



The Basel

Newsletter of Rugby & District Art Society

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Tom Steps In

Master glassmaker **Ed Burke** was unexpectedly hospitalised shortly before his scheduled visit to our November meeting, so local artist **Tom Shepherd** thankfully agreed to fill the gap. We need not have worried! Tom's double demonstration of parrot painting was skilful, enthusiastic and clear, as he explained the approach to colour and tone that has seen his career blossom since we first introduced him to our members four years ago. Now much in demand for talks and teachings, this evening proved why, and was judged a very worthwhile substitute by attendees. Tom has agreed to give us a members' workshop at Dodford on 11th May – check the list if interested. We apologise for the lack of glass art, but hope for a future rearrangement, and send Ed Burke all best wishes for a quick recovery.



Tom in action

Awards Night

A good crowd assembled at Dunchurch to see the 2018 R&DAS awards presented by the mayor of Rugby, councillor **Tom Mahoney**, and to discover the identity of the mystery speaker. He turned out to be toymaker **Mark Uttley** from Stafford, who kept us all delighted and intrigued with his whirling, flapping and comical creations and his down-to-earth enthusiasm for his craft. Many members bought items which I am sure ended up as Christmas gifts - testament to his popularity.

Then we all tucked in to the feast provided by members and enjoyed plenty of social chit-chat and discussion, before returning home well-satisfied to await further festivities at Christmas and the New Year. Many thanks (and belated seasonal greetings) to all who contributed.

If you would like a high res image to print and show off your very own 'Oscar moment', contact Jim Watson or David Judd. Thumbnails here:



Gisèle and Jenny's SNAT experience

On 6th October 2018, we opened the doors of Farthingstone Chapel to the public for our first exhibition as part of the South Northamptonshire Art Trail. The chapel is, sadly, no longer used for worship or anything else so the caretaker was very happy to see it brought back to life with our display of over 40 original paintings, prints and cards. Our scarecrow, Vincent van Gummidge even won the village scarecrow competition as he sat outside, puffing on his pipe and contemplating his painting of sunflowers.

We spent the nine days of the Trail welcoming over 200 visitors and in quiet moments, we were each able to start, and in Gisèle's case finish, a mixed media painting. What a joy it was!

People were so interested in our work and techniques. We had so many wonderful comments it raised our spirits and boosted our confidence in what we do. By the end of the Trail, we were both on cloud nine and sad that it had come to an end.

So, roll on October 2019 – we can't wait to do it all over again.

Gisèle Pellegrini & Jenny Clark



Vincent



Farthingstone Chapel



Gisèle



Jenny

Festival Anyone?

Preparations are already beginning for the 2019 **Rugby Festival of Culture** in the summer. The Society will once again arrange sketch crawls around town, and maybe more. Other suggestions are welcome. If you wish to individually participate in other activities such as the Art Trail details should soon be available.

Costume Life

Our new season costume life sessions will take place in Bilton Methodist Church Hall on Thursdays 14th, 21st & 28th February from 7pm to 10pm. £15 for the 3 sessions, Contact **Leslie Read** on 01788 810697.

Dodford Days

26th January: Communal working session – bring your own ideas.

2nd March: Pastel workshop

30th March: Communal working session – bring your own ideas.

11th May: Oil and acrylic painting with **Tom Shepherd**

All sessions in Dodford Village Hall 10am - 4pm; light refreshments provided but bring your own lunch; details at meetings or from **Cynthia Chandler** 01788 571612

Critique Meeting

For the new members it was perhaps a little daunting but for members who have been before the crit evening with **John Lines** and **Roy Foster** was as usual informative and entertaining.

To start the January meeting our own **David Judd** gave us lots of helpful information, with examples, of the best and not so good ways of framing your paintings. We now look forward to well-framed paintings in our exhibitions which, hopefully, will increase sales and keep our hard-working members who hang our exhibitions happy. A win-win situation. Thank you, David.

Then on to the crit, which was billed as 'constructive, reasonable, informative and thoughtful – so nothing to fear'. This was interesting and with much joviality, but also included many informative and constructive suggestions to help improve our paintings. Questions and suggestions were also taken from the floor so all could take part in the discussion. A good evening was had by all. Thank you Roy and John, it was much appreciated.

Leslie Read

Apologies!

To all who were on the list to display work at Horts Estate Agents: they recently had a flood necessitating redecoration over Christmas, after which they sent the following message. Thanks to all those who signed up in support; I sincerely apologise for the disappointment. *Paul Torr*

It is with regret that we are emailing to tell you that we have had a change of heart with regard to displaying artwork We really have enjoyed the artwork that you and your colleagues have provided and are saddened that we will no longer have the privilege of enjoying it on a daily basis. We also assure you that anyone we know asking where they can acquire some great art will certainly be directed towards the Rugby and District Arts Society. I hope that you understand our decision and are not disappointed. Wishing you all the best for the New Year. Kind regards. Horts Estate Agents.

(No need for you to apologise Paul – it was all down to Horts. *Editor*)

Barby Show

Our Springtime exhibition is to take place at **Barby Village Hall** on Bank Holiday weekend 25th, 26th & 27th May. It's a large hall with good natural light, and refreshments will be available. All members are eligible to enter work. Please collect your entry forms at monthly meetings for return with payment by Wednesday 8th May.

All rules and requirements are detailed on the entry forms, so please read them carefully. Hand in work on Friday 24th May between 6pm & 7pm. Collect unsold work on Monday 27th May between 5pm & 6pm.

How NOT to frame your picture

It's amazing what a good frame can do for your picture. A badly finished one might result in a reject when you submit your work for exhibition. These photographic illustrations highlight some of the problem areas, as well as showing the correct way to fix the backing board and cords to your frame.

We like to think we do things in a professional way, and our members are aware of this and endeavour to carry out instructions on the entry form when they submit their frames for exhibition. The recent Awards Show at Floor One Gallery looked great! I hope these notes will help members submit framed art work clearly labelled and corded ready to hang. All of which will make sure our exhibitions always look good. *David Judd*



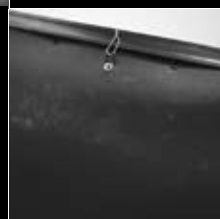
Horrible wrinkly brown parcel tape and wire incorrectly positioned along the top edge of the frame making it impossible to hang easily.



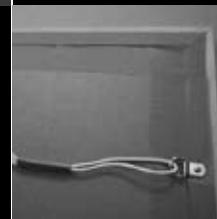
A tacky scrap of paper is attached loosely to the back of this frame with a piece of sellotape, which is not a satisfactory way to label your piece of art work for exhibition.



This frame on the right is intended as a photo frame and has a small triangular ring central at the top on the back. A piece of wire has been attached but this is still not adequate for hanging a painting in an exhibition.



This is how to properly fix a backboard to your frame using two inch wide self adhesive tape. With D rings for holding the picture cord placed one third down on each side.



This picture shows the label hanging over the front of the frame which helps us identify your work when we are hanging the exhibition.



A length of wool was tied across this frame on the left, and is clearly not going to be strong enough to support a frame intended for exhibiting a picture.

