



SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL ILLUSTRATION



In this issue...

- Advertising Liverpool
- New Members
- Member Profile
- Presidents Progress
- The Big Draw
- Bungay High School
- Programme 2009
- Sunday Times Competition
- A Thank you

From the High Chair

It is possible that you will notice that this issue of the SAI newsletter may look, and feel, somewhat different from past publications. Until I read these words in print I am in the dark as to what form it will take.

David Birkett, our new President, has taken the bull by the horns and, also being Treasurer, until a replacement can be found, has authorised expenditure on outsourcing the organ much to the delight of Tim and I.

It has become increasingly difficult for me to gather enough material for publication and to avoid the content becoming a personal record of my own interests and authorship, I am grateful to David for agreeing to take responsibility for the future of the monster!

Your input by way of articles, letters and photographs is most important to the continuing existence of the newsletter. Without your help there is an enormous load on those who produce it. So please put pen to paper and dust off the Box Brownies and post the results to us.

SEE YOU AT LIVERPOOL!

Don Coe, Chairman SAI.



WANTED ALIVE! A new treasurer

To be both President and Treasurer, David Birkett finds the relationship may be open to question by the Charity Commission. The job is easy, just banking, paying out one or two cheques per month, and logging on a self calculating spreadsheet for bank reconciliation. An hour a month fixes it! The volunteer will be trained and taken out for lunch..... an incentive!

Please contact Heather. The post will be confirmed by a vote at the autumn meeting.

The year ahead...

- October 11th, 12th 2008: The Big Draw
- October 25th 2008: Autumn meeting
- December 2008: The Winter Newsletter
- March 2009: The Spring Newsletter
- April 2009: AGM at The RIBA London
- June 2009: Summer Newsletter
- Mid Summer 2009: Summer school
- September 2009: Autumn Newsletter
- October 2009: Autumn meeting

New Members



Margaret Anne Suggs

I've been freelancing in illustration since graduating from Auburn University (USA) back in the 1990s. I came to Ireland in 1996 to do an MA at NCAD in illustration, and ended up staying. Now I teach illustration, graphic design and art history at a college in Dublin. I love to draw, I just don't like to use a ruler.



Sarah-Marie Flint

Artist's impressions in watercolour and ink/pencil. Work includes listed building renovation and developments in conservation/sensitive areas.



Mark Langley

My love of architecture has grown through photography and artwork, especially historical structures. I hope in my work, to express my admiration for not only the architect but the skilled tradesmen.

Chatsworth House - North Wall
A study of the North Wall and main entrance to the House I want to pick out the architectural details including the patterns in the sandstone which resemble wood grain Pencil drawing - 64cm x 45cm



Phil Collins

An illustrator with 20 years experience of working with architects and developers. Perspectives, aerials, elevations, interiors and plans using varied styles and media.

Members Profile

For each newsletter a member will be chosen at random to give a resume of their work and life with samples of work. Our first is from Edinburgh you may be the next!

No 1

A letter from
Edinburgh

By David Ingram



Dear Members

I have had the pleasure of being a member of the Society for only just over a year now and find that being associated with the Society has already been of benefit. I live and work in Edinburgh, and while this may not be within the central core of illustrators in the United Kingdom, I feel in this day and age, this is of no hindrance.

In the short space of time I have been a member of the SAI I have had interest from prospective clients from various parts of the UK. The wonder that is email and the internet has meant that Illustrators can now be based anywhere in the world and their services and contact details are just as readily accessible to the world as the next person. I love life and work in Edinburgh. The Architecture is breathtaking, the galleries stimulating, the people are friendly, and if you are extremely lucky, you may even get to experience all this on a dry day. Although if you have this pleasure, I would probably recommend you buy a lottery ticket right away. I do feel, however, that Edinburgh thoroughly deserves its status as a world heritage site, and hopefully, long may the landscape justify this.

