

Newsletter 2011



To LAS
Members from
LAS members

To all members of Ledbury Art Society –

Your committee WELCOMES you to an exciting, varied 2011/12 season.

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Newsletter information

A full colour version of this newsletter is available on the Ledbury Art Society website

(www.msmusic.co.uk/ledburyartsociety/). This can be accessed via a home computer, or through computers at our Library, Council Offices or Tourist Information Centre: Icebytes Internet Cafe.

Those with email addresses have been sent a full colour copy direct.

Members with a paper copy have Black & White photos to enable us maintain society costs at an acceptable level. You can print out your own in Black & White or colour!

A big thank you to all contributors to this edition and to the website.

Membership information

We now have over 60 members, so room for only a few more to bring us up to our 70 maximum for the new season. A big WELCOME to our new members. We send best wishes to resigning members who are leaving us for a variety of reasons. We wish them well. For the rest of us - We hope everyone enjoys our stunning new programme for 2011/12. Trinity Church Hall, New Street, remains our venue for monthly sessions, and Saturday Workshops.

Session Times reminder:

Expert demo... with projected close-up 09:45 hrs
Painting afternoons 13:30 - 16:30 hrs

PLEASE SEE YOUR 1011/12 PROGRAMME FOR FULL
DETAILS AND WORKSHOP INFORMATION.



*For this year's monthly painting competition
see page 2 and get painting!!!*

Monthly Competition

Theme **1012 Olympics** - each topic to be **freely interpreted**.
Use your artistic licence.

NOVEMBER	Swimmers
DECEMBER	High Jump
JANUARY	Skaters
FEBRUARY	Rowing or rowers
MARCH	March itself or Marching
APRIL	Relay



How to enter

Bring along your unframed picture to our monthly Demo Meeting, and hand it in to a committee member for numbering and display. An anonymous vote will take place during our break. The three most popular paintings for the month will be announced. Remember to collect your painting at the end of the meeting. Small prizes will be awarded at the end of the series.

Monthly Meetings

What's new?

- We are hiring a projector with projectionist (Derek) from Malvern Terrace Artists, to enhance our learning from our demonstrations. This is in response to member's vote following an initial trial. We will review the experience at the end of the 2011 and/or at the 2012 AGM, to verify whether members wish to continue this facility. Will it be value for money in practice?
- Jill Lloyd has offered to run a sales table at all our Demo Meetings on a bring and buy basis. A percentage of takings will be contributed to funds.
- Our monthly painting competition continues with a new set of topics (see page 1)

Reflections on our 2010-11 Season

Demonstrations, Workshops and Outings

All were well attended and popular. The variety of mediums covered have been welcomed and appreciated. The new programme looks set to be just as well attended and equally enlightening - thank you, Wendy Harris. Look out for the next outing to the Bristol Exhibition (Thank you Mike Purkiss).

Painting Afternoons and Summer Painting Days

Not a success in the summer, although we have visited some outstanding venues with good facilities for all weathers, and an amazing selection of worthwhile subjects to paint. The weather, summer distractions such as gardening, and the pull of other nearby rival art activities have all reduced attendance at our events. The committee is rethinking what the membership really wants of the society, so do give any feedback to enable planning for next year. Thanks to all organisers, and especially Daph and Roy Willett for running the Wednesday afternoons every month.

Annual Exhibition

LEDBURY ARTS SOCIETY
ANNUAL EXHIBITION



The Burgess Hall, Church Lane, Ledbury Admission Free

This year we kept running for an additional day (4 days instead of 3) - finishing the day after the Spring Bank Holiday. This worked well and we will repeat it next year. We made an overall profit of £160.00. The new system of charging 15% of all sales—cards, prints and original pictures simplified the system and worked well. Because of the Sunday Trading Laws we decided to open 10:00 - 16:00 to make sure we stayed within the law. We plan to do the same in 2012. The Exhibition was well supported and well attended though we sold a little less than in previous years. Maybe a reflection of the national economic downturn? Thank you to Daph Willett for our poster flower and Viv Dobson's son for the professional poster design.

Member News

Brian Hawcutt 1929 - 1911 : A tribute

Brian was a loyal member of the LAS who generously gave his time and talents over the years to enhance and encourage development of our society.

His many talents included drawing, painting, especially his woodwork and, latterly, wood sculptures. We especially remember the line drawings he enjoyed so much on our trips into the great outdoors. In his later years he produced an amazing range of wood carvings which he shared with us in the 2010 Exhibition. He was a modest, gentle man, always dependable and will be greatly missed. We send LAS' best wishes to Hilda in her loss.

