



# The Basel

Newsletter of Rugby & District Art Society

Number 89 • Sept-Oct 2021

## A New Start

At the time of writing we are ready to restart a programme of live monthly meetings, subject of course to changing situations and government announcements. Normality is still in the indeterminate future, but there are a few encouraging signs: the August meeting and the AGM were navigated successfully; new monthly speakers are lined up; the Floor One gallery is booked for the pre-Christmas show; the Rainbow Gallery is now open to visitors (wearing masks); and a communal drawing session is planned for the end of October.

Things may have to change, so keep an eye on R&DAS emails and the newsletter, but at least the outlook is a little more hopeful. Best wishes and fingers crossed!

Paul Torr, President

## Annual General Meeting

The AGM took place with a good attendance despite a number of absences – understandable in the circumstances. Reports were presented by the President and Treasurer, and four members up for re-election to the committee were unanimously agreed. Cynthia Chandler announced her intention to step down from the committee, after many (many) years service, and spoke quite movingly about how the Society was as a second family to her. She was presented with a bouquet of flowers, and John Lines recommended that she should be offered Life Membership in note of her sterling service; a proposal that was unanimously supported by all members present.

Gill Dakin agreed to fill the vacancy left by Cynthia and was voted in, and Clare Pentlow was co-opted as the new media representative after her short explanation of the relevance of Instagram was presented in her absence. Jan Watts volunteered to become Society Secretary in place of a retired David Judd, and her offer was gratefully ratified. It was also agreed to send get-well cards on behalf of the Society to indisposed members Sue Dixon and Winifred Wilmot.

## Drawing Workshop

The first of three sketching mornings will be held at Leamington Hastings village hall on Saturday 30th October, 10am - 1pm, price £15.

There will be a list available at the next meeting (October) for you to add your name. You will also be required to pay Leslie Read then. The number of places on each sketching morning are limited.

Due to COVID regulations we will not be able to have sketching evenings this winter.

For further details contact Leslie Read at [leslie.read43@gmail.com](mailto:leslie.read43@gmail.com).

Various items were then debated. It was agreed that subscriptions should be held at present levels for now, with a review by the committee during the year. After some discussion it was decided to continue with the current start-time, and there was a short debate on the merits and availability of tea-ladies, which the committee will follow-up.

The main item of concern raised by members was the sound system, which has for several seasons not proved wholly satisfactory, and after a forthright discussion it was agreed to investigate alternatives, as speedily as practical. The pros and cons of using Zoom for transmitting meetings to those unable to attend were also mentioned, but with mixed responses; it will be looked at again by the committee.

Before the evening was concluded various members showed and briefly presented their sketchbooks, describing their individual approaches and usage via the large-screen TV. Thanks to all who participated, now we hope we can proceed to a full monthly programme as described in this newsletter.

## Tea & Sound

Thanks to John & Dorothy Lines who have recruited a tea lady. She will hopefully be in action at our October meeting. They have also found a company selling sound systems, which the committee are currently investigating. What would we do without John and Dorothy?

Meanwhile, if you have knowledge of, or contact with people who know about amplification and sound systems, please let us know – contact Paul Torr on 01788 579982 or email [mrpaultorr@gmail.com](mailto:mrpaultorr@gmail.com).

We really do need expert advice.

*(There's lots of info and loads of companies selling sound systems on the net. It's not difficult – Editorial comment)*

## Rainbow Gallery

Some 18 pictures are now on display in the Rainbow Gallery at St Cross Hospital in Rugby; the remainder are in temporary storage until the next display.

You may visit to view as long as you take sensible precautions – a mask is mandatory. Ask for directions at the hospital reception.



## Look Out For ...

**2 -10 October:** South Northants Art Trail – various venues.

**16 September – 9 October:** Lewis Gallery at Rugby School; past art masters – including our founder. NB: you have to make an appointment to view by emailing [jr1@rugbyschool.net](mailto:jr1@rugbyschool.net)

**20-21 November:** Dunchurch Village Hall – Art Exhibition and Sale by Art Society stalwart Dr. Joe Douse, raising money for SMILE-TRAIN, the charity that repairs cleft lips in babies.



