

Arts Society

NEWSLETTER

**Autumn/
Winter**
October 2011
to
March 2012

Newsletter No. 86

Editorial

Autumn had always been my favourite season. Mists and mellow fruitfulness, nights drawing in and the start of a new programme for many of the activity groups in the Arts Centre.

Many thanks to all the contributors who sent in their reports – in time and by email. I'm delighted to say I had plenty of material to fill the pages of the Autumn/Winter issue.

I do like Eileen's cover design and layout. It suits this time of the year.

The next Newsletter will come out on 1st April 2012 and the deadline is Thursday 15th March. What a long way ahead!

Please email reports to maryfromscorton@yahoo.co.uk or put a paper copy in the newsletter pigeonhole in the Arts Centre.

I'd like to wish all our readers and contributors a very happy Christmas and all the best for 2012.

Mary Hodges

Editor

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The staff at the Arts Centre have had a busy Summer with the refurbishment of the kitchen. This is now completed and looking very smart. We were fortunate to be given a generous donation towards this and also received two grants from local authorities. Thanks go to our Curator, Hilary, who organised everything in her usual cheerful and efficient way and managed, with the able assistance of Valerie, to keep the Centre open to the public throughout the whole procedure. Hilary's husband, Bob, has done a great job with the tiling and we have Melanie Wilson to thank for painting the walls and ceiling.

During the Summer the Centre welcomed the children who had entered the Primary Schools Art Competition. Thanks go to Marie Whalley for organising this event, to the Co-op for sponsorship and also to Bob and Kath Jackson for judging the entries and presenting the prizes. In August it was the Garstang High School pupils who amazed us with their talented exhibits as part of the Jean Grange Awards and it was good to have the Head of the Art Department at the presentation.

July saw the arrival of a different piano to the Music Room. This lovely Petrof Piano had been bequeathed to the Arts Centre by the late Joan Kelsey- Sharpe, a talented local pianist, who sadly passed away in December of last year. The piano has been in use throughout the Summer at the excellent lunchtime concerts, once again organised for the Arts Centre by June Baker.

The Indian Evening, organised by Holly and the Painting Group, was held in July and was a great night. First we ate then we were entertained. What a talented family ! Holly's granddaughters Ayesha and Aiyana gave a wonderful demonstration of various dances from India ranging from traditional styles to Bollywood and the costumes were beautiful. An added bonus was when grandson Kushal played the traditional Indian drums. The evening brought in £380 for the Arts Centre.

In August the centre was a hub of activity with various events held as part of The Garstang Arts & Music Festival. Amongst these were the Saturday Craft & Collectors Fair, Card Design and Origami Workshops, a Violin Recital, an afternoon with The Songbirds, a Film Evening, the Palm Court Lunchtime Concert, an evening with Sylvan Sound Ladies Choir, a Poetry Workshop and finally, Craft Displays on Bank Holiday Monday. Thanks go to all members who organised these events and also to everyone who helped with the catering and helped to raise £468 for Arts Centre Funds.

Future events to interest you are the 200 Club Draw, the Christmas Craft Fair and an evening with The John Towers Big Band. More details of these events are in this Newsletter.

Mary Thornber

Garstang Show

The Arts Centre was invited to host a table in the Community Tent on the second day of the Garstang Show, which is a Family Fun Day. Eileen Hill designed a 3-fold brochure about the work of the Arts Centre and all the Activity Groups who meet there. It tells a little of what we do, and is a very attractive source of information and promotional tool. Copies are now available in the Arts Centre.

The Activity Groups were asked to provide volunteers to man the table and information sheets to tell enquirers about themselves on the day, and a very good response was received. The Wine Circle, Camera Club, Poetry Appreciation Group, Recorded Music Society and Card-making Group gave superb support on the day, and some of the other groups which could not help with volunteers were able to provide information to give out.

Unfortunately the ground was wet and visitor numbers were not large. We will report back to the Garstanglink group who organised the Community Tent. The Arts Centre Executive Committee will decide nearer the time should the event be repeated next year, whether we should take part again. If we do, lessons were learnt and we should be able to improve on this year's event.

Many thanks to everyone who helped on or before the day.

Pat Hansell

WINE CIRCLE

The New Year for The Garstang Wine Circle commenced at their Annual General Meeting on September 19, 2011. This last year was a most successful year ending with a membership of 64 people.

We meet on the third Monday in each month with the exception of July, August and December. We have a full programme until the Christmas Social, with an Australian theme, which is timed for Saturday December 4, 2011.

