

# newsletter

## From the Chair

Following the successful Annual Open Exhibition last year, we are faced with having to find a temporary venue for this year only. You will remember that this has been occasioned by the roof repairs at the Ipswich Art Gallery, and therefore its complete closure for much of 2020. We look forward to returning there in 2021, but meanwhile much effort has been spent investigating and securing alternative venues for the Open, and, along the way, venues for the Borders collaboration with Colchester Art Society and Firstsite (see below).

The extra Committee time on this meant that we had to park the Winter Talk Series (held in the Spring last year, to see if attendance would increase, which it did: see last Newsletter). We hope to start the series again next year – especially if someone steps forward to help organise speakers. Please consider helping out. In this “year of the venues” it has perhaps turned out have been a double saving of Committee time. When booking the AGM at the Co-op Centre, we found out that they were no longer taking evening bookings. Luckily, since we have been long term clients and friends of the Co-op Centre, they have given us a special dispensation to use it for this year’s AGM on 30<sup>th</sup> March. It will be very pleasing for us to have a special attraction this year. Our President, Jude Lockie, will describe her recent travel to Japan to take part in a show of woodblock prints in Ginza, the centre of Tokyo. It will be fascinating to hear about her adventures.



The Committee has been reviewing our sets of events and activities, particularly with Friends in mind. We have occasional additional exhibitions, the Talk Series, Discussion Group etc. One idea is to revive gallery trips or organise other types of events. We could integrate features of these events, for example to combine an exhibition trip with a talk from a curator, or an opportunity to discuss our reactions amongst ourselves. It would be useful to gather views from the membership. If you have any ideas, do communicate them with any committee member, or come along to the AGM, to be held on 30<sup>th</sup> March at the Co-op Centre, where there will an opportunity to discuss ideas.

## Borders: a collaboration between Ipswich and Colchester Art Societies and Firstsite

This joint venture will explore the border between our two counties – the river Stour. The river witnessed the birth of Landscape Painting in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and has continued to inspire the genre to this day. The idea is to mount an event series which brings the two Societies into contact – socially and perhaps to stimulate each other’s creativity. So there will be multiple venues – we hope both sides of the border – and we will also arrange some social interactions such as discussions, sketching days etc. Members of both societies have been invited to respond to the theme in any way they wish. The number volunteering has been impressive, so if they all come to fruition we will fill more than one venue, and potentially in a sequence of shows. Ideas and plans are still being worked on.

## Anna Airy Award Exhibition

This opened with buzz and energy as always, on 15<sup>th</sup> November at the University of Suffolk. The welcome was given by the Dean of the newly formed Faculty of Science, Technology, Design and Art.

These disciplines may seem to be odd bedfellows and no doubt university economics played a part, but Mohammed Abdel Maguid, the new Dean gave a good account of the benefits of crossover between them, needing as we do a greater sense of the human and the aesthetic in much of our techno-world. We know that the separation of disciplines is an artefact of modern history rather than a fundamental one.

His enthusiasm for the Anna Airy Exhibition was matched by the new Head of Fine Art, Susan Barnett in her welcome. The Chair of IAS and of TASSES (whose continued generosity funds all the prizes) Viola Jones, added their voices. Susan Barnett and Des Brett (from the University of East Anglia in Norwich) judged the winners.



The exhibition this year included striking paintings of all sizes. The winner of the Anna Airy Prize was *The Beauty in what is Left Behind 1,2,3*, a triptych of relatively small paintings of dustbins, by Louise Batchelor which was independently chosen by TASSES to represent young British talent at the Mall Galleries. Suffolk produced no fewer than three of the five young people selected from across Britain for the Mall Galleries exhibition last year – quite an accolade for the county!

There was also a noticeable variety in media and styles, with fine work in fabric and some inventive and highly skilled work in wood. The Ipswich Art Society award went to Isabelle Tucker for her innovative *Water Butt Bench*.

The exhibition continued until 1<sup>st</sup> December and was given enthusiastic and extensive cover by Andrew Clarke in the East Anglian Daily Press. The colourful spread, including photographs of several of the works is a testament to the profile and importance of the event.

Many thanks to Jan Watson, Sue Slee and Derek Chambers for tremendous organisation; to Ruth Seabrooke, Lynda Aldred and Tammany Hunt for the hand-in; to our hangers Derek Chambers, Andrew Casey, Colin Slee, Malcolm Moseley and Peter McCarthy; to Andrew Casey, Tammany Hunt and Lynda Aldred for labelling, and to Hilary McPherson for providing the refreshments.



## Small Works Exhibition

This ran from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> November in Claire Fried's Artspace in Woodbridge and once again we thank Andrew Casey for excellent organisation, the volunteers who sat, and Derek Chambers for the attractive fliers and call for works. Sales were healthy: in excess of £3000.

