



Officers and Committee - 2017

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Also

Website entries Raymond Ore
Hire of Hooks Bob Sleeman
DVDs and Refreshments :
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<http://www.croydonartsociety.org.uk>

Welcome

Season's greetings to all and a very warm welcome to this our Winter 2017 edition of the CAS Newsletter. Isn't it always thought provoking to reach the end of a year? It seems to invite us to take stock and consider the year gone, and hopefully to look forward in anticipation to the year ahead. So, we have in this edition articles and news to allow review and anticipation in equal quantity. Please read on and enjoy!

Editorial

I'm probably not alone in marveling at the recent auction sale price of Leonardo da Vinci's painting *Salvator Mundi*. I couldn't help wondering quite what reaction da Vinci himself would have had from way back in the year 1500? I'd guess it would have been something along the lines of... Mamma Mia! The astonishing sale price of £342 million does give some cause for reflection upon the world of art buying.

Although not appealing to markets where images change hands for astronomical sums of money the Croydon Art Society has itself had some considerable exhibition success in 2017. Over all of this years' exhibitions (3 in number) a total of 48 works have been sold, not including greetings cards. I wouldn't wish to imply that our success should be conceived solely in terms of the number of artworks sold, but I think the Mayor at the recent Annual exhibition summed it up nicely, in commending the Society for bringing some much-needed artistic light into the public arena (*my paraphrase*). It does appear that whilst, in monetary sales totals, we have some way to go before catching up with Signor da Vinci, our exhibitions do seem to represent an appreciated contribution to the cultural life of the Croydon area.

In the coming year, we have again a full programme of exhibitions in prospect each being a valuable opportunity to bring our works into the public arena. Hopefully we may, at the same time, realise an increased share in Leonardo's success.

May I take this opportunity also to wish everyone a happy Christmas and peaceful and productive 2018.

Phil Sadler

NEWS OF MEMBERS

. New Members

Four applicants submitted their work for selection at the Monday evening meetings during the month of September. All were offered membership.

We are pleased to welcome Mark McEnarney, Teresa Hoy, Douglas Fanthome and Julia Nolan and hope they will enjoy the many activities of the Society.

CAS Facebook Page

The CAS Facebook page has been up and running for about a year now, and very successful it is. If you haven't been before, make a visit, you'll be surprised at the variety and scope of the entries. Don't forget, if you have anything on any workshops or art news, or you've just learned of an interesting website then why not share it on The Croydon Art Society Facebook Page? Use the hashtag #thecroydonartsociety for a great read. If you do have anything to share please contact Claire at : thecroydonartsociety@gmail.com or speak with her at one of the meetings.



Warlingham Art Group

If you or anybody you know enjoys painting in the company of other like-minded people then you would be very welcome to come along to Warlingham Village Hall any Tuesday morning about 11.00am to meet us for a cup of coffee and to see if you would like to join us.

Further information from
Joan Aeschlimann: tel.01883 624 330

EXHIBITIONS

Chelsea Art Society Annual Exhibition

Once again The Croydon Art Society was well represented in this years Chelsea Art Society Annual Exhibition which was held in Chelsea Old Town Hall in late October 2017. The members of CAS who were successful in making it through the selection process were: Margaret Eggleton, John Stillman, Ken Head, Archie Niven and Philip Sadler. Congratulations to Archie Niven and Philip Sadler whose pictures were sold.

The Royal Automobile Club - Art of Motoring Exhibition

Congratulations to Neil Collins who had works in the RAC Art of Motoring Exhibition which ran from the 31st October to the 5th November at the Mall Galleries in Central London. Neil received a special mention in the exhibition write-up :-

“For more traditional art, the art of Neil Collins was refreshing and his bright simple watercolours contrasted with the complications of the output of some artists. Again a new artist to me, but Neil has been around for some time and is a retired commercial artist, having worked all his life in the industry. He is now painting motoring scenes for fun in his retirement – well done!”.

CAS Website

I know it's been mentioned before but please remember not to miss out on a wonderful opportunity to post your individual details and pictures on to the CAS website. Raymond Ore is ready to take care of all the technical bits that may put you off. All details posted will reach a worldwide audience, What could be better than that?

Simply e-mail photographs of your works and any written details about yourself to Raymond (ray@raymondore.co.uk) and these will entered on to the website.

EXHIBITIONS

Denbies Exhibition 31st July to 13th August 2017

Our exhibition at Denbies this year was a little earlier than normal due to a mix up on the dates at their end. The number of pictures submitted was a little down on expected and this may in part have been due to the earlier slot when members were still on holiday. Nevertheless it was still a good and worthwhile exhibition. Sales were a little down on last year but well up on the previous year which you will remember was a disaster with the Society suffering a loss for the very first time at this venue. We will be back to our normal slot in September next year.



