



# The Basel

Newsletter of Rugby & District Art Society

Number 97 • May 2023

## Tough Times

These are difficult times financially for us all. I know that you all enjoy the varied diet of talks and workshops that we provide over the year, and we will endeavour to keep them as good value as possible. But remember that these are the result of detailed unseen organisation, and this year in particular the committee has been hit by illness, including some unavoidable resignations, which puts more strain on those who remain.

There are two ways in which you, as members, can help with this. First, persuade new people to come along and swell our coffers by (hopefully) joining; and secondly, by volunteering (yourself or someone else) to join the committee. This latter needs to be done in time for the AGM in September. The duties are not onerous, maybe 5 or 6 meetings per year. But if you value the Society don't leave it to everyone else! Thank you.

*Paul Torr: President*

## Local Talent

Local artist Lucy Burton was our demonstrator for March and she showed us how she approaches her delicate delineations of plants and flowers, as well as giving an introduction to her career, which was not at all straightforward. As with many others she left her art studies when young to bring up a family and pursue a career, then returned to painting and drawing, becoming very successful. With a refreshing attitude to artistic life, Lucy says "Your 'studio' is simply wherever you set up your equipment. Kitchen table / field in the middle of nowhere / garden shed – it's what you produce there that counts. I work in my kitchen – it's got a lovely light, it's warm, comfy and I have easy access to the kettle & box of biscuits! Who needs a fancy studio, just paint!"

*Jim Watson: Editor*



*Lucy Barton and artwork*

## No April Fool

Our April guest was the consummate Geoff Tristram, jack of all arty trades and, amazingly and impressively, master of all of them. An excellent speaker, Geoff took us through over 35 years of his achievements as a professional artist, illustrator and cartoonist. His artwork has appeared on fine art prints, collectors plates, magazines, postage stamps, jigsaw puzzles, risqué 'seaside' greeting cards, press advertisements, billboards and packaging. As a 'sideline' he accepts private portraiture commissions. If that isn't enough he is also a comic novelist with eighteen books in print. To relax he plays loud electric guitar and watches cricket – though not at the same time.

Geoff gave us an informative and entertaining evening, while those of us who rely on commercial art for an income may have been left with the thought that maybe we're not working hard enough.

*Jim Watson*



*Geoff Tristram and his artwork for a jigsaw puzzle*

## David Traynor

As our scheduled meeting in May guest, Chris Pendleton, had to cancel due to ill-health, David Traynor stepped into the Dunchurch limelight. David runs a hugely successful wedding photography business throughout the Midlands but also produces highly detailed paintings of animals and birds. In an entertaining talk he explained how he manipulates the compositions and backgrounds until they are totally to his liking, even painting them over and over again to achieve his aim. David also brought some of the impressive photo albums he custom designs and has manufactured in Italy for his wedding photos.

An excellent evening, during which David drew some gasps of amazement from the audience when he said most of his wedding photographic work comes from the Rugby area because there's more money here than where he lives – in Worcestershire!

*Jim Watson*



*David Traynor and some of his wildlife paintings*

## Liverpool Hols

This year's R&DAS holiday trip was to Liverpool from 2nd to 6th April. Jamesway Travel again did us proud with an interesting itinerary. We stopped en route to visit Port Sunlight, an interesting urban planning village created by Lord Lever for the workers at his soap factory. The Lady Lever Art gallery in Liverpool is dedicated to his wife. Our hotel was situated on the Albert Docks, convenient for investigating the city. Liverpool's version of the London Eye was next door so some of our more intrepid members took a trip!

Next day, we were taken to Southport to spend a couple of hours exploring the galleries, shops and seaside. Then on to Crosby beach to see Anthony Gormley's sculptures of 100 cast iron figures facing the sea. The following day was spent visiting galleries in the city; The Walker Gallery, The Tate and The Maritime Museum.



*Happy holidaymakers in the Liverpool sunshine*



*The Society's doctors, Messrs Douse and How examine an 'Ironman' for any signs of life.*

On Wednesday we did our own thing around the city, some members using the excellent On/Off buses to see most of central Liverpool and its many places of interest.

We left the hotel on Thursday, stopping on our way back to visit Chester, a beautiful city that still has its city walls, Roman Amphitheatre, 10th century cathedral and the famous Rows Galleries – time for more shopping!

Eventually we returned to Rugby for a rest and with many thanks to Margaret Linnett for organising the holiday and looking after us all so well.

*Jan Watts*



*A lovely photo of Jan and Cynthia backed by the Liverpool 'Eye'*

## Illness

Members will have noticed that the Dodford workshop had to be cancelled at short notice. This was due to the hospitalisation of Cynthia Chandler, with liquid on the lung. Cynthia is one of those members who have supported the Society through thick and thin over many years. She is currently not a committee member, but has regularly volunteered to run workshops for us. We all hope she is soon out of hospital and wish her a speedy recovery.

## Houlton Exhibitions

Two exhibitions are scheduled for Houlton Barn in 2023:  
Summer Exhibition 17th & 18th June. Entries in at June meeting  
Wednesday 7th June please.  
Annual Awards Exhibition 18th & 19th November. Details later.

## Patchings Coach Trip Thursday 13th July

Cost £40. Leave Dunchurch Village Hall car park (you may park there for the day) at 9.30 am. Return around 4.30pm.

Contact Margaret Linnett: [margaret.linnett@ntlworld.com](mailto:margaret.linnett@ntlworld.com)

Note that final date for payment is 7th June, our next meeting. The payment (£40) can be made by cash, cheque, card or BACS transfer (HSBC bank; Rugby & District Art Society account; 40-39-11 sort code; 61674846 account number.)