

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2012

Dear Members,

It is hard to believe it is time for the Annual General Meeting again but it is so I hope to see as many of you as possible on Tuesday 2nd October ready for the meeting to commence at 10.15am. at the Satchwell Room at the Baptist Church, Chandos Street, Leamington Spa – Please use the side entrance and do not arrive prior to 10.00am. If you are a little late please press the bell.

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE - £20 Exhibiting members, £15 Associate members. Is it worth it – well read on, we have got some great plans. So bring you cheque book.

The Committee would like some more members, if anyone would like to join us. There are enough of us to make it enjoyable rather than hard work and we want to keep it that way. Do think about it. We are very much in the process of moving the Association forward at the moment and we would like to have as much in put as possible. It is also a brilliant way to get to know people and make new friends.

When the business is over we can settle down to a talk by Len Mackin, who paints beautiful still life and is the committee's computer expert! I send him a plain newsletter and he jazzes it up and makes it look great.

EVENING TALK

We have found a new venue for the Evening Meetings –Victoria House, 59 Willes Road, Leamington Spa CV32 4PT. It is central, warm, the right size and the most beautiful room.



We are starting off with a really good speaker, on Monday 22nd October from 7.00pm, who I know everyone will find interesting. Jude Tucker, is a successful drawer and painter, a member of the Manchester Academy of Fine Arts and was highly commended in the prestigious Hunting/Observer Art Prize. She then trained in Bath as a stone mason before moving to

London to go to the City and Guilds College to train in stone carving and sculpture. She now has a London agent has shown in some of the best places for sculpture. In 2011 she won the Bernard Noble Sculpture Prize, which has been displayed in the Noble Foundation's sculpture park, in Italy. See more here, <http://www.bnsf.org.uk/winners/2011---jude-tucker/>

MEETINGS.

MORNING MEETINGS.

10.00am. Baptist Hall, Chandos Street, Leamington Spa. Upstairs room via the side entrance. If you are late and the door is locked please press the bell. The meetings normally finish at approximately 12.15pm. Car Park opposite the Hall.

2nd October AGM

Len Mackin, AMA Member. Talking about his paintings

6th November. Brian Clarke.

Paintings and gouaches of landscapes Inhabited by ephemeral objects which articulate notions of space, reality and memory.

4th December. Portland

Painters. These are two sisters who work individually and in collaboration. Inspired by nature and the built environment, the work is abstract to representational.

January '13. No Meetings.

5th February '13 Teresa Wells.

Mixed media tableaux inspired by the Questions 'How do humans behave'. And 'Why not celebrate the Domestic'?

Evening meeting schedule and guest speak list to follow.

22nd October. Jude Tucker - 7pm see chairs letter for details

Jude is holding a series of courses in her studio at Long Marston. For more information, contact Jude at heyjude@btopenworld.com or see the flyer which accompanies this newsletter.

Long standing members will recall, Jude was also a young chairman of the AMA so she deserves a good audience.



THE BIG DRAW This is the idea of the Campaign for Drawing, a national charity which wants to change the voice of millions from saying 'I can't Draw' to 'I can Draw'.

We are joining with Leamington Art Gallery to put on an event at the Gallery on Saturday 6th October from 12 – 4.00pm. This is free for people to drop in and join us and suitable for the whole family, though children must have an adult with them.

Margot Bell will be leading some printmaking and there will be lots of fun drawing ideas – drawing with your eyes closed and drawing to music etc.

David Dewis, Len Mackin, Jane Williams and I will all be helping – ideally we would like another helper or two if anyone would like to join in. Please let us know.

As part of the Big Draw we have also been given a wall in the hall at the Gallery for the whole of October. There will be a tree drawn on the wall

which we want to make 'Grow' by covering the branches with postcard sized drawings. We want to show drawing in all its diversity, not just a beautiful minute still life but kitchen plans, builder's jottings, doodles, engineers drawings, work by the very old and the very young. They must be postcard size.

This is where you all come in. Can you all not only do a postcard but also ask other people to join in.

Ask them to sign them and put their occupation and age if they are very old or very young!

Let's try and get nurses, doctors, solicitors, architects, engineers, or could you contact a school. Children, teenagers and pensioners, everyone. Drawing is so cheap – it's just a scrap of paper and a stub of a pencil and it's good for the soul. Take to the gallery, a meeting or send to me.

Plus you know how many of you have said you would like to hang your work in Leamington Art Gallery – Well! This is your chance and it is a chance for the Association to give something back

NEW IDEAS.

The Committee meeting last week was buzzing with ideas and enthusiasm but we can only discuss and plan so much at one time, so it is a question of watch this space. An unknown, is whether there will be a Warwickshire Open Studios again next year and if there will be set opening hours. Ideas included a web gallery, a Summer Art Salon, events to follow the Big Draw, and a multi-site exhibition using our own spaces. Museum and big space galleries are all in the melting pot. It is getting exciting.

Future AMA Exhibitions

FOSTER FRAME. We have been invited back to this busy, thriving framers and art gallery in Stratford, in October commencing on the 23rd, which is during the Christmas buying period, so let us hope we can be lucky with sales. Jane will be sending out the Entry Forms shortly and you will see that we are asking for two pieces and leaving the size open.

