



MEDICAL ART SOCIETY NEWSLETTER OCT 2011

Dear Friends

Here is the latest newsletter together with a draft list of events. Please be sure to **contact organizers directly** to let them know whether you are interested, as well as informing Primrose Ante-Bennett at the RSM by filling in the events booking form and returning it.

Prof John Blandy (1927 – 2011)

The Society lost an esteemed member with the death of Prof Blandy on July 23. He developed his interest in art during his childhood in India. After studying at Oxford he became an internationally renowned urologist, being given a chair in urology (the first in the capital) at the London Hospital in 1969. After retirement he was able to enjoy painting and sculpting – as well as all his innovations in surgery, the Blandy machine for cutting fishing line was much appreciated by those hanging pictures. Thanks to Pat Good for representing the MAS at his memorial service at St Giles Cripplegate on Sept 11.

67th Annual Exhibition July 18-23, 2011

This was held again in the atrium of the RSM – with 48 two-dimensional works, 24 browsers and 14 three-dimensional works on show, this was a smaller exhibition than previously. However, 15 works were sold and the judges commented on the overall high standard of the exhibits. The Baron's Prize for two-dimensional work was presented by Mary Jackson RWS NEAC to Prof Peter Lavender's large semi-abstract *Red Boat* and that for three-dimensional work was presented by Tanya Russell ARBS to Dr Sally Joyston-Bechal for her alabaster *Venus*. The Patron's Prize was awarded by Tom Coates RBA RWS NEAC PPS to Dr Johnny Wakeham for a charcoal *Life Study* (which evoked our patron's own student days). A new memorial prize was presented by Oliver Hugh-Jones, on behalf of the family of the late Dr Philip Hugh-Jones, to Dr Elizabeth James for her pastel landscape *Plockton, Scotland*. Members celebrated after the private view with a congenial dinner at which Dutch friends from 'Pincet en Penceel' were especially welcome. Dr Kirsi van Rijn- Nikkinen exhibited some charming linocuts. Dr Wiepko Terpstra extended his range of delicate porcelains to the production of some desirable necklaces and earrings.

Next year's exhibition (perhaps with an Olympic theme?) will be at the RSM again. The proposed dates are July 16th – 21st with setting up on the 14th. Make a note in your diary.

An unmarked blue purse was found among packaging after the 2011 exhibition and we have been unable to trace the owner. If it is yours, please contact Primrose.

Visit to Marrakech, Morocco

The shades of ochre of the old houses in the medina, the brilliant orange of the huge pots in Yves St Laurent's garden and the sky-blue fishing boats of Essouira... The colours of Morocco must please a painter's eye and the architecture appeal to a sculptor. A party of nine stayed at the Zamzam riad, gathering around the great date palm that rises from the centre of the inner courtyard to the roof garden. A great deal of sketching was done in a short time – Dr James even got a round of applause for her efforts from homecoming schoolchildren! Thanks to Sally Joyston-Bechal and her family for arranging the visit. A weekend in Fez is a future possibility.

Visit to Tallinn, Estonia

Alan Lyne organized this visit and reports, "A party of ten painters, wives and friends visited the mediaeval town of Tallinn for five days in August. Some flew direct while others enjoyed the wonderful overnight ferry trip from Stockholm – the voyage through the islands of the Stockholm archipelago on a summer's night, with a superb dinner on board, is to be recommended. After a good night's sleep we

awoke in Tallinn and a short drive by taxi brought us to the Merchants House Hotel, a merchant's residence built at the time when the Hanseatic League was at its height, in the old quarter of Tallinn. Breakfast in the converted cellar was an experience in itself – those over six feet in height needed to get up slowly. Tallinn is a fascinating city to explore, consisting of an old part which dates back to the 11th and 12th centuries, surrounded by not very beautiful blocks of flats constructed during the Soviet era. There are some beautiful buildings to paint and it is a photographer's paradise – quite a number of excellent paintings may well turn up in future exhibitions. We were fortunate in having sunny, warm weather for the whole visit. There is a plethora of restaurants in the old town, all of which serve excellent food. Estonians all seem to be good trenchermen and have a liking for pork dishes which would keep most of us going for a week. It is not a place for slimmers.

There was plenty to see and do in the town itself, but some of us also took a trip by coach to a national park nearby, and saw manor houses on the route, built by wealthy merchants in the last century. Surprisingly, the forests out of town are home to wild boar, bears and other species of which the Estonians are proud. Considering that the country has been occupied at various times by Swedes, Russians and Germans, and was bombed during the German occupation, there is surprisingly little evidence of damage. It would seem that there may be advantages in being a small country unable to put up any meaningful resistance.

