



The Basel

Newsletter of Rugby & District Art Society

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Special One

Our December session took the now traditional form of award presentations followed by a surprise guest and a buffet, and it proved as popular and successful as ever. The mayor of Rugby, councillor **Bill Lewis**, gave a short address and officially presented awards, before mingling and joining in with the jollity, and staying with us until the finish.

The mystery guest speaker was Southam craftsman **David Shepherdson**, who provided a splendid array of handcrafted pens and pencils and initiated us into the clever ways with which he obtained his amazing effects. He also did a roaring trade as members vied for his offerings, and, before he left, expressed grateful thanks for receiving such a warm welcome.

Finally members were let loose on the substantial buffet (many thanks to all who contributed) and everyone seized the opportunity to catch up on the latest gossip and art news, before distributing Christmas greetings and departing well satisfied. Many thanks go to the committee and all who helped with the organisation and preparation of this most enjoyable event.

How to recycle Hello Magazine

Our first guest speaker of 2020 was **Susan Watt**, who brought along a selection of glossy magazines and showed us how to professionally tear them up and reassemble them into original works of art. Her short demonstration followed an illustrated talk covering her unconventional progress towards collage as an unexpected career, with examples of her remarkable skill in re-interpreting colours, shapes and even typefaces into powerful compositions and images.

Susan's enthusiasm and expertise enthused the audience to such an extent that we have had to promise a workshop with her in the near future. Susan said she enjoyed the evening immensely, although it was her first time in front of a sizeable audience. Remember – you saw her here first!



Susan with her demonstration piece and examples of her collage work

Special Two

The January session had to be put back a week to avoid New Year's Day, but we still had a substantial attendance for our annual critique evening. There was a good selection of members' works to discuss, and time to view one creation from each member who entered. Our experienced team consisted of **John Lines** and **Roy Foster**, with an occasional intervention from president **Paul Torr**, and topics ranged widely over composition, use of colour, photographic input, abstract influences, observation skills and drawing, and even mounting and framing.

At the end of the evening encouraging comments were forthcoming from the audience as to how useful it had proved, although Roy Foster may need some lessons in handling a coffee cup before he is allowed near members' masterpieces again!

Afterwards it was mentioned that a larger selection of unfinished and difficult pieces would give greater scope for practical discussion, and to that end the title could be changed to an **Artistic Advice Evening** for next year.

The End of Arnold

The Arnold Restaurant in Elsee Road is being extensively redeveloped with an Art Deco theme throughout, and this means that, sadly, it will no longer be available for our bi-monthly displays of members' work. If you know of a possible alternative please let a committee member know and we will investigate.

Workshops 2020

Dodford Saturdays; 10am - 4pm:

29th February: Mary Woolley

28th March: Communal Painting Day

18th April: Jackie Devereux.

Leamington Hastings Saturdays; 10am – 1pm:

8th February & 4th April: Costume Life

Apologies & April Foolery

We apologise for the change in programme for 4th March, but **Karen Pittaway** has had unfortunate and unexpected family problems that make her unavailable.

We have been very lucky, however, in obtaining **Hashim Akib** as a replacement. Hashim is well-known both nationally and internationally for his vigorous and colourful acrylics, and also has a wide range of publications and videos to his credit. We anticipate a lively demonstration!

And don't miss our **April Fool's Day** special with **Geoff Tristram** – artist, illustrator, cartoonist and comedy writer. Expect the unexpected!



Some of Hashim Akib's remarkable work

Exhibition at Houlton

Our next exhibition will be held in the **Barn Gallery** at **Houlton** on Saturday and Sunday 16th & 17th May 2020. All paid-up members are eligible to enter. Entry forms are available now, and must be returned no later than **Wednesday 6 May** with payment, title, price and (of course) name. All entrants will, as usual, be required to help with stewarding and the information desk for at least two hours during the exhibition. Details from **David Newell** on **01788 572586** or via the website: rugbyanddistrictartsociety.org.uk

Festival Futures

The Rugby Festival of Culture this year is to be shortened to one week only – **Saturday 20th – Sunday 28th June**. We are looking at various possibilities, including **Sketch Walks** on the two Saturdays and maybe a **pop-up exhibition** or display of work somewhere central. The latter may have to be organised at short notice, so put some choice items aside just in case. Make sure we have your up-to-date contact details – phone or preferably email – and we will let you know of any developments.

