



## Gerry Smith BA (Hons) Fine Art, P.G.C.E. Art & Photography

In support for my nomination as Chair of Leamington Studio Artists

Dear LSA Member

Back in 2009 as Deputy Chair of the LSA , it was suggested to me if I would like to take the Chair of the LSA at the next AGM I ask for a copy of the LSA CONSTITUTION to decide what I may be letting myself in for. After reading the CONSTITUTION, I was somewhat surprised that what was happening in the LSA currently did not look anything like what the founders vision was in the LSA CONSTITUTION. I saw it as a challenge to re-focus the LSA and implement its CONSTITUTION. I had by then pushed forward the concept of a Gallery and studio space at the Old Library and found sponsorship to pay for and implement it.

We have had three abortive attempts at providing new studio space to date , this is due to unsuitable lease details that have come to the surface after due diligence and I have been reliably informed that the current Althorpe Street Studio's is not an LSA project .

Other than providing new studio space which would have a impact on a small number of our membership, the rest of the activities of the LSA that have been implemented now broadly represents the objectives of the LSA CONSTITUTION. I have listed them below and what we have done to action them.

*Leamington Studio Artists is established for the benefit of the general public and its primary objectives are:*

- (1) To represent and promote the Visual Arts in Leamington Spa and the surrounding area.*
- (2) To foster and improve public education, interest, and appreciation in all forms of the Visual Arts.*
- (3) To provide and encourage access to the Visual Arts for the general public.*
- (4) To assist and facilitate necessitous artists of promise in the continuance of their work.*

***In furtherance of the above objectives:***

- (a) To act as a focal and contact point for the Visual Arts in the WDC area, linking artists, local institutions and organisations from the community.*
- (b) To organise relevant Visual Art exhibitions, events, and opportunities for the general public.*

- (c) To establish and provide studio and exhibition spaces.*
- (d) To promote racial, sexual, and physical equality in the Visual Arts.*
- (e) To aid in the development of new talent, without prejudice to training or age, in the Visual Arts.*
- (f) To encourage professional practice in all aspects of the Visual Arts.*
- (g) To provide for the general benefit of the area other related cultural and artistic facilities.*

Since January 2010, with the location of LSA's Gallery150 at the Old Library and subsequent move to the town centre location of Livery Street, an exciting and vibrant space for the visual arts has been developed for the community by LSA volunteers. Currently the LSA, through Gallery150, which is open to the general public 6 days a week and manned by volunteers, artist & non-artists alike, have had a full programme of 42 Solo exhibitions, 104 Artists have exhibited in our Showcase area since December 2010 and over 394 Artists in open shows.

We also have had other local Artists Groups exhibiting in the Gallery and the Association of Midland Artists have benefited by using our vacated Gallery walls for exhibitions at the Old Library.

We have had three Exhibitions this year helping Charities and raised £2500 for The Linden Arches Appeal supported by WDC, by selling prints, made on our A1 printer, of a watercolour by local LSA artist member David Lewis. [www.gallery150.co.uk/linden.html](http://www.gallery150.co.uk/linden.html)

The Gallery150 has supported five young artists this year by free exhibitions to those who could not normally afford to exhibit in a high profile location. We also have our second artist's in residence painting in the Gallery in front of the general public.

We have an extensive Press coverage appearing on TV twice, BBC online, The Sunday Times and we are in the local papers most weeks.

All this activity has helped to put LSA and Leamington on the arts map and complements the town's Pump Room Gallery. A website has been established for Gallery150 [www.gallery150.co.uk](http://www.gallery150.co.uk)

LSA occupied North Hall, Spencer Yard for eight years providing studios for twenty or so artists at a nominal rent, aided by Warwick District Council who let it on a peppercorn rent with discretionary rates. LSA put in adequate plumbing and electricity for the building to function well. However, this arrangement terminated due to Spencer Yard being redeveloped as the hub for WDC cultural quarter and subsequent rents being too expensive for artists. We are actively looking for suitable studio property in the town.

The present location in Livery street is the focus of LSA's continued vision for providing gallery space to its members and education through art classes to the local community. This has been so successful that we have had up to 1000 visitors per week viewing the exhibitions and meeting in the space for talks, workshops etc.

I have with the help of Carole Sleight (BID Leamington) actively setup and support the new Leamington Contemporary Art Fair to allow local artist to promote themselves to the general public with Stalls in Livery Street and Regent Grove. The pilot of four Art Fairs have been a great success, the Artists selling over £4600 of work over the dates, increasing the footfall in Livery Street on the day by up to 50% over the same dates last year, increasing

the number of visitors to the town. Another four dates have now been booked up to Christmas [www.artstrail.co.uk](http://www.artstrail.co.uk)

I am actively helping to set up the LEAMINGTON ARTS TRAIL, that puts members Art work on the wall of local venues and takes the visitor, via a map, through Leamington's Regency townscape, discovering local art venues along the way. which includes all venues in the town centre that has Art on the walls including the Pump Room Gallery, Public Spaces, Pubs, Hotels, restaurants etc. [www.artstrail.co.uk](http://www.artstrail.co.uk)

We have an A1 size print service setup to help members to produce limited edition prints of their art work to increase the financial return from their paintings.

I am currently building a database of all Art Groups in Warwickshire and on our county borders to broaden our activities and venues for our members to exhibit in.

If voted in as Chair for 2011-2012 I will continue to build the LSA, we have nearly doubled our paid up member during my current chairmanship. I will continue to get members work in as many locations as possible (during my Chairmanship more artists have had exhibitions through the LSA then during the last 13 years history) to find suitable and stainable Studio space and continue with projects which support our CONSTITUTION. If you want this work to continue then it is important that you come to the LSA AGM and give your vote on who you think is most suited to take your Association forward.

