



Founded 1902

Ilkeston Arts & Camera Club

NEWSLETTER

September 2011

www.ilkestonartsandcameraclub.org.uk

Happy Mondays!

New season's single weekly meeting

Following a consultation of all paid up members and a full discussion at the AGM in May, members at the AGM decided unanimously that we will meet on Mondays only in the new season, with painting, photography and the general arts all taking turns.

All meetings will take place at the Elim Christian Centre on Charlotte Street, Ilkeston at 7.30pm.

There is scope for photographers who don't paint to have their own dvd or show in part of the room during practical painting sessions and vice-versa for the painters.

It is hoped that, as well as saving the Club much needed funds this will help to bring the club together following the steady fall in membership of recent years.

Joan Pochin (Painting) and Louise Heaton (Photography) have worked long and hard behind the scenes to prepare an interesting and varied programme to keep everyone interested on Monday nights – see inside for further details.

The new season will run from Monday 5th September and we look forward to seeing you then!

95th (2012) Annual Exhibition dates

The Erewash Museum have given us a much earlier period for the Exhibition than in previous years, which means your work will need to be with us sooner than usual. The dates for 2012 are **11th February to 24th March.**

Exhibition Secretary Val Barnett is doing her best in negotiations with the Museum to secure our usual dates for the next year but please check latest times in the programme to avoid missing the deadlines for submission of your work.

Subscription rates 2011/2012

All subscriptions should be paid by 1st November to ensure your work will be considered for the Annual Exhibition.

Rates this year are as follows :

Single member	£28.00
Joint members	£45.00
Concession (benefit)	£20.00

IACC Officers and Committee 2011-2012

Chairman : Alan Bannister - **Vice-Chairman** : David Mallard

General Secretary : Grant Shaw - **Treasurer** : George Wells

Exhibition Secretary : Val Barnett - **Painting Secretary** : Joan Pochin

Photographic Secretary : Louise Heaton - **Committee members** : June Wallbank, Kate Baker

President : The Mayor of Erewash - **Hon. Vice-President** : Alan Webster

PHOTOGRAPHIC SECRETARY'S REPORT from the AGM, abridged.

It hardly seems possible that another season has come and gone since we met up in the dark at the start of September. The new year again brought us some new and valuable members (you know who you are) who have contributed much and whom I hope will stay with us for many years to come.

The summer sketching and photography trips were sadly not well supported, with only three officers attending two of them.

However, the season picked up with our first print competition on an 'open' theme which was the first time one of my prints had been a winner. Our 'In the town' themed competition was also won by me but the following 'open' competition was won by Alan Bannister on a welcome return to form. Our final print competition on 'the natural world' was deservedly won by Pat Campbell.

In a close contest, somehow I had come out first with 26 points and was honoured to be awarded the H. Walker trophy. Second was Alan Bannister and only one point behind was Aleck Seddon. The standard of prints submitted to our competitions has been exceptional again this year, and my personal thanks to all those who supported the Club by submitting prints - particularly those who have not yet won anything.

We also had the best result for many years in the N&EMPF exhibition, with Alan Bannister, Aleck Seddon, Geoff Buxton and myself all having prints and/or images accepted.

The Single Use Camera Competition was sadly less well supported than usual. Once again, a painter triumphed - this time it was Val Barnett with her deserving winner 'Distant tree, Derbyshire'. Jean Parsons was second and I came third. It might regrettably be time to have a debate as to whether this very worthwhile contest should be continued if support from ordinary members continues to fall.

The season finished with three of us visiting the annual N&EMPF conference in Lincoln in April.

Once more, Val Barnett as your Exhibition Secretary has ably dealt with all that fortune and fate can throw at her in organising the Annual Exhibition. This year we had 71 entries from eight photographers, six entries and one photographer less than last year. Again, two photographers shared the four major awards, Kate Baker winning the Limb Cup for best portrait and the Hunt Shield for best print in Exhibition. Alan Bannister won the W V Roache Cup for best local scene and the T W Smith Cup for best landscape.

I have enjoyed being your Photographic Secretary for the last three years, and will continue to support this unique and stimulating Club in every way I can.

Grant Shaw, Photographic Secretary

PAINTING SECRETARIES' REPORT

from the AGM, abridged.

We have had a successful year at our new venue, the Elim Church. The lighting and facilities have proved good with plenty of room for demonstrations, workshops and making a drink.

