



# The Basel

Newsletter of Rugby & District Art Society

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## Good News from the President!

Hello all

I hope you are well.

**At the time of writing the pandemic is still affecting all of us, particularly in social distancing, and this is also the main restriction on our return to normal meetings at the Dunchurch Village Hall. The hall is gradually re-opening, at the moment for a maximum of 30 people, with suitable restrictions.**

## Programme Timetable

The committee is currently reviewing the situation and should be able to release more specific details before long, with the most likely timetable as follows (but not definite until confirmed). This allows us maximum flexibility if the pandemic returns:

- i) No September meeting
- ii) October & November - communal painting sessions
- iii) December – short AGM + mystery guest + refreshments
- iv) Normal monthly meetings from January 2021

## Workshops

Please note that the Collage Workshop scheduled for 26 September has been postponed until next year. Details will follow in due course.

## Twitter

The RDAS twitter account provides a way of engaging with Artists and Creatives from across the world by promoting the members and activities of the Society. It has a good presence in the local art community of both Warwickshire and Northamptonshire, including local art galleries and press. I can post information about a visiting artist, where with increased visibility, we may attract a wider audience to hear them talk. Exhibitions and workshops can also be advertised on twitter with links to websites and images. Twitter is a platform to promote and engage with a wide and diverse audience and to encourage others to join the Society.

Our twitter account is [https://twitter.com/rugby\\_art](https://twitter.com/rugby_art) and it should be visible for those who don't have an account. Your help would be much appreciated in providing content by sending me details and images of exhibitions and workshops you're involved in.

Clare Pentlow (twitter controller)

@cjpdesigns

[www.cjpdesigns.co.uk](http://www.cjpdesigns.co.uk)

## Facebook

Our Facebook page has been up and running for 18 months or so. It's a great portal for posting work that members have done, either finished and proud of or perhaps in need of a bit of advice and guidance. As we have been unable to meet for so long, it has been especially useful.

Facebook enables members to be made aware of events, such as exhibitions, either local, national or international. Perhaps you've come across an exceptional artist that no one has heard of – share it on our page and we can all benefit.

All you have to do is go onto Facebook, search for Rugby & District Art Society and click on Join. Your request will come to me and I will send you an acceptance email, then you are in. Currently, we only have 30 members in the group so it would be great to get that up to 50 or 60. Hope to see you on our page soon.

Jenny Clark (Facebook controller)

[jenferclark@gmail.com](mailto:jenferclark@gmail.com)

## Floor One

The Floor One exhibition poses many practical problems this year due to the pandemic so we will be requesting that it is moved to midsummer 2021 instead, followed at the end of the year by the usual Floor One Awards show.

## Subscriptions

Although the committee was authorised at the 2019 AGM to raise subscription prices, it is felt that in the current circumstances they should remain at last year's levels, with existing members at half-price to compensate for missed meetings. Those with direct payment of the full amount via banks will be reimbursed with the difference.

## Social Media

These have become increasingly important during the pandemic. Many of you have used them to keep in touch visually with friends. Please note and contribute to our Society Facebook and Twitter accounts. Clare Pentlow – [clare.pentlow@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:clare.pentlow@hotmail.co.uk) – is our new twitterperson and has already issued a call for items.

## As ever, Roy Foster manages to raise a smile (and a glass!) out of adversity...



Dream on, Roy!



**From the editor...**

I must apologise for the late arrival of your monthly Easel, but I've been struck down with a severe case of work.

Yes, I hear you, at my age I should be sitting, feet up, counting a lavish pension and leaving the putting together of a simple newsletter to a small army of minions. Unfortunately, life got in the way of all that and I'm still having to duck and dive in the unpredictable world of freelancing. What is predictable, however, is you never know how one thing can lead to another.

I do a cartoon strip in 'Lakeland Walker' magazine, following the adventures of a walking couple, 'The Lakers'. The editor told me about a Lake District publisher, 'Inspired by Lakeland' that was inviting contributions from local artists on their reactions to lockdown. They would be made into a book and profits from sales donated to Cumbrian NHS Trusts and local grassroots art organisations.

Seemed a worthwhile idea, so I did the cartoon, right, which was accepted.

My copy of the book, 'Through the Locking Glass' arrived last week. It's a quality product, 166 pages of artwork and attitudes, which can be bought online from Inspired by Lakeland.

As a result of this piece of 'art,' the publisher has commissioned me to do a series of lakeland Christmas cards and also wants to produce a big coffee table book of my Lake District illustrations.



THE LAKERS APPEAR REGULARLY IN 'LAKELAND WALKER'

A lot of work for me, but it goes to show that it's always worth keeping plugging away as you never know what interesting places it might take you.

As Del Boy was fond of saying, 'Next year, we could be millionaires!'. Though I don't think it worked out well for him, nor Rodney either.

**Norman's prodigious painting project**

Our friend Norman How has been particularly busy during lockdown. In a joint project with fellow painter, Maria Summerscale, he has been transforming a 'boring' wall in Long Buckby library into something they hope children and adults will enjoy.

Like classic tabloid journalists, we're sitting on details of the transformation until the epic journey is complete. However, as a teaser, here's the 'boring' wall before Norman and Maria got to work on it...



...keep watching this space!