



# The Basel

Newsletter of Rugby & District Art Society

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## A New Year

At this time of year we should be looking forward positively. The news media tell us that all is doom and gloom, but let us, for a modest fee, bring a little cheer into your lives during the next few months. Whether you are professional or amateur artists, or just interested in looking at various forms of art, we hope to have something to tickle your fancy in a pleasantly social environment, whatever havoc the politicians wreak. Welcome to 2023!

## Exhibitions

On the 18th & 19th of November we booked The Barn at the heart of the new residential development area of Houlton, where we have not exhibited before. Having only the weekend available it was a tight schedule to erect, judge, display & dismantle the show, but everyone responded magnificently, and the exhibition itself looked splendid. Many thanks to all who helped, especially David Newell, our exhibitions officer who kept us all well-organised

Thanks also to the judges: Hannah Craig, Anna Steiner & Adam Tucker, who supported us with great enthusiasm. We hope to be back again in late 2023.

A week later we followed with a show in the centre of town in the Floor One Gallery at the Rugby Art Gallery & Museum. Many of the Houlton works were given a second airing here, including several prizewinners, although members were free to choose alternative pictures, and the show lasted for a fortnight. This was also a new departure for us, as the exhibition was designed to be unmanned, but it, too, looked good and was considered well worthwhile, despite the limits imposed. Once again many thanks to those loyal helpers who contributed time and pictures to this event.



*Houlton exhibition*



*Floor One exhibition*



*The mighty Christmas spread looked over by the deputy mayor*

## Prizegiving Evening

The December meeting was attended by the deputy mayor of Rugby, councillor Maggie O'Rourke, who introduced the evening by presenting awards to the lucky prizewinners.

Then followed a fascinating talk and display on kaleidoscopes (I hope I have spelled that correctly!) by Frank Higgins, who provided an amazing array of hand-built samples, backed up by lots of interesting information on the possible variations, science and techniques involved.

Finally we all tucked in to the buffet spread provided by generous members, who clearly enjoyed the opportunity to mingle, chat and dispense seasonal goodwill. A most enjoyable evening.



*A hand-built Frank Higgins kaleidoscope*

## Award winners

Congratulations to all those who were selected by our trio of adjudicators!



**President's Award:**  
Gill Dakin for "Busy Life"



**Vice-President's Award:**  
Roy Foster for "Homewatch"



**Alan Sime English Landscape Award:**  
Nan Chilton for "River Nene Reflections"



**Oil Award:** John Lines  
for "A Long Day's Walk"



**Acrylic Award:**  
Tony Keech for "Tortoiseshell 1"



**Ivor Cox Watercolour Award:**  
Jim Watson for "Patterdale"



**Abbeycraft Artworld Award:**  
Jennifer Clark for "Marsaxlokk"



**Any Other Medium Award:**  
Sarais Crawshaw for "Rock Stars"



**Pastel Award:**  
David Newell for "Fieldwork"

### Highly Commended:

Clare Pentlow for "Spring", Audrey Endall for "Taking a Short Cut" & Paul Torr for "Lane's End"



*Happy Adam Tucker...*



*and some of his work*

## Adam's Evening

Our January speaker was Adam Tucker from Coventry, who is also a music composer, although that did not feature in his imagery. Adam produces very detailed pictures of realistic scenes, and he showed us how he uses his ultra careful technique, often using tiny brushes, to build up the finished works. He also talked most interestingly about his career, and how he had returned to painting later in life, and presented a list of the things to look out for and avoid when pricing work and dealing with clients. This was all delivered in an easy style, peppered with anecdotes and nuggets of common-sense, and with much information of relevance to us all. What a nice man!

## John & Roy!

Once more our annual Advice Clinic in February featured senior members John Lines & Roy Foster dispensing useful commentary on work that members brought in. Their knowledgeable discussions gave candid appraisals and many relevant tips about what to look for and be aware of in personal artistic productions. As usual this advice was sprinkled with a liberal dose of humour and banter that kept everyone awake, and all went home with a smile on their faces.

A few members unable to attend linked in via Zoom, but due to a technical issue had no sound, for which we sincerely apologise. Hopefully it will not happen again.