



# The Basel

Newsletter of Rugby & District Art Society

Number 35 • December 2011



**We're Off!**

What a start to our 75th season! The mad (apologies Nigel!) professor with his stone-bashing routine; Jim, who showed us how to produce exquisite photos from a precarious 20-foot pole on the back of a van; and Pat with her abstract overlays on overlays in delicious colour. Plus the dinner and talk(!) on Van Gogh complete with gunshot. Plus the splendid picture-packed exhibition and mayoral awards ceremony (& cake & bubbly!) in the Floor One gallery. 'Can it get better than this?' I hear you ask. Well, I'm not sure, but we'll try! So stick with us - we still have a few more plans for this celebratory season. Enjoy!

**Paul Torr, President**

## Bang! Bang!

Those of you who missed the celebration dinner have probably heard all about it by now! I know that texts and emails between diners were in overdrive after the event! Suffice it to say that the service was great, the food delicious, the students attentive and engaging, and the chit-chat flowed easily and pleasantly throughout the evening. The little cakes at the end adorned with a '75' in a star of icing sugar were delightful. It was a most happy occasion for the 63 members and guests.



Then the speaker took over! We were warned to expect an idiosyncratic presentation, and that is what we got! Dressed in hat and smock, Anthony Slinn got inside Van Gogh's personality, explaining the background to much of his life and works. Luckily nobody fell off their chair when he shot himself, but the bar staff were still talking about it when I went round a week later! Good vibes all round!



*Paul congratulates Anthony Slinn after his bravura performance*

## Oooh-la-la!

Yet another 75th celebratory event is now booked! Get your name(s) on the list for the trip to France as soon as possible! We still need a few more to guarantee costs, so friends and/or partners are welcome, too.

On 14th September 2012 we travel by coach and Eurotunnel to Rouen, where we stay in the Hotel Mercure for 3 nights before retuning September 17th. The cost of £219 per person (for a shared room – there is a £90 supplement for single occupancy) covers travel, bed & breakfast, and visits to the French Impressionist towns of Honfleur, Trouville & Deauville. Admission to Monet's garden will be an optional extra. Insurance via the coach company can be arranged for around £21, or you can provide your own.

Dust off your passports and phrase books! Foreign parts - here we come! More later!

## Saturday Workshops 2012

We have several workshops arranged at Dodford over the next few months; please put the dates in your diary and your name on the appropriate lists. They are excellent value and great fun! If you haven't tried one yet and would like more information (or transport), contact Paul Torr:

**Saturday 4th February:** Printmaking with Toby & Jane Birch : £12

**Saturday 25th February:** Painting with John Lines : £12

**Saturday 17th March:** Watercolour with Windsor Morris : £12

**Saturday 31st March:** Pastel and/or portrait : Cynthia Chandler : £12

**Saturday 14th April:** another do-your-own-thing 'Paint-In' session : £6.

## Blooming Rose(s)

Please note that the changeover date for the Rose Tearooms display has been changed to Saturday 10th December. Make sure your name is on the list if you wish to participate, and then bring 2 or 3 pictures to the tearoom between 3 & 4pm.

## January Crit Session

The next monthly meeting on January 4th is when all you members bring various troublesome, tricky or slightly imperfect (or even perfect) works of art for appraisal by a couple of experienced (ahem!) commentators.

This year we have the delightful and insightful art teacher Jane Birch from Northampton, and your very own president, who has been told to show he is of some practical use. Can he rise to the challenge? Doubtful! – but it could be entertaining.

See you there.

## More awards for Cynthia

Cynthia Chandler's painting of her daughter, 'The Date', received the selection panel's 'Favourite Painting Award' at the recent Coventry Arts Consortium exhibition. The public also voted the work its 'Favourite Painting'.

## Showtime Success

We had around 130 entries for the Floor One show, and somehow we managed to pack them all in and still look great! It is our policy to show as much work by members as we can, so this was a heartening display of the vitality and diversity of the Society. Entries were judged by Jess Morgan from the Gallery, artist Toby Birch from Northampton and Anne Humphreys from Kineton Art Society. Many thanks to all who helped organise and put up the exhibition, and also to all those who entered. Special thanks go to David Judd, our exhibitions officer and publicity preparer, and to Jan Watts (& friends) who arranged the bubbly and cake (yum-yum!) and persuaded the Rugby mayor, Gwen Hotten, to come and present awards (wasn't she nice?). A good crowd turned up, and it was quite an event, enjoyed by all, including the press photographers. Details of award winners are also on the website.



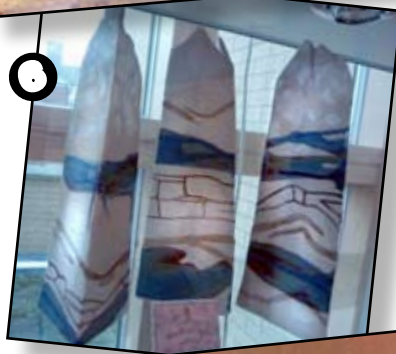
*A delighted mayor cuts the 75th birthday cake watched by Jan Watts*



## A Hanging Offence?

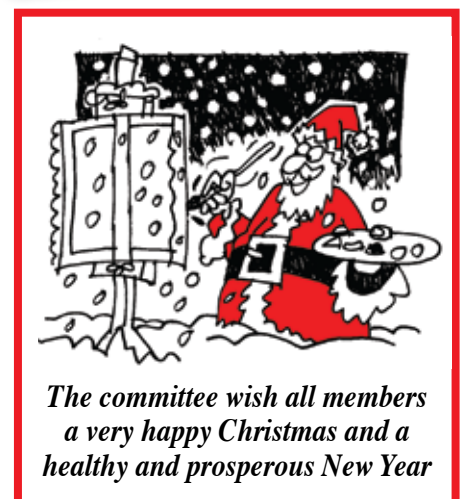
A few exhibition entries were not prepared as suggested on the entry forms, presenting the hanging committee with a dilemma - should they exclude these items? Time is always limited when putting up a show. Works that are unsuitably framed can be difficult to hang, or even dangerous, and copies that are not original prints are ineligible.

In the event some pictures were re-strung on the spot before hanging, but this takes considerable extra time, and is not always easy. In future such items may end up having to be rejected, so please read the instructions carefully before handing in your work for any exhibition.



## The Awards 2011

1. **Oil Award:** *War Orphan* by Louis Vella
2. **Ivor Cox Watercolour Award:** *Near Simonside, Northumberland* by Roger Griffiths
3. **Acrylic Award:** *Ravello, Amalfi coast, Italy* by David Judd
4. **Alan Sime Award:** *River Exe, Topsam* by Brian Sykes
5. **Pastel Award:** *Hare in the Cornfield* by Sarais Crawshaw
6. **Any Other Medium Award:** *Stoneware Landscape Forms* by Bridget Aldridge
7. **President's Award:** *I never Thought I Would Reach This Age* by David Cooper
8. **Vice President's Award:** *Summer Glory* by Janet McKay



*The committee wish all members a very happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year*