



# The Easel

Newsletter of Rugby & District Art Society

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## Happy New Year to you all

Best wishes to all our members. We hope 2022 will bring us normality again and see out Covid. During the past year we have done our best to maintain links and organise happenings where possible. Keeping in touch is an important priority, so if you know of members who do not have email please pass on this newsletter information. Thank you for your support, and welcome to the new year.

We had all hoped that by now the pandemic problem would be over and we would be able to resume normal service. Unfortunately that was not to be. Despite all our best intentions the planned December and January meetings had to be cancelled, the former due to our guest speaker having at the last minute to isolate themselves; and the latter following reassessment of the restrictions at the Village Hall venue in the light of the latest government guidelines.

We still have a full year of meetings scheduled, and will go ahead with these live events at Dunchurch if conditions permit, but considering the uncertain future we are also preparing alternatives, initially with Zoom presentations.

This means that the February members' advice meeting will go ahead as planned, with members bringing work to Dunchurch for appraisal, unless Covid conditions suggest this is unwise. The decision to cancel or not will need to be made about a week before, so please watch for emailed details. We are sorry for the necessarily short notice but we have to be guided by whatever conditions apply at the time.

If it is cancelled we hope to have a Zoom alternative ready for you, but for this we need your co-operation – please send a photo of one or two of your pictures (or other works) as soon as possible to Gill Dakin as outlined below. These will then be used solely for a members only Zoom session - maybe not as entertaining as a live meeting, but at least we are attempting something.

We apologise for all the disruption and inconvenience; it is not of our making, and we hope you will bear with our efforts until some semblance of normality returns.

Thank you, and stay safe.

Paul, President R&DAS (mrpaultorr@googlemail.com)

## We Need Your Help!

A letter from committee member Gill Dakin:

**Members, the committee needs your help.**

**We are hoping to go ahead with the critique meeting planned for 2nd Feb 2022 at Dunchurch Hall. However, in case we have to cancel it due to covid restrictions or low attendance concerns, as a contingency, we want to be ready to be able to run a similar, alternative meeting, using Zoom.**

**To do this we will need as many people as possible to send one or two pictures of artworks by email to Gill D using the email martinandgilld@gmail.com - to be received by Jan 27th.**

**These images will be for critique only. They will not be forwarded to anyone outside of the committee and will only be used for the 'back-up' presentation.**

**The pictures should be sent at their original resolution. It would be helpful to include a few lines about your picture so we can pass this along to the friendly critiquing panel.**

**Thank you for your help.**

**Gill**

## Hopeful Notes

Despite the uncertainty we are still making tentative plans for future communal activities. In May we are investigating a trip to the International Watercolour Exhibition at Lilleshall in Shropshire. At the end of June we are considering an exhibition of members' work to coincide with the Warwickshire Arts Week. A changeover of work at the Rainbow Gallery in St Cross Hospital is also envisaged soon but details are yet to be finalised.

## Workshop Date

10am – 1pm, Sunday 30 January 2022 at Leamington Hastings Parish Hall CV23 8DX. Sketching session with two models. £15.

This is a large high room with plenty of space & good facilities, including a spacious car park.

Contact Leslie Read for further details: leslie.read43@gmail.com or phone 01788810697.

## Check your info!

**Some members are not getting the Zoom links, notices, or newsletters which are sent to members by email every two months or so.**

**If you (or someone you know) are one of these people please make sure that Leslie Read ( Leslie. Read43@gmail.com ) has your current email address on the membership list.**

**A further plea from the editor:  
As I transmit the mass mailing of emails to members it's imperative that I have the correct email addresses. Messages are returned with every mailing as 'undeliverable'. I will continue to print copies of newsletters for members not on email and post them via snailmail.**

**Jim Watson: jimartwatson@btinternet.com**

## The Show

The Awards Exhibition in Floor One went ahead with due consideration to Covid restrictions. David Newell, our Exhibitions Officer, did an excellent job, and the hanging, dismantling and general organisation went smoothly, although some chasing of people to man the sales desk was required. Nevertheless, many thanks should go to all those volunteers involved, as the show itself looked splendid - "best for years" was one comment.

We had over 30 exhibitors, and 7 paintings, 5 browser works and a fair number of cards were sold. Despite Covid

restrictions around 500 visitors attended over the 2 weeks (compared with around 700 previously) although some of these were no doubt due to the nearby attraction of the Lego snowmen trail!

Sadly the gallery & museum was very understaffed, and it shows; their future direction is unclear. Unless we can get some reassurance for next year we may have to consider very carefully whether we continue to hold our show there regularly, as we have done in recent years, or to look for another venue. What do members think?

## Awards

Following the cancellation of the Awards Presentation meeting, and after some discussion, it was decided it would be impractical to rearrange a presentation date for early 2022, and certificates and prizes will therefore be sent out by post instead. We apologise for this delay.

## The winners:



Abbeycraft Artworld Award: Sarais Crawshaw for "Out on a Limb"



Vice-President's Award: Tony Keech for "Winter Woolies"



Pastel Award: Janet McKay for "Sunflowers"



Any Other Medium Award: Audrey Endall for "Springtime"



Alan Slme English Landscape Award: John Lines for "Autumn Storm"



Ivor Cox Watercolour Award: David Judd for "Number 3 Lock"



Oil Award: Jennie Fletcher for "Legacy"



Acrylic Award: Roger Griffiths for "Cotswold Summer"



President's Award: Irene Merrall for "Pete"