



November 2009

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A Warm Welcome to New AOTM Members for 2009 - 2010

We welcome Richard Jones (to the Lincoln Cluster Group area) and May Jones (to the Wolds & Coast area) as our 92nd and 93rd members of AOTM for 2009 - 2010. Richard is a photographer and May is a painter. We trust that they will be made welcome by AOTM members, particularly in their Cluster Group areas.

AOTM Open Studio Questionnaires for Summer 2009:

Almost half of our members have now returned their Open Studio questionnaires for this summer's Open Studios; thank you. Would those members who have not already returned them please do so now. To keep it simpler for you, all that you need to do is to let the Membership Secretary know (or your Cluster Group Co-ordinator, if they have already asked for them) how many visitors you had over the two weekends this summer 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 **email the results by clicking on 'Reply' and tell me how many visitors you had this summer and how much (if any) did they spend**, but please don't put it off, as it only makes more work for the volunteers who then have to chase after the details and waste even more valuable time! The results are analyzed so that we can gauge the overall effectiveness of the AOTM Open Studios. Also, please return all completed Visitors questionnaires to the Membership Secretary, for the same reasons. The Local Authorities, who have sponsored AOTM in the past, need that feedback **otherwise we will not receive their financial support**.

From the information received so far it shows that, overall, it was another good AOTM Open Studios season this summer. Eleven studios did not open, but 556 people visited 34 studios, and the visitors spent a total of £3,662 - giving an average of £108 per open studio this summer.

Membership Secretary's Website Update:

Website Update: The following notes give a brief update on work that has been ongoing to improve the AOTM website. Unfortunately, this article was not ready in time for last month's emailed version of the Newsletter, sent to members earlier in October, but it is included in the website version. However, this update includes a few more changes:

1. We now have 'openstudioslincolnshire.org.uk' and 'artonthemap.org.uk' as our AOTM website domains, to improve national coverage.
2. We have moved 'Open Studios Lincolnshire' to the left and 'AOTM Logo' to the right, on the website headers, to increase our national appeal.
3. News: The AOTM Newsletter is now being uploaded onto the website each month, after initial circulation by email to members.
4. Members: 'Members Only Documentation' is now changed to 'Members Only Information'.
5. Members Only Information : The following are now being added, and are available to members (user name and password were emailed to members on 10th October, 2009):
 - a. AOTM Constitution, Open Studio Questionnaires and AOTM Website Stats.
 - b. AOTM Steering Group Minutes.
 - c. Significant reports from the AOTM Steering Group.
6. Members: The following note to new applicants has now been added, after the first paragraph: 'You also need to forward a CV, an Artist's Statement and at least six images of your work to the Membership Secretary, preferably attached to an email (less than 1MB each jpg)'. We are currently working on including this on the on-line application form.
7. News: We can now add images to News Items.
8. The Membership Sec's access to Members Admin pages on the website has already been improved and work continues to improve it and to add new facilities for members and for website visitors.
9. Members email addresses, in Cluster Groups, can now be extracted from the website and copies will be emailed, via the Membership Secretary, to all Cluster Group Co-ordinators.
10. AOTM website Visitor Stats can now be included in future AOTM Newsletters.
11. Members: The *Forum* may be replaced by an *AOTM Blog*, to remove current problems.
12. A simple description of how members can update their own webpage is being compiled by the web designer and will be included in the Members Only section as soon as it is ready.
13. There has been ongoing contact with the National Open Studios Network and we will give you an update on the successful Open Studios Network Conference in the next Newsletter.

All of the above have been in the pipe-line for several months and should now help things run even more smoothly.

Future Newsletter Articles

Articles for the monthly AOTM Newsletters should now be forwarded to the new AOTM Newsletter Editor, Graham Perkins, at <graham@forgearts.co.uk>. Thank you for this help, Graham.

Wild Places of Lincolnshire

Congratulations to Bob Armstrong (Wolds & Coast) on his excellent exhibition of 26 paintings at the Gibraltar Point. The paintings were inspired by Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust nature reserves and the exhibition was held to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the Trust. The exhibition was opened by the |Chairman of Lincolnshire County Council on the 17th October and will be open to the public until 21 November 2009 (by the time that I reached the painting that I had selected, it had a red spot on it!).

That's all for this month – but please send your news for next month's December issue to the new Editor's email address listed above.