



The Basel

Newsletter of Rugby & District Art Society

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Our president celebrates the platinum jubilee at the June meeting. (That's the Queen's jubilee – not his!)

Normal Service?

Over the last four months the Society has hosted presentations by professional artists to audiences of 50 – 60 members, so it seems that we can at last feel confident in arranging a full programme for the next season starting in September. Other activities are also being revived, including exhibitions, workshops and trips. We presume that most members are happy with the current format, but if you have any new ideas that you would like us to consider just mention it to a committee member – or, alternatively, put yourself forward for election to the committee in September! Meanwhile enjoy the rest of the summer season.

Artistic Variations

Our speakers for April, May & June showed us very different aspects of artistic endeavour.

First, in April, Cornishman **Ray Braybrooks** presented his delicate birchwood silhouettes based on his love of nature and the Cornish countryside. He showed how the deceptive simplicity of his finished designs was achieved, from original drawings to careful cutouts. He then proceeded to demonstrate his meticulous cutting out methods to gasps of astonishment from the audience. It was a real pleasure to see such a craftsman at work.

Our May speaker was local artist **Gemma Whitford** who has recently returned to painting after a two-decade abstinence. Her careful watercolour depictions of flowers and observed creatures were explained through preparatory sketchbooks, colour notes and finished pieces, followed by a live demonstration of how she achieves her delicate and realistic effects.

She gave us all some useful tips on how quick practice methods can develop latent skills and supplied a handy helplist for our use. She also explained how her images are translated into marketable items, such as greetings cards.

In June **Adam Ogelsby** travelled from Nottingham to show us his multifarious skills including continuous line drawings of buildings (done on the spot!), fantasy interiors, and incredibly complex scale models in paper. He explained how the latter led to his current employment in the film industry, preparing accurate model film sets to help directors plan actor movements, camera angles etc. and followed this with a demonstration of nifty paper cutting with a scalpel.

He also showed examples of computer controlled 3D printing and explained its uses. It was an absolutely fascinating introduction to a world of art production that many of us had never even thought about. And, yes, remember that you saw him here first!



Adam Ogelsby in full flow with Roy Foster lending an appreciative ear



A birchwood silhouette by Ray Braybrooks, and he shares notes with Roy Foster (He pops up everywhere!)

Amazing work from Adam Ogelsby – a model film set from a 3D printer, a continuous line drawing of Nottingham Town Hall and a card construction of a French village street



Summer Outing

The coach trip to the International Watercolour Exhibition at Lilleshall was a great success, despite the coach being almost an hour late collecting us from Dunchurch – he only came from Swift Valley but was caught in gridlock on the Leicester Road. Nevertheless we made good time and were delivered safely at the impressive venue. The show was well organised, with demonstrations all day, a comfy cafe, and pleasant gardens to explore. The exhibited work was by invitation only, and was truly international and technically skilled in scope, and provided an excellent afternoon's browse. Our party left for the journey home discussing the merits of the wide range of skills, techniques and ideas on show.

Exhibitions

The next Art Society exhibition is in the Dunchurch Hall over the weekend of 2nd & 3rd July, and is timed to coincide with Dunchurch Art Week and Warwickshire Open Studios. The call for entries is now closed, but help will be needed to sign in work and erect and hang the display on the Friday evening from 6pm. All helpers are welcome.

We already have some volunteers who will be displaying their artistic skills at various times during the weekend. If anyone else wishes to paint or draw in the in the hall or outside, weather permitting, they are welcome to join in.

The annual end-of-year Awards Show will this year be held on the weekend of 19th & 20th November in the Houlton Barn on the large new western development area. More details will be available in due course, but we hope that it will enable us to access the many newcomers to the town just in time for Christmas. Spread the word.

Money Matters

Prior to the pandemic we had decided to raise our subscription rates, but because of the difficult circumstances we postponed their introduction until times were more normalised. We now feel that time is here, and so, after some discussion, we will be charging the following rates for the next season, beginning in September 2022: Adult £30; Concession £27; Couple £45; Retired couple £40; under 18 years free; Guest fee £5 per meeting.

Still excellent value, I think you will agree. Subscriptions become due in September and can be made by direct debit, or at any meeting by cash or credit card, as we now have a card machine to make parting with your money even easier!

AGM

Our September meeting is also the Annual General Meeting for the Society, when members receive (brief) reports on the past year, have their say on recent initiatives and elect or re-elect committee members. As we (hopefully) emerge from the pandemic a good turnout would be appreciated to help guide us on our way. Subscriptions can also be paid at the AGM (by cash or card - latter preferred!).

After the formal session (and the tea break!) there will be a talk about art detectives by a representative of Art UK, which traces lost works of art. Intriguing eh?

People

Our current treasurer **Madeleine Prager** took over the handling of our finances a few years ago and has been doing a sterling job ever since, but has now decided to relinquish the post. **Gill Dakin** has agreed to take over, and, because our financial year ends in July, she should be in post before the AGM. Many thanks Madeleine, and good luck Gill.

Bob Mitchell, who has been doing good work as our publicity officer, has resigned from his committee post due to health and family reasons, although he intends to retain his membership of R&DAS. The committee is coping, but a replacement would be nice. Any volunteers?

Our Vice President **John Lines** was whisked to hospital recently with a heart irregularity, and while he was there had a pacemaker fitted! We wish him well and hope normal service will be resumed as soon as possible. Meanwhile we're told he's not allowed to raise his hand above his shoulder. Who will paint his skies?

Many of you will remember **Irene Maund**, a delightful lady, always full of fun and a fine draughtsperson. She was a staunch supporter of R&DAS, often travelling from her home in Herefordshire to take part in Society activities. Sadly, she passed away recently after a short spell in hospital. She will be much missed and remembered. Our condolences go to her family.



DON'T PANIC!!
With only eight minutes to go before transmission the Society's top techy team meet to untangle a knotty cable issue

Another remarkable film set model from Adam Ogelsby



An Experiment

Members at the June meeting possibly didn't notice that it was being transmitted live by Zoom to a few selected members unable to attend in person. A strict "paid-up members only" participation was enforced through prior registration, and proved that this is easily possible. The result was by no means perfect, and the sound quality in particular was poor, but we hope to improve things with a little more experimentation. It will never challenge the quality of the live experience, but is seen as a way of keeping absent members in touch when ill or on holiday.