



Monthly Competition

Last month's picture was "Winter Landscape with a Bird Trap" by Pieter Bruegel the Elder. I had correct answers from **Beryl**

Rushton, Edith Ellen Sutton, Bryan Gallagher and Russell Eaton who, collectively, tell me that it was painted in 1565 and is in the Royal Museum of Fine Art in Brussels. He used to be Brueghel until 1559, after which time he dropped the "h"

Can you tell me the title of this oil painting and the name of the artist? Answers to Roland please by the end of February. The answer and names of correct submissions will be published in the March edition.



Membership News

Roland was delighted to hear from one of our Honorary Members last month. **Hubert Rigby** has been a member for 30 years and used to organise the Annual Exhibitions until in his 80's. He is an active 96 and still enjoys painting regularly.

We welcome new members.....

Doreen Bromby of Swinton
Joyce Clay of Tyldesley
Vera Morpeth of Ladybridge
Jean Maguire of Tyldesley
Peter Hamer of Farnworth

If you have an email address and haven't yet told our Secretary, please do so asap. It will save your Circle postage costs, and you'll get this in 'colour'. Send Roland an email asap. 81, out of our 174 members, are "on-line."

Last Drop, Precinct, etc.

The last Art Fair at the Last Drop was held on 10 December, following which **Roland, Norma** and **Paul Titterton** met with Gerry Magee (Last Drop Manager) on 11th December. The meeting was very positive and Mr. Magee indicated that they wanted us to continue with the Fairs. He suggested that we might consider Bank Holidays in future, when, he says, the Last Drop is busier. There was discussion about many aspects of the Fairs and when we talked about the Precinct Fairs we run, he thought we could perhaps try running an outdoor event at the Last Drop.

Following the request for observations/suggestions in the December "In Touch", Roland has had responses from **Ted Holden, Derek Haslam, Sue Hollinshead** and **David McCabe**, (as well as the Committee) generally stating that

they wished the Fairs to carry on, even if it meant them being at a different frequency and format. Reasons given were that it is an opportunity to meet other artists and get constructive criticism and comment which might not be otherwise obtained.

As you know, numbers of both artists and visitors have declined over the past year and some members have said we need some new ideas. One idea being considered is to open the Fairs to photographers and make the fairs "Art and Photography Fairs". The Camera Club has been approached but there has been little response so far. However, we already have one or two photographers wishing to come in March.

Your Committee has also been considering aspects of the Art Fairs in connection with our new venture last August Bank Holiday into covered stands for the Art In The Precinct (AITP) and other outdoor events. It has also deliberated on the whole commitment of members and discussed whether the Circle is perhaps taking on too many exhibitions. There is a limit to the time and effort that the small nucleus of members who run these events is prepared to put in.

Considerations included:

- Manpower; how many of us regularly assist with the erection/dismantling of stands; should we aim for dedicated teams of erectors for the indoor/outdoor stands both at the Last Drop and the Precinct?
- Frequency of events, every two months? Clashes with other events, August AITP, Bank Holidays.
- Logistics, transporting stands and frames to and from Last Drop. Hire of Site screens. Transport costs.
- Publicity, contacting adjacent art societies.
- Indoor v Outdoor.



One thing that has been decided is that we shall not be running events at Crompton Lodges, (alias Rock Hall or Moses Gate) this year.

At its meeting on 16th January, your Committee decided that we should stage about six 'external' exhibitions/events each year. These will be at the Last Drop and Bolton Town Centre Precinct (AITP). In consequence bookings have now been made as follows for 2007.

Sunday 18 MarchLast Drop, indoor
Bank Holiday Monday 7 May....Last Drop OUTDOOR
Sunday 15 July.....Last Drop, indoor
Thurs 23 - Mon 27 August...AITP Weekend
Sunday 23 September.....Last Drop, indoor
Sunday 25 November.....Last Drop, indoor

There has been mention since the AITP last August of the possibility of holding more events in the Town Centre. A census of participating artists revealed that most would support holding an AITP twice a year. **Paul** and **Norma**

Titterton have unfortunately not been able to make any progress with the Town Hall in this respect. The Town Centre Management Group is, we are told, in a state of flux because of the Market Hall re-development. In consequence, they don't have any dates when other events are on. We would like to coincide with other events or attractions, which might be on in the Town Centre. But bearing in mind the foregoing realities, your Committee feels that unless there is a significant change in physical help to stage events, the above six exhibitions shall probably be our programme for 2007. Should this change, we shall, of course, let everyone know.

Roland is now taking bookings for the March Last Drop Art and Photographic Fair.