The 2012 programme is well in hand. We plan to have 5 in house tastings and 5 using external specialists. For each tasting we like to provide six to eight wines for our members.

We are confident that for the coming year we will hold our annual subscription to £15 with an attendance fee of £6 or £8 for visitors.

There will be opportunities to visit local vintners for additional wine tasting and maybe the odd lunch or dinner.

Twenty three members and guests will visit Sicily to sample their wine and food between September 25th and October 2nd this year.

This year we introduced our web site www.garstangwinecircle.co.uk If you would like to know more about us why not log on?

Don Goodier
Chairman
The Garstang Wine Circle

**Garstang Arts Centre
Schoolroom Exhibitions
September 2011 - March 2012**

September 24th – October 22nd

Ernest Thompson Brown

I first started to paint in 2006 at the age of 66, when my wife and I bought a house in Fuerteventura, Canary Islands. I was totally inspired by this beautiful island. I am completely self taught and being retired we decided to spend part of the year at our caravan park "Six Arches" Scorton. So now we enjoy the best of both lovely places. I usually paint from photographs I take or from my imagination. A number of my paintings are exhibited and sold in restaurants and bars around Caleta De Fuste - hence "Ernesto T" which our Spanish neighbours find easier to pronounce.

October 22nd – November 19th

Colin Binns

Colin Binns makes mixed media paintings through examining his memories of places and events, and exploring the personal experiences that get attached to them. His imagery is drawn from intensive research at locations that hold significance for him, influenced also by his studies of Eastern ideas of landscape and place. This exhibition brings together an extensive range of his work, showing unique responses to experiences of place through vigorous and colourful combinations of paint, print, photography and collage.

November 22nd – December 17th

Silverdale Art Group

Silverdale Art Group has been in existence for over 40 years to cater for those in the local community who are interested in drawing, painting and other artistic pursuits. Our objectives are to foster and promote all aspects of the visual arts in the community and to facilitate personal improvement, art education and recreation of members. We are delighted to be associated with Garstang Arts Centre. You will find a large exhibition featuring the work of our many members in the Schoolroom in the Arts Centre!

February 14th – March 10th

Exhibition to be announced.

March 13th – April 7th

Exhibition to be announced.

FLORAL ART

The Floral Art Group have continued to meet each month throughout the Summer and were thrilled when one of their members, Jean Boardman, won a first prize with her flower arrangement at Garstang Show in August, then won first and best in show prizes at Cockerham Show.

The October 18th meeting will be a visit to The Barn at Scorton, for a demonstration by

Andrew Thompson, followed by tea and scones. On the 15th November, Claire from Morgans of Garstang will be showing members how to “Gift wrap flowers for Presents” . Members are asked to take flowers, plants or a bottle of wine to wrap.

The December meeting will be a week earlier than usual on the 13th when members will make their own floral display in time for Christmas. This will be followed by a Jacobs Join. All these meetings commence at 2-00pm.

Visitors are always welcome.

For more information contact Mary Thornber. 01995 605210

POETRY APPRECIATION GROUP

We had a very interesting summer with a look at American Poets in June led by Marie Whalley and Summer Memories in July led by Hilary McGrath.

In August our meeting formed part of the Garstang Arts Festival. We were very fortunate to have our patron Professor James Dodding leading a fascinating workshop called “Passion for Poetry”.

James started with the basics, what was passion and what was poetry. On to advice and exercises speaking as a group together and then to each other. How to relax the facial muscles, how to articulate sounds to convey the sense of a word by putting feeling into the language and how to avoid the use of over careful “Precious” speech , the conscious “Voice beautiful” . We then went on to look at different poetry styles from lyric to comic via odes, sonnets, ballads, epic, narrative, dramatic and satiric poems .

These all need a different verbal style and approach . We concentrated on lyric poetry and sonnets. Sonnets especially, require an understanding of the structure and rhythm of the poem. After a short practice some brave souls read a sonnet to the group.

Later we worked on verse speaking together. The workshop was entertaining, thought provoking and challenging, sometimes very challenging. It made us realise the training and effort that goes into “effortless ” poetry reading. We thoroughly enjoyed the session and really appreciated James’s tremendous knowledge and skill as a teacher.

Poetry Appreciation Autumn Programme 2011

September 23rd Home Thoughts. Leader Harry Batty

October 28th Lancashire Life led by Mary Thornber and Anthony Coppin

November 25th Remember the War? Readings and poems about the Second World War. Leader David Greenwood

December 16th Christmas Spirit. Celebrate the season with songs and poems and good Christmas cheer!

