



*Radlett Art Society*

Dear Member,

We welcome our new members and look forward to meeting you soon at future events. I hope you all enjoyed this sunny summer with interesting and happy activities.

**The Society's high point of the year;** again sponsored by John Apthorp, our **49<sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibition** came together, including exhibits submitted by students from two local colleges, fulfilling the wish of our Patron, to encourage younger members of the community by generous awards to help them to further their studies. We were honoured that Norman Ackroyd RA, eminent artist/professor selected winners and spoke at our Opening Lunch.



**Congratulations to artists,** thank you for exhibiting.

I admired the individual ways of looking at things and the obvious enjoyment in producing art-a joy to see. Each of our artists' contributions added to this varied, talented achievement. The Radlett Art Society is justly proud of you. Our thanks again to the Committee and team of helpers, and stewards, without your support we could not hold the exhibition.

Information on our interesting Lectures and Visits for our Autumn programme follows in this letter. **Our Christmas Festive Supper** will be at Porters Park Golf Club on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December. Application forms and details will be in the 1<sup>st</sup> November newsletter. Enjoy Autumn days.

Best wishes to all our members.

Carmen

**President's Appraisal.**

Although I was unfortunately unable to be at the lunch for the Summer Exhibition, and from what I hear, was a Splendid Opening by Norman Ackroyd, I had a lovely hour in which to go round the Exhibition quietly. I am always astounded at the enormous talent shown by our members, and was not disappointed by their contributions this year. In fact having visited the Summer Exhibition at the Royal Academy only a few days before, there were several works in ours which bore very good comparison to the latter.

Long may we continue to enjoy this local talent

Ronnie Samuels

## FUTURE LECTURES, all at the Radlett Centre

### Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 7.30pm for 8.00pm **GREAT TWENTIETH CENTURY ART COLLECTORS PUBLIC BENEFACTORS or ROBBER BARONS**

Lecturer: **John Iddon**

The core of great public art collectors comes from powerful, often larger than-life private collectors. This lecture looks at private collectors and the art they acquired

*Admission: Members Free, Non-Members £7.00 Coffee is available*

### Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 7.30pm for 8.00pm

#### **DONATELLO & THE SCULPTURES of THE RENAISSANCE**

Lecturer **Jo Walton BA Dip Hist Art**

**Donatello**, (c. 1386 – December 13, 1466) was the most important sculptor before Michaelangelo. The bronze David (now in the Bargello) is his most famous work and the first known free-standing nude statue produced since antiquity. It is arguably the first major work of Renaissance sculpture.

*Admission Members Free, Non-Members £7.00 Coffee is available*



### PAST LECTURES

#### Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May **CHARDIN and the LURE of the ORDINARY**

Lecturer: **Barry Venning**

**Chardin** (1699-1779) found a niche for himself in the French Academy as a still life artist. In spite of this being an unfashionable genre at the time, his work was popular and has lasted. Many artists – Manet, Cézanne, Matisse, Soutine and others – have admired and often copied his paintings. We were able to admire Chardin's attention to detail and wonderful use of lighting in still life, interior household scenes and portraits. Barry Venning described his life and work knowledgeably and with gentle humour, so that we were able to view close-ups of dead animals without flinching!

**Muriel Beaver**

#### Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June **THE TURNER PRIZE EXPLAINED.**

Frank Woodgate gave us a detailed talk on the winners and some nominees of the Prize for each year since it was established in 1984.

The reason it is called the Turner Prize – is that it takes place at the Tate Gallery, where many of Turner's works are housed. He made a note in his Will to support young artists. It is open to artists under 50.

Many criticisms have been made. The Observer wrote that "Turner must be rotating in his grave". Yet some of us saw wonder and beauty in a few of the artists' works, for instance: one sculptor in 2010 poured copper sulphate into a disused flat in Elephant Castle, leaving it to crystallise, it looked like Aladdin's cave, empty interior walls sparkling with blue crystals, later it was moved to Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

Winners of three decades have produced installations, sound art, performance art, videos, electrical engineering work, abstract sculpture, conceptual ideas, some consumer culture, many stretching the bounds of what we think of as art – often we can't see the skill involved.