Our first professional demonstrator was Bob Ebdon a coloured pencil artist who gave us an informative and lively talk. Stella Brooks followed in November with an excellent demo on a seascape from her recent visit to the west of Scotland. The new year started off with Linda Wain visiting us with the tiger painting she was working on. She is a renowned international artist well known for her wildlife paintings and the evening was well supported and very enjoyable.

Also not to be missed were our own member demonstrators – wow! we are very lucky to have such talent in the club. Frank Priestley did a landscape picture in oils from his holiday in County Clare in Ireland. Frank has a relaxed approach to painting and manages to make his paintings colourful without too much detail – an excellent well-attended evening from visitors and members.

Sean Stevenson started with a surfer riding the waves; he had taken the idea from a printed picture but made an excellent interpretation of it. He then went onto produce a really good winter scene in watercolour of Strelley.

David Mallard came equipped with buckets of paints and reams of paper - albeit lining paper from Focus! Of all the many paintings, the mountain scene 'painted' with reference to John Blockley was exciting to watch come alive with tissue, blotting off, water being applied. We greatly admired his sketchbooks; I think we all came away with thoughts of being more bold and using any technique we like – a fabulous evening which went too quickly.

'Behind the Mask' was an evening spent with Louise kindly showing us what we could do with coloured silver foil. Most of us produced a mask after having stuck together layers of foil and moulding into shape. We all enjoyed the evening and managed to get a report and photograph in the Ilkeston Advertiser. Finally big thanks to Aleck Seddon who on two occasions turned up with all his equipment so we could watch DVD's. The first evening was a dvd he had put together of the wintry weather with beautiful scenery around where he lives accompanied by some fine classical music. The final evening of the season ended with a show of dvd's (a particularly good one on Atelier paints).

We welcomed a couple of new members and hope they enjoyed their year and will come back in September, but lost Liz Sharratt after a short illness. Liz was a very talented and enthusiastic member of the club and is sadly missed. Thank you all for your support. The club hopes to produce a varied programme in the new season with professional demonstrators, member's demos and workshops - see you back in September.

Joan Pochin & Jean Parsons, Joint Painting Secretaries

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

2011/12 SEASON

An exciting season with something for everyone is in prospect.

Painting demonstrations on pastels, acrylics and seascapes and demonstrations from well accomplished members are mixed with our usual single-use camera and photographic print competitions, which are open to all members.

We also have interesting talks on such varied topics as Stanton Ironworks, Derbyshire Church Architecture and Archaeology, 200 years of interior design, Bygone Derby in photographs and a visit from an 'Elizabethan Lady' from Wollaton Hall. Practical evenings for painters and photographers and presentations from old friends like Geoff Buxton and John Cundy, the usual social meetings and of course our 95th Annual Exhibition should give everyone something to look forward to.

Your Committee sincerely hope to see as many members as possible supporting all the Club's activities to make sure that we can have as varied and interesting a programme again next year.

Exhibition Secretary's Report

Another GREAT EXHIBITION this year; thanks to all who contributed. The new format of hanging worked well and we received many favourable comments about the standard and wide variety of artwork on show. Next year our exhibition dates are **11th February to 24th March** so any suggestions or comments on how to arrange the exhibition and awards ceremony would be much appreciated.

Unfortunately our Shipley Park Visitors Centre Exhibition was spoilt by atrocious weather conditions. Thanks to Mary and Alan Webster who together with Joan Pochin battled through and the exhibition went ahead but I fear not many people ventured out to see it. Next year is a busy year for us so please make a note in your diaries. 29th August to 12th September 2012 we have booked the League of Friends Gallery at Queens Medical Centre and 2nd to 15th December 2012 we are again at Shipley Park Visitors Centre. Hopefully these events will be successful but it needs all members to contribute so pick up those brushes and cameras and get creative!

Val Barnett, Exhibition Secretary

Programme Secretary's Report

(from the AGM, abridged)

This programme production and design was reverted to the old style of black text on thick card at the request of some of the members who objected to the full colour version. This inflated the printing costs considerably. I thank Anne Coombe for agreeing to foot the bill through her company, very generous indeed. I would also like to thank those members who gave me ideas and contact information for programme events. The programme layout was changed to A4 landscape format with the photo/general items to the left and painters items to the right. This made the programme easier to read.

The programme had a bumpy start with changes right at the beginning. This seemed to happen more than we would have liked throughout the season as bad weather, more cancellations and changes made by the Chairman to keep the programme flowing. Attendances this year have been lower than previous times, largely due to the long and difficult winter. With the proposed changes to the organisation of the committee the post of programme secretary will no longer exist. So I will end by saying that I have greatly enjoyed the work and would like to thank the committee for their help and support, particularly Grant Shaw who was a wizard at spotting my errors and typos. I will gladly give my support to whoever the job is allocated in the future.

