

# Exmouth Art Group

(founded 1946 : patrons Nigel & Heleen Lindsay-Fynn)

## Summer 2011 Newsletter



MAY NEILSON  
President

### Hello from the President

Following my election as President at the AGM in March, I have seen many of you at our Thursday evening meetings of course but this is my first opportunity to connect with all members. I am extremely pleased to have accepted the role and look forward to working with the Committee on your behalf.

I am keen for the running of the Group to continue to be very much a reflection of the wishes of the general membership. So please let me know if you have any concerns, comments or suggestions related to Group activities and I will ensure that they are fully considered.

Overleaf is a brief introduction to the new Committee and I think you would wish, with me, to pass on a big thank you to all members for giving up their time.

Some members are newly elected and a warm welcome goes to Wendy Flather, Patricia Hough and Michael Norman. We have met twice already and we have agreed responsibilities and established appropriate working groups.

As you know the Group relies on the efforts of the Committee but there are still two vacancies. Can you be encouraged to join us? We are a good team and working together is a rewarding and enjoyable experience. We have found that new members usually bring fresh initiatives and perspective, invaluable for the progress of the Group. It would be good to hear from you if you are interested.

I would like to give thanks also to members of last year's Committee who ended their term of office. These are Colin Marshall (President), Ernest Ager (Exhibition Secretary) Glyn Cowles (Publicity and Web Manager) and Bill Neilson always willing to assist with all of the Group's events.

The Exmouth Festival Exhibition in the Town Hall attracted many visitors and was very well received. We were delighted that the new Mayor, Sandra Sutton, was able to accept our invitation to view the exhibition. She was, I know, greatly impressed with the show and found selecting the winner of the trophy and the Commendations difficult choices to make. There were relatively low sales but the event is such a good promotion for the Group and we did sign up some new members. A special greeting to them and all of you who have joined the Group recently. I hope you find being a member an enjoyable and interesting experience.

It was very satisfying to see how well the Exhibition looked at the beautiful setting of A la Ronde and I hope you managed to visit. Plans are now being made for our 65<sup>th</sup> Summer Exhibition in September at the Elizabeth Hall, and I am happy to say that we have a confirmed booking for the venue in 2012, and you will find an Exhibition Information Pack contained in the Newsletter. Also coming up the much anticipated Reception at Lee Ford in August and an inspiring programme of talks, demonstrations and outings. It is going to be another busy, stimulating year.

*May Neilson, President*

### Hospiscare Donations

You may know that an incentive was initiated by some in the Group to raise funds for the local Hospiscare service. We donated unwanted art and craft books and equipment to offer at meetings in exchange for whatever cash contribution a member wished to make. We have so far collected £30.25 and many thanks to all for this.

But let's try to increase that amount. Can we make it £100?

Do you have equipment or books you do not need and would be happy to pass on? Bring them to meetings or hand to me personally. The money is being given in memory of BRENDA HARKNESS, a lovely person and very enthusiastic Art Group member, to Hospiscare.

Thank you.

*Angela Hall*

Residents have been invited to inspect the 'Exmouth Town Centre and Seafront Masterplan'. If you missed viewings at the Elizabeth Hall on 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> June you can see the proposals on 9<sup>th</sup> July in the Magnolia Centre from 10am-4pm and in Thomas Tucker window at other times. Also on the website from the 28<sup>th</sup> [www.exmouthmasterplan.co.uk](http://www.exmouthmasterplan.co.uk) Clearly of interest to us all but with the proposed future of the Elizabeth Hall a significant concern for the Group undoubtedly.

### A Note of Thanks

I would like to say 'thank you' to members who purchased costume jewellery which I put on display at our meetings. This has helped raise an amazing £50 for the Devon Air Ambulance Appeal.

*Paul James*

### Lee Ford Summer Reception

Summer would not be the same for the Group without the warm and congenial hospitality we enjoy at the Reception given by our patrons, Nigel & Heleen Lindsay-Fynn.

All members are invited to Lee Ford on 2<sup>nd</sup> August at 5:30pm and if you wish to accept please contact Cath to confirm. Have with you your competition pieces, inspired by the grounds at Lee Ford, but of course the invitation goes to everyone irrespective of having produced an entry.



