



## ART CLUB

*In October 1988 the Village News carried the headline, "Calling all artists and non-artists." "Can you paint and sketch? Would you like to be able to draw and create interesting pictures? Do you consider your skills in art limited? Providing there is sufficient interest, Hagley is a large enough community to be able to have its own Art Club." This invitation generated enough interest to form a Club with a planned programme of activities. And the rest is history.*

*Alan Pritchard began the Club and has nurtured it over the years. There have been five chairmen with lively supporting committee members that have helped the Club to grow. 1989 saw the first exhibition in the Free Church Hall and membership grew until in 1998 the committee had to restrict the number of pictures being submitted for exhibition because of the space available. In the tenth year the Club moved the exhibition to the Community Centre, where there is more space and the opportunity to open Saturday and Sunday, a pattern that will be followed in this Millennium year, in early November. The membership grew in 1999 to eighty six and from the interest shown from the last exhibition, this will probably reach one hundred at this year's AGM on the 11th February in St. Saviour's Church Hall.*

*Each year the committee endeavours to organise events to cover all aspects of pictorial art, whilst also trying to bring art appreciation into the programme. There is always a meeting on the second Friday of the month at 7.30 pm at St. Saviour's Church Hall. This month's meeting on January 14th will be a talk with slides about "Railway Art" given by John Austin. Every Tuesday afternoon there is painting circle from 2 until 4 pm at Churchill village Hall. Since 1997 the Club has held a Spring Exhibition, just before Easter, and changes the venue annually, taking the Club's talent out into the Stourbridge area. Each year there are visits to galleries and places of interest. In 1999, being the tenth year, the Club went to Paris to look at Monet's work in the Musee d'Orsay and then to visit his garden at Giverny and Rouen Cathedral.*

*There are opportunities to attend day workshops, paint outdoors and to enjoy friendly meetings and social events. The Club has its own lending library of books and videos and also makes an annual award to students at Haybridge High School. Such a variety of events, with new innovations from dedicated committees has seen Hagley Art Club go from strength to strength. "Calling all artists and non-artists," come to our next meeting in January, you will be made most welcome.*

*Ken Lilley*