In the event 38 members submitted 127 framed works of which 16 were rejected by the selectors. The unframed works in the browser were again popular with 17 members submitting 44 items. 422 cards came from 18 artists.

Total sales came to £1920 from 12 framed and 4 unframed works. Cards added a further £189 to the revenue.



All in all a good exhibition and as always our thanks are due your hard working Committee who take the pictures, hang them, do their fair share of stewarding and then bring your masterpieces back.

EXHIBITIONS Cont.

The 128th Annual Exhibition
14th November to 9th December



After a slight dip in the support for the previous exhibitions, on this occasion you rose to the challenge by submitting more works than we could possibly hang. Out of the 153 pictures that arrived on handing in day we could only hang 113. This had two effects. Many members were, naturally disappointed when their efforts were rejected but at the same time the exhibition was one of the best ever with only the best paintings finishing up on the wall.



For the first time for several years we had a Private View with the Mayor of Croydon opening the show and presenting the prizes to Sue McEldowney, Raymond Ore and myself. This proved to be a very successful evening with 9 works being sold on the night. Judging by the amount of wine consumed everyone, 150 or so, had a good time. Many thanks to everyone who helped to make the exhibition a success. Your hard working Committee and helpers who worked hard hanging and at the end taking down the pictures, all of you who gave your time stewarding the 4 weeks we were on show and everyone for painting such lovely work.

EXHIBITIONS Cont.

The 128th Annual Exhibition – Cont.



At the end of the exhibition we had sold 19 pictures with a further one being sold later. Cards were as ever popular with many finding new homes.

In keeping with our new exhibition rules, *'the more you sell the less you pay'*, I am pleased to say the cost of picture submitted was NIL. Can't be bad!

Well done to you all.

The 128th Annual Exhibition - Awards



Archie Niven receiving the Constance Cooper Cup for the best traditional non-oil work in the exhibition



Sue McEldowney receiving The Joan Kinder Silver Salver for the most innovative work in the exhibition



Raymond Ore receiving the Joan Sewell Award for the best oil painting in the exhibition

*Archie Niven.
With special thanks to Anthony
Waldbaum for the photographs.*

OBITUARY

IN MEMORIUM

Brenda Marion Fletcher
19th May 1929 – 30th September 2017



Brenda joined our Society in March 1975 nearly forty three years ago.

A loyal member for all of those years participating in our exhibitions in the Arnhem Gallery in the Fairfield Halls, the Sun Lounge, Denbies Wine Estate and in recent times in the Clocktower Gallery. For the last few years due to general health issues we had not seen her much at our fortnightly meetings.

It was not long after she joined our ranks that she came to the attention of the then management and was soon a hard working member of the Committee eventually becoming Membership Secretary, a post she held and did well for quite a few years.

We learned at her funeral that she met her late husband Peter in the Bank of England where they both worked. It was only natural therefore that when the position of Honorary Treasurer became vacant she volunteered her husband who willingly took over the 'books' and kept us on the straight and narrow for many years.

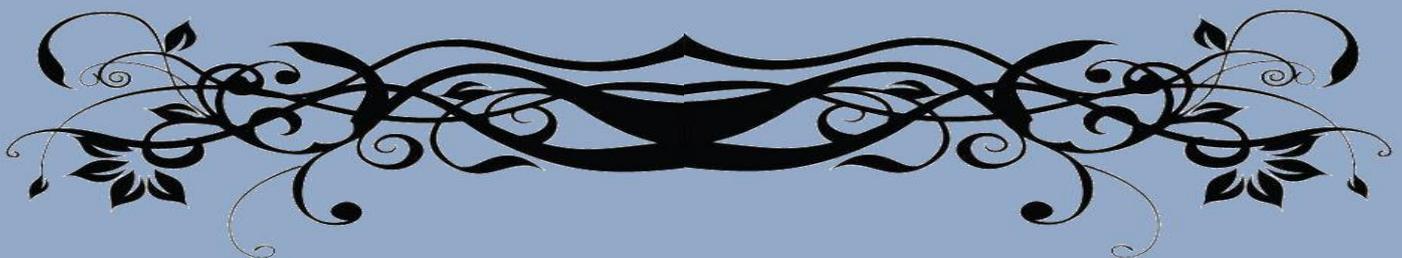
Of her art it can be said that she was a fine painter in oils producing many works for display. Still life, landscapes and flowers appeared to be her particular forte.

The photo shows Brenda a few years ago at one of our summer lunch parties.

Brenda will be sadly missed. This Society owes a large debt of gratitude for the many years of dedicated service she and her husband gave to the wellbeing of our group.

Representing the Society her funeral was attended by, Joan and Werner Aeschlimann, the Secretary and myself. Good friends of Brenda, Mary and Dick Allen were unable to pay their last respects due to ill health.

