



From the chair..

Glad to have the opportunity to write from the chair. (Lower case deliberate here, to indicate what I'm actually sitting on). But also to confuse because of the role I've volunteered for.

This Chair's piece contains news eg the date for the 12th night party; opinion (mine and personal unless otherwise acknowledged); and administration).

A 'Talkat The Barn' by Sir Richard Long

A very big thank you to Madeleine Page for asking her brother Sir Richard Long the sculptor, to spend time with us. You already know about this event from emails. Richard Long is a Turner prize winner, doing so in 1989, and was short-listed three times before.

Administration. It is remarkable to me that Wessex Sculptors maintains its momentum as a self managed organisation with charitable aims. We do it together, taking turns. And volunteering to clean the Barn ready for a non-messy event is just as significant in my view as volunteering to take a role like chairperson.

I make this point for your volunteer capacity is requested, because in March 2019, less than six months hence, we (that is us the body of us not the Committee) will want a new **Treasurer** and new **Membership Secretary**. If it is possible for you to do either, then please *consider* it now. You will have a chance, by shadowing, to see how the job is done and what it involves. Basically it demands your TIME, though not much of it. And possibly some skill, a learnable thing. Importantly, the role of **Treasurer** is significant because the Charity Commission requires us to have one, and our status as charity means we pay less for certain things.

Website You may consider I'm doing admin here, but I think I'm doing news.

Jen Boardman has managed the website for us for a long time. The person responsible for the domain registration has given us notice that he is to retire and not work

beyond 2018. Jen, has found another skilled ICT person willing to take on these technical aspects. In the transfer, this will enable Jen to make the WS site more to our liking.

Ongoing costs are similar to what we have been paying, and some additional development costs will happen to pay for changes afoot now. The outcome should be a coherent site in 2019, easier to access for interested parties: eg recruitment of new members, and possible patrons, as well as publicity for each of us.

Jen will be asking for material from you soon. She'll be doing so with specific criteria in mind: file sizes and formats at least. If you need help with these criteria, then in the first instance please ask someone (under 35?) to help you. If we all asked Jen for help, and each took an hour, that would be close to a full-time job for a week, ie unreasonable demands on her time. Thank you Jen.

Outings Ann Brazier's response to my question to her during a Committee Meeting seems to say it for all of us. I asked "Where will you take us to?" and Ann said "Where would you like to go?". So. Where would you like to go? Tell Ann Brazier.

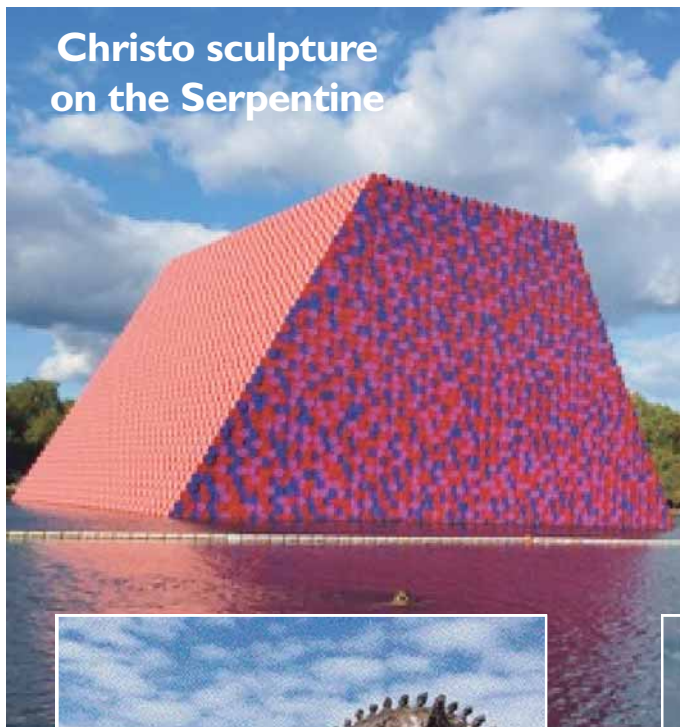
Twelfth Night Party Traditionally (how soon does a practice become a tradition?) WS' end of year get-together happens on the Monday or Thursday closest to 12th night. At the last Committee meeting we saw that the nearest is Monday 7th January 2019. That's the date. More on the notice boards in due course.

Web Google loves video, and pushes websites up the rankings if there is video in them. Got any sculpture related video of you? Tell Jen Boardman about it please. She'll be able to tell you how she'd like the file.





