



# The Basel

Newsletter of Rugby & District Art Society

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## From the President

I hope I'm not being premature when I say that things seem to be looking up a bit at last. Jobs are being dispensed at a great rate and those town businesses that are still alive are beginning to open their doors again. This means that we can make tentative plans for future events, as detailed in this newsletter, together with a suggested Dunchurch programme through to September. Zoom is all very well - and thank you to all those who tune in to our sessions - but nothing beats a good face-to-face chinwag with other art lovers, does it? We are anticipating just a couple more Zoomers before the real thing hopefully returns in July with Peter Barker, Rutland painter in oils and pastel, in person. At last, something to look forward to. See you there!  
Paul

## Making his Mark

Our Zoom demonstrator for March was Mark Fennel, who lives in Brill (on the hill) in Buckinghamshire (windy but picturesque – maybe a group sketching venue?). His subject was portrait painting in oils and, using a photograph of an Indian girl, he showed how he picks out salient points, colours and tones to build up a lifelike feeling in his work. Naughty Mark, however, hadn't done his preparation properly and spent much of the time bemoaning the sticky surface as he fought to control his brushwork. Nevertheless, the end result was very creditable, and the many explanations and tips along the way made for an entertaining, if not wholly professional, evening's viewing.

## Pastel Wizard

Our April Zoom demonstrator was Les Darlow, who provided two demonstrations in one session – a landscape and a sky-&-seascape. He was using Pan Pastels, a new medium to many of us, and he engendered a great deal of enthusiasm amongst the viewers through his remarkable skill and his friendly discussions. Nice hat, too! His explanations of different paper and pastel types and their uses and their integration with other mediums was both interesting and extremely helpful, and watching his pictures grow as he worked kept us all enthralled. A great evening, with impressive results! I'm sure that, as a result, we'll have some newly minted pastel pieces on show in our next exhibition.

## Looking Forward

Although things are still uncertain we have made the following tentative arrangements, which we hope will come to fruition as planned. From July we envisage returning to Dunchurch Village Hall, and the AGM in September will clearly be important to take stock and hear members' views, so please attend if you can. This is not a definitive list but at least it shows some semblance of normality. Further activities will be publicised in due course.

### Monthly Zoom meetings: (7.30pm – 9.30pm)

May 5 - David Walters / Riverwood Workshop: decorative woodturning

June 2 - Barry (Baz) Herniman: rich & colourful watercolour

### Dunchurch Welcome meeting: (7pm – 9.30pm) note changed time!

July 7 - Mr Lines' Special Gala Evening. Welcome half-hour + Peter Barker: landscape in oils

### Monthly meetings at Dunchurch: (7.30pm – 9.30pm)

August 4 - Fun night: Working Together. Details later.

September 1 - AGM & display of members' lockdown images &/or sketchbooks

### Public Exhibitions:

July 10 & 11 - Post-Lockdown Exhibition (Dunchurch Village Hall)

November 27 – December 9 - Annual Awards Show (Floor One @ RAGM)

**Coming soon (details later)** - Rainbow Gallery regular displays (St. Cross Hospital)

### Dunchurch Show

**All current members are eligible to exhibit work.**

**Entry forms and exhibition rules are attached to this newsletter.**

**Further information from David Newell 01788 572586**

## Tea Please

We usually have a student to help with our tea breaks, but as we will not start full meetings before the July holiday period we are unlikely to be able to recruit anyone until September. You may know someone willing to take it on before then. Remuneration is available. If you have a possible volunteer contact Paul Torr at [mrpaultorr@googlemail.com](mailto:mrpaultorr@googlemail.com) Otherwise we will be seeking helpers from amongst the members to provide a temporary service until the autumn.

## Free art materials!

The president recently received this email:  
*I have recently moved to Rugby and found I have a lot of art materials that I am not going to use. As I have decided to concentrate solely on watercolour, I would like to give away the rest of my pastels, inks, acrylics and water based oils. I don't want to just put them in the charity shop so wondered if any of your members would be able to make use of them. If this offer is of interest, please telephone 01788 552433 or email [susanmarybird@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:susanmarybird@yahoo.co.uk)*

Regards  
Sue Bird

## A Member's Lockdown

Lockdowns have presented many opportunities to take part in challenges and to watch numerous free workshop videos.

I have recently taken part in three online challenges. The first was in February with a group of 18, mainly from Hampshire. We had to draw everyday and post the results on Pinterest. In March I took part in the American sketchbook revival challenge where I had access to over 20 artists videos and mini workshops, covering watercolour painting, paper collage, lino cutting and many other varied exercises.

Some of you may have taken part in the 100 Day Challenge where I chose to take 2 inch squares. 106 fit nicely in a display book (see picture).

The Thurlaston village art group has been meeting monthly on Zoom and we have tried to add cheer to our village by having community art/craft displays in our village bus shelter where we invite the whole village to add to them. Most recently an Easter themed one; previous themes animals and Christmas.

You have no doubt been following lots of your favourite artists. I have found inspiration on Instagram with tutors such as Este Macleod and printmaker Sue Brown (sb.brown21) to name a couple. Sue has set up the project 'same sea different boat' combining printing and sewing to record the pandemic in an extensive piece of work.

So many things online to enjoy. Which tutors inspire you?

Gill Dakin

## Long Buckby Library painting project

Norman How and fellow painter Maria Summerscale, have collaborated on a project to brighten the local library. This was threatened with closure but has now become a hub run by and for the village itself. Their plan was to paint four scenes from around the village, one for each season showing the fauna, flora and human activities. The aim was to produce something bright, attractive, cheerful and informative.

At last the library is open, and the scenes can now be seen on entering the building: new life of Spring, on the left, moves to a Summer scene, then the soft browns of Autumn, and finally a cold Winter view inspired by Ravensthorpe reservoir.



*Above & left: Gill Deakin's photos.*

*Below: Norman and Maria with their Buckby Library project.*

