



The Easel

Newsletter of Rugby & District Art Society

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A Moving Still Life

For our October meeting we welcomed Christine Hodges, a still life artist of both talent and patience. She works in oils, producing detailed paintings which reflects her wish "to find the beauty in ordinary things and make them extraordinary".

She certainly did that, turning a simple display of a patterned pot and a couple of oranges into a painting of beauty and colour.

After a restful evening watching her delicate process of layering paint we were rewarded with a communal Wow! at the brilliant result.



Sticking at it works!

There was a good turn out for the workshop by collage artist Susan Watt on 12 October at Leamington Hastings village Hall.

Susan creates colourful collages using torn and clipped paper from magazines.

The students ripped, tore and stuck with gusto, producing some amazing pictures. One, by David Cooper (Magcut Cove ... gerrit?) even went on to win an award at the Houlton exhibition.

All attendees report a great day out with plenty of fun and artistic exploration. More workshops please?



From the editor...

This newsletter is the last one I shall edit, as I want to devote more time to new challenges and projects.

However, you will not get rid of me that easy. I shall still email Society news and info to members, just not in the established 'Easel' format.

This edition is the 104th I've managed to produce, spun out over 20-odd years. Makes me weary thinking about it!

We could boast 147 members when I started, but sadly that number has shrunk to less than a third of it today (was it something I wrote?). Financially, the Society depends on member subscriptions to enable it to pay expenses and the ever-escalating fees of speakers.

We need more members, so please encourage anyone you know to come and join us. Most of all, in order to continue as a viable local institution we desperately need a new treasurer. If you or anyone you know has even rudimentary skills in bookkeeping, please get in touch.

Valient committee members work hard to keep the wheels of the Society turning, but they need more help. Don't be shy in coming forward, none of them bite ... that I'm aware of!

See you around
Jim



Weaving made easy

In November Amanda L'anson, a textile artist and teacher from Daventry, brought along her a remarkable Saori weaving machine and a huge collection of woven fabrics for our delight and amazement. Even the dress she wore was one of her own creations.

With a background in Social Psychology, Primary Education, Interior Design, and textiles, Amanda travelled to Japan in 2015 to train, becoming a SAORI Weaving Instructor.

After taking us through the history and development of Saori weaving we were invited to try some weaving on her hand machine. It looked complicated but some of the members were soon weaving away with enthusiasm. Those of us with an engineering background enthused over the mechanics of the machine. An interesting and inspiring evening.



Awards Exhibition

A disappointing weather forecast greeted our 2024 Awards Exhibition held over the 16-17 November weekend at The Barn, Houlton. However, a steady flow of visitors enjoyed the competence and occasional quirkiness of the wide range of work on show.

The winners were as follows:

President's Award: **Roger Griffiths** for *Into the Unknown*.

Vice-president's Award: **Ralph de La Croix** for *Model Daydreaming*.

Ivor Cox Watercolour Award: **Margaret Linnett** for *Still Water*.

Pastel Award: **Joe Douse** for *After the Storm*.

Acrylic Award: **Tony Keech** for *Watching you Watching me*.

Oil Award: **Irene Merrall** for *Evening All*.

Any Other Media Award: **David Cooper** for *Magcut Cove*.

Alan Sime Award: **John Lines** for *Monks Kirby Rider*.

Abbeycraft Artworld Award: **Jan Watts** for *Nearly There*.



Rugby Open 2024

Despite some complaints (from locals) that the Rugby Open appears to have spread its catchment area well beyond the town of Rugby, the exhibition is hugely impressive and well worth a visit.

The R&DAS made two awards this year: Amy Bonsor for her colourful acrylic on stiched paper was the adult winner and Lilly Henfrey triumphed in the youth category for 'My Dad and the Dog'.



Delicate art from recycled metal

After the Awards presentation Anthea Yeo, a trained metalsmith, artist and recycling guru was introduced as the surprise guest.

She combines her skills to create curious works of art and jewellery using recycled copper and brass with the addition of old clock and machine parts.

Apart from the credible reuse of materials, Anthea's work has a remarkable delicacy, not easy when you're working with metal at such a small scale. Our surprise guest turned out to be a BIG surprise on many levels.

