

MILESTONES: THE HISTORY OF WIMBORNE ART CLUB

Wimborne Art Club originated in 1975 when several artists who had been attending a class at Queen Elizabeths School decided they would like to meet more often and hired a room at the then newly opened Allendale Centre.

After three years members had grown in number, so the decision was made to find new premises at the nearby Red Cross Hall. The member's very first exhibition was held at the Allendale Centre in November 1975 where they made £30 profit! The club met on the 1st and 3rd Thursday evenings as they do now. By 1978 there were 20 members who between them exhibited 110 paintings at Church House over four days and started a 'Favourite Painting vote at the exhibition - and the average price of a painting was £25!

In 1995 a small portrait group was formed which allowed those who were particularly interested in portraiture to meet on alternate Thursdays which still applies today. In the Spring through to Autumn a number of outdoor venues are listed for those members who like to paint 'plein air'.

By 2003 the Red Cross hall had now become too small with a bigger membership and a growing waiting list, so the Club moved to St Catherine's Church Hall where it still is today. In 1980 and still exhibiting at Church House, there were 148 framed works and 108 browsers by the year 2000, a two week exhibition recorded sales amounting to £1379 after costs and the net profit was close to £500! At that time there were few other art clubs in the area, unlike today and the cost of living was somewhat lower!

The first Pamphill Autumn Arts and Crafts exhibition was held in 2006, and this featured member's own craft work as well as paintings, and provided seasonal refreshments which has proved very popular. The club has also exhibited at Walford Mill, Wimborne Community Centre, the Museum and the Minster during Jubilee celebrations. Social activities include Christmas party and a summer tea party

Over the years there must have been many speakers and demonstrators and workshops, offering much inspiration to members. The club has moved with the times since handwritten communications, to email for the vast majority, making communication so much easier. The club has a smart regularly updated website and a presence on social media as well as its own members newsletter.

Times have certainly changed over the last 50 years for our members, but their talent and enthusiasm for their art remains the same.

A few press releases from the past 50 years



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