



# Companions Newsletter

Companions - 'Like minded friends brought together to be a force for good'

**The First Initiative.** - To identify exceptional artistic talent in young people and nurture this by taking them to centres of excellence around the world.

**The Academy at Dinefwr Park and Castle, Llandeilo in Carmarthenshire, Wales.**

Local schools in the Carmarthen area took part in a competition to submit drawings for an exhibition that was held at Newton House in June, with the kind permission and support of the National Trust. There were three age groups ranging between eleven and eighteen years. In each age group there were prizes for first, second and third. Over two hundred drawings were submitted and one hundred were selected for the exhibition.

## The Schools in the competition:

Ysgol Dyffryn Amman, Ammanford  
 Ysgol Gyfun Bro Myrddin, Carmarthen  
 Ysgol Gyfun Maes Yr Yrfa, Cefneithin  
 Ysgol Gyfun Pantycelyn, Llandovery  
 Ysgol Tre-gib, Llandeilo  
 Ysgol y Gwendraeth, Drefach  
 Queen Elizabeth High School Carmarthen



Friday 13th June saw the Opening Exhibition of the Alexander Talbot Rice Academy Charity. It was a fantastic evening, with Newton House packed full of young artists with their parents and grandparents along with many others from around the world, all joining together to celebrate the achievements of the competitors and enjoying a wonderful evening in the old house and beautiful surroundings.

Organizing and running a competition like this takes a lot of time and commitment and the Alexander Talbot Rice Academy Charity would like to say a huge thank you to The National Trust and their small group of volunteers, Peter and Esmé Mitchell and Professor Phrys Morgan for all their support and belief in the Academy.

## The prize winners from the exhibition

### 11 to 14 years:

**First place** - Carys Jones from Ysgol Gyfun Tregib.

**Second place** - Bethan Thompson from Llandovery College.

**Third place** - Lowri Roberts from Ysgol Bro Myrddin.

### 15 to 16 years:

**First place** - Aloysia Barnes from Ysgol Gyfun Tregib.

**Second place** - Thomas James from Ysgol Gyfun Bro Myrddin.

**Third place** - Georgina Young from Ysgol Gyfun Tregib.

### 17 and 18 years:

**First place** - Alex Glover from Ysgol Gyfun Pantycelyn.

**Second place** - Emma Brabrook from Ysgol Gyfun Maes yr Yrfa.

**Third place** - Scott Morgan from Ysgol Gyfun Maes yr Yrfa.



## Pictures

Above - Historic Dinefwr White Park Cattle (photo by Mr Talbot Rice)

Left - Mr Alexander Talbot Rice with his family. (photo by Ken Day)

Right - The winners Aloysia Barnes, Alex Glover and Carys Jones with Peter and Esmé Mitchell, Professor Phrys Morgan and Mr Alexander Talbot Rice. (photo by Ken Day).





## The First Initiative.

From all the exhibitors a short list of thirty eight were selected and these students were invited back to Dinefwr Park and Castle for interviews in September. This was to determine the final six winners who would be awarded places on The Academy Scholarship Programme.

After a whole weekend of interviews with the students their parents and guardians a decision was made. Alexander could not believe how enthusiastic the students, the parents and guardians were and had a really hard job on his hands deciding who would be awarded the scholarship places.

After Alexander returned from Wales he was overwhelmed by the talent and passion from students. He was saddened by the fact he could only award six places so he decided to award a further four places.

**The First Initiative** - The Ten Scholarship winners are going to Florence in August 2009. After Alexander returned from Italy this year he was delighted to report that he had secured both studio and accommodation. Students who prove themselves worthy would then be invited to St. Petersburg in 2010. It is intended that they should continue their training in Madrid, Paris and London. The students that survive and complete the scholarship programme would then have the opportunity to join Alexander in his studio and train future generations of students.

### The final ten winners who were awarded a scholarship place:

**Thomas James** from Ysgol Gyfun Bro Myrddin, Carmarthen.

**Bethan Thomson** from Llandovery College, Llandovery.

**Carwyn David** from Ysgol Gyfun Maes Yr Yrfa, Cefneithin.

**Carys Jones** from Ysgol Tregib, Llandeilo.

**Lottie Williams** from Ysgol Tregib, Llandeilo.

**Eleni Meliou** from Queen Elizabeth High School, Carmarthen.

**Megan Davies** from Llandovery College, Llandovery.

**Lowri Roberts** from Ysgol Gyfun Bro Myddin, Carmarthen.

**Mabli Eustace** from Ysgol Gyfun Bro Myrddin, Carmarthen.

**Rhys Langston** from Ysgol Tregib, Llandeilo



**Master classes** - Will be held at Dinefwr in the Spring of 2009 for the 38 short listed students. This will give an opportunity for those who are not going to Florence to participate.



**Picturg:** Col. James Ord, Mr Alexander Talbot Rice and Mr David Blake at the Virginia Gold Cup.

## The Academy in Virginia

The idea behind setting up a US Foundation based in Virginia, is that this should allow our charity to benefit from the very generous support that we have been given by friends and family in the United States. This will also allow our American Companions to make charitable donations which will benefit from tax deductible status under US Law and there by allow us to provide scholarships to students from America.

I am pleased to report that the State Corporation Commission has approved the articles of incorporation that Hunton and Williams LLP filed last Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October. The Commission website lists the Academy as a Virginia nonstock charitable corporation as of Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Within a few days they will be receiving an official certificate of incorporation! Mr Alexander Talbot Rice will be Chairman, Mr David Ledbetter Vice Chairman and Directors include Mr David Blake, Mr Jay Adams and Mr Henry Valentine III.



## Unveiling of The Late Mr Bobby Short At the Carlyle Hotel, New York

It is our intention to invite all US Companions to our next event at the Carlyle Hotel in New York. This event is a celebration of Alexander's painting depicting the late Mr Bobby Short, the famous singer. It co-incides with the 85<sup>th</sup> Year of his Birth and will take place at a suite in the Carlyle Hotel as well as the Carlyle Cafe, where friends of his will perform. It is planned that this will take place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2009 and companions should please put this date in their diaries.



## Future Plans

Next Newsletter will be issued after the students return from Florence in August 2009. That issue will include examples of their work from Florence.

### A note from Alexander Talbot Rice



**Picture** - Mr Alexander Talbot Rice  
(taken by Andréa Winchenbaugh  
Photography)

The Academy Scholarship Programme will only survive with your continued support. If you would like to make a donation or to sponsor a student, the Charity would be extremely grateful. Please fill in the direct debit form or send a cheque to the Academy Charity. If you are a UK tax payer please could you fill in the Gift Aid Declaration. For future US donations please donate through the US Foundation.

Many thanks for your support. ATR

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