Exhibitions



Christo sculpture on the Serpentine

I have just been to the Madonnas and More exhibition by Peter Eugene Ball at Romsey Abbey and it is absolutely fantastic. I would recommend every one, especially wood carvers, to go along and enjoy it. Romsey Abbey is beautiful and a perfect setting for Peter's work. Unfortunately his prices are little beyond my reach but that didn't stop me wishful thinking!
Jill



Holly exhibiting at the Alesford show



The Motisfont Open Exhibition 2018

Saturday 15 September -
Sunday 11 November:

An exciting mix of almost 100 works, submitted by artists from all backgrounds and selected by a panel of arts specialists. The exhibition showcases a fascinating variety of media and styles, from drawings and paintings to sculpture, other 3D works, and several textile pieces.

Discover a unique collection of artworks

Seen in Eze Village France





Head and Torso Workshop

On Saturday 22nd September, John Souter led 10 enthusiastic sculptors modelling the head and/or torso in clay. We all got a good view of our excellent model Kurtis on the rotating Dias (which I had never seen before because it is usually stacked against a wall in the main Barn). Kurtis works as a personal trainer with strong features and good muscular definition - such a bonus! Considering that there were several people who had not worked in clay from life before, it was amazing that everyone was able to achieve a good finished product. John kept us looking and working hard throughout. There were some intriguing likenesses and witty portraits, some chunky bodies and sinuous necks! All done in only five hours from start to finish. Thanks to you all for making this a really energetic, fulfilling and successful day!



Future Workshops

November

Andy/Holly - moulds/casting demo

2019

January/Feb

Madeleine - paper workshop

April

David - wood workshop

TBA

John Thompson - metal workshop



A talk at The Barn by Sir Richard Long

Monday 29 October at 12 noon

Richard started his career as an artist at a young age with a seminal piece of work:

A Line made by walking



Since then he has made artworks in many wild and remote places in the world, as well as in galleries, in the form of walks and lines made by his feet and hands.

His work is widely admired and much collected by galleries and private individuals.

He was described as a land artist when he started out in the 1960's, and also as a conceptual artist, although he himself might not agree with that description of his work.



On The Plinth

Madeleine Page

Madeleine was prompted to join Wessex Sculptors when she met our chairman Wynn at a Quaker meeting after moving to the area from London.

She had done a foundation art course at a London college where she had joined a sculpture class and had made a piece of artwork based on a Quaker meeting for a show that she was involved with. It was a series of some 15 or so seated figures making reference to the idea of seated worship as opposed to the idea of seated figures as Gods, as seen in the British Museum. *"I was interested in the fact that these seated figures were worshippers not Gods... and I made them out of papier maché because this is a material I like using best of all."*

It was when Wynn told her he also used papier maché in his work that piqued Madeleine's interest in joining our group.

Her first piece on joining utilised her love of using paper and was a project she had had in mind whilst still on London setting up an exhibition for her and four fellow students and which didn't come to fruition for her because she had moved from the area before the exhibition was put on. Her influence for the piece stemmed from her childhood.

"I had been thinking a lot about where creativity comes from in my family...and I started to think about the sort of art we made as children, where it came from and how it could be developed and then I thought about this puppet theatre that my mother made. ... she produced this stage on which to launch our creativity." Through this, she found an interest in not just the actual making of things for the theatre but also the making up of the stories. Her work combines a love of material and making as well as the narrative of the piece.

At present she is working on a clay portrait head, a bit of a departure from using paper and anything she had done before but as a result of John's portrait head workshop.

"I do a lot of drawing and I suddenly thought – well perhaps I'll go to the workshop and have a nice day and draw in clay as it were. So I'm really enjoying working out the idea of making a likeness"

Although she is not sure whether she will continue using clay, she is enjoying the acquisition of new skills and has been inspired by and learnt from the camaraderie and diverse skills of the group.





Hampshire Open Studios..... Sales up on last year!!

Thank you to everybody who generously gave their time and help to setting up the summer exhibition, from bartenders to stewards!

The Private View was extremely well attended this year and although sales got off to a slow start there was a surge of people on the last day .

Laying on refreshments for visitors proved a good idea and raised a large amount of money for *Riding For the Disabled* charity. Thanks to all those who provided cakes and biscuits ,etc.

New for next year?

A suggestion for next year's exhibition has been made that each member submits one small piece of work to sell at a fixed price of £30. This could be a great opportunity to show off the variety of talent of our members and can encourage first time buyers who want to 'put their toe in the water' without making a big investment!



Why not use the space!

John Souter has an idea about using the space outside the Barn as a collaborative display.

He's made a maquette of how it could look. The maquette is shown here and in the Barn. On Monday 15th October and Thursday 18th October 2018 John proposes to spend half an hour on each of those days to explain the idea and the possibilities, inviting your participation.