# Met the President now to introduce the rest of the Committee . . . . .

## The other THREE ELECTED OFFICERS are: ~



DAVID MATTHEWS, VICE-PRESIDENT

David stays on the Committee but in a new guise of Vice-President, covering for the President whenever required. He has also taken on publicity and promotion. Always successful in seeking sponsorship for the Group we are pleased to report that, if needed, he has been persuaded to knock on doors again.



ELIZABETH HARDWICK, HON TREASURER

Liz continues in the role of Hon Treasurer and with her eye for detail we can be reassured that the Group's finances are in good hands. Her efforts have led to an improved sales procedure and even during intense periods we know payments will be made without fuss or delay. Liz also maintains a record of our assets.



CATH AGER, HON SECRETARY

Cath keeps the role of Hon Secretary aiming for efficient administration whilst trying not to be overly officious. She edits the Newsletter, will share responsibility with David for publicity and promotion and hopefully act as a useful catalyst for communication, both internally and externally on behalf of the Group.

## working with COMMITTEE MEMBERS: ~



ANGELA HALL remains on the Committee as Membership Secretary and we can rely on her to do this essentially meticulous task with absolute care and good humour. Her life is made so much easier, however, if we keep her informed of changes to our contact details. Angela reminds us that *"Members have discovered wearing a name tag to Art Group meetings encourages better social interaction, creating a more relaxed and friendly atmosphere. So please do try to remember to wear yours when you come to meetings. It is especially important to wear your tag when stewarding exhibitions for easy identification by visitors. Also to have free entry to our shows you must wear one then so that stewards on the desk know that you are a fellow member. If you do not have a name tag please let me know and I will make one up for you."*



PAUL PALIN, another returning member, will continue to co-ordinate outings as required. He says *"I am not offering any specific outdoor sketching days as there does not seem to be much support for this type of event. However, if you are keen to go sketching in the summer please contact me with specifics and I will coordinate any requests I receive via the website or your email if you wish. Please ensure that any dates specified give ample time for members to be contacted."* Paul organised a very successful trip to the RWA in Bristol and hopes to do so again and will be on hand to set up equipment at meetings when he can.



DIANNE BROADY has taken on that vital task as your Exhibition Secretary. She will supervise our three shows, in May participating in the Exmouth Festival, in June at A la Ronde and in September at the Elizabeth Hall. Di has already led very successful events at the Town Hall and A la Ronde. She intends to update us regularly and you will find her first, introductory report enclosed with the Newsletter.



WENDY FLATHER (top) & PATRICIA HOUGH (below) are new members to the Committee and will be our joint PROGRAMME COORDINATORS.

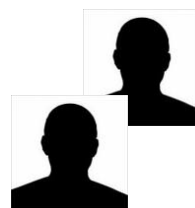


There is so much to do organizing and arranging the evening programmes so we think sharing the load is a sensible step.

Wendy and Patricia have many good ideas for our schedule and have booked some interesting speakers already for 2012. Including in January Judy Hempstead; Ray Balkwill in February; in April June Jeans and in May Paul Palin.



It was agreed that Wendy and Patricia should look at the competition evenings and perhaps recommend new ventures. If you have any suggestions or comments please let them know. ELIZABETH SWIFT continues to manage catering, overseeing arrangements for all our social occasions. This means we can always be sure of a good supply of tea, coffee and those very important biscuits. In fact we can expect plenty of quality refreshments at all our evening meetings and private views. We anticipate offers to help with the washing up at our events would not be refused.



We have two vacancies on the Committee and if you were able to join us you will receive a warm welcome! It could have been three but for one of our previous Presidents, MICHAEL NORMAN, agreeing to be co-opted. In the past Michael has given so much of his time to Committee work and, although his current commitments are restrictive, will assist when he can. If it is not possible for you to take on a regular obligation we would appreciate volunteers assisting when the need arises, particularly with our exhibitions.