We are also planning a ten day (two weekends) exhibition at Holy Trinity Church, Leamington, from the **10th to 19th of May 2013**. For those who have not visited this venue recently, there have been some striking improvements, including large glass doors, allowing light to flood in, rather than the rather dark and off putting foyer of old. We are also proposing to purchase clip on lights for the screens, which will make an enormous difference on darker days.

Other Exhibitions

A LIFE WELL LIVED.

A Retrospective exhibition, "A Life Well Lived", is being held at the Althorpe Studios and Gallery, 6b Althorpe Street, Leamington CV31 2AU for Dorothy Biddle, who is not at all well. The Private View is to be on 5th October, 7.00 to 9.00pm, with fireworks at 8.00. The exhibition itself will be open from the 1st to the 14th of October, hours to be confirmed. Dorothy's work is modern and fresh – beautiful abstract paintings and really good modern sculpture, I loved the piece I saw in Moira Lamont's garden.



APOLOGIES.

I must apologise to Howard Watson for getting his surname wrong on the copies of the last newsletter sent out by post. This was spotted and corrected for the email copies. His exhibition at Fred Winters, shop in Stratford continues until the end of September. Do try and see it. It is really excellent.

REVIEW.

The Review of Jan Freeman's talk is being held over till October, when it will make an inspiring start to the Association's year.

Regards.

Julia Hayes.

Chair.

The Old Art Gallery

During July an extraordinary gallery opened for a short time in Leamington Spa, next to the Old Library (Bath Place). Toni Peach and Jim Jones were handed the keys to the old Leamington Art Gallery and told to 'make a go of it'. The gallery had formerly been used as an arts workshop for people with mental health and learning disabilities and had not been open to the public as a gallery for some time.



What is amazing is that within a couple of weeks, with free paint donated from a local recycling scheme together with lots of hard work and volunteers the gallery re-opened on August 4th. Several well known AMA members loaned work for exhibition and helped to get the gallery ready.

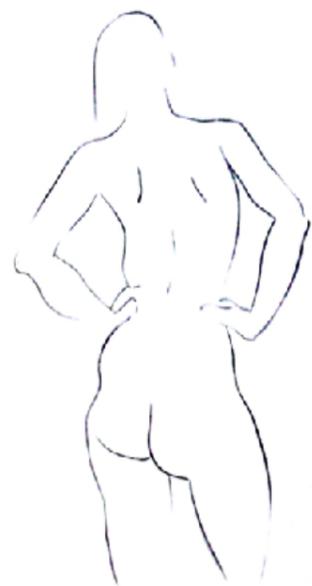
The gallery functioned until 14th September. Unfortunately the entire site has now been handed over to developers who will turn the old library into luxury flats and use the gallery space as a site office! Despite meetings and protests they keys have been handed back and the gallery closed. A tragic loss to the town of a lovely public space and a much needed exhibitions and arts resource. Toni and Jim managed to show a huge range of work including paintings, ceramics, sculpture and photography. They organised, music nights

and film events. It was what every good arts space should be, democratic, chaotic and exciting. They also sold work - quite a lot of it in fact. What I learned from it is that Leamington and Warwick desperately needs an exhibition space and proper arts centre. People want to do art and this was proven by the huge numbers who came to have their work displayed (the youngest being just 12 years old).

Would you like to contribute a review, have you some news to share or wish to advertise an 'art event'?
Contact Len (len.mackin@ntlworld.com)

LIFE DRAWING WORKSHOP Saturday 6th October

At Shotton Memorial Hall (nr. Stratford-on-Avon)
10am - 4.00pm. Cost £40 (£36 to A.M.A. members)



Neil Moore 09

For details please contact:-
Neil Moore on 01926 420833
Or email: therealnelmoore@hotmail.com

AMA Christmas Charity Art Auction.

Call for work.
(Prompt response appreciated!)

You are invited to enter items for a Charity Auction of AMA members' art work to be held on the evening of Wednesday 28th November, in the elegant setting of Victoria House, 59 Willes Road, Leamington Spa, CV32 4PT. The event will create sales for you, hopefully cover costs for AMA and raise funds for the highly deserving Myton Hospice. www.mytonhospice.org

The evening will also comprise a pre-Christmas get together, with refreshments and bar and an opportunity for members to sell cards and other small gift items.

To assist in publicity, we will be producing an illustrated catalogue, in advance of the event, which will be emailed out to a wide audience of potential buyers. Therefore, your entries for the auction are needed as soon as possible, and certainly no later than the 30th October.

Please see separate flyer for further information

AMA

Association of Midland Artists
www.midlandartists.co.uk

at

FOSTER FRAME

35 Greenhill Street, Stratford upon Avon
CV37 6LE

24 October —27 November 2012



Come and enjoy the lively and inspiring

**PAINTINGS
PRINTS
CERAMICS**

**by members of the
Association of Midland Artists**

Open Mon-Sat 9.15am-5pm

