

JOHN BOWEN NDD, Cert RAS (b.1940)

As President of the Poole and East Dorset Art Society

“In 1980, when I arrived in Poole, both Poole and East Dorset Art Society and the Art Section, to which I had been appointed, at The Bournemouth and Poole College of Further Education, were at a low ebb. PEDAS was finding it hard to reconcile its reputation with its need for new members and the Art Section at The College had been consigned to one studio some distance from the main site. The College’s significant Art Collection languished in a store cupboard with a few exceptional pieces on display.

When, in the early 80’s, I was asked to be President of PEDAS, and with Peter Hardwick in the chair, the society began to develop a more inclusive approach to new members. Sometime later it attracted a group of mature ‘A’ level art students attending the growing number of courses at the College. Over many years the drive and tireless enthusiasm of these, and others who have joined them, has sustained and grown PEDAS into what it is today.”

As Artist

“Born in 1940 and educated at Magdalen College School, High Wycombe School of Art, The Byam Shaw School of Drawing and Painting and The Royal Academy Schools, I practiced as a portrait painter for several successful years. My work was exhibited at the Royal Academy, The Royal Scottish Academy, The Royal Society of Portrait Painters and others.

I came to Poole in 1980 from Langley College of Further Education where I had been teaching classes in Portraiture, Life Drawing, Ceramics, Screen Printing, Drawing and Painting.

It may have been my training and exhibiting which qualified me for the rather grandly titled post of Lecturer in Charge of Fine Art Studies! However, it was the responsibility for the **College Art Collection** which gave this post a special appeal to me. The educational value of the Collection led to a sustained effort by many to have a gallery built, known initially as **The Study Gallery**.

The Collection is now dispersed. The gallery used for other purposes.”