

Wokingham Art Society Newsletter – April 2010

www.wokinghamartsociety.org.uk

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Diary Dates

18th May Deborah
Valence

Paper Batik

**And Poster
Competition**

15th June Jake Winkle
Watercolour

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Chairman's report

Well spring is here at last and with it some welcome sunshine! Our thoughts and brushes should be turning once more to our fabulous exhibition.

We were delighted at the level of sales last year which can only be as a result of the superb quality of the work

shown by our members. I know that homes around Wokingham – and indeed much further afield - are enhanced by the Society's efforts over the 55 years that we have been exhibiting.

If you are a full member you will have the forms enclosed with this newsletter; so keep them safe until you are ready to send them in. **Please read the instructions carefully. and notice that the completed entries are to be sent to me (not Chris) the last date for returning forms is on June the 15th** –at the Jake Winkle demo.

There will be an opportunity for all members to see the exhibition on Friday July 23rd from 5.00 – 6.00pm, I hope you can come. Paintings that may be sold during the evening are replaced, so that exhibition

remains fresh and interesting throughout the fortnight, I cannot stay away!

The Poster Competition is an exciting 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.

Keep looking at the website which is updated regularly – thank you Sam! Madeline's write up of our President's Evening has brought home to me the fantastic evening that I missed by swanning off to Florence! Could I encourage a few more of you to contact Sam with regard to displaying some of your paintings in the gallery section on the site?

Our Society continues to grow and thrive which is, of course, wonderful – but we are becoming a little apprehensive that if numbers are allowed to

increase significantly then the management of events would be a concern. Hence we have decided to have a 'cut-off' point at 250 members and have opened a waiting list for newcomers. This makes it increasingly important for you to pay your subscriptions within a reasonable time to ensure that your membership is maintained. Subscriptions are due on September 1st each year. Wokingham Borough Council includes our

events and many of her events and activities around the borough in the More Arts e-Bulletin. All kinds of events are included: music, theatre, dance, literary, arts, crafts etc. The bulletin can be found on the councils' website at <http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/arts-entertainment/arts-wokingham/morearts-ebulletin/> You may have heard that the Cultural Partnership is hoping to organize various events this summer. These include:

- Studio Trail during the weekend of September 10th - 12th
- Empty shops. Two empty shop interiors

waiting to be filled with vibrant and stimulating exhibitions. Hands On Arts Pavilion summer programme. The Cultural Partnership is currently looking for artists to offer exciting and diverse workshops.

If you are interested in these opportunities, either individually or in groups then contact patricia.steinhardt@wokingham.gov.uk The Artsbar Café on Wellington Road hopes to encourage local artists to meet up as often as possible and has designated Friday evenings especially for that purpose – so if you are free on a Friday from 5pm, why not go along and see who is there? And finally, I am pleased to report that the chosen design for the society logo is by Liz Baldin. She has offered us various choices and colour options and we hope to introduce it into all our publicity. Thank you Liz. Best wishes to you all

Sue



Poster

Competition

Well, have you been practicing? You have another month to come up with a winning design, can you do it?

Yes you can!

The judging will be done by the members at next months demo in May and the winner presented with a cheque for £25.

So as I said in the last news letter – thinking caps on, and get to that drawing board. For those who haven't done it before – do try, its great fun.

A piece of A4 paper, with an eye catching design drawn in black and white.

Go on, give it a go.

Summer Painting

Days - 2010

With Reading Guild

You will find details of the venues on a separate sheet attached to this newsletter.

Saturday 1st May

*Rushall Manor Farm,
Bradfield*

Saturday June 12th

*Shalford Farm House,
Aldermaston*

Saturday 26th June

*Hearns House,
Gallows Tree Common.*

Saturday 10th July

Wargrave Court

Saturday 24th July

Chalkhouse Green Farm

Saturday 21st August

Englefield House.

*Come along, it's great fun
and people are so friendly.*

If in doubt contact

Daphne Walker on

0118 954 5930

Our President, Paul Banning's Slide Show of his Paintings Tuesday, 16th February

Paul's annual President's Evening was very different this year. Instead of painting a watercolour, he presented a slide show of his paintings, covering his 69 years of painting in watercolour and oils. It illustrated a lifetime of learning, improving and developing his distinctive style.

