



GUILDFORD ART SOCIETY

Autumn 2019

www.guildfordartsociety.co.uk



Celia Lewis's painting auctioned for Marie Curie at the RA

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From the Chairman

Autumn Exhibition at West Horsley Place 2nd – 10th November 2019

Sinclair Webster

The Autumn Exhibition is moving from Guildford House Gallery to another historic and architecturally interesting location. Some of you may have seen the BBC 2 series “Ghosts” which went out this Spring, a sitcom featuring a young couple who unexpectedly inherit an ancient building inhabited by ghosts of those who had lived there from ancient times to the recent past and which only the wife can see. It was filmed at the Grade I listed mediaeval manor house at West Horsley Place on the A25 a few miles east of Guildford, where the Society’s Exhibiting Members will be holding their Autumn Exhibition. This is an exciting new venue for us, with an attractive mixture of history and a potent vision for the development of visual and performing arts on the site.

The house looks Jacobean but its origins lie in the 15th century. It has had many owners through inheritance, marriage and royal favour and disfavour, including Carew Raleigh, the son of Sir Walter, and Lady Elizabeth FitzGerald, Countess of Lincoln, feted as a 15 year old

beauty in the sonnet “Description and Praise of his Love Geraldine” by Henry Howard, the Earl of Surrey. The family had close links with royalty. Geraldine was a companion to the infant Elizabeth. So it is no surprise that Henry VIII and Elizabeth I are known to have dined at West Horsley Place. It is not known whether this was at the owner’s invitation or part of the royal practice at the time of inviting themselves at the owner’s expense. Henry got good value from 35 courses!

Centuries later, in 2014, it was unexpectedly inherited by the author and broadcaster Bamber Gascoigne from his aunt Mary, Duchess of Roxburghe. He and his wife Christine set up the Mary Roxburghe Trust in her memory, donating the house, the entire estate and all the money raised in three sales at Sotheby’s of many of the Duchess’s possessions to fund the restoration of the building after decades of benign neglect. The Trust, mindful of the need for a charitable Trust to be of public benefit, intend it to become a vibrant centre for the performing and visual arts and for the teaching of crafts. The Grange Park Opera has built its new opera house, The Theatre in the Woods, in the grounds of the house and Guildford Art Society hopes to establish itself exhibiting in the Stone Hall and adjoining Stone Parlour and Morning Room, and so fulfil another part of the Trust’s vision.

The Stone Hall is separated from the Inner Hall by four Doric columns, marking the footprint of the original mediaeval Great Hall, where Henry VIII dined. Original paintings and furniture will be largely left in place, setting up a dialogue between them and contemporary works that will be

on display. We are hoping our artists will see this as an opportunity to show off some of their best works. Indeed, these may include works that will be created on the spot by some of our artists during a plein air painting session in September.

Winners of the GAS Popular Vote Spring 2019

Our latest exhibition winners were awarded at the awards ceremony in early summer. This includes **Bara Aylwin** – *Feel the Breeze, Cornwall* – who won First Place (see front cover).



(left): Bara Aylwin (1st prize), (below right) Tony Todd (2nd prize), (below left) Margaret Arnold (3rd prize). (bottom) "Feel the Breeze, Cornwall" by Bara Aylwin



Members News



Ron McGill at the RAF Museum Hendon

Marylin McNie

Ron McGill's painting of the *Poppy Drop* (see above) is to hang in the **RAF Museum Hendon**.

Ron McGill has been a member of Guildford Art Society for a very long time. I don't want to say he is our oldest member! He is a great character, a very talented oil painter, art tutor and lecturer. He started his working life aged 14 years as a Telegraph Boy and went on to a distinguished 40 year career with the Post Office and British Telecom. His knowledge of London is incomparable and very fascinating. He took early retirement to become a professional artist. However, he did not leave the PO and BT entirely as, for the last forty years or so, Ron has organised the annual exhibition for the Post Office



This page and opposite – Jane Allison's paintings for the Abbot's Hospital Foundation

and British Telecom Art Society held in the City of London.