During the years of '05 to '07 I lived and worked in London. I really enjoyed my experience in the city and found it heightened my passion for architecture and illustration. In my current day to day practices as an illustrator I work from my home just on the outskirts of the city. I primarily work in watercolour but occasionally will work in pencil, pen, ink or charcoal. My most recent commission was for eight watercolour paintings of different house types for a large development company in Ireland. I thoroughly enjoyed this commission as there was a considerable amount of design variation in each house type, this meant that repetition was kept to a minimum. I would love to become a full time illustrator. At present, my workload cannot justify this, however, hopefully as I gain more experience this could perhaps become a reality. I am also currently employed part-time in an architects' practice in the city which I really enjoy. I feel the two roles complement each other and ultimately, my time in the office also gives me a change of scenery, as well as a welcome chance to interact with my colleagues.

I feel privileged to be a member of the SAI and as I gain more experience I also hope to learn from the vast experience of some of the gifted illustrators within the Society through attending as many future AGM's and workshops as possible. I thoroughly look forward to the forthcoming period under the new presidency of David Birkett and seeing his new ideas and proposals materialise. I'm sure everyone wishes him all the best in his endeavours.

Regards

David Ingram SAI

The Big Draw

The Campaign for Drawing has one aim: to get everyone drawing!

To help achieve this, over 1000 UK venues, from scout huts to national museums, will take part in the ninth Big Draw, 1st - 31st October 2008. This annual programme shows that drawing is the perfect medium for observation, self-expression and fun. Wide-ranging events and themes for all ages span art and science.

The Big Draw proves that drawing can be an enjoyable public activity as well as a private passion. It is inspired by the visionary Victorian artist and writer, John Ruskin. His mission was not to teach people how to draw, but how to see. Drawing Inspiration Awards reward organisers who use The Big Draw to connect their audiences creatively with museum and gallery collections, heritage settings or the wider community. This will be the 4th year the Society has supported The Big Draw through individual members' involvement at events. This year we will be at the The Big Draw Festival at St Pancras International from 11th - 18th October 2008 at St Pancras International, Pancras Road, London, NW1 2QP. So far we have representatives on Saturday 11th, Sunday 12th and Saturday 18th but if anyone wishes to lend a hand on these or any other days please come along with sketch book and pencil in hand! (or anything else you have in mind)

Previous year's venues have been Trafalgar Square, Somerset House Covent Garden and London's newest square Bishop Square (See accompanying sketch). If demonstrations are new to you then I suggest you come and have a go - it's more fun than you think!

This weeklong festival will take place on the upper concourse of St Pancras International. The opening day will focus on architectural drawing, looking at perspective, surface and 3D visualisation. Workshops for school children will take place on weekdays exploring the station's historic and contemporary forms. Battle of the Cartoonists will take place on the last day of the festival and will involve a number of cartooning workshops.

Every October over 1000 venues, including: galleries, museums, science centres, heritage and environmental sites, libraries, archives, community and shopping centres, colleges, schools and art clubs host drawing activities for people of all abilities. They explore technical, scientific, architectural, archaeological or fine art drawing. Participants of all ages are invited to help expand the definitions and uses of drawing - experimenting with pencils, sand, crayons, charcoal, clay, digital imagery, choreographed movement, vapour trails and fire drawings. These activities are mainly free and widely accessible. Please join us at the 2008 Big Draw National Launch and The Big Picture Party in libraries or find an event in your area. Drawing on Life is The Big Draw 2008 national launch at Welcome Collection and University College London. Join top scientists and leading artists to delve deep into our understanding of the human mind and body in a series of free creative events, workshops and talks.

Go to www.thebigdraw.org.uk for more details

Peter Jarvis FSAI



www.thebigdraw.org.uk

SAI to the rescue



A small article seen in the Railway Magazine about the Euston Arch Trust requiring CGI assistance led to contact from the SAI and Joe Robson assisting the organisation with the image shown. The Trust is proposing to reinstate the arch in a possible future redevelopment of Euston Station. Whilst this was a service without fee at this stage Joe will, we hope, benefit from his efforts if the project proceeds.

More may be told at the autumn meeting at Liverpool.



Advertising Liverpool

Autumn Meeting

Our Autumn Meeting is to be held on Saturday 25th October 2008 at the Liner Hotel, Liverpool in the EMPRESS SUITE.

The suite will be open from 09.00 for coffee, biscuits and sign in. The cost for the day including Buffet Lunch, coffee & tea will be:
£18.00 For members,
£10.00 For retired members
£30.00 For guests.