Frank pointed out that some works, like Damien Hirst's dead animals link back to C17 quite traditional work of paintings of dead animals replicating death. There are also "personal life" works, eg Van Gogh's Chair with Pipe, Landseer's bed and Shepherd Dog, portraying their life, as in Tracey Emin's horrid "bed" showing her unfortunate life-style.

Despite the isms and wasms of 1970 – modernism appearing, it seems there is nothing really new in art.

**Carmen Beal**



## **FUTURE VISITS**

### **THREE DAY TOUR IN SEPTEMBER 2016**

Following the success of the tours undertaken during the last few years, your Society is arranging a three day tour to the North West of England for the 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> September next year. The tour will include visits to the Lowry Gallery, Port Sunlight, Lady Lever Art Gallery and the two famous Cathedrals in Liverpool. A detailed itinerary and booking form will be sent to you with the next Newsletter in November giving plenty of notice to assist members as they plan their activities for 2016

### **SUNDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER      HAMPTON COURT PALACE**

This building has featured significantly in British history. The original medieval manor was acquired in 1494 by Giles Daubeney who set about its modernisation. It came into Wolsey's hands in 1515 who started its conversion into a lavish palace. In 1529 Henry V111 took over the building works and used the palace frequently and for many important events.

The Palace contains a great deal to see and enjoy for example, The Cumberland Art Gallery that contains many works from the Royal Collection; The Great Hall, the enormous kitchens that fed 600 people twice a day and much more.

#### **Timing**

Depart Radlett former Post Office: 10.30am	Arrive Hampton Court 11.30am
Depart Hampton Court 4.30pm	Arrive Radlett 5.30pm

#### **Food**

Food is available in several locations on site.

#### **Cost**

Members: £28    Guests: £30    Blue Badge Holders: £15    Gratuity included

## PAST VISITS

On **10<sup>th</sup> May** we made an afternoon visit to **Kenwood House**, adjacent to Hampstead Heath. The Lord Chief Justice Lord Mansfield had purchased the house and extensive grounds overlooking London for £40,000 in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. He lived in Bloomsbury during the week and at Kenwood House at the weekends. He employed 22 full-time servants to maintain the house, together with Maria, a Jamaican slave who later gave birth to Dido, the illegitimate daughter of his nephew. He adopted her and educated her in his home.

**Raymond Hurt**

Our visit on **28<sup>th</sup> June to Batemans**, near Burwash, was the country home of Rudyard Kipling, the eminent 20<sup>th</sup> century writer. He was one of the first to generate his own electricity from the river Dudwell at the southern end of his 33 acre estate. This Jacobean mansion was built in 1634 and included a fully restored water mill which still grinds flour. His 1928 Rolls Royce car was on view and the house remains much as he left it after his death in 1936. We saw the elegant downstairs living rooms with their carved oak furniture and the upstairs bedroom of his only son who was killed in World War I together with Rudyard's study with all its paraphernalia. It was a fascinating visit and one of the most interesting of our monthly Sunday trips. The later sale of this country mansion led to the beginning of the decline of the English country house.

**Raymond Hurt**

Our penultimate Sunday and most enjoyable visit on **19<sup>th</sup> July** was to **Ely Cathedral**, originally situated on an island but after the labours of Dutch engineers became the northern part of East Anglia. The long nave ceiling was painted in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and is unique. Hammer beams with flying angels at their base support the roof and were completed in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The central tower unfortunately collapsed at about the same time and was replaced by an octagonal tower of wood, glass and lead which is supported on eight stone pillars and is described as a masterpiece. The city itself was reminiscent of the old part of St. Albans. In the afternoon some of us were impressed by the stained glass museum and others walked through the old city and enjoyed the River Ouse below. **Raymond Hurt**



### ***PAINTERS' NEWS***

We enjoyed the nineteen Spring and Summer sessions of our Thursday Workshop, and their Summer Sketching around Radlett – this kindly organised by artist Shirley Conn. After our break, we continue to meet on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September to 10<sup>th</sup> December, twelve sessions.

Topics will include still-life studying, portrait and life models, demonstration by an artist, and members wishing to follow their own ideas with advice and encouragement.

My thanks to all the helpful members who add to the pleasure of these afternoons.

**Carmen**