

## WANNOCK ARTISTS 40th ANNIVERSARY

In 1974, thirteen artists, all living within a one-mile radius of Wannock, submitted 93 works of art at an exhibition held at Wannock Hall over the August Bank Holiday.

The beautiful scenery of the South Downs seems to have nurtured a nest of artistic talent in the locality. The paintings depicted local scenes, agricultural life scenes and still life studies. Apart from the painting there was an impressive show of skilfully worked pottery.

The exhibition, the first of its kind, was the brainchild of Mr Ken Binnie and his wife Beryl, both part-time artists. Mr Binnie said he was surprised at the high standard of work submitted and it was unfortunate that some pieces of art could not be put on show due to lack of display space in the hall. Most of the paintings and pottery were on sale at moderate prices. The most expensive painting was only £30.

The exhibition proved very popular leading Mr Binnie to remark ...'We reckon the event has been successful and it has given us the idea to form our own proper art group'. Thus, in 1974 a group of painters, who used to meet informally in one of their homes, formed a committee. The original members were Ken and Beryl Binnie, Madge Mankelow, Esme Hardy, Winifred Offer, Michael Standen, Adelaide Bolton and Mary Wilson. They decided to hold monthly meetings on the last Friday of the month for lectures and demonstrations and hired Wannock Hall as the venue.

By 1985 Wannock Artists had over ninety members and over a hundred people packed the hall on the opening preview night. An Eastbourne Herald reporter said, '... not only is the hall tastefully decorated with lovely flowers but the walls are covered with a tremendously varied and enormously talented display of paintings.'

Forty years on we follow the same format.

By Pauline Beddard, Chairman