To finalise the catering arrangements, let us know by 10th October latest if you will be attending. Your cheque for lunch should also be with us by then, please.

An agenda in preparation will be confirmed nearer the day, but what we can tell you is that there will be a dissertation from Jim Mann about his BBC work and an illustrated report on our visit to Bungay and the award of prizes to the students there.

We are in negotiations with a local Digital Illustration Practice to give the meeting a demonstration of their production processes and we will have further news of our planned Summer School and revelations of a seminar which may be entitled "Architectural Illustration and Good Business Practice".

EXCITING STUFF EH?

Guests are welcome. Don't forget to bring examples of your latest work for others to see!

Heather Coe SAI Administrator

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THE PRESIDENTS PROGRESS ▼

After about five months in service as President thought I would give you an idea on what I am trying to do...

The first success is having an article published in the latest ACA (Association of Consulting Architects) newsletter. It is a full page article with illustrations. As promised it was a recruiting cum 'use us' approach I was using. It will be interesting to see what reaction it has.

I have done a similar thing with the RIBA regions, but early days on that, only one offer so far from my own RIBA Region, the South, of an announcement of our existence. Through both these channels I have invited illustrators amongst the Architects to bring their work along for scrutiny as members to the Liverpool 2008 event. If any arrive it will be more than likely via the ACA contact. BD the AJ and the RICS are on the horizon too, amongst others but more on that in due course.

Next summer we are considering a summer school starting on a Friday afternoon through to Sunday morning based on a university, late June. John Pumfrey has already laid the foundations for this. This will be developed further at Liverpool. However not withstanding that more will be found in the Winter Newsletter. The event needs a dedicated team to work as it is beyond the capability of the size of the current management team. If anyone can form themselves into a team to back John please come forward. As I have said before my aim is to make The SAI more visible over the next three years so let us see what we can do. There are more exciting ideas to be aired once their viability has been assessed.

SEE YOU AT LIVERPOOL

The LINER HOTEL is big and along side Lime Street Station; easy to find; easy to get to.

DAVID BIRKETT FSAI
President

STOP PRESS!

Liverpool based **UNIFORM** are appearing at SAI Liverpool, **CONFIRMED**
Uniform are to give a presentation of about 45minutes covering an overview of themselves, examining a still images portfolio, still image processing including sunlight modeling, materials lighting, and post production.

Plus an introduction to film work plus film processing from brief to compositing.

NOT TO BE MISSED!

Check their website **www.uniform.net**

Annual Exhibition



Bungay Sixth Form College Annual Exhibition.

Don Coe joined John Pumfrey for the 2008 end-of-year critique and awards at Bungay Sixth Form College near Lowestoft in July. This is the second year that the College has received an appraisal and awards from the SAI. It is being run as a pilot scheme for three years in association with the Rotary Club of Bungay, Suffolk. The aim is to try and suggest to the Rotary Movement that they might consider rolling the model out nationwide to promote drawing in schools, much in the same way that they promote Young Chef of the year and Youth Speaks that encourages public speaking.

Don and John combined their opinions, making a more thorough appraisal of the submissions displayed in less than two hours. This may sound more than enough but there were models, illustrations and in-depth reports to read from more than a dozen entries.

However the big advantage of us both being there was that we could perform a double act when it came to the morning's 'show'. In addition to the usual introduction to the SAI, exhibition of our boards and explanation of our professional activities, we laid on an unrehearsed but carefully choreographed business game. I played **developer** for an invisible **client**, the students were **planners** and Don was **illustrator**.

I drew a site plan on a white board comprising a triangular plot in a small town with a main road on one side, mixed retail and office buildings with residential use above on two and a central café and 'feature' in the middle.

The detail (materials, storey-heights, planting, paving, street furniture, 'feature' etc) came from the students (with a lot of prompting needed) and Don produced one of his off the cuff masterpieces under the camera's eye so that his flying pen and brush were projected for them to follow. In the gaps, while he titivated the final rendering off camera, John showed a prepared powerpoint presentation of his own procedures from site photo and preliminary sketches, through setting-up geometry to final rendering of a single project. Then Don's finished effort was projected.