Ron has developed an individual style and his paintings of local Surrey scenes have sensitivity and feelings of tranquillity. He has had work accepted by the ROI and his painting of the derelict control tower at Tangmere in Sussex hangs in the Imperial War Museum in London.

His latest painting is of the Memorial in Green Park held in June 2012 to commemorate those airmen who died in Bomber Command during World 2. It has taken several years to complete with over 3000 faces in the crowd which included veterans from all over the World, the Queen and members of the Royal family. The highlight was the Poppy Drop from the **Lancaster** of the **Memorial Flight**. Ron has recorded this scene and in July this year the work was presented to the RAF at the House of Lords. It will hang in the RAF Museum at Hendon. I thought you would like to see it.

At the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition

Celia Lewis

It must be every artists dream to get a painting hung at the **Royal Academy Summer Exhibition**. This year my dream (almost) came true!! I was invited to donate a painting (*see cover*) to be auctioned in aid of **Marie Curie** at their private view evening on 9th July. My painting was in the silent auction. Each gallery had a large screen with the donated paintings rolling through and every time a new bid came in it popped up on the screen – such a thrill when it was mine!! Five paintings were live auctioned – a small landscape by Ken Howard going for £11,000. Champagne and canapés flowed and it was a lovely way to see the exhibition. So I have had a painting hung at the Royal Academy even if only for one evening!! It finally sold for £700 and here it is – mixed media – watercolour and linocut.



The Mater and the Warden of Abbot's Hospital

Guildford House Exhibition

28th Sept – 26th Oct

Jane Allison

I have just completed a large (84 x 40 inches) group portrait of the Residents, The Mater and the Warden of Abbot's Hospital, Guildford to commemorate the **400th Anniversary** of its foundation. Prior to the actual painting I painted individual studies of everyone involved from life – mainly on 10 x 12 inch canvases in order to get some insight into the characters and the history of the people living there. I worked there on and off for over a year during which I grew to have great affection both for the Hospital and for everyone in it – including the dogs.

Eventually I framed up all the studies in one unit and painted a central panel depicting the **Gatehouse** to add to the “Story” for future generations. This and the main painting will be on display in an

exhibition of Abbot's Hospital in Guildford House in October as part of their 400th Anniversary celebrations.

At Patchings Open Exhibition

Melanie Cambridge

My oil painting – *West Wittering Beach* – was selected as **Highly Commended** and is currently part of **The Artist & Leisure Painter Magazine's Open Exhibition, Patchings**. You can view all the selected



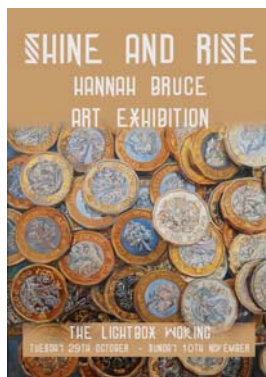
West Wittering Beach by Melanie Cambridge

works, including those Highly Commended on-line at:
<https://www.painters-online.co.uk/gallery/PatchingsGallery.htm>

Solo Exhibition

Woking Lightbox

Hannah Bruce



I will be hosting my first solo Exhibition at the Woking Lightbox on the **29th October to the 10th November**. This exhibition will be all about shine and creating it in a variety of medi-

ums and towards different outcomes. I have also opened my own **pop up studio/gallery** in Woking at the old **Hockey Centre**. Please do come and say hello at either of these and chat about all things art. Or come to my demonstration and talk for **Loxley Art Supplies** at Windsor Contemporary Art Fair in November.

Rembrandt at Rijksmuseum

Marylin McNie

What a joy to visit the **Rijksmuseum** and see the exhibition of works by **Rembrandt**. We all know and love Rembrandt's great masterpieces but perhaps his small etchings are less well known. I was overawed by these tiny exquisite images. One omission – I did not take a magnifying glass to





examine them in detail!!

