



The Basel

Newsletter of Rugby & District Art Society

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It's that time of year again!

And that means exhibition time – a chance for our members to display their skills to a wider public.

This year we have two shows in quick succession; the first is in a new venue for our Society, Houlton Barn, on 19 & 20 November, for two days only. The second is in the Floor One gallery in Rugby's central Art Gallery & Museum, which lasts for two weeks from Saturday 26 November to Thursday 8 December.

After Christmas we have a fine programme of monthly speakers lined up for you to enjoy. For now we send you all best wishes for Christmas and a Happy New Year, and look forward to enjoyable days to come.



Chemical Engineer Sara and some of her artistic work

An Engineer's Art

At our October meeting Sara Penrose introduced her unusual career path via engineering into corporate art sessions for companies. As a qualified engineer Sara said her work on engineering projects gave more weight to her theories and practice when talking to industry about art, and had led to her setting up her own business in this area. She then showed us how she put her ideas into practice, with a live demonstration using volunteers from the audience to assist her. Although a little bemused at first, we soon realised that, although not engineers, we could go through similar procedures and learning processes, and that there were common links on which to build for both parties. An intriguing evening, and I suspect it might be the first time the Society has been lectured by an engineer!

Paul learns the fundamentals!



How to Print

On a vile evening weatherwise Jodie O'Reilly drove from the Evenlode Valley in Oxfordshire for our November meeting, as did a good proportion of our members, and all deserve much thanks for doing so.

Jody came to the meeting equipped with a small box containing all she needs for her "kitchen tabletop" designs, and proceeded to give a masterclass in lino printing. After a brief introduction she began a live demonstration, going through the preparation, cutting and printing processes as we all watched via video on the large screen. By the end of the evening we had a delightful print of a cottage, and lots of useful tips and information about handprinting. This was an excellent evening, with lots to learn for beginners and experts alike, and the unanimous burst of applause at the end was well-deserved.



I was hosted by the very friendly @rugbyanddistrictartsociety on Wednesday who invited me to give a talk and demonstration way back during Artweeks. This was the tiny print I created during the talk, from transferring an image, carving and then proofing, they had a very clever video camera rigged up to show the tiny print emerging during the evening. Might have to explore this one in a slightly larger format now!!

Jodie's post on Instagram and the print she produced for us.

Follow her on @jodyoreillyprints



Jodie's wonderfully detailed Willow Tree print. She continued to answer questions and instruct during the teabreak. What a trooper!



Houlton Show notes

Entries are now closed for the Awards Show at Houlton Barn on Saturday & Sunday 19th & 20th November. There are nine awards and the judges will be artist (and composer) Adam Tucker from Coventry, Northamptonshire artist Anna Steiner, and Hannah Craig representing Houlton.

Due to time restrictions we cannot enter the venue until 8.30pm on Friday, so we will be grateful for any help that members can give in erecting the show after then. Help will also be needed to dismantle the show at 4pm on Sunday.

Work should be handed in at Houlton Barn at 8.30pm on Friday, or if you prefer between 6pm & 8pm at Dunchurch Village Hall – also on Friday.

Work should be collected after 4pm on Sunday, or if it is to be shown at the Floor One exhibition, we can store it for you and deliver to Floor One for hanging. (see Floor One notes).

Floor One Show notes

The Floor One exhibition will be open to the public from Saturday 26 November to Thursday 8 December. It will not be monitored so for security all work should be framed and suitable for wall-mounting using mirror plates attached by the exhibition helpers. There will be no browsers, 3-dimensional work or cards.

Only fully paid-up R&DAS members can exhibit and a payment of £10 payment per person will be required. Up to three pictures can be entered, of which at least two will be exhibited, subject to suitable framing.

You can pay in advance at the Houlton hand-in or collection, or by contacting our Treasurer, Gill Dakin, at martinandgilld@gmail.com. Alternatively, payment will be accepted at the hand-in for the Floor One exhibition itself with card payment welcomed. Advance notice of intention to participate is not essential but would be appreciated. Contact Paul Torr on 01788 579982 or mrpaultorr@googlemail.com

Entries should be handed in at the Floor One gallery on Friday 25 November between 12 noon & 1.30pm. Work shown previously at Houlton will be acceptable as will any other suitable framed wall art.

Plain cards will be provided for you to enter the title, media, price (if for sale or not) and other details including your contact details. Alternative contact details will be available if you don't want to provide your own. No commission will be charged on sales.

Volunteers to hang work on Friday afternoon are required and your help will be much appreciated. Collection of works will be on Friday 9 December 11am -12noon. For further information contact Paul Torr on 01788 579982

Awards Evening notes

Prizes will be presented by the Deputy Mayor of Rugby, councillor Mrs O'Rourke, at Dunchurch Village Hall on Wednesday 7 December at 7.30pm.

There will then be a presentation by a mystery guest speaker followed by a festive buffet. Members are requested to bring, if possible, an eatable item (or two) suitable for the buffet, in order that we can have festive refreshments for a minimum outlay. A variety of hot & cold drinks will be available, provided by the Society.



Work produced at the workshop by Lea Nixon, John Lines and Jan Watts. Guess who did what? No prizes!



Lea Nixon Workshop

A watercolour workshop with watercolour artist Lea Nixon was held at Leamington Hastings Parish Hall on 22nd October.

The event was a great success with 16 artists attending. Lea demonstrated his technique, stressing the importance of tonal values, firstly by painting a Spanish scene (bright sun) in grey to emphasize the tones, light against dark, then the same scene in colour. Then we had to do it!

We took a picnic lunches but drinks and biscuits were provided throughout the day. To start the afternoon session Lea demonstrated light against light which then had to do ! We all felt we had learnt a lot but enjoyed the day too- Lea claims he enjoyed too !

We hope to arrange more workshops in the future, possibly in different media – do come !

Jan Watts

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**Our Society needs more members to meet the ever increasing costs of demonstrators, premises, technical equipment etc. Please do all you can to publicise the benefits of becoming a member or by even just attending a monthly meeting to try it out. To join contact the membership secretary at leslie.read43@gmail.com
Subscriptions 2022-23: Adult £30; Concession (over 65/student) £27; Couple £45; Retired couple £40. Guest fee £5 per meeting.**

Zoom

After several experimental efforts the linocutting meeting was successfully transmitted via Zoom to a few invited members who could not attend in person. Both sound and vision were satisfactory, and grateful thanks were received from the recipients. Although not a substitute for live attendance it is clearly a useful and appreciated additional tool for less mobile members. We must thank Martin Dakin and Ralph de la Croix in particular for their dogged persistence in seeking technical solutions until the system worked. Well done!

Society trip

There are still places available for the Society trip to the Liverpool area in 2023. Jamesway Travel, the excellent local coach tour operative, have produced a special trip schedule for the Society:

Four days and five nights to Liverpool, with dinner and breakfast from 2nd April 2023.

Excursions would include Port Sunlight (Lady Lever Gallery); Crosby (Anthony Gormley statues); Tate Gallery; Museum of Liverpool and Chester.

A deposit of £40 per person is to be paid before 7th December with the balance of £355 per person for double/twin room and £475 for a single room due 1st February 2023. We need about 40 people to make the trip viable and it's available to all members and friends. Contact margaret.linnett@ntlworld.com