



WESTWARD HO! & BIDEFORD ART SOCIETY
www.whobidarts.co.uk

September Newsletter 2017

After concerns that the earlier date for this year's exhibition would impact on our success, we heard that the final figures, announced by David Webb at our committee meeting in August, show a significantly better than expected overall figure, with sales nudging £20,000 and an income from the show of £2,276. Jenny added that there were approximately 5,500 visitors and 98 sales. This good result comes in spite of a shorter show period and helps to boost our ability to weather any unexpected costs in the future. Thanks go, once again, to Jenny and the happy band of workers who make the exhibition a success.

The Ken Doughty prize was won by Vin Jelly with his large painting "Strong Man". Well done Kevin. The 'You Choose' vote went to Paul Barwick for "A Wind on the Common"

A very pressing matter was once again discussed; we really need to find someone within our membership who could take over from Jenny as Exhibition Secretary, as this was her last Exhibition in charge. The candidate could be co-opted onto the committee and, possibly in future, work with a small sub committee. If you feel you could do this job please get in touch with Jenny Smy arty.smy@gmail.com You would get plenty of support.

It was decided that we will once again select and award the students work at Petroc, which had to be suspended this year due to the early date of the exhibition.

Entries for the South West Academy Open exhibition 2017 close on 15th September. Why not have a go at it! The exhibition is at Exeter Castle again but at a later date and for a longer period - until just a month before Christmas. Submission closes on 15th September and further information can be found on their website www.southwestacademy.org.uk SWAc has over £2000 worth of prizes already confirmed including The Marine House Prize and The Brownston Gallery Award of £500 for the best submission from the open entry. CONTACT www.southwestacademy.org.uk email: swac.contact@gmail.com

I attended the AGM of the Burton at Bideford Trust on July 27th along with Jenny Smy and Linda Hajdukiewicz - we enjoyed a very positive presentation.

Judith Gentry, chair of the trustees spoke of the intention to develop the Burton within the coming three years, and extend the current building to create a much broader and deeper 'cultural experience' A flagship building will enable new collections, initiatives and audiences and enhance the visitor experience. There is an opportunity to extend the galleries from two to five to provide space for a modern and invigorated Library and to create flexible multi use space for study/education opportunities, specialist workshops, artistic demonstrations and schools activities. The Burton is in the process of discussions and grant application for this new and exciting initiative.

Judith was also pleased to announce that the Burton has been awarded National Portfolio Organisation status for four years starting 2018/19, which will enable it to develop its cultural offer ahead of a new building, most noticeably moving into the digital age, adding more richness to its exhibition programme and introducing a learning and educational post.

The date for the annual coach trip to the RWA Open Exhibition in Bristol will be 14th November. Cost and time details are on the attached letter. I look forward to seeing many of you joining in.

Tony Williams, Sept 2017

Review of the 95th Annual Open Exhibition – The Burton at Bideford 2017



"Butterfly Dreaming" by John Hurford

It is not possible to mention every work in a review, nor has it ever been done! But the standard of the exhibition has conferred on all the pieces shown an accolade of quality which is maintained year on year and the works commented on here represent only those which time and space allow.

On first entering the light and calm of gallery one at the Burton you are embraced with a warm feeling of sheer quality, and the selectors, who always rise to the arduous task in striking a balanced high standard, have done Bideford proud once again. The room is not over hung and yet amply filled with a stimulating and eclectic variety to suit everyone.

We are greeted by the painterly pastels of Michael Laws with "Clovelly Harbour and Lighthouse at St. Ives", "Low Tide, Chivenor" by Peter Laws and the very graphic "Bideford Funnels" by Robert Reed. Continuing the marine theme are Ian Hudsons romping "Homeward Bound", Mark Woolacotts very calming "Tug" and Sue Mitchells beautifully rendered "Dissolution". Two delightful little abstract paintings by E.L.S. Maynard show "Southcottle and Portodowney" and one of Jenny Smys lovely group is "Pendeen". Mark Rochester delivers again with "Across to the Chains and Rachel Sumner stands out from the wall with her painted wood assemblage group including "Take Off". Mike Wollacott is in reflective mood again with his painting of "Penhill Lane" and I really like "Longing to Play Like Memphis" by Gerrard Lindley.