I wish I could show them all but have picked three images which show how well Rembrandt observed life and the people around him.

I was surprised to see his etchings of rural dwellings. Apart from the huge collection of etchings there was a selection of Rembrandt's well known oil paintings. I have picked two. I love this image of the crestfallen Prophet, Jeremiah, with head in hands, lamenting that Jerusalem is in flames. The sense of drama is heightened by powerful contrasts of light and dark.

This image of the poverty stricken old man suffering in his blindness and wishing to die (*see previous page*), is an early work by Rembrandt and demonstrates just how masterfully he could show human emotions.

In my book, no-one can better Rembrandt and his use of light. For me, he is the greatest!



Pages 6-8, paintings and sketches by Rembrandt at the Rijksmuseum, (above) the Prophet Jeremiah by Rembrandt



Sculpture exhibition at Sir Harold Hillier's Gardens, Hampshire

Lesley Garbutt

This July we visited this beautiful garden and were fortunate to see the **Art in the Garden** sculpture exhibition. The many and varied sculptures are set in this 180 acre incredible garden amongst its formal and informal landscapes.

In an area of wild grasses and hedgerows we discovered a giant HB pencil. In more formal planting was a large copper mask of "Serenity". I particularly liked a modern take on a torso.

I would really recommend a visit to this event which continues until 13th October 2019. An art exhibition space can be found as you enter the gardens and we saw the **Red Hot Press** printmakers.

New Exhibiting Members

Bob Milton

Congratulations to the following members who are now acclaimed **Exhibiting Members of the Society**:

David Hardcastle, Janina Klein, Val Thorpe, Stephen Pitchforth, Michael Gallone, Sandra Tingle, Sarah Thien and Therese Ferrero.

We look forward to seeing their work at the **Autumn Exhibition**. We hope that those who were not successful this time will not be discouraged and will try again next year.

Diary

'Atmospheric Sky painting'

Workshop with Alison Orchard
September 7th, 10am – 4pm,
St Catherine's Hall

Inspired by the masters, learn to paint expressive skies using gestural brushstrokes, palette knife and layers of glazed colour. Working with simple colour palettes, explore different painting techniques for capturing the movement of clouds and the subtlety of colour in atmospheric skies. Acrylics or oils with mixed media, ideal for beginners & intermediates.

Alison's website is:

www.alisonorchard.com

Price for **members £35, non-members £42**.

To book your place, please contact the programme secretary, Verity Walsgrove, via the website or by email:

toprog.gas@yahoo.com.

Weekly Life Drawing

This is just a note to update the Society on the regular [weekly] **Life Drawing drop-in sessions in Guildford** which regularly feature on the GAS Facebook page. These now take place in the **Community Hall at St Nicholas Church** at the bottom of the High St. In the last year attendance was **only £8** for the two-hour session. The session has grown in popularity and now regularly hosts around twenty attendees.



Serenity at Sir Harold Hillier's Gardens

Framers used by our members

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www.otterspoolstudio.co.uk,
01483 503328

Fine Framing

Alton Industrial Estate, GU34 2PJ, Chris
Sercombe, 07895 491064

Paolo Francis Gallery

South Croydon, 0208 681 6066

KD at Watts Gallery

The Horsell Framing Company

102 High Street, Horsell, Woking

Michael Woods

at Aquarius, Farncombe, Godalming,
01483 415704



Watercolour by Bob Milton (see page 9)

A. Smithers Picture Framing

Alastair and Helen, 49, Curling Vale ,
Onslow Village, GU2 7PH, 01483 503352

Manor Frames, Godalming
Surrounds, West Byfleet

Our new logo

We are excited to introduce our new logo developed using an online designer, after heaps of consultation among the committee.



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1. What I do?

I help people and families to make the most of their assets and plan for the future.

I do not really like the term 'wealth management' because wealth means different things to different people, I prefer to say 'decision management' because what I do gives people more choice and more control.

2. What I specialise in?

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4. Retirement Planning?

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