## Hearing From & About You

On 30<sup>th</sup> July *May Neilson* will share her skills with a Parchment Craft Workshop. The Workshop, to be held at Exmouth Baptist Church, our usual meetings venue, will run from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Open to all the cost is only £15. Contact May to secure a place and for full details.

A wall display at 'The Open Art Studio' in Sidmouth by *Audrey Hardman* gives an ideal opportunity to admire her striking mosaics. This is a new art studio and gallery set up in Libra Court by Rebecca Greenwood for local artists to exhibit their work alongside her own. Easy to find with entrances in Fore Street & York Street.

Membership Secretary, *Angela Hall*, is compiling a directory of local retailers offering discount to Art Group members. If you know of any you think should be included she is eager to hear from you.

The Race for Life, in aid of Cancer Research, is such a worthy cause and *Liz Swift* has signed up for this year's event. You can sponsor Liz directly to her or on the race for life website. We expect Liz will be in enthusiastic training for the race, taking place on 24<sup>th</sup> July, and knowing she has friends from the Group giving support will be a great spur.

Do try to get to see an exhibition by *Viv Lydon* in Topsham at The Café, 76 Fore Street, which is open until 1<sup>st</sup> July.

**Thomas Tucker Window Display** Hope you have spotted our shifting display of members' work in the Thomas Tucker window. We took it on primarily as a showcase for the Festival Exhibition but because we have been given permission for continued use will aim to invite everyone to submit something at some point. Our first theme, quickly decided when the window became available sooner than we had expected, was 'Channel View Cup Winners' and currently is 'This Year's Competition Winners'. Many thanks then to *Ernest Ager, Wyn Appleford, Jean Esther Brock, Graham Jowett-Ive, Beryl Leader, Maggie Lee, Colin Marshall, Bill Neilson, Wendy Nickels, Michael Norman* and *Malcolm Pressey* for so willingly providing us with examples of your wonderful work. *Mike Fowler* set up a display of his ceramics, to help us give some interest toward the front of the window, and donated a figure of a Marine which auctioned at the Marines' Ball raising a marvellous £150 for 'Help the Heroes'.

## Programme of Speakers

Those of you who have attended meetings this year have been treated to some remarkable talks by guest speakers (and look out for more of note to come!)

In February *Keith Nichols* gave an intriguing insight into the work of Robert Lenkiewicz, brought very much to life by recollections of Keith's friendship with the artist.

In April *Elizabeth Cook* fascinated us with recounts of her profession as a Court Artist.

In May *Alan Cotton* gave a motivating presentation and slide retrospective of his work, inspired by his global travels.

And recently in June *Jo Hall* educated and captivated our imaginations with a talk and workshop on prehistoric art.



## Festival Exhibition

Twenty eight members entered sixty three pieces for the Exmouth Festival Exhibition.

It was gratifying to see a steady stream of visitors and receive such positive feedback on the show.

The event, in the Town Hall overlooking Manor Gardens, is excellent promotion for the Group and several new members were recruited. Exmouth Town Council's Mayor, Sandra Sutton, viewed the show on the first day and selected her choices for the award of the 'Mayor's Best in Show' trophy, launched last year.

Jan Nettleton was the happy and deserved recipient of the trophy for her well admired view in acrylic of *Bystock Pools*.

Six Commendations were awarded to *Deborah Green* for *Hear the Rainbow*; *Beryl Leader* *Racing out to Sea*; *Colin Marshall* *Berkeley Castle*; *May Neilson* *Samburu Warrior*; *William Neilson* *Colette* and *Chloe Skinner* *Wild Flower*.

Our Congratulations to each of you and thanks to all members who entered and gave up time to steward.

The Mayor, clearly impressed with the exhibits, observed that she could have chosen many more for special mention.

A good exhibition at *A la Ronde* too and thank you to those who brought work along. We are pleased to say all entries were hung including the Reserves, due wholly to the ingenuity and determination of the exhibition team.



The trial run of the sale of POSTCARDS last year was such a success we think it is worth repeating. If you have a digital image of your work, which would reproduce well on a postcard, and you would like included for sale at the

September Exhibition then please send it to Cath Ager. Let her know if you experience difficulty with forwarding an image as an attachment.