## The August Welcome meeting

The society met on 4th August for the first time since March 2020.

It was lovely to see everyone. We met earlier than usual so that members could chat - and they did! Dorothy and John Lines put up bunting outside and hung welcome signs on the A frame. Chairs were placed well apart and wiped antiseptically. Several doors were opened for ventilation.

We were so pleased when 38 people turned up. Dorothy and John organised a free raffle, which was well received! Our friendly art shop, Abbeycraft, also came, bringing lots of goodies so we had time to buy!

Peter Barker was our demonstrator who painted a landscape in oils and brought greeting cards to buy. The finished painting appeared on his website the next day and looked lovely.

Jan Watts reporting



**AGM photos by David Judd**



## **Rugby & District Art Society Programme 2021 – 2022**

**October 6 : John Harrison** – pen & wash; less can definitely be more. John's lively line & watercolour scenes of his home county of Yorkshire have earned him a national reputation.

**November 3 : Shelly Perkins** – Antarctic artist in residence. Delicate and beautiful images of worldwide lands & wildlife from her in-situ sketches.

**December 1 : Annual Awards Presentation** by an invited notable person, followed by our Mystery Guest Speaker and a festive feast.

**January 5 : Geoff Tristram** – a lifetime watching paint dry. A man of many talents, including serious painting, illustration, cartoons & comic writing.

**February 2 : Members' advice evening.**  
Bring in your problem artworks for appraisal and comment from our helpful panel.

**March 2 : Penny German ARBSA** – still-life and more. A Northamptonshire painter specialising in working from life and the effects of light.

**April 6 : Rob Braybrooks** – birchwood monochromes. Delicate hand-cut birch reliefs inspired by flora and fauna found in Cornish landscapes.

**May 4 : Gemma Whitford** – natural lines. Delicately drawn and gently coloured images of plants, small animals and insects.

**June 1 : Adam Ogelsby** – something out of the ordinary. Fantasy architecture models, peopled scenes, continuous line drawings from life, & more.

**July 6 : John Watson** – Frogmore paper mill. An illustrated tour of the world's oldest working mechanical paper mill and its products.

**August 3 : Communal Art** – members' fun evening. Details later.

**September 7 : Annual General Meeting** – review of another year followed by **Art Detectives** – tracing lost works of art.

## **Abbeycraft Artworld**

Our friends from the Nuneaton art suppliers will bring their pop-up shop to the following meetings:

**2021: November 3rd;**

**2022: January 5th; April 6th; July 6th;  
October 5th.**

## **Your Committee 2021-22**

**President: Paul Torr**

**Vice-President: John Lines**

**Treasurer: Madeleine Prager**

**Secretary: Jan Watts**

**Membership Secretary: Leslie Read**

**Exhibition Secretary: David Newell**

**Sue Bond**

**Colin Bywater**

**Ralph de la Croix**

**Gill Dakin**

**Margaret Linnett**

**Robert Mitchell**

**Co-opted: Clare Pentlow**

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## **Subscriptions**

Annual subscriptions are now due.

**Adult £27; Concession £24; Couple £45;  
Retired Couple £40.**

Payment can be made at the monthly meetings. Due to closure (hopefully temporary) of the Society's bank in Rugby for the paying in of cheques, direct bank transfer is preferred.

Details:

**Rugby & District Arts Society; sort code 40-39-11 &  
account number: 61674846.**

Please use your surname & initials to identify who has sent it.

## **Annual Awards Exhibition**

Entry forms can be picked up at the October meeting and also be downloaded from the Society website.

A reminder that the exhibition runs from Saturday 27th November to Thursday 9th December. Entries close on the **3rd of November**, so if you haven't already produced a masterpiece there's only a few weeks left to create it!