We meet the fourth Friday of the month from 2pm – 4pm. The group is very friendly and welcoming . If you haven’t been before come and try us.

For more information please contact Marie Whalley 01995 603605

JOHN TOWERS BIG BAND

"SUMMER HOLIDAY"

Hidden in the article below are 27 music or song titles most of which the band play. I wonder how many you can spot without looking at the "Big Band Solutions" ? (The title doesn't count.)

" I really don't feel in the mood to play tonight." said Mal, as he wearily lifted his trombone from its case. "It's been a pig of a day. Nothing's gone right. Last month the wife and I decided to take a holiday on the Isle of Capri. We booked a flight with that budget airline, you know the one that has "Come Fly with Me" as its slogan. Got a phone call today to say they'd gone bust and our deposit's down the swanee. I rang my son who's a solicitor. He said "Do nothing till you hear from me."

"Oh dear, I am sorry but my day's been magic," trumpet player Nancy responded from the other side of the room.

"For me everything has gone right. I booked a holiday too. This afternoon - with the travel agent in Poulton. Very efficient they were. The girl behind the counter was really sweet. Caroline I think her name was - did everything for me. It's all arranged. I'm flying to America. Blue skies all the way " she warbled with an immovable smile on her face. "First stop New York! New York doesn't it sound exciting? From there I take the A train and by the time I get to Phoenix I shall be in holiday heaven. Then I've hired a car to drive down Route 66 to far away places."

"Congratulations I'm sure ! " muttered Mal. "It's all right for some. Looks like we've had it this year."

Ben, the baritone Sax. player, breezed in and picked up on the end of the conversation.

"Were you talking about holidays ?" he asked.

"NO!" snapped Mal.

"YES !" purred Nancy.

"We spent April in Paris this year," Ben continued. "Wonderful ! A small hotel along the banks of the Seine. Early morning stroll with a stop at a street cafe for a coffee and a croissant as a misty sun rose behind the Eiffel Tower. Superb !"

"No need to go abroad," chipped in Gilbert a trombone player. "Most of my favourite things can be found without leaving these shores."

"We take our caravan and travel all around the country. Last month we went to Scarborough. Fair enough it's in Yorkshire but you can't have everything. You don't even need to stick to the summer. Last Christmas we drove up to Keswick. It had snowed overnight. Beautiful. A winter wonderland only an hour's drive away."

"Spain for me every time." It was Danny a trumpet player who joined us when we were short. "Have you ever visited the Alhambra Palace in the hills above Granada.

Stunning ! And those bars along the beach near Marbella. A jug of Sangria and a couple of beers and then chatting to a sophisticated lady with those Spanish eyes, Phwoar !! "

Bit of a lad is Danny. "Well I hope you all enjoy your holidays " snorted Mal. "As for me I shall just have to look for the silver lining. Ah well that's Life I suppose. "

John Whittle

BIG BAND SOLUTIONS

In the Mood - Tonight - Isle of Capri - Come Fly with Me - Swanee - Do Nothing Till You Hear From Me - Magic Trumpet (Match of the Day Theme) - Sweet Caroline - Blue Skies - New York, New York - Take the A Train - By the Time I Get to Phoenix - Route 66 - Far away Places - Congratulations - April in Paris - A Small Hotel - Misty - My Favourite Things - Caravan - Scarborough Fair - Winter Wonderland - Granada - Sophisticated Lady - Spanish Eyes - Look for the Silver Lining - That's Life!

AN EVENINGS ENTERTAINMENT WITH OUR OWN

JOHN TOWERS BIG BAND.

DATE :- FRIDAY NOVEMBER 18th 2011.

VENUE:- KIRKLAND VILLAGE HALL.

PRICE:- £7-50 includes a COLD BUFFET TABLE.

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM THE ARTS CENTRE

200 CLUB

By the time you read this newsletter our Autumn Draw and Fun Quiz on the 1st October will be done and dusted. The evening is promising to be excellent and I hope that I will be able to report a huge success in the next newsletter.

Thanks goes out to the people who work so hard to make these social events enjoyable and especially to Harry without whom the quiz just wouldn't happen! Thanks also to all the people who support the 200 Club on a yearly basis. We have just a few spare numbers so perhaps we could try to be fully subscribed for next year. I hope the draw went well for you.

Best wishes.

Hilary Burns

THE PAINTING GROUP

We are proud of The Big Picture that was put on display at the beginning of the Arts Festival Week. We feel it really reflects the many activities that go on at the Arts Centre.

