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1. AOTM Cluster Group Coordinators:

There have been a few recent changes of Cluster Group Coordinators, and we record our grateful thanks to the following who have now stood down: Elaine O'Donnell, Peter Montgomery, Lynn Lovitt, Haidee-Jo Summers, Jana Siebers and Norah Ranshaw. We welcome in their places Lynn Baker, Pat Cowie, Paul Fuller, Anne Barnham and Marianne Nixey.

With immediate effect, the following are the current AOTM Cluster Group Coordinators and we hope that all members will help them with their tasks:

Lincoln Area (Lincoln and surrounding):

Kevin Wallhead: kevin.wallhead@ntlworld.com

Marianne Nixey: marianne.nixey@ntlworld.com

Vales Area (North Kesteven & South Kesteven):

Paul Fuller: pktjfuller@aol.com

Anne Barnham: janda_barnham@hotmail.com

Fens Area (Boston & South Holland):

Lind Anso: ansoart@btinternet.com

John Gray: johnhelen@ic24.net

Wolds & Coast Area (East Lindsey):

Bob Armstrong: annbobarmstrong@uwclub.net

Lynn Baker: lynn.baker4@btinternet.com

West Lindsey Area (North and West of Lincoln):

Bob Oakes: boboakes@teachblacksmithing.com

Pat Cowie: michaelcowie@yahoo.co.uk

2. AOTM Spring Open Studios:

Brochure and Spring Flyers: We are now delivering the next batch of about 5,000 brochures to Cluster Group Coordinators, ready for members to collect and distribute them. There will be three boxes of brochures (c1,000 brochures total) delivered to each of the five Cluster Group Coordinator for them to distribute in their area. Members in those areas are asked to contact their coordinators to collect and to help distribute the brochures. We will also have between 1,000 and 2,000 AOTM Spring Open Studio A5 publicity leaflets for each Cluster Group to distribute at the same time as the brochures. Your Cluster Group Coordinators will probably have received the brochures and the leaflets by the time that you read this. We have been advised to carefully target some new areas, such as hotels and guest houses, as well as other places where the buying public for our type of work are likely to be.

Your Website Page Updates: Please make sure that your personal AOTM website page is up to date, as we don't want the embarrassment of visitors turning up at a studio to find that it is closed. If you are unable to open your studio (we hope that you will be open) then please make an appropriate, clear, comment in your web page text box, such as: "Sorry, my studio will be closed on xxxx" or "Regret, visitors by appointment only".

Extra Publicity: The Steering Group can only do a certain amount of publicity for the Open Studios, such as producing the brochures, flyers and the website, as well as talking to the radio and the press. From past experience, we know that those members who spend their own time on extra publicity do much better than members who may just hope for visitors because of what has already been done by the Steering Group.

Records of Visitors & Sales: One important aspect of Open Studios is recording the visitors and sales during the events and then feeding that information back to the Steering Group. In that way we can build on the experience to make improvements for the following year(s). Sales figures and visitor numbers will be kept completely confidential and will only be used to build up an overall picture, so that we can gauge the success of the events.

Open Studio AOTM Questionnaires: The questionnaires are available for downloading on the Members' page of the AOTM website. This year they should be returned to Julia Law, the AOTM Secretary, who will analyse the results and prepare the usual report. We know from analyzing the replies to last year's questionnaires that 636 visitors spent £6,017 at 42 AOTM Open Studios, giving an average of 15 visitors and £143 per studio. The actual figures were probably much higher than those shown, but if we don't receive completed questionnaires from members then we will never really know!

3. Welcome to our 100th AOTM Member for 2010:

We are delighted to welcome back Malcolm Tait, who has had quite a long break from AOTM, and who now becomes our 100th member for 2010. Malcolm works in a wide variety of mediums and lives in the Wolds & Coast Cluster Group area.

4. A Message from Lincoln Cluster Group Coordinator Kevin Wallhead:

It's getting towards that time of year again. Are we all geared up for the Lincoln area Open Studios on the 3rd & 4th and 10th & 11th April? Brochures will be available in the next week or so, to be picked up from Harding House, but I will let you all know when they are in.

I'd like to welcome four more Art On The Mappers to the Lincoln Cluster, John Margettes (photographic landscapes), Tracey Scott-Townsend (2D & 3D mixed media, drawing, felt-making, mixed media painting), Kaoru Shimanda (drawing, painting) and Paul Kemp (watercolour landscapes). I hope that your future open studios are exciting and prosperous.

