

From Graham Burgess, Chairman,

CHAIRMANS REPORT TO AGM 2009.

It has been just one year and we have achieved a lot. We have an established organisation with a keen committee of formal officers and others who actively co-ordinate things.

The Christmas Window Dressing Competition was a great success and this revealed the talents of Steve Miller who was subsequently commissioned by Artscapes to do the two paintings seen on national TV as part of the Katharine of Aragon Garden. Local business sponsorship proved very rewarding to the winners of the Christmas Window Dressing competition.

In keeping with our open ways we welcomed Aldo Galli from Portsmouth to an exhibition and world-renowned author Richard Adams stayed for most of the day in support and Richard enjoyed himself immensely.

At our Fishing for Art Exhibition 18th January we caught 35 artists and 190 pieces of art. There was music and dancing and all in all it was a resounding success. On the 14th March we had our Photography Workshop with nationally famous Tony Worobeic passing on advice to keen Whitchurch Photographers.

On the 28th March Earth Hour. A very creative Puppet Show, music and poetry and then the launch of lanterns. Another example of Whitchurch Arts reaching out to embrace the community whatever it is doing.

The Adams have kindly agreed to store our screens in their garage and we must thank those who helped set up the shows.

Then we moved to something that hopefully will mean the work of artists will not be on show for limited periods. The Off the Walls project, supported by Basingstoke and Deane is under way with Jude Price active throughout the town. We had our publicity launch last week with a local business Serenity on Church Street featured.

The Whitchurch Arts website provides all sorts of information about our members and provides links to other artistic stimuli. We thank Andrew Reeves-Hall for that excellent ongoing work. The creative and promotional skills of John Buckley have meant all our activities are well promoted and celebrated in the form of posters. The competition for a Town Art project has been won by one of our members, John Buckley, and our role is to be supportive possibly in respect of insurance.

Whitchurch Arts is well placed to perform a valuable role in our community and we welcome anyone with any level of artistic skills to join us or anyone who feels any other sort of support can help us and the community. We are very grateful for those venues that have allowed us to have meetings like this one and particularly The White Hart - Thank you, Andy.

I have enjoyed working with our team and look forward to another year of fun and creativity.