



The Easel

Newsletter of Rugby & District Art Society

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Annual General meeting

There was a decent turnout for the AGM on September 6, which in many ways was a seminal one for the Society. A review of the previous year was read and approved, as was the treasurer's report. We elected a new committee, with Sarais Crawshaw taking over as president

John Lines announced he was stepping down as Vice-President and was thanked for his many years of exemplary service. He was presented with a hamper of goodies and happily will continue as an 'ordinary' member of the Society.

'In any other business' there was a proposal from the floor that John and Win Wilmot, another long-time supporter of the Society and former committee member, should be granted life-long membership. This was approved on a show of hands.

After the tea break Helena Verill introduced us to 'The Magic of Origami' with examples of the art passed round for our amazement. Far from paper aeroplanes and water bombs these were true magical creations that can fill rooms in the hands of experts. Helena explained that it was basically folding paper one way, then the other.... over and over again. The planning that goes into this is detailed and painstaking so it was no surprise to learn that Helena lectures in maths at Warwick University. An interesting and mind-blowing talk.

Committee meeting

A committee meeting was held on Monday evening September 11 when various matters were discussed. Most pressing was that Paul's family had been unable to find any bookings for speakers for our 2023-24 season on his computer.

After some intense contacting and negotiations we are now able to reveal a preliminary programme for our 2023-24 season:

October - Sarais Crawshaw - Wildlife in Pastels.

November - Rik Middleton - Oil Pastel.

December - Awards presentations ... followed by a mystery guest!

January - Eric Gaskell – master print maker.

February - Criticism and advice discussion evening.

March - Jane Archer - Natural world watercolour artist from Toft, Dunchurch.

April - Jo Thomas - Blackcat Jewellery.

May - Brian Dickinson - Stained glass artist.

June - Provisionally Mark Warner, a painter who did a zoom demonstration for us. This time (hopefully) in person.

July - Sandi Woods - Well-regarded lace maker who exhibits and lectures around the world.

August - In-house activity ... with a challenge yet to be decided!

September - AGM followed by a talk from Chris and Steve, owners of Art at the Alex in Rugby.

R&DAS committee 2023-24

President: Sarais Crawshaw.

Vice-President and Easel editor: Jim Watson.

Secretary: Jan Watts.

Membership Secretary: Leslie Read.

Treasurer: Gillian Dakin.

Exhibitions: Tony Keech.

Visits: Margaret Linnett.

Clare Pentlow.

Sue Bond.

Ralph De La Croix.

We still need another two people to help out on the committee. It's not a too onerous commitment with around four meeting a year. If you would like to serve or suggest anyone else for the job please contact any committee member.

It's Showtime!

Our Annual Awards Exhibition will be held at The Barn, Dollman Place, Houlton on the 18th and 19th of November. Printed entry forms will be available at the October meeting or can be downloaded from the Society website, rugbyanddistrictartsociety.org.uk

Help will be needed to set up the exhibition on Friday evening and dismantle on Sunday evening. Time details etc are on the entry forms. Keep your diary free!

To ensure that the exhibition is supervised at all times at least **four** stewards should be on duty at any one time. Each exhibitor **must** give at least **two** hours to this task and more if possible.

Fees for entry are also on the entry forms and you can pay via bank transfer, cash or card. If you pay by cash (and you can if no other method is available) the bank will incur us additional charges. If possible please pay by bank transfer. Details on the entry forms.

Roger Griffith Workshop

There are still vacancies for Roger's workshop, titled 'Abstracted Landscape' which will be held on Saturday 4th November, at Leamington Hastings Village Hall, 10am - 4pm.

Costs are £30 for members £35 for guests. There will be sign up sheet at the October meeting. To secure your place you can also email Gill at martinandgilld@gmail.com or Jan at janwatts1@me.com

Roger says "we will start with sketches, from nearby outside if weather allows, or photos, develop composition and paint expressive landscapes in watercolour. In the afternoon we'll sketch again, prepare collages and develop more abstract landscapes in acrylic and mixed media."

Sketching Evenings

Bilton Methodist Church is the venue for a series of three sketching evenings on Thursdays, November 9th, 16th and 23rd at £21 a person. A list to sign up will be available at the October meeting or contact Leslie or Gill to secure your place