Bookings for the AITP will not be taken until the end of February when, hopefully the location and layout of stands will be known. If this is still uncertain, bookings will be taken to reserve a stand on the "best information available" basis

Changes at the Royal Bolton Hospital

The donations to hospital charities at the RBH on the 33 original paintings (worth £2694) that have been sold since these exhibitions started 14 months ago, have amounted to £538. Well done to all who took part!

NEW SELECTIONS AT THE RBH

(a) Main Corridor

(where all works are FOR SALE)

Selection for the new main corridor exhibition will take place at 3 pm. on Wednesday 14th February at Highfield, when another 22 pictures will be chosen. The display will be changed on Thursday 15th February when all unsold works will be taken down and the newly selected ones put up. The "old" pictures should be collected a.s.a.p. after the 15th February from the Store Room at Highfield. If we are oversubscribed, selected work will be carried over till the following exhibition in three months time.

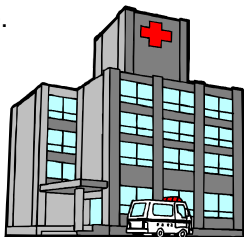
Please note the following: -

1. Pictures should measure not less than 14" x 11", but not more than 30" x 20".

2. All work should have a label on the back with name, contact tel. No., picture title, medium and sale price.

(Not less than £45) Please leave pictures strung.

3. Works look better if the frames are similar. Frames should be not less than 3/4" thick to allow for mirror plates to be fixed by the hospital joiners.



(b) Link Corridor

(where all works are NOT FOR SALE)

Visitors and staff have commented favourably on this year's display for its mix and quality of presentation. The present exhibition is to be taken down on 22nd February, and the next year's works will be hung on 1st and 2nd March.

Works should be brought to Highfield on Monday afternoon 26th February, or on Wednesday evening, (between 7 and 8 pm.) 28th February. There is no selection. All works submitted will be hung. No works can be sold from this display.

We have room for around 80 pictures, originals or prints, of average size. A maximum of six works per artist will be accepted. The rules for picture identification are as above,

EXCEPT, please remove any hook eyes from the work. Pictures will be mirror-plated to the walls for 12 months.

For more information, please ring **Paul** or **Norma Titterton** on 01942 814437.

Patchings

Following last year's very successful visit to the Art Festival at Patchings in Nottinghamshire, Social Secretary **Jean Faulkner** has been asked by several people if she arranging another one this year. Before going ahead with booking a coach, **Jean** should like to know how many people (members and friends) would be interested in going. The most convenient date is Thursday 7th June, when artist David Bellamy will be running tutorials and demonstrations. The coach will probably be leaving about 8.15 am and returning back to Bolton around teatime. The cost is not known at present, but last year it was £11 per head. There is a sheet on the Notice Board at Highfield on which you can declare your interest, or contact **Jean** on tel 01204 460832.

"Annual" Exhibition 2008

Although we still refer to it as our "Annual", for the early birds amongst you, we now have dates for our next Exhibition at the Bolton Central Art Gallery which will, sadly, not be until 2008.

Handing In, Judging..Saturday 25th October 2008

Preview Evening..... Thursday 30th October 2008

Exhibition opens.....Saturday 1st November 2008

Exhibition closes.....Saturday 29th November 2008

Handing Back.....Tuesday 2nd December 2008

A meeting was held last month with Sarah Teale, BMBC Exhibitions Officer, with discussions on ways to improve the event for next time. However, Sarah is leaving at the end of February (for Edinburgh) and so we shall probably have a new member of staff at the Gallery in charge by November 2008.

One thing they are keen to do is to have our members working in the gallery during the exhibition. *Now there's something to ponder about!* Would you be prepared to do that?

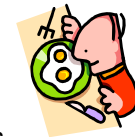


Open Exhibition

In the same way that Bolton Museum and Art Gallery did in 2005, they are running another 'Open Exhibition', for any Bolton artist to enter, in November this year. (No dates available at present.) But they will again make the special dispensation that all Art Circle Members will be eligible irrespective of where they live.

Easter Lunch

Social Secretary **Jean Faulkner** has booked a special Easter lunch at Bolton Community College for Tuesday 27th of March. (Entrance is by the side door on Grosvenor St.) The price is £8 for three courses. They are run at cost as training for the Catering Students and are extremely good value for money. She has provisionally booked for 35 persons. The lunch is at 12 noon. £ 5 deposit is required per person, as soon as possible. Names are being added very quickly on the list on the Notice Board at Highfield. So get your name down asap. or contact **Jean** on tel 01204 460832.



EDITOR'S FOOTNOTE Items for this publication should be sent by mail, email, or by hand to your Secretary, Roland Arthur, 45 Sherbourne Road, Heaton, Bolton, BL1 5NN. Tel 01204 847607. email bac@rebarthur.f9.co.uk