Christine Baynton

LAS Official Photographer

Oliver Hill has kindly agreed to continue in the role. He will record demonstrations and competitions in our album records, and supply photos to enrich our website. We appreciate his on-going contribution.

Website update

How to put your pictures in our Gallery

- 1a Take a digital photograph or
- 1b bring your picture to a demo meeting and ask Oliver Hill to take a photo of it to e-mail to me; in this case also give Diana Veasey a paper note of the rest of the info. In 3 below.
- 2 Save as a medium resolution j-peg.
- 3 E-mail it to Diana Veasey (dianaoflavender@gmail.com) with a note of your name; picture title and medium/s used.



Website management

Diana Veasey plans to update the site monthly in 2011/12, sending information to our website manager, Derek Walker, for publication. If you would like to be involved with our website management, please let Diana know by e-mail, as above, or phone (01531 631099). Thank you.

Here are our Rules?

A fascinating bit of history from our Archives

Here is a copy of our original set of 'Rules' put in place when the society was set up in 1968.

LEDBURY ART SOCIETY

The first meeting of the Members of the Ledbury Art Society took place on Wednesday, March 13th, 1968, at the Market House, Ledbury. A total of 29 persons attended.

Apologies had been received from - Rev. J. Walters, Mr. L. Merrit, Mrs. E. Thompson and Dr. Richardson.

Mr. F. Harling took the chair and welcomed Mr. A. Cadbury, the President of the Society, to the meeting. He then spoke of the main business of the meeting, i.e. approval of the rules drawn up at the Committee Meeting held on March 5th, and called on the Secretary to read the drafted rules. After this had taken place, each rule was put to the meeting for discussion and approval, either as proposed or after modification. The discussions brought out the following points:-

1. The Society's activities will not include photography.
2. Craft work may be included for exhibitions.
3. The number of items which a member may submit for exhibition shall be unlimited.

A resolution that the following rules be approved was proposed by Mr. Turner, seconded by Mr. Prosser and unanimously agreed:-

1. The organisation shall be called "The Ledbury Art Society".
2. The objects of the Society shall be to develop and encourage the Visual Arts in Ledbury and the surrounding district and to hold at least one exhibition annually.
3. Membership shall be open to all interested in promoting the objects of the Society.
4. Officers of the Society shall consist of - President, Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer together with six Committee Members. One of these persons shall be the representative of the Ledbury Rural District Council. They shall be elected at the Annual Meeting which shall be convened in March. The Committee shall have power to co-opt.
5. The membership subscription shall be 10/- per annum, to be reviewed annually.
6. Members shall have the right to submit items for exhibition, subject to acceptance by the Committee.
7. Members will be expected to attend as Curator during exhibitions.
8. Detailed arrangements for exhibitions shall be decided by the Committee. Exhibits may be for sale at the discretion of the exhibitor, but must remain for the duration of the exhibition unless special arrangements are made. Ten per cent of the selling price shall be donated to the Society.
9. The Society shall meet monthly.

Ledbury Art Society

by Dr Christine Bainton

(as published in Ledbury Focus prior to our May 2011 Exhibition)

The Ledbury Art Society was founded in January 1968, principally due to the efforts of Mr E. Bass supported by Mr Alan Cadbury and Mr Peter Harling. A total of 29 people attended the first meeting which took place on Wednesday 13th March 1968 at the Market House, Ledbury.

The aims, objectives and rules of the society were discussed, proposed and agreed. As a result the first exhibition of members' work took place in the Market House during the Whitsun Bank holiday weekend that year. They now take place in the Burgage Hall over the May Spring Bank holiday. These exhibitions have always been well attended with as many as 1000 visitors viewing the exhibits over the four days.

Although the painting media of watercolour, acrylics, pastels, oils, inks and mixed media dominate our current exhibitions we are keen to encourage those with other artistic styles and interests. Over the years exhibits have included wood carvings, corn dollies, etchings, egg painting, jewellery, embroidery, silk screening and card sales as well as traditional paintings.

The Society not only provides the opportunity to meet and enjoy the fellowship of other local artists but also to encourage members to learn new styles and techniques. During the winter we engage enthusiastic professional artists using a wide variety of media to demonstrate their techniques, offer hints, advice and encourage members to 'have a go'. We meet on the first Tuesday in the month in the Holy Trinity hall, New Street. Outdoor painting days at venues around the county are arranged during the summer months.

Throughout the year we have a friendly, informal monthly painting afternoon in which members work on their chosen piece of artwork. We also have some workshop days and visits to national Art galleries and other places of interest.