Archie Niven



Spring/Summer Evening Activities

January 8th: Portrait Workshop with John Gurney

If you have never attended one of our practical evenings then perhaps this is the occasion to give one a try. Tonight, we are to be ably led and helped along by CAS member John Gurney. If, like me, you struggle with portraiture then tonight is a great opportunity to get to grips with some of it's finer points.



January 22nd: Talk - Hans Holbein.

We will be joined tonight by Sarah Stopford for a fascinating talk on Hans Holbein the younger. Sarah is a guide and lecturer at Tate Britain and Tate Modern so we are sure to enjoy an authoritative and insightful talk about Holbein, the Renaissance artist and court painter to Henry VIII.



February 6th : Demonstration – Curtis Tappenden.

Well known Brighton artist Curtis Tappenden joins us tonight to demonstrate pastel painting. Curtis is an author and illustrator with wide and varied practical experience. His lively style is sure to make for an enjoyable and informative evening. So be sure to take your seat early.



February 20 : Annual General Meeting

We pause our usual programme of activities tonight for the CAS AGM. Important decisions on the running and organisation of our society will be discussed and voted upon tonight so come along to help shape the future of the Society.



Winter/Spring Evening Activities

March 5th : Criticism Evening

Tonight we will have a criticism evening lead by Margaret Eggleton. Margaret is a professional artist, author and experienced tutor, and also a CAS member. So come along with two of your finished or yet to be completed works for some perceptive, friendly analysis.



March 19th : Practical Evening – Portrait Model

Following on from our guided portrait workshop earlier in the year tonight will be an opportunity to consolidate your portrait skills with a live portrait model. Bring along the media of your choice to engage in the enjoyable activity of capturing a likeness.



April 9th: Demonstration - Acrylics - Ronnie Ireland

Professional artist Ronnie Ireland joins us tonight in presenting an introduction to abstract painting. Acrylics are the perfect medium for experimentation and Ronnie's fresh and creative approach will guide us into achieving more abstraction in our painting processes.



April 23rd : Talk - John Singer Sargent - Mania Row

You'd be hard pressed to find any artist who doesn't admire John Singer Sargent. If you're one of his many fans then tonight's illustrated talk by Mania Row is just for you. It could be crowded so come early.



Evening Activities – How to Get There



HOW TO GET THERE

The venue for all the evening meetings is Christ Church Methodist, Minor Hall, Lower Addiscombe Road in Croydon, and the programme runs on alternate Monday evenings starting at 7.45pm. Although the venue is within the church premises, the access is from the rear car park off Canning Road. There is limited parking in the rear car park but we may also now park in the front car park off Lower Addiscombe Road. If both areas are full there is ample easy kerbside parking in Canning Road, although these are in marked bays there is no charge as the times are outside of the restricted hours.

Refreshments are provided at mid-session (30p charge) and we look forward to seeing you. From experience it's best to arrive early.

The Society Christmas Lunch

Saturday 9th December 2017

This proved to be a very happy occasion with 51 of us sitting down to lunch in the pleasant dining room at the Chateau restaurant. We should have been 54 in number but sadly due to illness three could not attend. I do hope they are now fully recovered and back to full strength. From a personal point of view I am glad it did go well. As I told the members this would be the last lunch that I would organise and one is always concerned that unforeseen problems might arise. All went well and for my sins I still managed to rustle up a few silly jokes – glad that will be the last time I need to trawl the internet, books and so on to find something to say.



Santa's post box was once again bulging at the seams with cards conveying messages of good cheer to all.



Our Auditor was clearly enjoying the day with good friend Adelene – so glad she was able to join us.



All were happy for us to meet again at the Chateau next year and this has been provisionally booked for Saturday 1st December. All in all a good day out.

Archie Niven

Vassily Kandinsky

Ceramic decor for the German Architectural Exhibition in Berlin in 1931

by Bob Sleeman

A surprise delight during a brief visit to the Modern Art Gallery in Strasbourg in September 2017 came in the form of room for music made of ceramic tiles decorated by Kandinsky. This was a reproduction made for the Artcurial Gallery in Paris in 1975. The maquettes (shown below) for the design were also on show.



The joy for me (if not for Avril) was to see this in place, to sit in the chairs and listen to a selection of contemporary music composed by Arnold Schönberg. There is a wonderful museum in Vienna for this composer: <http://www.schoenberg.at/index.php/en/> (not a feature of the New Year Day concert). It is possibly the sole example of mural work by Kandinsky and consisted of three walls covered with the abstract forms of his geometric period. The fourth wall was left open.



Why did Kandinsky get involved?

