

Thoughtful Design

Dear Supporters,

This issue of our newsletter is so full of news that I shall put in a brief appearance and depart!

I am often struck by the contrast between what the staff team at Rowan identify as Rowan's high points and what we as trustees see as particularly special. Recently I have been very moved by the beautiful Tree of Life created in wood by our students for Hildersham Parish Church. To me it is more than a commission; it is an affirmation of what Rowan is all about: a thoughtful design,

enabled by the practical help of a hi-tech machine invested in by the trustees, lovingly crafted by hand, with care, by a small group of students with their tutor, linking us into another community – in this instance Hildersham village. To receive something of beauty is deeply satisfying; to create that beauty is even more so. An important part of what Rowan is now sits quietly in a country church. I find that particularly special.

With warmest regards,

Margaret Phillips,
Chairman of trustees

Magic of the Ordinary

Magic of the Ordinary is Whitehouse Arts' 2013 charity art exhibition and we are thrilled to have been chosen as joint beneficiaries alongside SOS Children's Villages through the sale of artwork.

This is your chance to raise funds for one of your favourite charities either by producing some artwork for sale, or through buying a work of art at the exhibition in November.

Either way, your contribution will be appreciated by everyone at Rowan, SOS Children's Villages and Whitehouse Arts. This exhibition is open to everyone within the community; novice and professional artists alike. So, be brave and create some magic or invest in some unique artwork.

To take part you need to produce a piece of artwork inspired by the title of the exhibition utilising a 12" square canvas provided by Whitehouse Arts. The entry fee is £10 and this covers the cost of the canvas and hanging fee.

Canvases can be obtained from Whitehouse Arts on Mondays, 9am to 1pm (excluding Bank Holidays and half-terms), and Thursdays from 1pm to 5pm from 22nd April to 14th July and after 2nd September.

Completed canvases need to be submitted by 4th November and most importantly of all our Diary Dates section includes date, time and venue details for the exhibition.

The canvases are displayed anonymously during the exhibition which adds a level of intrigue and excitement to anyone wishing to buy one. When you have bought a canvas, at a phenomenally reasonable price of £45 each, the artist will be revealed!

For further information and to collect a canvas contact Whitehouse Arts:

www.whitehousearts.co.uk
t. 01223 420018
e. info@whitehousearts.co.uk

Business in the Community



On the 17th of April 2013, Stephen Bourne, President of Cambridge University Press, hosted one of the Prince's Trust Seeing is Believing visits in Cambridge, to inspire and challenge local business leaders by offering them the opportunity to visit local charities to help them to understand how they can help to support the community.

Charlotte Hatchard from PricewaterhouseCoopers was able to reinforce this important message by telling everyone about her personal motivation and experience of facilitating community engagement within the Cambridge offices of PwC and how beneficial this is not only for the community but also for employee well-being and team-building.

As one of the beneficiary charities we welcomed 19 business leaders to Rowan and gave them the opportunity to meet our students and staff team in our studios as well as tell them about Rowan and how we impact on the lives of our students and the local community.



Wicked Wildlife

Receiving an invitation to exhibit our work from our friends at CRC's Foundation Learning & Supportive Education alongside their artwork at The University Museum of Zoology is a wonderful way to keep in touch and, of course, this Museum provides an inspiring back-drop for our wonderfully wicked artwork.



The Map Project

Sa'adi Soul, one of our volunteers, along with her colleague, Hugh Chapman, is working with some of our students on their collaborative community arts project, The Map Project. The aim of this project is to bring a diverse group of participants together to collaborate on a large-scale 2D visual artwork - the MAP. This project is about rediscovering a more creative relationship with map-making – it's about learning that there is more to places than we thought we knew.



Sports & Arts Disability Festival launch**Drop by & Doodle with Rowan****9 June 2013, 10am to 4pm**

Chesterton Sports Centre

Gilbert Road, CB4 3NY

Free event, open to all

A month long festival;

visit www.cambridge.gov.uk/disability-sports-and-arts-festival for more details.**Open Garden****22-23 June 2013, 12noon to 5pm**

Ring Farm, Holme Fen Drove

Colne, PE28 3RE

Entrance £3 per person

Chesterton Festival**Make & Create with Rowan****29 June 2013, 1pm to 5pm**

Pye's Recreation Ground

off Church Street CB4 1DT

A free event open to all

Cambridge Open Studios**13-14 July 2013****11am to 6pm at Rowan**

Look around Rowan's studios, discover

what we do and make some art with us.

An informal, drop-in, free event – open

to all

Anglian Potters Exhibition**20 August-4 September 2013****10am to 5pm**

Emmanuel College, Cambridge, CB2 3AP

Magic of the Ordinary**Charity art exhibition****16-17 November 2013, 10.30am to 4pm**

Chesterton Community College, Gilbert

Road CB4 3NY

Winter Warmer**4 December 2013****5pm to 8pm at Rowan****Contacts****Des Trollip,****Director of Operations**

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If you would like to receive information about Rowan by email, including future newsletters, please contact Judith.

Social enterprise! A panacea for all ills and the business model for the 21st century.

I remember the incredulous response from Icelandic visitors when we explained that Rowan is a charity with a mission to work in the arts and with Adults with Learning Disabilities, but that we are also required to support ourselves as a 'Social Enterprise'.

Social enterprises are generally defined as businesses which trade for a social purpose. For Rowan this means charging fees for products and services and reinvesting 'profits' into achieving our social aims or just keeping our heads above water.

For many charities there is a real tension between front-line delivery of charitable aims and the distraction and considerable draw on resources in generating income in support of these aims, a cost not necessarily understood by donors.

For the last decade 'social enterprise' has been the 'next big thing'. If you're a charity, it's the instant solution to your funding headache. If you're a local authority, social enterprises will deliver the public services 'we' can no longer afford. If you're a business, trading as a social enterprise, your 'Social Impact' is a great marketing tool. If you're the government, social enterprise can make the 'Big Society' a reality.

At Rowan we deliver a public and community service which is not adequately funded and so rely on a funding mix of traded income and grants and donations.

As we continue along this trajectory, because we cannot afford not to, we endeavour to protect both the future viability and the unique character and special work of Rowan.

Des Trollip,
Director of Operations

The art of planning

We plan our activities to achieve the best possible outcome for our students within the constraints of our available resources.

Our day-to-day core work of making art within our studio workshops is extremely important in providing constancy and a solid base from which we can venture out. We also love taking part in activities and events within the community and inviting people into Rowan. To make this happen we give our students a choice which ensures that everyone who wishes to can take part in additional activities, while those who want to can still work as normal at Rowan. This delicate balancing act works and means that our students feel safe and secure.

So far this year, we have welcomed Dame Norma Major to Rowan for our AGM, along with other guests from our community. Our doors were opened to Friends of Rowan to visit our Flights of Fantasy exhibition and members of the business community have visited us to gain insight into our work. We have exhibited our work alongside students from Cambridge Regional College in The Museum of Zoology and we are taking part in new community project The Map Project.

Look in our Diary Dates section to see all the forthcoming opportunities for you to see our work and meet our people.

*Flights of Fantasy*

Our exhibition in March was a fantastic celebration of fantasy-themed artwork produced in our studio workshops over the previous four months. Dragons were well represented! Look out for our next body of themed artwork during our Open Studios weekend in July.