The society is open to all interested people and further information can be obtained from the chair, Dr Christine Bainton on 01531 636036 or by email@ talk.net or our website: art@music.co.uk.



Here is our new logo which won last year's competition. It is now appearing on all our literature.

Interestingly for those who remember, it has a similarity to the original logo, so there is some continuity in our presentation.

Congratulations to

Anita Robins

whose design it is.

A Non Painting Partner looks at Art

(by Jean Escott)

Roy and I are very fortunate in that one of our daughters and her husband own a small flat in London which we can use from time to time. It is very convenient – just round the corner from Russell Square Underground station, in walking distance from the British Museum and other museums and with a bus stop just outside the door. So, in late October last year we had a Cultural break! In 5 days we visited at least 5 galleries, 3 museums and attended one concert! We also found time for walking in the park and sharing meals with Rachel and David. Roy thought you might like to hear about it from my point of view.

The first afternoon saw us in the British Museum. We only ever manage one gallery at a time there and this time it was the Africa gallery. The exhibits were varied and interesting. Some of the most striking to me were a chair and a 'tree of life' sculpture made out of weapons decommissioned after the Civil war in Mozambique. We must have spent a good couple of hours there and only left at closing time!

Roy was really keen to see the Royal Watercolour Society Exhibition at the Bankside Gallery, so next morning it was the bus to Waterloo Bridge (aren't bus passes wonderful?) then a stroll by the Thames to the gallery. Quite frankly I was a bit disappointed. The gallery is good, the lighting excellent, the lady on the desk pleasant and helpful, but the pictures were nothing out of the ordinary to my way of thinking. We had been to the Windrush Gallery a week or so before, and although much smaller, I had found more of interest there. However I did find a book for Roy for Christmas and we came away having bought a limited edition woodcut print of a Parisian scene. In the afternoon we found a gallery in the streets behind the Royal Academy where they had a large number of lovely pictures - landscapes and flower paintings. (Well above our price range!).

After a walk through Green Park to the Palace and down the Mall and a reviving cup of tea we went into the National Portrait Gallery – one of our favourites, and it stays open quite late on Thursday and Friday evenings. Apart from looking at portraits this time we happened to be there as a group of young people who had been on a three day course showing the results of their work. They had been making Avatars (ask the grandchildren!). It was good to see and hear them explaining what they had done, and it provided a welcome rest for the feet.

Next morning we decided to walk to Sir John Soane's Museum in Lincoln Inn Fields. It is fascinating and well worth a visit. If you go, try to be there when they 'open up the Picture room'. It was about 11am the day we were there.. I won't say any more and spoil the surprise. We then spent some time wandering through to Covent Garden and on to Leicester Square and having a very late, slow lunch.

Rachel and David were able to spend time with us at the weekend and we all went to the Royal Academy on Saturday morning to see the Glasgow Boys exhibition. We all enjoyed this very much and spent a good time there. After lunch at the RA, Roy and I went for another walk, this time by the Serpentine, in lovely sunshine. In the evening we went to the Cadogan Hall for a concert. The programme was a little way out for our taste, but it was a good occasion. Rachel had worked with the orchestra concerned in a publicity capacity the previous year and so knew a lot of people.

It was a different form of art on Sunday. First we had brunch at the V and A in the newly reopened Victorian tea room – a work of art in itself. Then it was 'next door' to the Natural History Museum to see the Wildlife Photographer of the Year show. We were all enthralled with the photographs on display, and again spent a long time there. Rachel and David had to go home and get ready for work the next day, so we went to the Ceramics galleries at the V and A. After about an hour there I felt I just couldn't absorb any more, so it was back to the flat for a light meal, a long sit down and an early night.

Next day it was simply back to Victoria for the coach home after a very full and very enjoyable few days!

Perhaps I should have used 'arts' in the plural in the title of this article. We certainly saw all sorts of art and I just enjoy looking at buildings as well. I get a great deal of pleasure in architecture. A visit like this isn't a rest cure, but it is a great stimulus. But do wear comfortable shoes!

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The Joan Miro Exhibition, Tate Modern

Dr Christine Bainton

At the beginning of August I went to see the Miro exhibition at the Tate modern. There were 150 paintings, drawings and sculptures as well as 5 large triptychs displayed in 13 rooms.

Miro lived through turbulent times which greatly impacted upon him. The first rooms explore his native Catalonia especially his family farm. The terrifying years of the Spanish Civil War are reflected in the middle rooms. The final section looks at the last years of Franco's rule.

