

IN THE NEWS...

We are planning to hold an art exhibition in Bolton Market Place to celebrate the club's 80th anniversary.

The grand opening of the exhibition will be held on Easter Saturday 4th April and will be open to members of the public on the following Bank Holiday Monday and the subsequent weekends throughout April. We welcome you to submit your best 3 art works for selection by a panel comprising of gallery organisers and professional artists.

The art works must have a substantial frame capable of taking mirror plates in order to hang the work securely. Your contact details must be attached to the back.

Artwork will not be offered for sale at the exhibition but a catalogue will be produced which will indicate a price should you wish to sell your work after the event.

Although every care will be taken with your work, we cannot be held responsible for any accidental damage.

Art works will need to be brought to one of the weekly workshops between 16th March and 26th March to go forward for selection. More information will be in the March newsletter to finalise details.

We hope you will join us in celebrating this historic milestone in the clubs history.

A Brief History of Bolton Art Circle

The inaugural meeting was held at the Camera Club Rooms on 19th October 1945

The first Annual General Meeting, held on 17th February 1946, proved that the Circle was now firmly established. The meeting was attended by 50 members and officials and the rapid growth of the Circle is reflected by these numbers.

A proposed exhibition to display and sell members' work was planned to be held at the Technical College on 5th October 1946, "providing it did not clash with the Bolton Wanderers home football match."

1951, in preparation for a Social and Dance to be held at the Lyme field Rooms the minutes recorded "The programme was then discussed and it was decided that whist and dancing be held separately until the interval after which there should be games and dancing."

A problem was highlighted by Lonsdale Bonner in 1957 when he "suggested that the Circle was thriving at the time of the Exhibition and not at other times" and called for more support at its regular meetings. He warned members of the danger of it becoming a professional as opposed to amateur circle."

The Exhibition was moved out of the main Art Gallery in 1997, onto the landing, which was renamed the "Portico Gallery". However, in 2002, the Annual was held in the Bar of the Octagon Theatre, Bolton, with a promise by Bolton Metro that we should be returning to the Art Gallery in 2003.

Very early on in the history of the Circle it became the practice to hold an "Intimate Exhibition" each year. Since 1960 it has been held in the Club Rooms. This annual event has always been successful giving members the opportunity to display their work without any conditions and also the chance to meet other members socially.

The first workshop meetings were held at Bolton School until 1969 when indoor winter sessions were held at Bridgeman Street each Thursday. It was not until January 1972 that the Circle was able to find a room in which to be based. That was Atlas Mill followed by Highfield Hall Community Centre 1994 and finally New Bury Community Centre 2022.

Next Committee Meeting, Monday 9 February



Secretary's Challenge



The next challenge will be to re-create this atmospheric scene in a medium of your choice. The winner will be chosen by popular vote of members at the last February workshop on the 25th so entries in by then please. The usual rules apply but please don't frame or mount your artworks, write your name on the back. There is a £20 cash prize for the winner. Secretary's decision is final.

There were only 2 entries for the January Challenge so the members present decided unanimously to split the prize money between Sam Leigh and Jack Howarth who both won £10 each. Well done to Sam and Jack!