The finale was conducted in the exhibition space with students and staff gathered round the term's work and Don and John quizzed the designers, criticised submissions, offered advice and presented three cheques and three runner-up book tokens totalling £550 to very worthy winners who were:

- 1st - Kim Wright**
- 2nd - Amy Tuffs**
- 3rd - Will Johnson**

Tokens:
Josie Molloy
Amy Barker
Andrew Lau

Watercolour Competition 2008

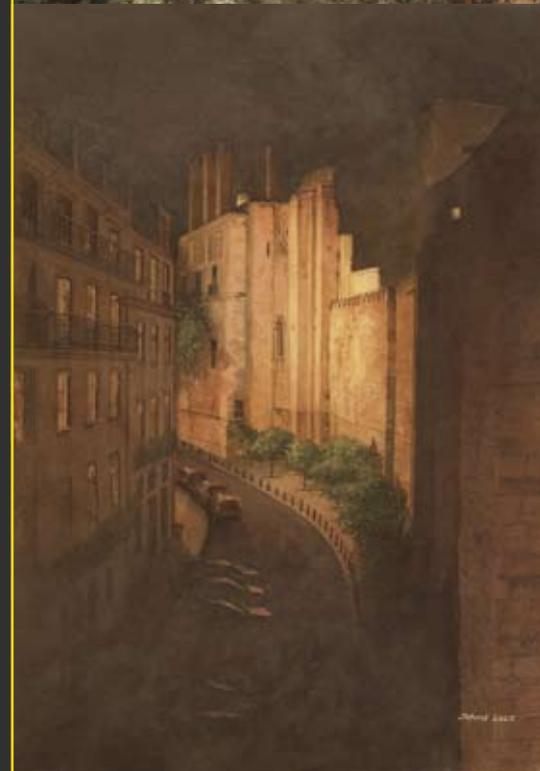
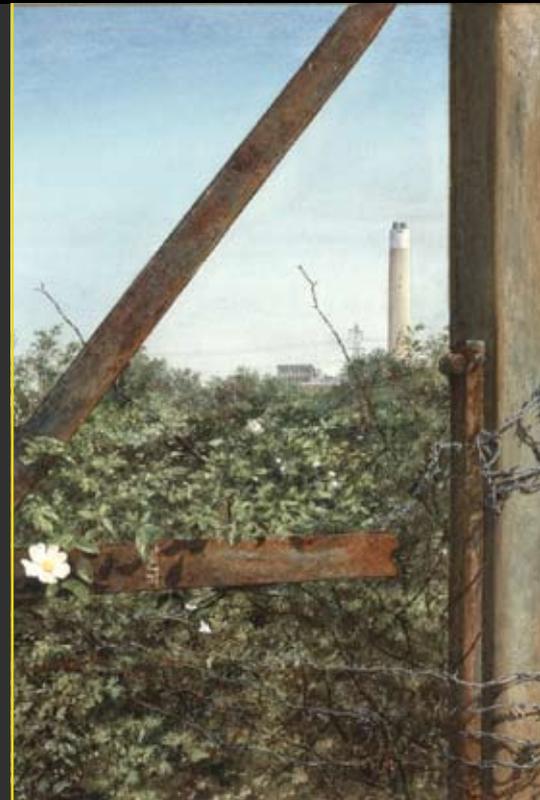
Royal Watercolour Society/Sunday Times Watercolour Competition 2008

Past President and fellow Pete Jarvis has had a second work accepted for this year's RWS/Sunday Times Watercolour exhibition of entries to the prestigious annual competition now in its 21st year. The watercolour shows Fawley Power Station in the distance behind a rusty old iron gate and overgrown foliage in the foreground. "The success of my first entry in 2006 spurred me on to submit a new piece and I am thrilled that my work attracted the judges' attention once again."

Pete's 2006 entry was a night view of Lisbon Cathedral which was done from sketches and photographs taken on a trip during the previous year. "I sat on my hotel balcony making sketches during the day and took photos at night – it was begging to be the subject of a watercolour – I couldn't resist! The weird thing was that I had the tv on and there was a live broadcast of a ceremony marking the Pope's death and it was coming from the cathedral which I could hear from my balcony!"

