hope you can come.

The poster is key to advertising our exhibition and the Poster Competition is a good opportunity to have your artwork splashed all around the town – so do have a go! There is a prize of £25 for the winning design – see details below.

I hope this pleasant weather will encourage some of you to take to the outdoors with sketchbooks (or even easels etc) for a spot of 'en plein air' painting. The Reading Guild of Artists welcomes us to their organized painting days throughout the summer at some fantastic venues – a real privilege. Dates etc are enclosed.

There is a lot to read in this newsletter about our fabulous frieze so I will let you get on with that. However I cannot let this opportunity pass without thanking Madeline Hawes yet again for her magnificent efforts in bringing about the recreated installation outside the station. I hope you have all been to see it. The Duchess of Gloucester was very impressed when she unveiled it. Congratulations to everyone involved in this magnificent tribute to The Queen.

We have a new committee member. Many thanks to John Tayler for his willingness to help. We look forward to working with you John. If anyone else would like to join us we would be very grateful. Many hands . . . etc! As the AGM is in June, now would be a good time to volunteer. Several people have suggested that we have a Twitter and/or Facebook presence. Good idea. Does anyone feel they could help with that? Or in any other way? A newsletter editor would be superb. Madeline has stepped in for this one but doesn't want the job permanently! Please contact me or any committee member if you are able to help run the Society in any way.

As always, there is a lot to read in this newsletter, including the formal notice of the AGM. Please take the time to read everything as it is important to be aware of all the opportunities that we create for you. And there is even more on www.wokinghamartsociety.org.uk. Remember you can contribute with news, ideas, events or even show us your paintings by contacting our webmaster Sam – details on the website.

NOTICE OF AGM

Tuesday, 17 June 2014
Methodist Church,
Rose Street, Wokingham
7.30 pm

For Committee nominations,
proposals or topics for discussion,
please contact Madeline Hawes
0118 978 3898
madeline_hawes@btopenworld.com

WIN £25!

POSTER COMPETITION

Design a Poster to advertise
this year's Summer
Exhibition for a chance to
win £25 and have your
artwork seen by thousands!

Draw your idea on A4 in
black & white, leaving space
for the wording which will be
added digitally.

Write your name on the
reverse & hand it to a
Committee member or bring
it to the May Demo where
the winner will be chosen.

We could all vote yours the
Winner!

We all send our love to Chris Parry
and hope that her painful back
eases very soon.

Best wishes to you all

Sue

HM Queen's Diamond Jubilee Frieze Story

The idea of creating a story of the significant events of the Queen's reign took six months to bring to fruition on 3 June 2012, when the 34 metre long Frieze was on display for a week in Wokingham Town Hall, while all sorts of celebratory activities took place within the town – concerts, street entertainment, the Big Lunch, all bedecked with red, white and blue.

Despite the rain, the town was packed with revellers. Because of the rain, the Town Hall was packed with revellers, adding their little likenesses to the lower border of the Frieze, completing a crowd of over 500 people watching the events pass by.

Everyone who saw it loved it, the movers & shakers, the REME soldiers, the Councillors, the townspeople, all saying that it must be kept within Wokingham for everyone to enjoy. Then silence. No-one approached WAS with any offers of where the Frieze could be displayed permanently. So it was rolled up and stored at Chris Parry's house.

I couldn't bear to see all that talent forgotten, so the first step was to get the Frieze panels professionally photographed locally. Now those photos would help us to place those wonderful paintings on any medium in any size.

Eventually, in April 2013, Sue Smith and I managed to get a meeting with the SW Trains Development Manager. It was he who had the brainwave of printing the panels on tiles. He agreed that the Frieze would look great in tile form set into stone, at the new railway station, in the new wall. He even found a tile supplier and provided a quotation while we applied to several bodies for sponsorship, succeeding with Wokingham Town Council and The Wokingham Society, who agreed to share the £5,000 cost.

Then the quotation was withdrawn! So we had the sponsorship, but no quote. SW Trains Man promised to find another prospective supplier, which he did, but the sample tile was matt and dull, nothing like the previous sample. It was October by then, and he asked me to try to find suitable suppliers for the artwork, tiles and stonework, which I did. In fact, I went back to the original quotation provider, who agreed to supply the artwork and who gave me the name of the tile supplier in Newcastle-under-Lyme, who was more than happy to be involved again.

Then I googled Stonemasons and found an experienced mason in Bognor Regis, who was intrigued with what we were trying to do and sent a quotation and a beautiful booklet of his work. I immediately sent the costings to SW Trains. An email came back "This is **not** going in the wall!" He said that he wasn't convinced that a huge and heavy stone slab wouldn't pull the wall down, despite several assurances from various quarters that it would be fine. We were both literally and metaphorically stonewalled!

As the time ticked on, we realised why it wasn't going in the wall. It was less than 5 feet high! Oops! Now what? A meeting with our Town Clerk, Jan Nowecki, with a cry for help was the best move I made! She picked up the thread, promised to "pull a rabbit out of the hat" and wrote to SW Trains' parent company, Network Rail.

