



THE WEST NORFOLK ARTIST

(The Newsletter for Artists in Western Norfolk)

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to our 4th Edition. Another 8 sides crammed with news and views. When we started the first edition we worried we would never be able to fill the four sides we had originally planned. But now there is so much going on it is difficult to contain it in eight. So some developments – such as the moves to promote art-based tourism which could lead to a raft of projects and opportunities that will benefit artists in the region or the latest info on the creation of an Arts Development Agency for Norfolk – have had to go unreported till the next letter (but ring us if you can't wait till then for details).

What we do have are some more feature articles – for which our grateful thanks to our contributors. *Inga Miller's* thoughts on Facing the Future have given rise to action by the management committee of the new association (read all about it on page 6 and join the scheme outlined at the foot of that page).

Tim Zoll who has built the association's website discusses what the internet can do for artists (page 7), while from over the border in North County, *Terry Bestwick*, Chairman of the North Norfolk coordinating committee, gives us his vision of the future of Open Studios. Thanks to *Heather Stein* (page 5), we have our first excursion into poetry. *Mary MacCarthy* gives us our first artist's interview.

Most important, however, is the creation of the West Norfolk Artists Association and its exciting programme of events. Read all about it on page 2. Now is your opportunity to fill in the membership form that accompanies this newsletter and send it in with your cheque for the derisory sum of £15. In return you will qualify for entry to the wide variety of exhibitions we will be organising, you will be able at no extra cost to put photographs of your work up on the internet on your very own page on our website (www.westnorfolkartists.co.uk) and – most important of all – you will continue to receive this newsletter ... free of charge.

Over in north county they're "getting organised" too, with the creation of NOVA – the North Norfolk Organisation for the Visual Arts – out of the Open Studios area coordination committee. And And ... they've started up their own newsletter. We wish them well (while wondering if Suki Pryce and Heather Tamplin quite realise the enormity of what they've taken on!) and will no doubt be collaborating with them in the future.

It is hard not to be impressed by developments taking place over there where there is much that we could emulate over here. It has to be said however that they are now reaping the benefits of the research they undertook for their North Norfolk Exhibition Project which has helped create a greater awareness within the District Council of the arts as a resource to be promoted and has resulted in specific developments like the pilot project undertaken in partnership with Regatta Fine Art to exhibit work by local artists in the District Council Offices, and the decision to involve artists in the 'Day out in North Norfolk' event (see page 8) or the exhibition project at Salthouse (also page 8).

A similar project lay behind the creation of our own association. Pushed for the time being onto the back burner by all the other exciting things it was felt the association could do for artists, it is perhaps time we brought it back to the front.

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Arts Development Officer

As we go to press Jane Falkner, our ADO for West Norfolk, is on the point of giving birth to a baby and will be on maternity leave through to the summer. We offer her, her husband Matthew and family all our best wishes.

In the meantime her duties as Arts Development Officer have been taken over by **Julie Russell** who can be contacted at the new offices to which the Leisure and Tourism Department has just moved from Hunstanton : King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn PE30 1EX (Tel : 01553 692 722).

We wish her well in her new job and look forward to working with her. Julie takes over Jane's seat on the Management Committee of the West Norfolk Artists Association.

Unit 2 Gallery Closes

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to **Tony Eeles** who has decided to close the Unit 2 Gallery which he has run for the past seven years in Docking. He has provided a valuable outlet for artists and crafts people to show their work in an area in which not too many galleries are to be found, and his departure will be felt with deep regret by the artistic community in this part of Norfolk.

On a more personal note we would like to say how much we have appreciated the support he has given us at the WNA in the setting up of the association and we wish him well in his new life further south.

WNA has learnt of the death of his father at the age of 95 after a long illness on 29th January. Our readers will undoubtedly wish to join us in offering him our sincerest commiserations.

Editor.