

Chair Letter 2016

Review of development, activities and achievements

The Society has run a full programme contributing to the enjoyment and practice of the Arts in this area and it has done this by supporting artists and their work.

Last Summer's AGM was at the end of our open exhibition in Tregwynt Mansion with a first prize of £1000 and a public vote prize of £250.00 awarded by Conegar plc. The Prize winner, Jane R James was chosen by David Alston, Director of the Arts Council Wales. 76 artists showed in the exhibition. We also gave a £250 Public Vote Prize which went to Maggie Brown

We finished our 2nd £1000 prize competition Exhibition yesterday. The standard of work was very high indeed. Many commented that it was as good as any exhibition held anywhere. We had three judges and Philip Salmon Vaughan painting, Eve was chosen as the first prize winner. The prize was presented by, the writer and historian, Peter Lord

This year we also presented the FAS £250 Bursary to a young artist from Ysgol Bro Gwaun 6th form, Ieuan Thomas.

We continue to try to bring audiences to our exhibitions who wouldn't generally have visited our exhibitions by holding events and working with other Societies. On July 27th with Fishguard International Music Festival we held a Poetry Book Launch and on August 26th Aberjazz is putting on a Taeko Kunishima Trio in our featured artists exhibition.

During the 2015 Exhibition we held two NightOut sponsored Events, this year we have three.

Last year, 'The Strange Dance' storytelling and harp' with Deb Winter and Delyth Jenkins and this year, Deb gave us 'Trysts and Promises accompanied by violinist Fiona Barrow.

Last night Karl Daymond from Opera Playhouse was 'Lowering the Tone' with a very entertaining concert.



Last year, A concert of Summer Music with Nia Harries, cello and Sanae Nakajima on piano. Next weekend Nia is coming to play for us again but this time with Lucy Rundle on double bass

Following the Summer Exhibition of 2015 we took the boards to



Fishguard Bay Hotel for the **Featured Artists' Exhibition** with **Evan John** and **Bill Harrison** who has sadly died this year.

This year the featured artists Exhibition is here with Martin White and Ruth Goodger both very different artists and we are looking forward to a great exhibition.



In October we had the **'Pencil and Pen' Exhibition**, in Fishguard Library Gallery celebrating the 'Big Draw Month' A superb demonstration of drawing skills by members of FAS

October 8th, National Poetry Day led by Deborah Winter with a **Creative Writing Workshop** at Tregwynt Mansion



The **FAS Christmas Exhibition** was **'Little Treasures'**



Fishguard Library Gallery, which featured an exquisite collection of small works.

Our first exhibition of 2016 was the **'Generations'** Exhibition in Fishguard Library Gallery.

With the great Roald Dahl in mind we thought it would be good to see works by parents and grandparents, teachers playing with or entertaining children and vice versa, whatever the age or age gap. This exhibitions brought out some very interesting work.

We have continued our fortnightly **Life Drawing** Workshops in Tregwynt Mansion through the Autumn and Spring terms and a Seawater-colour workshop sponsored by Voluntary Arts Wales

Magazine

A very significant aspect of the Society over the years has been our magazine with articles on artists and by artists.

This has become a much enjoyed event three times a year. A copy is held in the National Library of Wales.

We continue to have a presence on our website, Facebook and Twitter and through these advertise our calendar and support our artist members. Through the social

media and our website we target a large audience-a way of opening up the Arts and creating future and new following for the Arts, in all their forms. There is a running link to flickr with photographs of some events and exhibitions.

The exhibition window in the Fishguard and Goodwick Council office in the Town Hall showing works by our artists throughout the year helps towards giving a prominent role in the arts for the town to both visitors and locals.

Our special thanks go to Doug and Barbara Macleod who have given us much generous support in the use of the wonderful Tregwynt Ballroom

The Committee meets every two months but keep in touch through email, telephone and informal meetings at other times. The hard work, expertise and enthusiasm of the members of our Committee is much valued. There is a tremendous lot of work and care that goes into planning, organising and carrying out events and exhibitions and I think we all do it because we care about what happens to the Arts here. It is worth mentioning and thanking those outside the committee, a willing number of our membership, who also undertake a variety of and essential tasks. I personally would like to thank those members of the Committee who are not continuing on the Committee but I am pleased to say are remaining members of the Society and offering their help when needed. Alan, our treasurer who has been keeping the books straight for 12 years is now taking retirement from that job but remains a Committee member. Jill Cope, who will still be helping with exhibitions, for her idea and effort in organising £1000 Prize Exhibition and Dave Hands for his help towards designing the poster this year. Annie Halliwell with her help towards setting up grants and Tom for his press releases.

This coming year promises to be as busy as ever and we have beginning on the 19th 'Lines' an exhibition by our featured artists this year, Ruth Goodger and Martin White.

Followed by the arrival of four artists from Kyoto, which is legacy from our visits to Japan in 2009 and 2012 for the project AKIN. During the time they are here there will be some interesting events, workshops and Exhibitions lined up so please keep an eye on our website and special Facebook page, Fishguard Arts SocietyAKIN