Whatever was in that letter certainly did the trick. SW Trains Man approached a design company in Brighton, who came up with a double-sided, free-standing, oak-framed installation, using two sets of our beautiful tiles, with a flower trough under it to really set it off. For WAS, it couldn't have been a better result!

But it was! Jan found out that the new Medical Centre was being opened by HRH The Duchess of Gloucester on Wednesday, 26 March 2014, perfect timing for our art installation to be unveiled too. Thanks to Jan, she managed to add our unveiling to the Duchess' visit, with the High Steward of Wokingham Lady Elizabeth Godsall and Town Mayor Martin Bishop in attendance. Again, despite the rain, the Duchess' visit was wonderful, talking to the artists about their respective panels and showing great interest and enthusiasm about this unique celebration of Her Majesty's reign.

Madeline



Picture courtesy of Wokingham Times

LIZ SEWARD WORKSHOP

Saturday, 26 April at WADE
"Still Life with Fruit & Veg"

To book a place, contact Brenda Baldwin
0118 978 4481

TEA ROTA - MANY THANKS!!!

Please contact Sue to offer help with the Tea Rota.

If you're participating, you pay nothing that evening!

The more names, the fewer times you'll be asked to help. We don't want to lose our Refreshments.

WOKINGHAM LIBRARY ART

A chance to exhibit your art in the Library!

Contact Gill Cheale at the Library.

EAC OVER 60s ART AWARDS

20th Birthday Competition
Welcomes entries from amateur artists over 60
In all mediums.

Deadline for entries – 6 June 2014

More info/Postal entry forms:

01704 893 251

01242 527 434

Email : enquiries@eac.org.uk

www.ecartawards.org.uk

RUSSELL COATES GALLERY BOURNEMOUTH TRIP

Sunday, 11 May
Coach £15; Gallery £4
Contact Liz Manley 0118 977 2569

RGASUMMER PAINTING DAYS 2014

- 10 May Sue Ryder Hospice Nettlebed, RG9 5DF.
Extensive grounds with views of surrounding farmland and buildings.
Donations £3 to the Hospice.
- 31 May Hearn's House, Gallows Tree Common, RG4 9DE. grid ref 692804.
Invited by RGA member John Pumfrey. The 2 acre garden has interesting design features
and a fine collection of Brunnera and Omphalodes.
Donations £3 to National Gardens Scheme.
- 21 June Shalford Farm House Aldermaston, RG7 4NB. grid ref 569648. Invited by Alan Caiger
Smith. The house, which dates from 15th century, has 3.5 acre grounds by river Enborne,
an orchard, free-range bantams and packhorse bridge. RGA can use summer house and
barns and paint from ground-floor windows if weather wet.
Donations £3 to Sight-savers.
- 12 July Chalkhouse Green Farm, RG4 9AL, grid ref 710788
Traditional farmstead with 1-acre garden - herbaceous borders, roses, fruit trees, British
White cattle, Berkshire pigs, goats, donkeys and Suffolk Punch horses.
Donations £6 to Soundabout
- 16 Aug Englefield House, RG7 5EN. grid ref 623720.
A nine acre woodland and garden Water garden descending to formal terraces with stone
balustrades. Flower borders.
Donations £3 to Benyon Trust.

VIDEO LIBRARY

Only £1 to hire a DVD or Video for a month!

See the selection on the table at the Demo.

For more info or for your suggestions, contact Alison Messias – 0118 978 3188

If you're having problems viewing this message, please click [here](#).

2 For 1 Ticket Offer

Reading Contemporary Art Fair 26th-27th April Rivermead, Reading

Simply print out the ticket below and bring it with you to the fair.



READING CONTEMPORARY ART FAIR

Two For One Ticket

Over 100 artists, sculptors, photographers and galleries
Art workshops for children and adults
Café and Wine Tasting

**Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th
April 2014**

Saturday 10am - 4pm | Sunday 10am - 5pm

Rivermead Leisure Complex
Richfield Avenue, Reading RG1 8EQ

www.readingcontemporaryartfair.co.uk



TWO FOR ONE TICKET

TICKETS
£7.00 / £4.00 Concessions
Children 5-16 £1
Children Under 5 FREE

"Friendly and relaxed - the art fair offers something for everyone"

Please complete before arrival

Name.....

Email Address.....

Postcode.....

We won't share your details with anyone else!

This ticket allows two people entry to Reading Contemporary Art Fair 2014 for the price of one. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer.

www.readingcontemporaryartfair.co.uk

For more information and to see who's exhibiting go to
[Reading Contemporary Art Fair](#)

01753 591892
info@readingcontemporaryartfair.co.uk
www.readingcontemporaryartfair.co.uk
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26 Eton Rd, Datchet
SL3 9AY
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All are welcome to come
along and watch the artists
at work. For details see
sky.com/portrait