**NEWSLETTER MARCH 2014**

Dear members,

The AGM for 2014 was not as well attended as it might have been, only 27 members signed the register, but others may have been present. We are hoping to keep a record of attendance for all meetings, please look out for the register at future meetings,

 Lack of numbers, however, did not prevent a lively discussion taking place once the various reports had been delivered. As you might know, Sharon [Chair], David [Treasurer], Sue [Thursday group] stood down from the committee. Replacements were readily at hand and I thank, and welcome Mike Lowe as Chair, and Val Mackenzie as treasurer, Sue has agreed to continue to run the Thursday group although she has stood down from the committee. Bob, Vedanti, Monica, Jen and I continue as before. Also, joining the committee are Diana Joyce, Christine Hounslow, and Barbara Lepojevic. With this influx of expertise and enthusiasm I feel the Society is in good hands!

**Mike has kindly sent the following, by way of introduction**

Since retiring from running my Optical Practice in Carterton in 2003; I looked to renew my love of Art, Design, and Drawing. I attended various Art classes and it was during this period I met members of the Lechlade Arts Society.

I am a member of Carterton Lions Club and am currently the Club President. I was instrumental in starting and running the Carterton Lions Annual Art Exhibition, I therefore appreciate what is involved in organising Art events and the necessity of having a strong committee to carry out the day to day tasks which make the Society function.

Any Society needs dedicated people who are prepared to help do these tasks and all too often it is easy to say “I would do, but I don’t have the time; or what could I bring to the table?”  If everyone thought like that there would be no Society. I was impressed with the members of Lechlade Art Society Committee and the members who work so tirelessly to keep the boat afloat so to speak. I am honoured to have been chosen to be your Chairman and hope that I can live up to the excellent example of my predecessor.

Please bear in mind that my memory for names is poor and I may well ask you your names on more than on occasion.

I look forward to meeting you in the future.”

Yours Sincerely

Michael Lowe

Subscriptions are now due, a number have already paid Vedanti. Please contact her directly, and make sure that subscriptions are with her no later than the last week in April. Her address is:-

9, Harvest Crescent, Shilton Park, Carterton, Oxon OX18 1FF

It is hoped that you will receive a membership and programme of events soon after renewing your subscription. This can be done in the following ways

Through the Monday or Thursday meetings, at a demonstration, or direct from Vedanti, but please enclose an SAE if you want to do it this way.

Our programme of events is nearly complete for the year. Practically all the demonstrations/workshops are now in place but we still have not booked our December “Do” – What do you want? We had a successful Auction and Christmas Party last year, and some members have said that they would like to do the same again. Please let me know so I can make the booking and start the ball rolling! Phone or e mail or pass your ideas on via the art groups.

The committee is about to start booking demonstrators for next year Please let me know of anyone that you would recommend for both demonstration and workshop

**Lastly, the new initiative that was mentioned at the AGM**

This is an opportunity for us to go back to our roots! Ann Snow has very kindly organised a chance for us to meet at Inglesham Church at 09.30 am on Wednesday, 25th June for an outdoor and/or indoor drawing /painting session of this wonderful old church and grounds. In addition we have a speaker, Jane Rutherford who is an expert on the ancient wall paintings in the church, who will give us a talk at 10.00 am. This is not a fund raising exercise so all it will cost is a donation of £2 towards costs. Bring your own lunch. Please look out for further publicity in the art groups.

**STOP PRESS – DIARY DATES WORKSHOPS** – please contact me directly if you are interested in attending any of these. Further details from Monday and Thursday group meetings or directly from me, via phone 01367 252540 or email b.britton89@btinternet.com

Clarissa Lloyd’s workshop – Saturday 7th June **cost £25** - maximum of 12 participants

Paul Deacon’s workshop – Sunday 6th July **cost £30** – maximum of 12 participants

Brian Britton’s workshop – Saturday 30th August cost **£30** [all materials provided] “Monoprintmaking for all” [beginners or experienced members welcome]. Max 12 participants

Kind regards

Brian