His first painting was of a jug and sea shell, but the jug was copper, a difficult item to translate into colour, but using tones of yellow he was able to depict it, and this all when he was just 7 years old. He was born and brought up in

Trinidad, so many of his early works were of that island's scenery, painted in vibrant greens.

Paul loved model making in his youth and studied at Art College to be a Furniture Designer. A series of slides showing chairs, tables, suites of the late '50's / early '60's followed. All the rosewood furniture in the ocean liner "Southern Cross" was designed by Paul. In 1962, Paul was working for London County Council, subsequently the GLC, designing furniture for their buildings, including the Festival Hall renovation. At this time, he visited an exhibition of watercolour masters' work between 1740 & 1870, which inspired and influenced his future approach to painting.

Redundancy loomed in the early '80's, so Paul returned to art and painted many pictures to prove to himself that he could still do it. Obviously, he could, because in 1986 he had his first painting accepted by the Royal Institute.

It was in the style that we identify with Paul, of an old barn containing a wheelbarrow and a pair of farm gates, lots of clutter around the floor and some planks balanced on the roof rafters. It had been carefully drawn and then glazed with watercolour many times to get the deep darks.

Many of Paul's paintings were in similar vein - cluttered workshop benches, with more items stuffed under them; the sunny façade of a French cathedral, full of tiny detail, with a shady street busy with traffic and people in front; an antique shop on Ile de Re with its goods overflowing onto the pavement; most of these were painted on a full Imperial 22" x 29" Two Rivers 200 lb. 140 gsm watercolour paper, costing around £8 per sheet.

When painting en plein air, Paul uses an 8" x 10" pochade box, which is easy to carry and can hold 3 oil paintings. When he needs to put extra lights into a

watercolour, he uses acrylic ink, watered down and tinted with watercolour. He often uses grey paper when the subject is buildings. His palette of watercolour paints is limited to Winsor yellow, violet, a blue, a red and a green, permanent rose, cadmium orange and cobalt turquoise. He uses about 15 oil colours, including several neutrals.

Paul has also painted some wonderful pictures of Venice, not only of the Grand Canal, but also of the interior of the huge cathedral there, with the light shining through the ornate windows and creating fascinating pale passages on the marble floor, which was achieved by lifting the paint out. In 2 weeks in Italy, Paul created 70 paintings! He looks for pleasing shapes within the composition, rather than what the shape actually is. For instance, bridges make elegant curves and buildings are geometric. A picture taken from Covent Garden's glass walkway looked down

on solid, blocky buildings, and dark figures on a light pavement. Parliament Square was shown, full of people and traffic; the London Eye was suggested in dabs of oil paint.

He looks for atmosphere from the subject matter. In India, he captured the hustle and bustle of street scenes, with people, bikes, ochre buildings and bright canopies. In Petra, Paul sketched while his family explored, producing a detailed drawing which he subsequently developed into both an oil painting and a watercolour. He has even had his bustling Detroit street scene exhibited in the Royal Academy.

His local village scenes are gently pastoral, painted at different times of year, in different light conditions, making the same view always interesting, with barns, implements, bonfires. Cooler colours are used for distance. Paul has also painted the Devonport boatshed, which Russell Flint did in 1941. It was bombed

during the war and rebuilt by English Heritage in 1993, thus restoring the To see a collection of Paul's work was a real treat. To see his gentle character revealed through his paintings was a privilege. Thank you, Mr President! Now, off you go and look at the Gallery on his website at

paulbanning.com.
I'll never paint another thing ever again.

Madeline Hawes



Our thanks to our current affairs correspondent,

Art Events Locally
Artsbar Exhibition

Open daily from 8am - 11pm
www.artsbar.net

Reading Contemporary Art Fair
Sat 24th - Sunday 25th April

Artspace 2010- May
Barn Galleries, Aston, Henley,
RG9 3DX Sunday 9th - Mon 31st
www.barn galleries.com

Henley Arts Trail
Over 3 days of May Bank Holiday
www.henleyartstrail.com

Mall Gallery

Exhibitions

Royal Institute of
Painters in Watercolour
Wed April 21st - Sat 1st
May
10am - 5pm

Royal Society of
Portrait Painters
Thursday 6th - Fri 21st
May

Wildlife Artist of the
Year
Monday 24th - Sat 29th
May

Evolve: Evoke: Expand:
Tuesday 1st - Sat 5th
June

Instituto Marangoni
Tuesday 8th - Sun 13th
June