Also we are considering producing a 2012 CALENDAR with images of members' artwork. Do you think this is a good idea? Would you anticipate there being a demand? Would you like to participate? Please let us have your feedback.

**Management of Website** | Our invaluable and reliable webmaster, Glyn Cowles, is no longer a member of the Committee. So we are seeking to replace his expertise. Our website is an invaluable source of information for many members and an excellent profile for the Group. If you think you can help please contact Cath Ager.

# DATES for your DIARY

Thursday Evening Meetings : 7:00pm - 9:00pm : Exmouth Baptist Church

**7<sup>th</sup> July 7:00pm**

**TALK GEORGIA O'KEEFFE by PAUL PALIN**

Subtitled 'a painter and two photographers' Paul will look at the life and work of Georgia O'Keeffe and reflect on the influence of others on the artist's art.

**21<sup>st</sup> July 7:00pm**

**DOUBLE COMPETITION : ABSTRACT & / or PASTELS**

Bring a piece for either or both, participate in an informal critique and vote for the entry you like the most.  
(Previous winners John Onley & Sheila Minchin (Abstract) Ernest Ager & Beryl Leader (Pastels) not eligible)

**2<sup>nd</sup> August 5:30pm**

**LEE FORD SUMMER RECEPTION**

Hosted by our patrons Nigel & Heleen Lindsay Fynn at their home Lee Ford.

Bring your competition entry but if you do not have one come anyway and enjoy delicious canapés, good wine, affable company and hopefully a warm, sunny evening.

**4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> August EVENING MEETINGS SUMMER BREAK until 6<sup>th</sup> October**

**5<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> September 65<sup>th</sup> SUMMER EXHIBITION at the ELIZABETH HALL**

Handing in the 5<sup>th</sup>, Private View the 7<sup>th</sup>, collection of unsold exhibits the 24<sup>th</sup>, open to the public 8<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>

**19<sup>th</sup> September Free Acrylics Demonstration**

Contact Glyn Macey for details.

**6<sup>th</sup> October 7:00pm EXMOUTH PHOTO GROUP**

Led by PAUL PALIN Exmouth Photo Group will give a demonstration of their medium and creative techniques.

**20<sup>th</sup> October 7:00pm DOUBLE COMPETITION : DRAWING &/or SOMETHING ELSE**

Bring a piece for either or both, participate in an informal critique and vote for the entry you like the most.

Previous winners not eligible Wendy Nickels & Malcolm Pressey (Drawing) Wendy Nickels & Katherine McDermott-Darley (Something Else)

**3<sup>rd</sup> November 7:00pm TALK ON WORKING FROM LIFE by MARK LOMAN**

And how to incorporate photographic reference as a background to painting.

**17<sup>th</sup> November 7:00pm DOUBLE COMPETITION : STILL LIFE &/or FIGURE OR PORTRAIT**

Bring a piece for either or both, participate in an informal critique and vote for the entry you like the most.

Previous winners not eligible Len Fry & Ernest Ager (Still Life) and Glyn Cowles & Ernest Ager (Figure or Portrait)

**3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> December**

**ALAN COTTON'S OPEN STUDIO EXHIBITION**

Those of you at Alan Cotton's presentation in May know that we are invited to visit his studio in Colaton Raleigh during an open event. He is happy for members to make individual arrangements but if we wish to go as a group Alan has suggested either Monday 5<sup>th</sup> or Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December in the afternoon when he would have more time to chat than would be possible over the busy weekend. Please let Cath know if you wish to put your name down for a group visit, and whether you prefer the Monday or Tuesday.

**Budleigh Salterton Art Club**

Annual Exhibition | Budleigh Salterton Public Hall  
20<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> August 10:00am-5:00pm

**THURSDAY MORNING GROUP meets again after a summer break on 22<sup>nd</sup> September**

**The Bath Prize Painting Competition**

An annual painting competition and this year at least one work must be inspired by a specified location in Bath to be allocated by ballot. Closing date for entries 6<sup>th</sup> September. Visit [www.thebathprize.co.uk](http://www.thebathprize.co.uk) for entry form and full details.