

HOW TO VIEW GALLERY PICTURES

Galleries are displayed as slide shows on the website shortly after they close. There are, however, three problems with viewing members' pictures in this way – the pictures are small, they are transitory (it is possible to pause them, but it's not very convenient) and it's not possible to see the title and author's name (actually it is possible to see the author's name but again it's not very convenient and it's definitely not possible to see the image title). Fortunately, there is an alternative way of viewing gallery pictures which gets around all these problems.

First, browse to the SPG website in the usual way. Then click on the "Galleries" tab at the top and choose "Public Galleries". You will see all the Public Galleries listed, with a thumbnail of the first image in the gallery, the date and name of the gallery, and below that a link View Full Size. You now have two choices:

1. Click on the image above a gallery title and it will take you into that gallery, then click on an image and you will see an enlarged version up to 700pixels wide which is half size.

2. If instead of clicking on the image above the gallery title you click on the "View Full Size" link it will take you into the same gallery and show the same thumbnails as before. However, if you click on a thumbnail you will now see an image up to 1400px wide which is the full-size image as uploaded to the gallery.

In either case you will also see the author's name and the image title, and at bottom left of the image a pair of arrows to move between images which means you can spend as long (or not!) as you like looking at a particular image. It may also be possible to move between pictures using the left/right keys on the keyboard.

As always when you think you have found the answer to a problem there is a catch which in this case is that whereas the half-size image can be viewed all-in-one on pretty well any monitor, the full-size image is too big to be seen all-in-one on many monitors which means you will only see part of it at a time. Many browsers incorporate a zoom function so you can shrink the picture down until it fits your screen or alternatively you can scroll left-to-right and up-and-down to see the rest which is not a good way to view a picture. Remember also that on many browsers you can maximise the viewing area by pressing the F11 key.