"Snorkel" By David Ralph Simpson abides in that hinterland between the figurative and abstract worlds and is all the more attractive for that, as is the "Drawing on obscurity" series by Peter Ward. Pine Feroda keep building on the great success they have enjoyed and "Mountain Light" does not disappoint, nor does John Hurford with another painting of sheer presence and scale which manages to remain the centre piece even when viewed through the entire length of the exhibition! Moving round the room there are four panels by the chairman hanging next to another beautifully handled still life by Carol Rhodes, "Cookers and Lillies" and beside this Bert Bruins takes us magnificently to "The Gorges du Verdon." Peter Styles "Paris Bridge" is uncluttered and Duncan Hopkins creates a wonderfully watery corner. I particularly like "Coastline; Outcrop" also Deborah Jackson's rich and gorgeous painting of "Waggums" stood out as something special. Hester Berry was in dark but appealing mood but "Cheddar Gorge" brought the sun out which also shone on Vin Jelly with his "Strong Man" which won the coveted Ken Doughty prize. Peter Steart has returned to more modest size paintings this year, his group included the delightful "Early Autumn Thaw". There was clean, fresh air blowing through Paul Barwick's "A Wind on the Common" and a feast of beautifully seen cows, horses and country sports from Colin Allbrook, and sun and shade in "Below Black Tor". More sun shines obliquely across Stuart Williams lovely "North Devon Coastline" with a palette reminiscent of travel poster art of the 1930's. There is warm light and texture in "Almond Grove" by Richard Meyer, damp moss and autumn colours in Robert Reed's "Outgrown Exmoor Bank" and a luxurious flow of colour in the wonderful Peacock "Serenity" by Robert Cordingly.

I always enjoy Hilary Paynters humourous and clever wood engravings and liked "The Time, The Money, The Freedom". There are flowing drawn curves in "Life Study 1" by Fiona Balfour and some good moves by Richard Young in "Presence" and Philip Barnes goes skillfully head to head with "Divine Division". There's plenty to dwell on in Andy White's "Siesta's Secrets" and there's a stunning conflict of Pheasants in Rob Walker's "Fighting Cocks". There are intimate moments in Alissa mihai's delightful group of Lino cuts with "A New Bra" and consistent quality from Judith Westcott with a lovely quartet of wood cuts which includes "Cromlech" The theme is continued with a stunning woodcut from Merlyn Chesterman "A Pewter Sea" and I always enjoy the sheer graphic power and drawing/cutting in Juliann Witts woodcuts with "The Cranes" as outstanding. I enjoyed Linda Hajdukiewicz's "The Green Path", lingered in the "Fields of Gold" by Luna North and was transported by Mary Chuggs "A Memory of Vienna" ;spent time with some cows in Pam Cox's "Meadow Grazing", was cooled in the shadows by Marianne Edwards "By Woodland Slopes" and reminded to wear my hat in the sun by Pam Gilhespy's "Girl in the Garden"

"Something to Chew On" is a delightful piece of stoneware modelling by Elaine Stiling, and the "Orange Plate", stoneware by Alice Gare caught my attention, as did a large Elm Platter by Nigel Griffin and the spalted beech wood vase "When I was a Tree" by Sandra Adams.. I also love the Coi Carp harvest jug by Nick Juniper with its rich, luxuriant decoration and Jane Yates large and colourful coil pots. There are also imposing bronzes by Chris Buck, enchanting ceramics by Jan Lye and intriguing paper mache from Roselyn Bradford.

Tony Williams

Chairman

Jackson and Young artists printers offer 10% discount to Society members

Jackson and Young is an artist run printers, gallery and studio based in Barnstaple, North Devon. Our studio is equipped with the highest quality papers and large format digital Epson printers to achieve professional giclee artist prints. We also offer canvas and photo printing.

Founded by Sarah Jackson and Corinne Young, we have worked with established and emerging artists to produce their print editions. Our experience and expertise as artists allow us to inform and advise to get the best reproduction of your original artwork. We are more than happy to print from existing digital files, or alternatively offer a high quality scanning and colour matching service to ensure the giclee quality. We offer 10% off for all art group members. Contact us on 01271 314 488 or email studio@jacksonandyoung.co.uk 1 Queens walk, Barum Arcade, Barum Arcade, Barnstaple EX32 7DA

A full list of businesses that offer discount to members is on the Westward Ho! & Bideford Art Society website www.whobidarts.co.uk



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Royal West of England Academy

The annual visit to the Royal West of England Academy (RWA) will take place on Tuesday 14th November this year.

Please fill in and return the form below to me with your payment of £19 per person or £17 per person for concessions (over-65s, students, registered disabled).

The fee includes return coach travel and entry to the exhibition. The trip is open to all so please feel free to invite family and friends, though obviously members will take priority.

Pick up points and approximate times are:

8.30 am Bideford Quay Car Park near Kingsley Statue, alongside the Burton Gallery

9.00 am McDonalds (Roundswell) Barnstaple

9.15 am The Square, South Molton

The coach will return from the RWA at 4.00pm

Please return this slip, with your payment, to:

Linda Hajdukiewicz, Higher Worthygate, Horns Cross, Bideford EX39 5EA

RWA Trip – TUESDAY 14th November 2017

Name..... No in party

Pick up point Chq. Encl. For £.....

Number of tickets at £19Number of tickets (concessions) at £17.....

Contact tel &/or email if NOT a Society associate or member

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Cheques to be made payable to **Westward Ho! & Bideford Art Society**