

The Society was formed in 1960, when a group of enthusiasts took up the suggestion made by the late Olwen Muir. She proposed that art classes be organised in the town and a society formed to encourage the practice of art and stimulate its appreciation.

Denis Ward enthusiastically convened the first meeting of the Art Society. Olwen's husband, David Muir, was made its first Chairman, and Christopher Cory its President. Christopher Cory, then aged just 30, had recently bought Penllyn Castle for his home with his bride, Joanna. Although professing to have no drawing or artistic skills, he said he was deeply honoured to be asked and gave his full support until his untimely death in 1981. Members of the society were invited to paint at Penllyn Castle, with refreshments enjoyed at the end of the evening. Mr Cory's influence brought to the society the experience and advice of some of the most eminent authorities on art in South Wales.

Artist Charles White was one of the first tutors at the society, teaching at the time at Atlantic College. He was followed by Dulcie Stephens, Arthur Miles, Clodagh Gravos and Alfred Morgan Hall and many well-known artists in Wales. Classes were held in the former Girls' High School on the Aberthin Road, before moving into Old Hall on High Street after that building was reconstructed in the 1970s.

Early exhibitors in the society included A.W. Thomas, Beatrice Short, Mary Gregory, Olwen Muir, Betty Sims, David Muir, Verley Russell, Maud Gunter, Edward Marshall, H.B. Miles, Margaret Rawlinson, David G. Jones, Caroline Sheppard, L.A. Orrell, Richard Jones, Doris Nickson, Nellie Richards, Eunice Harrison, Charles White, Vernon Hurford, Denis J. Ward, L.A. Adler, P. Jkean Jones, David Lewis, Dorothy Pugh, Pheobe Jewell, David Jones, A.W. Thomas, Walter Cole, Harold Veale, Nina Thomas, D.E.H. Pratt, H.D. Jones, Eileen Ward, Nesta Lewis, Emllyn Roberts, Brian Stephens, Thomas John Nash, M. G. Stone, E. Rhoda Hancock, John Isaacs, Janet Williams, Sally Orrell, Nancy Cross, Jean Segust, Ken George, Gail Thomas, Peggy Francis, Margaret Greenwood and Doris Nickson.

Enthusiastic membership over the years has ensured an Annual Exhibition is held in the town. Work is submitted for the public to appreciate, and several trophies are awarded, donated for that purpose. There is a weekly talk or demonstration, social activities and excursions, and an Annual Dinner.

In recent times, membership has grown and since the COVID restrictions meetings have been held in the Baronial Hall of the 'Duke of Wellington' in Cowbridge. Visitors can attend for a payment of £2 at the door. The main annual exhibition is held in the Old Hall space for at least a month in the weeks leading up to Christmas