Group Exhibition: There was very good news from Peter Moss this week. He has secured The Sam Scorer Gallery for the AOTM Lincoln Cluster Group (Sept 5th - 18th, 2011 and April 2nd -15th, 2012). Obviously, if you do not want to be part of this venture you can still open up your studios within those dates. We think this would be a refreshing change, and, by pooling all our resources together, we would have a larger impact and attract more visitors to our Open Studios.

Further Exciting News: Norah and I attended a meeting last night with organisers from the European House of Arts (EHOA). They are planning to stage an ambitious project in Lincoln, which is the UK's part of a fantastic series of festivals across Europe this summer! On the 18th & 19th of June, 2010, Lincoln will be hosting a diverse group of musicians, artists & performers from all over Europe. They will be joined by local people, artists, performers & community groups to stage this 2 day event! For more details, check out this website: www.europeanhouseofarts.org.uk

Lincoln Cluster Group has been exclusively asked to supply local artists at this event. This is a fantastic opportunity to show our work locally to a very mixed culturally based audience at no cost to ourselves, in what should be a sensational couple of days. We would be located within the main University complex, inside (not on the windy Brayford) and alongside other performers, artists and musicians from all over Europe (hopefully in the LPAC or Engine Shed buildings). Work will be for sale! No commission! No stand fees! The event will be advertised locally and nationally and I am sure it will attract much interest. We are talking to EHOA at preliminary level at the moment, but I need to know numbers. Is anyone interested? If I don't get enough interest then I am going to have to open the net a little wider.

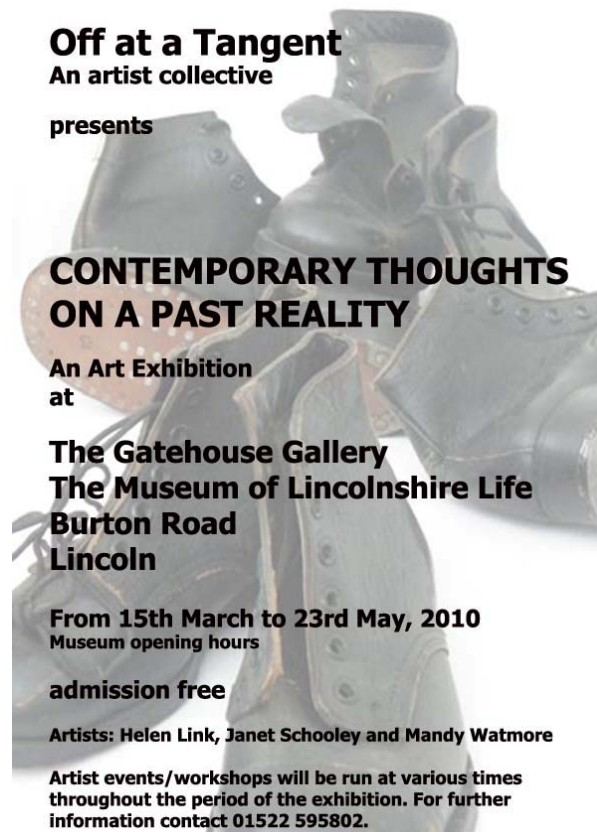
5. Forthcoming Art Exhibition: *Contemporary Thoughts on a Past Reality*:

The Gatehouse Gallery at the Museum of Lincolnshire Life, Lincoln will soon be the venue of a rather unique art exhibition. Its uniqueness lies in the fact that, for the first time, an exhibition will be staged there that has been completely researched, formed and presented from start to finish by the artists studying aspects of the historical artefacts and histories that the Museum holds. The building itself has not gone unnoticed either, being a former barracks for the Lincolnshire Yeomanry, it holds many secrets of its own in architectural form as well as in function and this aspect has found expression in the exhibition.

The artists involved, Helen Link, Janet Schooley and Mandy Watmore, are all practicing independent artists. They came together as 'Off at a Tangent' when all three realised their starting points and artistic interests very much coincide within a historical, relational and contemporary framework. Although each artist works in different media, their thinking processes are similar and complement each others work.

The exhibition brings together abstract interpretations with an acknowledgement to past events and historical realities displayed by the museum. There will be events/workshops at certain times during the exhibition.

'Contemporary Thoughts on a Past Reality' by *Off at a Tangent* will be on show at The Museum of Lincolnshire Life, Burton Road, Lincoln, between **15th of March** and **23rd of May**, 2010, admission free, opening hours: 10 am to 5 pm daily.



Off at a Tangent
An artist collective
presents

**CONTEMPORARY THOUGHTS
ON A PAST REALITY**

An Art Exhibition
at

**The Gatehouse Gallery
The Museum of Lincolnshire Life
Burton Road
Lincoln**

From 15th March to 23rd May, 2010
Museum opening hours

admission free

Artists: Helen Link, Janet Schooley and Mandy Watmore

Artist events/workshops will be run at various times throughout the period of the exhibition. For further information contact 01522 595802.

