

NEWSLETTER

January 2012

N.B. MORNING MEETINGS HAVE CHANGED TO TUESDAYS

Dear Members,

On behalf of the Committee I hope you all had a joyous Christmas and wish everyone a **Happy New Year**.

As we start a new year I would like to say thank you to all the Committee and all of you, who have helped over the past year, hanging and manning exhibitions, writing reviews, helping at meetings and a special thank you to the boys with power drills and Tammy Woodrow who used a days holiday each time she 'selected' an exhibition for us, as well as making sure we got good press coverage.

2012 is being marketed as a special year, with the Olympics, the Jubilee and in Stratford the '*Worldwide Shakespeare programme*' commencing, it promises to be an exciting time.

This is also a year when the Warwickshire Open Studios will take place for the first fortnight in July and I imagine many of your minds have gone from how to cook the turkey to what am I going to produce or like Moira, in the Review below, is it going to be too cold to use my Studio and if so how long will it last.

In November we had Robert Perry to speak at the evening meeting – it seems a long time ago - we had a heating problem, so apologies for the cold.

Robert has a particularly good website, (<http://www.robertperry-artist.co.uk/>) so rather than review his work I am going to urge you to have a look. The meeting was well attended. It's good to see old friends meeting up again and others meeting for the first time.

This was followed by the *Bath Place Birthday Bash*. It was a wonderful success and celebration of music, arts and creativity, with young families everywhere. The AMA, organised by Katharine, played a big part with a stall



AMA members selling artworks at the Big Bash November 2012

selling small works and cards, a 'big draw' with Jane Williams and Margot Bell's print making table, where she and several children were hard at work producing some amazing work when I looked in.

December's speaker at our morning meeting was Corinne Spencer, showing her etchings and some ceramics. She gave a really good and interesting talk which Moria Lamont has reviewed below.

It is great that several of you have offered to write reviews for the Newsletter, please keep offering to do this or give the vote of thanks and also remember to send you news in.

A note from Katharine tells me that Foxtwist, the Shipston on Stour, framers have moved to larger premises at 8 Sheep Street.

As mentioned previously the Committee looked at the results of the survey which many/most of you have completed and found that Thursday is not the best day for the morning meetings. Therefore starting in **FEBRUARY, the morning meetings** will be held on the

F I R S T T U E S D A Y of the MONTH.

The time will still be 10am. for 10.15am and they will still be held in the *Satchwell Room at the Baptist Church, Charnos Street, Leamington Spa* using the side entrance. We now have a buzzer, so if you are late, ring the bell and we will let you in. Please do not go to the front Church entrance.

I look forward to seeing you all and hearing you're your views on different art related subjects at the coming meetings and hope we can all enjoy going to or participating in some really good exhibitions in the coming year.

Julia Hayes.

SPEAKERS

You will see below that Margot has arranged a really interesting programme of Speakers again for us. Starting with **Grace Newman, Grace is a sculptor and also Director of Warwickshire Artists.** We look forward to hearing her speak and viewing slides of her work **on 7th February.** Grace joined the AMA last October so we will also be welcoming her to the AMA.

Morning Talks.

On Tuesday 6th March we have Viv Hunt taking about her Stained glass,
Tuesday 3rd April we have Hilary La Force on Ceramics
Tuesday 1st May is Ian Hodgkinson a Printmaker.

Evening Talks.

Thursday 29th March 7.00 pm. We have Phyllis Davies a painter and textile artist, who spends a great deal of time in Venice, her work glows with Venetian colour. Fascinating.

This is at the Upstairs Room, Oddfellows Hall, 6 Clarence Terrace, Warwick Street, Leamington Spa CV32 5LD

EXHIBITIONS ETC.

We are working on some exhibitions which will be announced soon but if any of you have any ideas we would always appreciate your input. Similarly if you wish to put on your own shared exhibition and need more people we can either ask in the newsletter or suggest contacts.

When we go to a venue or gallery we need to show the standard of the work we will be showing, which we do by suggesting they look at **the website**, so **please if your work is on there and years out of date, do something about it**, Jane Williams is willing to help.

Sophia Hayes went to see 'The Indiscipline of Painting' at Tate St. Ives on the Wednesday before Christmas, they had a special free opening with mince pies and music, sounds magic and said how interesting the work was. It covers international abstraction from 1960 till now and is on at The **Mead Gallery**, Warwick Arts Centre.

Mary Shaylor is showing her full Borth photography exhibition in Shrewsbury, her home town, at the Gateway Galleries, Chester Street, until 31st January. www.maryshaylor.com.

Bath Place – The next exhibition goes up at the end of February, Katharine will be letting us have the details in due course.

Warwickshire Open Studios now have a website up and running. The site can be found at; <http://www.warwickshireartweek.co.uk/>

Review of the December Talk by Corinna Spencer.

Corinna was born, lived and studied in Germany before moving to England in 1982. She studied Art and English at college in Heidelberg, where printmaking was part of her Art Course.

As we all know working full time and bringing up a family means finding time to do our own work is difficult, however in 1991 Corinna found time to do a printmaking course at Warwickshire College. Etching became her main medium and she joined the Warwickshire Printmaking Group in the same year and began exhibiting with them. Corinna now runs two etching classes at Warwick School and is introducing this great medium to many artists in spite of all the new health and safety regulations.

The work of Paul Klee is the most important influence on Corinna's work and the first image she showed us was called 'Homage to Klee'. For this print Corinna has zoomed in on the figure in the boat which makes up part of Klee's 'Seafarer' using bright colours on the figure which contrast well with the plain linear surround. As we looked at the images on the screen, Corinna handed round her etching plates which were very small and she told us she often uses a magnifying glass when working on them. Titles for each print are very quirky and there was great amusement when we were shown 'The Sale is on'; an image of a crowd of expectant faces looking towards us. The smallest plate '2T' looks like a Celtic brooch but this tiny print shows two towers, hence the title 2T in order to fit it under the print.

Corinna explained the techniques of etching, showing work which used line, aquatint and a variety of ways to introduce colour. One of her latest prints uses coloured tissue paper glued on to the plate and this prompted a debate about colours fading after time. All her prints are minute and she often feels her work is lost in group exhibitions.

The first time I saw all Corinna's work displayed in Warwick Museum I was mesmerised, they looked so beautiful and I could see her influences and admire her technique. I can understand why she feels exhibiting in large group shows can be such a challenge.

Ceramics has always been an art form that Corinna has wanted to explore and now after a course in ceramics she has begun to produce a series of large! textured pieces in stoneware. For her future work she is hoping to combine her printed images with her ceramics using the transfer method and I cannot wait to see the results.

Corinna was looking forward to a cup of coffee, when giclee prints were mentioned. A heated debate started and I am not giving my views on the subject or like Jeremy Clarkson I might find myself in hot water!

Listening to Corinna share her thoughts and ideas with us has I feel inspired many members to try etching and it has made me itch to proof up my next plate before the winter sets in and it's water off and lock up the studio.

Moira Lamont.