

Contents:

1. Stop Press: "Bathing Beauties" arts event at Mablethorpe on 19 & 20 September.
2. Big Art on the Bayford.
3. Good Publicity for the Fens Cluster Group area.
4. Return of Open Studio Questionnaire Information.
5. Future AOTM Open Studio Dates
6. Welcome to three new members.
7. AOTM Website
8. AOTM 2010 AGM

Stop Press!

I have just received this message from our AOTM Chairman: "Helen Matthews has space for AOTM artists and craft-makers at the Bathing Beauties festival this weekend (19 & 20 September), please phone Helen on 01507 443112 if you are interested. The event was excellent last year. Bob"

Big Art on the Brayford 2009

AOTM would like to place on record our thanks to the Lincoln Business Improvement Group (Lincoln BIG) for again providing the facilities at the Brayford Pool for another AOTM weekend, last month.

For the second consecutive summer, a selection of members from Art on the Map, in conjunction with Lincoln Big, came together to show work on the waterfront at Lincoln's Brayford Pool. The event is really to help promote all AOTM artists and raise awareness of the open studios, make new contacts and hopefully sell some work.

The work exhibited included Glass from Kevin Wallhead, Lynn Baker and Adele Billingham. Julie Willoughby's textile sculptures from Zoomorphia, which included a magnificent skeleton that the children enjoyed immensely. Paintings from Norah Ranshaw, John Gray and Helen Webber, as well as newcomers to AOTM Nigel Denham, Joanne Prince and Julia Law were enjoyed by all. Bob Oakes gave blacksmithing demonstrations on both days which was as always, well received.

Calligraphy from Rachel Denton, who had the misfortune of losing a few of her beautiful cards into the Brayford due to extreme gusts of wind, and we were fortunate not to lose Rachel as well! Last year we had a larger event but the appalling weather conditions we endured then proved too much of a challenge for some and they declined a second outing. We have attempted to make this venue an interesting place to exhibit, but we now accept that the weather around this area will never be ideal, we simply cannot fight Mother Nature, and are going to seek new pastures. Kevin will arrange a meeting with Lincoln Big in the coming weeks and put a couple of suggestions forward, if anyone can think of a more sheltered spot which will meet our needs, do not hesitate to voice them.

For those who stuck out both days a hearty congratulations. A warm coat, strong arms and a stout sense of humour got us through.

Good Publicity from the AOTM Fens Cluster Group Area

The following edited article is extracted from a full-page feature in the Spalding Guardian newspaper about the Art on the Map (AOTM) Open Studio weekends in the Fens Cluster this September. There was also an AOTM feature on BBC Radio Lincolnshire and a television feature on BBCTV Look North.

A HUGE RANGE OF TALENT ON DISPLAY:

Published Date: 10 September 2009, The Spalding Guardian; by Julie Williams

WE'RE lucky that the big skies, special light and relatively cheap property scene in the Lincolnshire Fens have acted like a magnet to visual artists of all descriptions. And several times a year there is the great opportunity to get out and about and visit them in their studios.

It's happening again both days this weekend from 10am to 4pm. You can meet the area's artists, see how and where they work and possibly commission or buy an individual piece of art.

Launched ten years ago as Art on the Map, Lincolnshire Open Studios now includes artists all over the county who get together in clusters to welcome members of the public on different weekends.

The studios vary greatly in scale from a room in the artist's home to large former industrial buildings where a number of artists work.

Exciting new local artists, painter Adrian Fordham, mosaic-maker Fiona Gurney and glass artist Sean Hunter, have all joined the Fens cluster since its last open weekend in May, and others have come off the list.

Opening times vary and it may be sensible to ring the artist to check before you go. A few of the artists are also opening the following weekend, September 19 and 20.

A selective preview of all the work can be viewed on the website www.artonthemap.org.uk

Here are the longstanding local members of Open Studios who you can go and visit this weekend:

- Painter Mo Teeuw has been working on a series of abstract canvases aside from her usual more figurative works. Her son Stephen, an accomplished portrait painter, will also be there this weekend.
- Painter John Lincoln's work evokes natural forms as symbols of magic and spirituality.
- Unique Cottage Farm Studios houses a collection of varied artists brought together by Spalding painter and ceramicist Carolyn Goodwin. Also meet stained glass maker Gillian Wing of Strawberry Glass and see her work here.
- Norman Rossiter is a painter specialising in wildlife and landscape and has around 30 other artists working in his large studio, an old industrial building.
- Painters Rosi Campbell and Glynne James of Arts Coritani, printmaker Louise Stebbing, painter Joan Dowling, and painters John Gray and Helen Webber of Riverbank Studios.