Kind Regards

Gerry Smith  
Chair – Leamington Studio Artists.

## ***Personal Profile***

I am a highly innovative and creative individual, who find creative solutions to problems, I have a wide range of experience in running small businesses and a flair within the arts. Methodical and highly computer literate, and have always used contemporary computer technology to create new business direction. I am a keen photographer and artist who has the ability to enthuse, and is at ease working with people of all ages and in all settings.

## ***Employment History***

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 2008        | ClearNeeds.com<br>Head of Research & Innovation<br>As co-founder of ClearNeeds, the role involved developing and launching the company whose aim was to connect buyers with needs to sellers with services.<br>Funding dried up 17feb-1 sept  |
| 2001 - 2006 | Painting Holidays in France<br>Sales / Marketing / Photographer/Tutor<br>Working with groups of mixed age and ability using a viewfinder approach to analyse existing art work, before exploring use watercolours, using local scenery.<br>Sold Chateau 1march 2001 – 29 October 2006 |

- 1999 – 2006      The Personal Names Company  
Owned a company which provided personal email addresses.  
Sold company 1 Sept 1999 – 29 Oct 2006
- 1996                Computers for Students  
Creator of a pilot scheme run through the Students Union at the  
University of Warwick that offered computers and training to  
students on campus End of pilot 1 Jan-31 Dec 1996
- 1995 - 2006      Interactive Web  
Managing Director of an internet service company providing  
domain name registration, website design and hosting,  
ecommerce, servers and either dial up or ASDL internet.  
Sold Company 13 Jan 1995- 29 Oct 2006
- 1990 - 2007      Chateau Rentals  
Marketing, sales and associated administration involved with the  
rental of a French Chateau

### ***Voluntary Sector History***

- 2010 (ongoing)    Leamington Studio Artists (LSA) [www.lsa-artists.co.uk](http://www.lsa-artists.co.uk)  
Chairman 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2010 -  
The LSA seeks to promote visual arts locally. The role of  
Chairman involves bringing a team of skilled volunteers to direct  
direction, networking with local organisations with a view to  
securing corporate sponsorship. Promoting Artist through the high  
street Gallery150. [www.gallery150.co.uk](http://www.gallery150.co.uk)
- 2008 - 2010      Leamington Studio Artists (LSA)  
Deputy Chairman  
Negotiated a free lease at the Old Library in Leamington Spa,  
assisted in the recruitment of local volunteers who refurbished  
what had been a disused building. Oversaw the design &  
construction of purpose made moveable display units and the  
appointment of a gallery manager. Elected Chairman
- 2008 - 2009      Federation of Small Businesses (FSB)  
Chairman Coventry & Warwickshire Regional Committee  
Marketing Group  
Duties included bringing a team of marketing experts together  
from the local membership, chairing meetings and reviewing and  
recommending marketing options that would raise the profile of  
the FSB. Finishing with a high profile Awards event held at  
Warwick Castle.
- 2007 (ongoing)    Victoria House Function & Banqueting Rooms  
Director  
Working as part of a team marketing facilities and events.
- 2005 (ongoing)    Federation of Small Businesses, Coventry & Warwickshire  
Chairman. Vice-Chairman October 2010 -2011  
Re-established the local Warwick & Leamington Branch, and  
continues to retain current and increase new membership.  
Responsible for arranging innovative monthly business meetings,  
networking and organising prospective speakers, running regular  
branch meetings, maintaining contact details of membership and  
establishing e-communication network, lobbying local MPs and  
being a local voice for FSB members.

1993 - 1997 Duke of Edinburgh Awards  
Mountain Leader  
Leading Gold and Silver trips within the UK.

## ***Education, Qualifications & Training***

2010 Chairman and Secretary's Responsibilities FSB weekend Course

2008 TOM Coaching, Training and Leadership Skills Training Course, How to Promote Your Website Workshop & The FSB Chairman's Responsibilities & How to Chair Meetings

2007 FSB Media Training Weekend Course  
1988 - 1997 Several Intel Integration of Pentium Processors Courses, Hewlett Packard Authorised PC Products Reseller Course, Minolta Certificate of Accomplishment, Networking Novell Products Authorised Dealer Course, Amstrad Authorised Business Dealer Course, SPC Software Publishing Authorised Dealer Course, Drafix CAD Authorised reseller Training Course, Techmar Authorised dealer Course, Tandon Dealer Course, IBM Authorised Dealer Course, Amstrad Advanced Systems Centre Course, Microsoft ARC Authorised Re-seller Centre Course

1978 - 1979 Birmingham School of Art  
PGCE (Distinction) Art & Photography

1973 - 1976 Coventry School of Art, Lanchester Polytechnic,  
BA (Hons) 2.1 Fine Art

1971 - 1973 Kettering Technical College  
Art & Design Foundation Course

## ***Additional Information***

Enjoys many aspects of photography, and has used digital media from the onset. Has a passion for watercolour painting.

Pursues many outdoor hobbies; including mountain climbing, walking, skiing, scuba-diving, offshore sailing, karting and Formula 1 Racing. Likes to listen to an eclectic range of music, has travelled widely and been fortunate to live and work in locations all over the world.

With 34 years experience in running small businesses, and being voted Chairman of the FSB (Warwick & Leamington Branch) for five years during this period taking the dormant Branch from the smallest, to the second largest in the Warwickshire & Coventry Region. The Federation of Small Businesses is the largest organization representing small businesses with over 213,000 members in the UK.

Since February 2010, I have been the Chairman of Leamington Studio Artists and with a team of volunteers have created the 150 square meter signature **Gallery150** for the LSA. I have also been actively restructuring the LSA to deliver an enhanced service to its members and finding permanent studio space for its members.