This year's entry was the biggest work Pete has produced to date and is a conscious effort to work larger. "My idea was to highlight the contrast of nature and industry in the context of the locality and it wasn't until I started working on it that I realised that the gate formed the shape of the number "4" with "Fawley" in the background (get it!). Someone thought I should send it to Channel Four for consideration!" Pete's entry was one of two submitted the other being a view of gravestones in Southampton's Old Cemetery: "I was disappointed that this one didn't get in as it was my favourite but you never can tell how judges view artworks in this type of competition".

Pete's already working on his submission for next year's competition which is a view showing a wooden wreck in the River Itchen by Northern Bridge in Southampton. The competition, previously sponsored by Singer & Friedlander is now generously sponsored by the Royal Watercolour Society and The Sunday Times. This prestigious competition aims to encourage the use of watercolour and water based media paintings among both amateur and professional artists. The four winners for this year's Competition were announced in the Sunday Times on 25th August, with eight artists making the cut out of 1500 submitted entries and the winner receiving the £15,000 first prize. Total prize money amounted to £25,000. This year's competition saw the arrival of a new award, the Penguin Classics Prize for Cover Art, giving one winner a commission to paint and create cover art for a Penguin Classics book. The panel of judges for this year included Brian Allen, Director of Studies at Paul Mellon Institute, Anthony Green, artist, Penny Johnson, Director, Government Art Collection, Richard Sorrell and Frank Whitford, art critic for the Sunday Times. The Sunday Times Watercolour Competition is one of the longest running open art competitions in the UK today, and remains the largest art prize dedicated to the medium of watercolour. For twenty one years, this exhibition has provided a forum for exemplary painters to demonstrate their skills in the technically challenging field of watercolour. In addition to the main competition, an exhibition of 86 original works were selected from entry submissions and shown at Bankside Gallery London from the 10th to the 21st of September. Most of the works were up for sale with prices ranging from £300 to £10,000. My piece, I hasten to add, was closer to the former than the latter and unsold at the time of writing!



and finally...

NOT QUITE ILLUSTRATION

Plans by Don Coe to fly a 1/3 full size model of Bleriot's plane across the Channel (LaManche, in case any Frenchman reads this) has been shot down by The French due to their intransigence in not allowing radio frequencies other than their own.

They refuse to align themselves with the rest of the World in this respect!

Don had planned to commemorate on the appointed day next year, the 100th anniversary of the first flight across the channel using this model.

For the interested, the model has a wing span of 9 feet and weighs about 20lbs. It's powered by a 70cc V-twin four-stroke engine.

It is completely scratch built including the working turnbuckles and spoked wheels. Radio is six channel, 2.4gH Spektrum. There are three fuel tanks of 20oz. capacity each. One is the scale brass item, the other two out-of-sight tanks to allow about 1-1/2 hrs flight.

The pilot is animated!



EXHIBITION REVUE

If you are in or near Oxford before 1st November visit the "Beyond the Work of One" exhibition at the Bodleian Library.

Pride of place in my opinion is the "I Quattro Libri Dell Architectura by Andrea Palladio published in 1601.

The copy on display is the one used by Inigo Jones during his Italian Progress with Lord Arundel between 1613 and 1614 complete with Inigo's hand written margin and footnotes.

The exhibition celebrates over 700 years of gifts given to the Oxford College Libraries and their benefactors.

This particular exhibit was given by George Clarke (1661-1736) to Worcester College in 1770. George Clarke was a politician, Architect and collector.

The rest of the exhibition, which has no admission charge, is a miscellany of manuscripts, printed books, music, prints and drawings (mostly architectural Illustration) valued for their beauty, antiquity and associations.

It includes the earliest recipe books too.

DB

THANK YOU

To fellow members Mick Wernham and Simon Jones for agreeing to the use of their illustrations in the article published about the SAI in the ACA (Association of Consultant Architects) newsletter. They received neither recognition nor a description of their work. Their work was chosen at random from the SAI website.

DEADLINE FOR WINTER NEWSLETTER

All material to be submitted to:

David Birkett 54athestores@waitrose.com

by 15th November 2008.