New Members:

- Spalding painter Adrian Fordham's large canvases, mostly painted in oils, draw on myths and iconic images, often with a twist in the tale or some humour.
- Mosaics have been making homes as well as public places beautiful since ancient times, and Fiona Gurney of Box of Frogs Mosaics uses materials ancient and modern, including

recycled china and jewellery, glass and millefiore, in her work. You can order a house-name or number from her.

- Small is beautiful for Crowland-based artist in glass Sean Hunter, who uses lamp-work and other techniques to finish, refinish and turn inside out small glass objects such as beads.

The articles and accompanying photos in the full page feature can be viewed on the following two links:

<http://www.spaldingtoday.co.uk/news/A-huge-range-of-talent.5633037.jp>

<http://www.spaldingtoday.co.uk/news/It39s-a-lifetime-obsession-for.5633036.jp>

AOTM Open Studio Questionnaires for Summer 2009:

Would all members, who have not already done so, now complete your AOTM Open Studio Internal Questionnaires for the summer 2009 sessions. Then please let the Membership Secretary (or your Cluster Group Co-ordinator, if they have already asked for them) know how many visitors you had over the two weekends and the total amount of sales. That personal information will remain confidential and the figures will be added together to give an overall AOTM result, for future planning purposes.

It will take only a few minutes for you to complete the form, and to email the results if that is easier for you, but please do not put it off, as it only makes more work for the volunteers who then have to chase after them! The results will be analyzed so that we gauge the overall effectiveness of the AOTM Open Studios. Also please return all completed Visitors questionnaires, for the same reasons.

Future AOTM Open Studio Dates

The Steering Group, are fully aware of the varying views of members on the “right” dates for AOTM Open Studios and we are trying to come up with a long-term solution. As you can imagine, that is not easy when we have 90 different members (and nearly as many different proposed dates!).

However, AOTM are now paying for a Marketing Consultant, and we are also working closely with Lincolnshire Tourism on that thorny problem. Before we criticise the current dates too much, it is worth remembering that we have never had a definitive “best time” for Open Studios, as the dates have changed over the last ten years to cover every month of the year, except for January and February.

The Open Studio dates for 2010 are already “clumped” into five or six consecutive weekends for the spring and summer, so with better publicity (which we are now working on) and a better economic climate (fingers crossed) things should get better. Looking to the future, when we analyze the completed Open Studio Internal Questionnaires, to be returned from all AOTM members, we should be in a much better position to find a long-term solution.

A Warm Welcome to New AOTM Members for 2009 - 2010

We now have the following three new members (from three Cluster Group areas) since the 2009 – 2010 AOTM Brochure was printed and we welcome them on board. They are:

Lincoln Area: Julia Law (and many thanks for already becoming AOTM Secretary).

West Lindsey: Anne Wood (from Wild at Heart, who has returned to AOTM, after a short break).

The Vales: Anne Barnham (congratulations on becoming our 90th member for 2009-2010).

AOTM Website

We have now registered the AOTM website under the following two names:

- a. www.artonthemap.org.uk for all those people who recognise Art on the Map.
- b. www.openstudioslincolnshire.org.uk for more national and international appeal.

There has been a national Open Studios Network for many years and we are now developing closer ties with them to help promote Art on the Map to a much wider audience. To that end, we are starting to change the emphasis from “Art on the Map” to “Open Studios Lincolnshire”, but we will retain both titles for the foreseeable future.

You may have noticed that the “Members Only Information” section (mentioned in the August AOTM Newsletter) has now been introduced onto the AOTM website. This has been introduced to help feedback information to those members who wish to keep in touch with what is going on behind the scenes. Members will be given access codes to the Members Only section, by email.

Other improvements are being introduced, to help make the system run smoothly, and new simple guide-lines are being drawn up to help members keep their individual pages updated by themselves.

AOTM 2010 AGM in October

We look forward to as many members as possible attending the AOTM AGM in October 2010. Details will be forwarded to you very soon.