



COWBRIDGE ARTS GROUP

OLD HALL, COWBRIDGE, S. GLAMORGAN.

ITS AIMS AND DEVELOPMENT

The Cowbridge Arts Group was formed in 1975. It was the brain child of a dedicated enthusiast Jane Hodson, who had for several years previously opened the front room of her own home, in Cowbridge High Street, under the name of the Jola Gallery.

With the building of the new library and the opening of the Adult Education Centre, Old Hall, she recognised new possibilities and applied to the South East Wales Arts Association for a grant. With the success of the application an inaugural meeting of the "Cowbridge Arts Group" was called, for 3rd May 1975. The minutes state:-

"People known to be interested in the promotion of the Arts in the Cowbridge area were invited to form a purposeful group. A chairman, secretary and treasurer were elected. The others present were designated members. They agreed



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to assume responsibilities as the needs of the group emerged. Further members would be co-opted in the same spirit. Eventually it was hoped that membership would be thrown open to the general public and a vigorous body of activists drawn in."

The nature of the exhibitions was envisaged as being adventurous, with as great a variety as possible of works of a high standard.

The purpose of the S.E.W.A. grant of £200 was to assist with insurance, printing, distribution of publicity and artists' transport costs.

Due to the continuing success of the group Mr Peter Jones of the Welsh Arts Council took an interest in the exhibitions. After his visit and discussion with the group he recommended that we receive a further grant, to be paid directly to the artists.

Because of the now recognised status of our exhibition programme



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the Old Hall was included in the Welsh Arts Council's directory of galleries.

Some of our exhibitions held have included the following well known artists -

Charles Bird

Dave Pederson

Ronald Carlson

Anthony Goble

A Morgan Hall

Charles White

Peter Markoy

Will Roberts

Nicholas Evans

Keith Bryliss

It has also been a particular policy of the group to promote young artists. For example Laura Holliday had a first exhibition at the Old Hall and subsequently won a Welsh Arts Council grant and then went on to The Royal College. She is appearing at the National Museum of Wales on June 11th of this year demonstrating her working methods. Our most recent artist Iwan Bala sold seven paintings one of which was purchased by Lewis Allen for the South Glamorgan County Council.