I quote from a book "Inside the Bauhaus" by Howard Dearstyne:

An explanation may be given in an unsigned essay (perhaps by Kandinsky) at the Berlin exhibition that says: *In the course of the great "revision" of building materials, mural painting was thrown overboard as an unessential appendage. The barren wall appeared to be a definitive solution of the wall treatment of rooms of every kind. The solution stems basically from a superficial attitude toward painting which, supposedly, has served and can serve no other purpose except that of ornamentation. In reality, however, painting is not decoration but, rather, a kind of tuning fork.*

Kandinsky was a profound student of colour and realised that if colour was to be applied to architecture, its physical characteristics had to be understood and the techniques of its application mastered. His proposals to the Bauhaus faculty included the study of both the physical properties of colour and its psychological ramifications.

I was impressed by the conjunction of geometric design on tiles in a music room with mathematically atonal music; however I'm not sure I could find suitable hi-fi to match such hard surfaces.

RESTORATION RECOLLECTIONS

By John Gurney

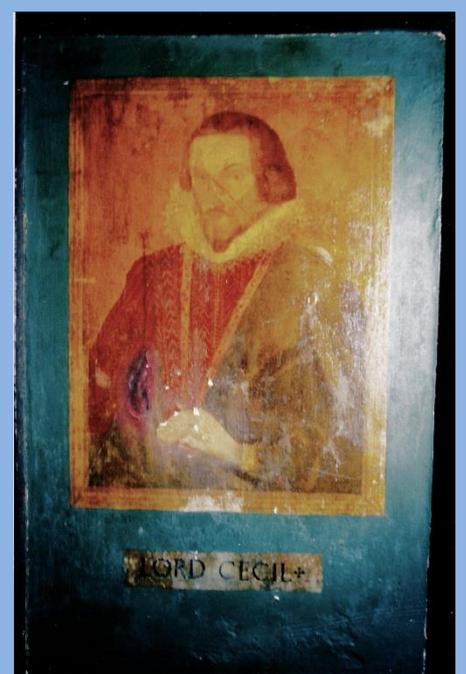
Back in the 1980s I was drawing instant portraits at the annual medieval fare in Rye, East Sussex when I was approached by a smartly dressed young woman. Thinking she wanted her portrait drawn I offered her a chair, but instead she said, quite abruptly, "When are you lot going to do something about my paintings". I was quite taken aback.

Then she explained, her name was Judith Blincow and she was the co-owner of the (famous) Mermaid Inn in Rye, and needed help with some paintings which had suffered water damage. I agreed to have a look and went to the Inn the next day.

The paintings were on a wall leading from the reception to the bar at the back of the inn. There were nine in total and had been painted directly onto the plaster by the Slade School of Art, in 16th century style, in the 1930s.



The Mermaid Inn, Rye.



Three of the Damaged Panels

Now they were utterly ruined as water from a fountain behind the wall had overflowed, seeped into the wall and damaged the paintings almost beyond recognition.

Judith had made wooden panels to fit each picture, and engaged an artist to do the work, but he had only put a background colour on the panels and just an outline of a figure or two and then just gave up and disappeared. Judith tried other artists, but none were interested in taking the task on and that's when she approached me.

RESTORATION RECOLLECTIONS

I said I would see what I could do and brought the panels back to Croydon with me, and then went to the National Portrait Gallery and explained the problem, and they kindly gave me access to their archives where I found all the portraits I needed but in various sizes. And so I get to work and I finished six months later.



Six More of the Damaged Frescos

A friend of mine who runs a signwriting business printed the names to size for me, and I glued them on and varnished them over to make them look old.

Judith was very pleased with my work, and as I said I would sign them, but she asked me if I would mind signing the backs so as not to spoil the appearance of age, and I agreed.

This was borne out, as I paid a visit to the Inn recently and asked a waitress about the paintings, she said they were painted in the 1930s by the Slade School of Art, I didn't disillusion her.

Thanks to John Gurney

On a Lighter Note

Art Spectacles

I read that at a recent exhibition of modern art held at the at the Museum of Modern Art in San Francisco, someone, either accidentally or maybe mischievously, dropped their spectacles against a wall of the gallery. What happened next, and some of the more cynical amongst us will probably not be surprised at it, was that the misplaced spectacles were immediately construed as an exhibit. Photographs were taken and thoughtful contemplation given.



I'm not sure whether a red spot appeared on the glasses, but I wonder if there could be an idea here for our next exhibition.

Phil Sadler

WEBSITE AND BOOK OF ARTISTS

There are still a great many members, new and old, who do not have an entry on the Society's website or in the Book of Artists which is on display at every exhibition. We have now completed giving our website a brand new look and feel, so now is a great time to get your name and a few of your pictures added.

At present this is FREE to all members so why not take advantage while it still is.

For details refer to our webmaster Raymond Ore ray@raymondore.co.uk

Get in touch

Contribute to future editions of the newsletter by sending your News/Exhibitions reports and any items of interest.

Please let the Editor, Phil Sadler have your contributions

Deadline: 15th April 2018

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