Estonia has only had its independence for the past two decades and its people are enjoying the sense of freedom. Whether they will enjoy the restrictions resulting from their decision made last January to join the euro zone, remains to be seen! However, visitors found a friendly reception everywhere in the town. Keen shoppers found Baltic amber and linen an attraction, and our group thoroughly enjoyed their stay."

Newcastle and Northumbria

Jane Jackson organized a city break, in Newcastle followed by a stay at the Masons Arms inn near Alnwick. The party travelled by train and coach or by car, so some explored Newcastle just as participants began arriving for the Great North Run, while others went off to Hadrian's Wall and Craggside, (the 19th century home of Lord Armstrong and the first in the world to be powered by hydroelectricity). We saw an electrifying performance of *The Madness of George III* at the newly restored Theatre Royal.

Travelling on, we stopped at the Woodhorn Colliery Museum to see the work of the Ashington Group, the so-called "Pitman Painters" who were encouraged to paint while attending a WEA art appreciation class. The evidence of the harshness and danger of a miner's life was especially poignant in view of a recent Welsh pit disaster. A play based on the story of these artists won great acclaim at the National Theatre and transfers to the Duchess Theatre, Covent Garden, on Oct 5 (booking 0844 482 9672). Further north, on the coast of castles, there was a sunny day sketching on Holy Island and a moving visit to the Grace Darling Museum at Bamburgh. The visit ended at the Alnwick Castle gardens. The lovely gardens have special features which include an amazing cascade and a unique Poison Garden of great interest to doctors.

FUTURE EVENTS

Exhibition by British Artists Oct 5-11, 2011 in aid of the Japanese Tsunami Appeal.

Eiko Yoshimoto is organizing this exhibition at the Japanese Embassy at 101/104 Piccadilly. Contributors will include eminent contemporary artists. It will be open on weekdays only, 9 30am to 5 30pm (4pm on Tuesday Oct 11th). Admission free but photo identification eg driving licence must be shown. Advisable to call the embassy on 020 7465 6589 before attending

Life Drawing at the RSM

Once again Ann Whitehead has kindly organized six weekend sessions with a model, including two tutored classes: Sun Oct 23, Sat Nov 5 (tutor Alex Fowler) Sat Jan 14, Sun Feb 5, Sun March 4 (tutor TBA) and Sun April 1. The cost is £10 and £20 for session with tutor. The sessions run from 10am to 3 30pm with a lunch break from 12 30 to 1 30. Ann wishes to retire after this season, after years of undertaking this task for the MAS, for which many thanks. So please come forward if you feel able to take it on. Otherwise we may lose a valuable activity.

Visit to the Deutsche Bank Art Collection March 8, 2012

A visit to the collection at 1 Great Winchester Street, EC2. Tours start at 6pm and last one and a half hours. Visitors are asked to donate £5-10 to the charities supported by the bank. There will be an additional cost of £4-5 if we want wine and nibbles on arrival. Please contact Sally Joystin-Bechal (0207 935 3708).

Norfolk self-catering holiday May 2012

Jeanette Cayley (01993 878 893) is negotiating the hire of either an old mill or a large house at Cromer.

Surrey Painting Days June 2012

Neil and Sue Weir are prepared to host a day at their home at Seale, with a visit to the newly refurbished Watts Gallery nearby. Please indicate your interest on the booking form

Mayfield Lavender Farm July 2012

In the Banstead-Carshalton area, just south of London and within easy reach of the M25, is the Mayfield Lavender Farm. The fields are at their best in early July, when at the same time Oaks Park across the road has open studios in the old stable block.

I did a reconnaissance with Nick Silva who had suggested the idea of painting here, and was enchanted. No need to go to Provence...Parking is easy, there are refreshments and a little shop, toilets and a café in Oaks Park. The studios were good, too. Nick does printmaking there. We saw some of the life-sized wire animals (by sculptor Kendra Haste) that are currently prowling around the Tower of London.

North Cornwall hotel stay Oct 2012

A stay at the Bedruthan Steps hotel for painting and touring. Jeanette Cayley (01993 878 893)

City break Nov 2012 – Winchester or Vienna?

The English cathedral city is a great place to explore – or perhaps members would prefer a pre-Christmas visit to Vienna? Jeanette Cayley (01993 878 893)

DON'T FORGET THE SOCIETY WEBSITE: www.medicalartsociety.org.uk