The planned outside painting (Plein air) had mixed success due to weather extremes. On one occasion while we were sheltering inside from the rain, our gazebo in the courtyard was much appreciated by soaked pedestrians. The photographer from the Courier who had come to record the Montmartre event had to take an inside photograph. It's a shame that he was not there at the **Montmartre** sessions at the **Thomas Weind** where the sun was shining, the Parisian music was playing, and we were painting for others to see, it was all very enjoyable,

We are looking forward to the demonstration by Louis Morton soon and the day workshop with Francis Winder in November.

Our own **Still Life Challenge** has become a regular feature in our programme because it enables us all to get involved. The theme this October will be **Reflections** using the glass and metal objects we have brought from home. These will be arranged to produce a stimulating composition which I think will need much thought and skill. The winner of the small prize for the best work will have earned it.

The programme for 2012 is being planned at the moment, and will include portrait painting, day workshops, a gallery visit, plein air sessions and challenges, in addition to the weekly meetings where we work individually within a warm, friendly atmosphere.

Exhibition dates will be published in Focus and on the notice board in the Arts Centre.

Carolyn Wood, Secretary

RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY

Once again it gives me great pleasure to give you this update regarding our musical activities. We seem to have overcome a difficult year and are now going from strength to strength, having enjoyed some superb evenings along the way.

Numbers are still fairly low, but we have a very committed group who thoroughly enjoy our evenings, whether presenting or listening. You are very welcome to join us.

We had an extra "Members' evening" this year - one in March and a second in August. Both were a resounding success and gave everyone the opportunity of presenting music of their own choice with perhaps a little information about the music and why it meant so much to that member. The wide variety of choices just helps to show the huge

range of musical knowledge and interests of our members and the pleasure of sharing this with others.

We have always said that one never leaves our meetings without having heard something new - either an unfamiliar composer, or an unknown piece of music, and the wish to discover more about the subject, so please do not assume you have to know anything at all about music - just love listening to it.

Tom's programme in April contained just such unfamiliar but enjoyable pieces held together by his usual witty repartee. May saw our biennial visit from the Morecambe group who provided half of a very successful evening. We always enjoy our visits to and from them.

In June we had a visit from an otherwise unknown presenter from Hull who played several favourites from Beethoven and Tchaikovsky, whilst in July our regular from the Blackpool group, Barbara Robinson gave us "Talented Brits". This was quite an eye-opener as so often Britain seems to be regarded as a musical light-weight. What a pleasure to hear that refuted by a veritable plethora of British musical talent from both composers and artists.

Our most recent meeting was a presentation by another of our Blackpool friends - Chris Rodwell. Chris gave us a superb programme entitled "The Other One". We heard, not the famous Lloyd-Webber brothers, but their father in a beautiful rendering of his music. We heard not the famous Tchaikovsky piano concerto, but "the other one" i.e. the lesser known, but no less fantastic. And so the evening went on providing so many opportunities of hearing lesser known gems, or performances, put together by Chris's fantastic knowledge and presentation skills

In October, we look forward to hearing another intriguing presentation by Committee member, Keith Carter entitled "Music to the Four". (Four players? Four composers? four pieces of music?) Your guess is as good as mine.

And so the year passes, with our AGM in December. Next year's programme is already taking firm shape, put together by Committee Member Gordon Semple. Gordon is also standing in for our November meeting, when the planned member has had to withdraw.

If you have any interest at all in any of the various musical ideas mentioned, or would just like to know more, you are very welcome to come and join us. We meet at the Art Centre, at 7.30 pm on the first Monday each month (or the 2nd Monday if the first is a Bank Holiday).

You will be made very welcome.

Wyn Unsworth

TERRY O'TOOLE'S PAINTING CLASSES

Classes to be held at Garstang Arts Centre 10-3 Lunch 12-1pm

Each day's class costs £27 per person including all materials.

October

Monday 3rd	Christmas cards
Monday 10th	Effective Trees (scene)
Monday 24th	Christmas cards
Monday 31st	Fishing at sunset

November

Monday 7th	Seascape with lighthouse
Monday 14th	Christmas card for Children in Need
Monday 21st	Winter Scene
Monday 28th	Mountain Scene

December

Monday 5th	Pine trees in snow
Monday 12th	Painting from photos

To Book contact Terry O'Toole

'Glendale' Masfield Place

Walton Le Dale

Preston PR5 4TN

Mob: 07969177369

CRAFT FAIR

This year's Craft Fair will run for **5 weeks**, opening at 10 am on Saturday 29th October 2011, and closing at 4 pm on Thursday 1st December.