Aleck Seddon, Programme Secretary 2010/11

*One of our photo competitions this season has the theme 'monochrome'. To help members, here is the FIAP international **definition of black and white photography (monochrome)** :*

"A black and white work fitting from the very dark grey (black) to the very clear grey (white) is a monochrome work with the various shades of grey.

A black and white work toned entirely in a single colour will remain a monochrome work able to stand in the black and white category; such a work can be reproduced in black and white in the catalogue of a salon under FIAP Patronage.

On the other hand a black and white work modified by a partial toning or by the addition of one colour becomes a colour work (polychrome) to stand in the colour category; such a work requires colour reproduction in the catalogue of a salon under FIAP Patronage."

Chairman's report (from the AGM, abridged)

Once again we enjoyed a varied programme of activities through the year but it was unfortunate that the abnormally severe weather during the run up to Christmas caused the cancellation of some outside speakers and the reorganisation of some events. This year, the Painting Section switched the Monday night meetings to the Elim Christian Centre - the rising cost of the Arena meant that we had been searching for an alternative venue for some time and thanks go to Jean and Joan for finding such an excellent facility at reasonable cost.

Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond her control, we lost the services of Anna Coombe as General Secretary part-way through the year. However, our grateful thanks are due to Anna for sponsoring the printing of programmes and newsletters and thanks also to our Publicity Officer, Louise Heaton, for stepping into the breach on a temporary basis. The club mounted an exhibition at Shipley Park Visitor Centre in December but this too was hit by the unusually severe weather, which restricted the number of visitors. Thanks to Val Barnett for organising it. In an effort to raise much needed additional funds for the club, George Wells suggested a Christmas raffle and generously donated kitchen equipment and household goods. The raffle raised a total of £83 and I would like to thank George and other members who donated prizes and Jean and Joan for organising and Louise for helping.

Of course the club's activities don't stop during the closed season and a few of us enjoyed a series of sketching and photography field trips organised by Grant Shaw. It is unfortunate that these were not better supported by members, especially the painters. Two attracted only three members, all of whom were officers of the club. Those of us who did attend enjoyed such diverse events as photographing wolves, searching for rare orchids at Pleasley Pit Nature Reserve, photography at the Great Central Railway, trams and vintage cars at Crich and Belper Steam Rally. We also extend our thanks to Grant for singlehandedly maintaining and updating the website, which has been a major factor in raising the club's profile.

This year (due to a change in policy at the museum) we had to split the annual exhibition between painting and photography exhibitions, which meant that unfortunately anyone who wanted to see the whole exhibition had to visit twice. It also meant that on the official opening the Mayor and Mayoress were only able to view the paintings, although they did return for an 'unofficial' visit on 30 April to see the photography exhibition. Again, many thanks to our Exhibition Secretary Val Barnett for her perseverance and tenacity in organising the Exhibition and standing the Club's corner in meetings with the staff of Erewash Museum. The traditional attraction of our exhibition has been the display of photography alongside paintings and craftwork and we can only hope that common sense prevails next year and that visitors are able to see the whole exhibition in one single visit.

2012 marks the Club's 110th anniversary. We are about to enter what could be the most decisive year in its proud history. You have all been sent figures that show the club has been haemorrhaging members over the last few years. Put simply, we have been losing members for one reason or another and we have not been able to recruit enough new members just to replace those who have left, never mind expanding and growing the club. With those members who have left has gone much needed subscription income to fund speakers, judges and demonstrators and other activities enjoyed by members. The excess of expenditure over income to pay for this season's activities was £781 and whilst this included what we hope will be the one-off funding of a replacement for the club's digital projector, nevertheless the loss the previous year was £230. That's a cumulative total of around £1000 over the last two years.

Clearly, this situation cannot be allowed to continue. The stark reality is that if we continue to live beyond our means the Club will cease to exist in three years or sooner. As your Committee and the current guardians of this Club's history we have a duty to do whatever is necessary to protect its future. I am grateful to Louise for the work she has done to put together the proposal to merge the Monday and Thursday meetings into a single night a week. I would urge you all to use your vote to preserve and assure the future of this Club.

Alan Bannister, Chairman

NEW MEMBERS AND ENQUIRIES ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

SEE OUR WEBSITE AT www.ilkestonartsandcameraclub.org.uk FOR MORE INFORMATION

CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS : info@ilkestonartsandcameraclub.org.uk

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