



The History of Fareham Art Group & the competition Trophies

History of Fareham Art Group

In 1950 a letter appeared in the local Evening News deploring the lack of facilities for would-be artists in the Fareham area. In response to this Mr Arthur Slinn placed an advert in the paper asking for anyone interested in art to contact him. As a result the first meeting of Fareham Art Group took place at Mr & Mrs Slinn's home with 7 members.

It wasn't long before the membership increased and it soon became necessary to find premises to hold the meetings and with the help of the Evening News, a hut in the 'Gillies' was rented from the Fareham Model Engineering Group and the first social evening was held.

The group flourished and in 1951, the first art exhibition was held in the old Fareham Reference Library.

About this time the group had to leave the hut in the Gillies, due to the closure of the Model Group but a Youth Leader came to the rescue and offered the use of a large room in the Youth Centre on the corner of Quay Street. In return, the art group agreed to paint the inside of the building and embarked on a full scale exercise in murals. They produced beautiful Mediterranean views, with one wall transformed into a large winding staircase. In another room each member was allocated a space on the wall to paint a picture of their own choice, outlined by a 'frame', to create a most realistic effect of hanging pictures.

From the seven who first formed Fareham Art Group all those years ago, we now have a membership in excess of 140 artists and art lovers. Since its formation the group has moved premises several times due to expanding membership.

60th Anniversary Art Exhibition

2010 was the 60th Anniversary of Fareham Art Group. In October the group held their annual Art Exhibition at Ferneham Hall, Osborn Rd, Fareham and welcomed The Worshipful the Mayor of Fareham, Councillor Brian Bayford to attend the preview evening and officially open the exhibition.



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History of the Fareham Art Group Trophies

Throughout the year Fareham Art Group holds 4 competitions providing members with the opportunity to demonstrate their skills and compete for a prestigious trophy. A subject is agreed by the committee each year for each competition entry. Some of the awards are decided by membership voting whilst others are decided by a visiting artist following a critique of the work submitted.

Molly Dicker Trophy

Molly, who passed away in 2000, was a past president of Fareham Art Group and a well known Hampshire artist. She instigated this competition to demonstrate drawing ability. Each April we hold the Molly Dicker trophy competition and entries can be in any drawing media.

Jack Smith Trophy

Jack was a past Chairman and the trophy is a sculpture of a lioness which was his last, unfinished, work. It was completed by his friend Jack Kempt and presented to Fareham Art Group by Jack Smith's sister upon his death in 1972. Each June we hold the Jack Smith trophy competition and entries can be completed in any medium.

Jenny Jennings Trophy

At our AGM in September we hold the Jenny Jennings trophy competition. Jenny was a very longstanding member of the Group and a past Chairman who sadly passed away in November 2011. She had a lively mind and was always very interested to hear news of the Group.

The Diamond Trophy

The Diamond Trophy was introduced in 2010 to celebrate our 60th anniversary of the club and is awarded to the best picture by a "new artist" at our AGM in September. It is an engraved diamond – shaped crystal trophy.

John Rashley Trophy

John was a past Chairman of the group and involved in setting up the painting sessions. John fought a long battle with cancer and the Trophy was instigated in his memory. In November each year, usually at our Christmas Party we hold the John Rashley trophy competition. The trophy is a wooden hulled boat with glass rigging.