



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.

The Sylvanarth Trophy

The Sylvanarth Trophy was presented to Fareham Art Group in 2012 in memory of its founder members Sylvia and Arthur Slinn by their son Ray. Ray asked that the trophy be awarded to "encourage new and less experienced artists" so we have linked it to our April (Molly Dicker) drawing competition.

Val Carter Award

Val Carter was a member of Fareham Art Group for over 30 years, and the Groups Chief Tutor for much of that time. Val was an accomplished artist and worked in all media. She took part enthusiastically in workshops and competitions throughout her membership and greatly encouraged others in their painting.

Val passed away in October 2017 at the age of 92. Her family has donated one of her sculptures which we will award each year in her memory. Val was a longstanding member of an international wildlife association, and passionate about painting wildlife so it is only fitting that the competition is on the subject of wildlife. Each June we hold the Val Carter award and entries can be in any medium.



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Don Parmiter

Don was a member of the Fareham Art Group for many years and for one year had been the Chairman. Don always supported the exhibitions and competitions entering some superb oil paintings. On many occasions his paintings were competition winners or voted "Best in Show" at our exhibitions. Don died in January 2009 and each year at our annual exhibition the Don Parmiter trophy is presented to the member whose painting receives the most votes from visitors.

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. Each year, at our annual exhibition the John Rashley trophy, a wooden hulled boat with glass rigging, will be awarded by the Mayor of Fareham to the artist of their chosen favourite painting.

Jenny Jennings Trophy

At our AGM in October we hold the Jenny Jennings trophy competition. Jenny was a very longstanding member of the Group and a past Chairman who 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 year as a club and until 2014 was awarded to the best picture by a 'new artist'. To enable a wider group of members to participate in this competition the award will become Fareham Art Group's 'President's Pick'. The competition takes place annually at our AGM. The trophy is an engraved diamond shaped crystal trophy.

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 December we hold the Jack Smith trophy competition and entries can be completed in any medium.