



# The Basel

Newsletter of Rugby & District Art Society

Number 100 • December 2023



*Jessica's acrylic palette is a work of art in itself!*



*Jessica Hartshorn*

*Just some of Jessica's many commercial products*

## An Illustrative evening

Our October meeting welcomed, Jessica Hartshorn, a local illustrator and wide-ranging educator. An accomplished speaker, she took us through her system of producing children's books and ended with a demo of painting an illustration of King Henry VIII! An excellent evening, especially for any of us involved with producing books. [www.jessicahartshorn.com](http://www.jessicahartshorn.com)



## Pastels Plus

For our November meeting, Society member Rik Middleton took us into the world of painting with pastels. The variety of pastels available and their good – and bad – properties was expertly explained and demonstrated.

As the time for tea break approached, anxiety spread through part of the audience as it became aware that the tea lady had not turned up. A calamity threatened, but ever-capable, the behind-the-scenes ladies took charge, sent out for supplies and a 'dry' break was averted, only 15 minutes late.

Suitably refreshed, Rik continued with an impressive pastel painting. It was an interesting evening, full of surprises, not least Rik's remarkable homemade gadgets. One a little stove and mould for producing new pastel sticks from scraps, the other a fabulous wooden pencil box, which opens out like a fan.

Great stuff. Well done Rik!



*Rik in action  
And his fabulous pencil box*



*Cynthia with Jan on the Society trip to Liverpool in April this year*

## Cynthia Chandler

As this newsletter was being put together the sad news came through of the death of Cynthia Chandler on the 29 of November. Cynthia was a stalwart supporter of the Art Society for many years and became its well-respected president. She made many friends and we will all miss her beautiful paintings. Two of them, 'The Doone Valley' in oils and a pastel, 'Sleeping Beauties' were much-admired at the recent Houlton exhibition.

## Abstraction a go-go

The Society held a workshop on 4th November at Leamington Hastings Parish Hall, where Roger Griffiths showed us how to paint outside the box. It was scary ... but stimulating! There was ten of us, eager to let loose and use our photographs to become more adventurous with watercolour. With Roger's encouragement, we boldly sketched out our compositions in a more abstract way than we normally would, then splashed watercolour over them creating new and vibrant effects.

In the afternoon Roger turned to acrylics, using three different surfaces to show us a variety of possible effects. Then we attempted to use acrylics in a similar manner ... with variable results!

An enjoyable and stimulating day. Many thanks Roger!

Jan Watts



*Didn't they do well?!*



*Roger's finished demonstration painting (now in the Rugby Open Exhibition)*

## Sketching evening



*Deep in concentration at one of the Society sketching evenings held at Bilton Methodist church during November.*

## Unmissable!

The Rugby Open exhibition of contemporary art is up and running, 25 Nov to 3 Feb 2024 at the art gallery and museum – and should not be missed! I visited yesterday and was amazed and thrilled by the scope and standard of work on show. There's a good sprinkling of R&DAS artist included and the presentation by the gallery is flawless.

We often hear that Rugby is down in the dumps and nothing of any consequence ever happens in the town; go and see this show – it's wonderful!

Jim Watson



*Making it look easy!*

## Awards Exhibition

Our Awards Exhibition was held at Houlton over 18-19 November and passed off without any major hitches thanks to the team of dedicated helpers and Tony Keech's organising skills. He even produced a timetable so everyone knew what they should be doing! The weather could have been kinder and visitors more plentiful, but the general feeling was that it had been a success and that the work on show was of a high standard.

Many thanks to Susan Webb for being one of the award judges. Susan is a collage artist who gave us a talk a few years ago and who we hope to invite again for a demo and possibly a workshop.

Awards will be presented by the Mayor of Rugby at our meeting on Wednesday, 6 December. Drinks will be provided but please bring some tasty nibbles with you for members to share. There'll also be a surprise guest whose work is guaranteed to make you smile!



*The crowds flock in!*

# Awards Exhibition 2023 – winners



**Abbeycraft Artworld Award**  
*Cumbria Way – Coniston Water*  
Roger Griffith

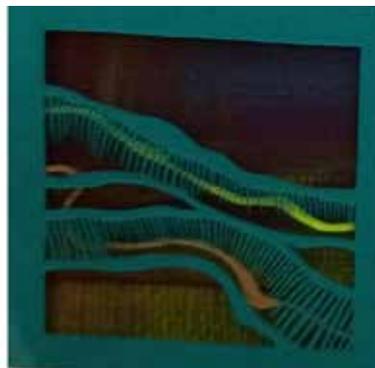
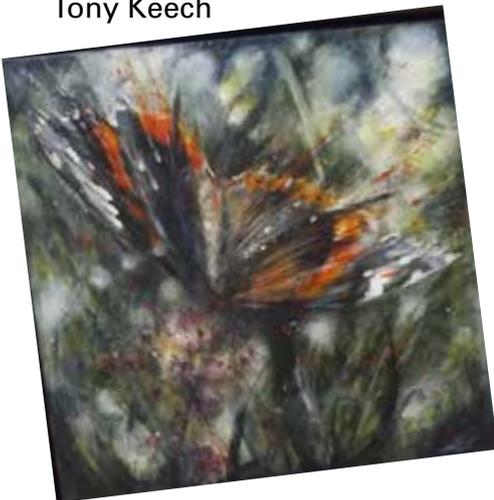


**Vice-President's Award**  
*Seasons*  
Gillian Dakin



**Alan Sime Award**  
*Whitby Again*  
Audrey Endall

**Acrylic Award**  
*September Visitor*  
Tony Keech

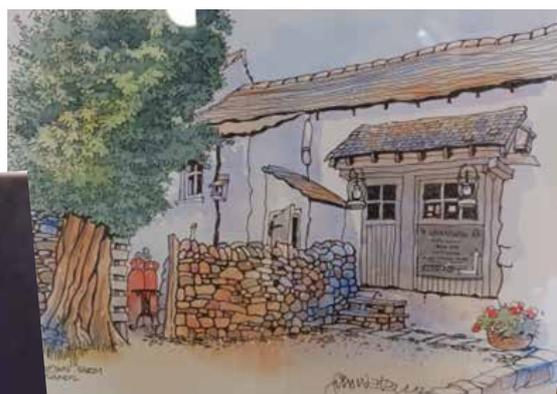


**Any Other Medium Award**  
*Land*  
Clare Pentlow

**President's Award**  
*Barn Owl*  
Julian Doyle



**Pastel Award**  
*'Throw the Ball Then'*  
Joe Douse



**Ivor Cox Watercolour Award**  
*Littletown Farm, Newlands*  
Jim Watson

**Oil Award**  
*Winters Pond*  
John Lines