6. AOTM Participation in the BBC *Made in England* Project:

BBC Lincolnshire are currently in the process of moving to a new BBC system and an all new BBC Lincolnshire website - the new system will allow for much larger images to be displayed in slideshow galleries with images descriptions - so will be ideal for local artists to display their work with captions telling their story. It would be nice to do a general one to kick off for AOTM - with one image from 12 different artists - detailing the artist, where they are from and what inspires their art work.

Do AOTM artists want to be involved? If so, can artists wishing to contribute email one image with the title, artist's name, where they are from and a few words about what inspires their work to Bruce Duncan at bruceduncanart@btinternet.com. It is helpful if you can add the information by right clicking on the image, going to *Properties* and adding the information on the *Summary* page. A deadline of **21st of March**, 2010, has been set for submission.

7. An Announcement from AOTM Secretary Julia Law:

Bob Oakes has resigned his position as Chairman of the Steering Group for AOTM. The Steering Group would like to thank Bob for his enthusiasm, hard work and avid support of Art On The Map. He will, of course, continue in his role as Cluster Group Coordinator for the *West Lindsey Cluster Group* area and as an active member of AOTM.

The Steering Group therefore seeks a new Chairperson for AOTM. Included in this newsletter is an advert calling for people to put themselves forward for this important role. If you are interested in standing, please contact the AOTM secretary Julia Law on 01522 794322 / 07769 557439, or email julia.law@ntlworld.com or download the information and a short Application Form from the AOTM website.

The advert is also being circulated via AOTM's funding partners (local authorities) and included in arts websites.

8. Advertisement for AOTM Chairperson:

The Steering Group of Art On The Map are seeking to recruit a Chairperson to lead the Steering Group and give the organisation clear direction and focus.

Established in 1999, the organisation is an unincorporated constituted association of artists working co-operatively. Working with the Lincolnshire Co-Operative Development Agency, Art On The Map is currently reviewing its operation and developing a new strategic plan.

The Chairperson will play an active role in ensuring that the Steering Group works strategically, and fulfils its responsibilities for the organisation's governance. The Chairperson will also ensure that the Steering Group contributes collectively and individually to the ongoing development of the organisation.

The Steering Group is specifically interested in candidates who have the following knowledge and skill sets:

- Leadership skills and the ability to effectively chair meetings
- Excellent communication, motivational and people skills
- Ability to engage with funding authorities and stakeholder partners
- Experience of working with artists and /or an understanding of artists

The Chairperson will be required to attend monthly Steering Group Meetings, the annual AGM, Steering Group planning meetings and facilitated away days as necessary. It is hoped that the Chairperson will show an active interest by visiting artists' open studios and other events.

To apply, please download an Application Form from the AOTM website or contact Julia Law, Secretary for AOTM, on 01522 794322.

Closing Date for Applications: **29th of March**, 2010. Interviews will be held during week commencing **12th of April**, 2010. Please note that this is a voluntary position and travel expenses only are paid.

9. Artists of the Fenlands Exhibition and Invite:

Following on from last month's article, fifteen Lincolnshire AOTM artists have now come together to show work at The Haven Gallery in Boston this month in an exhibition that includes oil paintings, photography, prints, glasswork and mosaics ranging from traditional to contemporary styles.

You and your guests are invited to the preview on **Saturday 6th of March**, 1 – 3pm, and the exhibition runs until **27th of March**, 2010,

The Haven exhibition includes the following artists: fine art painters Lind Anso and Leszek Dabrowski (Boston), Rosi Campbell and Glynne James (Arts Coritani in Swineshead), photographer Derek Harris (Fenhouses), painters Joan Dowling (Gosberton), Mo Teeuw (Moulton) and Norman Rossiter (Surfleet), printmaker Louise Stebbing (Wisbech), mosaic maker Fiona Gurney (Deeping St Nicholas), painter and mixed media artist John Lincoln (Deeping St James) and, from Spalding, are painters Adrian Fordham, John Gray, Caroline Goodwin, Helen Webber and glass-artist Gillian Wing.

The Haven Gallery is located at 2 South Square, Boston, Lincolnshire, PE21 6JU, and is open from Wednesday to Saturday, from 10.30am to 3.30pm. Phone (01205) 356656 or visit www.thehavengallery.org.uk



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Please send your news for next month's issue to the Newsletter Editor: graham@forgearts.co.uk

Please note that the order of news articles is based solely on the order that they arrive on the Editor's desk.