I particularly liked the "farm" painting . It is rather childlike, charming and scrupulously detailed with no one element more dominantly emphasised than any other; the snail was as detailed as the woman washing clothes.



The "dog barking at the moon" created a mysterious floating world whilst the ladder symbolised individuality and escape but also an exit to the emptiness of death.

< Extract from the Tate Modern publicity

More information on

www.tate.org.uk/modern/exhibitions/joanmiro/

"Untitled" , the head of a man was created in the year he saw Picasso's "Guernica" and Miro's work seemed to descend from that of Picasso.

Fifty lithographs (1944) parading ogres and dictators as well innocent victims of the Spanish Civil War are shown in room six.

However, room seven exhibits his "constellations" which perhaps are his most free and beautiful. They total 23 and were painted 1940-41.

Two vast triptychs painted in 1960-1 are more spiritual and serene but in his paintings during 1970's his anger resurfaces perhaps due to the more repressive Spanish regime at that time.

I was pleased that I went but do not wish to see it again. Many paintings show frustration and anger at the political situation and the War. It is interesting to parallel those feelings that Miro appeared to have with most people's feelings about the recent riots in England. (Though in no way do I suggest that the political situation in Miro's time equates to our present day situation). However, Miro did express dramatically that the ordinary things of our everyday lives can be destroyed so easily and swiftly.

Look out for *Art in Action* 19 - 22 July 2012

Inspired by the simple principle that people are fascinated when artists and craftsmen openly demonstrate their skills and discuss their work, Art in Action was born. (*Takes place near Oxford*)

In 1977, 51 artists and musicians took part and 14,000 visitors arrived. Today Art in Action welcomes approximately 25,000 people over four days. Visitors come to learn, buy and enjoy, the exhibitions, classes and performances of 400 demonstrating artists, designer makers, teachers, musicians and performers. Disciplines include painting, sculpture, glass, woodwork, textiles, ceramics, metalwork and jewellery. (www.artinaction.org.uk)

Members Feedback

Please help your committee to serve you well. Let us know your views during the year. Tell a committee member. Join in discussions at the AGM. Tell us about interesting Art venues you visit. Thank you all.

What's On around and about?

Galleries

- Galanthus Gallery, Wormbridge, Hereford. HR2 9DH
tel: 01981 570506 info@galanthusgallery.com www.galanthusgallery.com
- The Gallery@The Guild, The Old Silk Mill, Sheep Street, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire GL55 6DS
tel: 07870 417144 www.thegalleryattheguild.co.uk
- Compton Verney, Warwickshire. CV35 9HZ
tel: 01926 645500 fax: 01926 645501 www.comptonverney.org.uk
- Weavers Gallery Ledbury, Herefordshire. HR8 1DW
- Nature in Art, A38, Twigworth, Gloucester, GL2 9PA
tel: 01452 731422 mailto:enquiries@nature-in-art.org.uk www.nature-in-art.org.uk
- National Museum (and Art Gallery) Cardiff, Cathays Park, Cardiff. CF10 3NP
tel: (029) 2039 7951 Fax: (029) 2057 332 www.museumwales.ac.uk

Art & Craft Courses

- Amber Sculpture Studio, Hawkwood College, Painswick Old Road, Stroud
tel: 0845 4568227 (evenings only) mob: 07977 836728 (any time) ambersculpturestudio@yahoo.co.uk
www.AmberSculptureStudio.co.uk
- Nature in Art, A38, Twigworth, Gloucester, GL2 9PA
tel: 01452 731422 mailto:enquiries@nature-in-art.org.uk www.nature-in-art.org.uk
- South Worcestershire College, Malvern Campus, Albert Road North, Malvern, Worcestershire. WR14 2YH
tel: 01684 565 351 fax: 01684 584 577 www.sworcs.ac.uk
- Stanton Guildhouse, Stanton, Broadway, Worcestershire. WR12 7NE
tel: 01386 584357 guildhouse@can-online.org.uk www.stantonguildhouse.org.uk

Events

What can you add to the Autumn 2012 newsletter? Contributions by e-mail or hard copy, by the end of February, to Diana Veasey: tel: 01531 631099 e-mail: dianaoflavender@gmail.com Thank you

For 2012

- Watch out for H.Art locally (. It has just taken place in the second week of September, so look out for September 2012. Lots of open studios across Herefordshire to visit. (www.h-art.herefordshire.gov.uk/)
- Art in Action, Waterperry Oxfordshire, is a great outing with amazing variety of demonstrations, workshops, exhibitions and entertainment to suit all tastes. Facilities are excellent. Come and join our LAS day trip next July.