## Dates for your Diary

**30<sup>th</sup> March (Monday), 7:30. AGM.** With a special talk from our President, Jude Lockie, on her recent art trip to Japan. *Co-op Education Centre, 11 Fore Street, Ipswich, IP4 1JW.* Plentiful parking at the rear, accessible from Waterworks Street.

**Summer: Annual Open. Town Hall Galleries.** The available dates are in the period May, July or August. The Committee is considering the options at the moment. As usual, there will be a dedicated mailing with entry papers.

**18<sup>th</sup> July (Saturday), Opening of the *Borders* Exhibition at Firstsite, Colchester.** This exhibition, a collaboration between The Ipswich and Colchester Art Societies and Firstsite, will run until 11<sup>th</sup> October. (Suffolk venues also being sought).

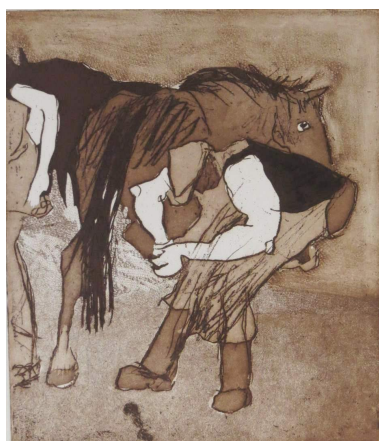
## Members' Activities



**Guy William Eves** exhibited his remarkable botanical drawings at the Ipswich Art Gallery in High Street earlier this year. You will remember his entries in the Annual Open. This was a great opportunity to see a large collection. The exhibition *Art Forms in Nature* featured works on loan from Hayward Gallery Touring and among the highlights were 40 photographs by the influential Karl Blossfeldt, whose 'blown up' images revolutionised nature photography almost a century ago. Guy's pencil drawings were a perfect complement.

**Derek Chambers** authored an article in the prestigious Art Magazine *Jackdaw*, recounting the creation of his now famous alphabetical series of

animal etchings portraying items from Ipswich Museum. The article praises the collection, with its interesting Darwinian history and the helpfulness of the staff. I hope they read it! Derek also took part in a recent group exhibition in Aldeburgh which raised the question of its pertinent title: *Are We Good Ancestors?* Dealing with the issue of climate change, the twelve artists also included Maggi Hambling, Jelly Green and Julian Perry.



## New Members

A warm welcome to the following who have become Members of the Society: Hannah Aria, Laura Beardsell-Moore, Robert Buttle, Roger Capell-Clarke, Robert Dickison, Pris Forrest (*left*), Jaqueline Green, David King, Michael Richards, Susan Whatling and Jill Woodward.

Honorary Life membership has been awarded to Colin and Sue Slee in recognition of their unstinting work on the committee over many years. They generously continue to volunteer in other capacities.



## Website

For all the latest news and information visit our website [www.ipswich-art-society.org.uk](http://www.ipswich-art-society.org.uk) and follow us on Facebook @ipswichartsocietyuk and Instagram ipsartsocuk

These will increasingly be used for regular updates which don't suit the Newsletter cycle.



*Clockwise from left:* Recent additions to the Artists Pages from Claire Fried, Hannah Aria and Dorin Elvin.

You are encouraged to keep images of your recent work rolling in to maintain the freshness and attraction of the site for the membership and visitors from the public. We would like as many of our Members as possible to feature on the Artists' Pages of the website. If you would like to be included please email [ipswich.art.publicity@gmail.com](mailto:ipswich.art.publicity@gmail.com) for further details.

## Subscriptions

A plea to those who have yet to pay their subscriptions this year. Many wait for some event such as submitting to the Annual Open as a reminder to pay, but please pay promptly when requested (the renewal date is 1<sup>st</sup> January). It saves periods of financial uncertainty and extra work from the committee. Late payment puts a burden on the majority who pay on time. Standing Orders are easy to set up and remove all the hassle for everyone! Subscriptions are £25 for Members and £15 for Friends. Any outstanding payments can be made by standing order or Bank transfer to the Society's account: sort code 53-61-24, number 71334432. Alternatively, please send a cheque to the Treasurer, Chris Edmondson, 89 Bucklesham Road, Ipswich, IP3 8TT.

**Please send information for the next Newsletter on ideas, shows, news, details of exhibitions etc. to Stephen Cassidy, Newsletter Editor, 62 Constable Road, Ipswich IP4 2UZ.  
[stephen.cassidy@btinternet.com](mailto:stephen.cassidy@btinternet.com) 01473 250284**

*Many thanks to Christine Thompson for Newsletter and other postings.*