Goods for display should be taken to the Arts Centre, during normal opening hours, on Tuesday 25th and Thursday 27th October 2011, so they can be displayed in the music room.

Members who have exhibited before should receive letters giving details of relevant dates.

We are always interested in receiving items from new exhibitors, the more variety we have, the more money we are likely to make. This is a golden opportunity to display and sell your crafts – the Arts Centre takes 20% commission with the rest going to the person making the items.

Anyone interested in bringing items for sale at the Craft Fair please contact the Curator or Pat Manley at the Arts Centre.

The Craft Fair is open during normal opening hours on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturday mornings for five weeks from 29th October. There will be a wide variety of hand made items, just the place to find something a little bit different. Don't forget to come and buy!!

Pat Manley

DON'T FORGET!

NEXT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING.

TUESDAY OCTOBER 18th 2011.

In the schoolroom

GARSTANG MUSICAL PRODUCTIONS

As part their 25th anniversary celebrations, Garstang Musical Productions will be performing "Hot Mikado" from 19th to 22nd October at Garstang High School.

"Hot Mikado" is a 1940's era adaptation of Gilbert and Sullivan's popular 1885 operetta "The Mikado". The score uses much of Sullivan's original music which has been reorchestrated using a wide range of styles, including jazz, hot gospel, blues, rock and swing. High energy and fun is guaranteed in this energetic, funny, toe-tapping musical comedy.

The leading roles will be played by the following members:

Nanki Poo:	Karl Roe
Yum Yum:	Hannah Kearney
Pooh Bah:	Peter Cooney
Ko Ko:	Paul Jones
Katisha:	Ceri O'Neill
Pitti Sing:	Alice Dent
Peep Bo:	Lucy Burdett
Pish Tush:	Steven Bryant
The Mikado:	Andrew Burdett

All performances start at 7.30pm and tickets, which cost £8.00, can be purchased at Car Care in Garstang or by contacting 01995 606603.

Joanne Ingham

Groups who Meet in the Arts Centre

Calligraphy	Wednesday 10 – 12 noon & 1 – 3 pm
Camera Club	Wednesday 3 evenings per month 7.30 pm
Card Design	4th Monday 10—12 noon
Floral Art	3rd Tuesday 2 pm
Folk Dancers	Tuesday 7.30 pm
Garstang Musical Production	Thursday 7.30 pm
John Towers Big Band	Friday 7.30 pm
Painting Group	Wednesday 1—4 pm
Patchwork & Needlework	Wednesday 10—12 noon
Poetry Appreciation	4th Friday 2—4 pm
Recorded Music Society	1st Monday 7.30 pm
Scrabble	4th Monday 7.30 pm
Songbirds	Monday 1.30—3.30 pm
Terry O'Toole Painting Class	Monday 10—12 noon & 1 – 3 pm
Wine Circle	3rd Monday 7.30 pm

Garstang & District Arts Society

Arts Centre, Croston Road, Garstang, PR3 1EB

Tel: 01995 606648

LIFE PRESIDENT - Geoff Davies 01995 603288

Registered Charity Number 259715

Curator	Hilary Burns	01995 606648
	(Emergency Only	01995 603524)
Assistant Curator	Val Donnelly	01995 606648
	(Emergency Only	01995 603452)
Chairman	Mary Thornber	01995 605210
Secretary	Pat Hansell	01995 600397
Treasurer	Pat Manley	01772 462448

GROUPS	CONTACT	TEL. NUMBER
Card Making	Brenda Brown	01995 670519
Calligraphy	Jilly Hazeldine	01524 251534
Camera Club	Barry Till	01995 602857
Exhibitions-School Room	Anne Mckay	01995 603058
Exhibitions-Music Room	Pat Sandiford	01524 791139
	Carol Owen	01524 791799
Floral Art	Mary Thornber	01995 605210
Folk Dancers	Linda Greenwood	01524 36734
Garstang Musical Productions	Joanne Ingham	01995 601050
John Towers Band	Tony Berry	01995 606549
Newsletter	Mary Hodges	01995 604755

Painting Group	Carolyn Wood	01253 812270
Patchwork & Needlework	Ann Storey	01995 605761
Poetry Appreciation	Marie Whalley	01995 603605
Painting Class	Terry O'Toole	07969177369
Recorded Music	Wyn Unsworth	01995 604856
Songbirds	Avril Bevan	01995 602904
Scrabble	Pat Manley	01772 462448
	Kay Seton	01995 603036
200 Club	Hilary Burns	01995 603542
Wine Circle	Don Goodier	01995 603720

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