

## Dear Supporters,

As always, Judith has so much to tell you about Rowan's activities, which continue to grow and add new experiences to our students' lives, that it leaves me free to contemplate those aspects of Rowan that are now a part of what we do and are. Our garden continues to flourish and is so much a part of Rowan that we can hardly recall a time when it wasn't there, adding colour and quiet to the working day. This lovely summer, extending into autumn, has given students and staff the pleasure of enjoying the garden to the full.

Walking for Rowan is another intrinsic part of our lives. This September saw Dame Norma Major, as our patron, walking with the students along the river path, and the Mayor, temporarily

incapacitated by a leg injury, doing his bit for Rowan by stamping the gold stars onto the students' cards as they completed each section of their walk. It gave all of us great pleasure to see both guests join in so wholeheartedly, and thank them for being with us.

Finally, our wood workshop, central to Rowan for so many years, is entering a new phase of activity. Peter is leading the students in creating a burst of beautiful items in wood commissioned for individual celebrations, while Russell is designing eye-catching house signs, in a range of woods, for the students to bring to completion. Christmas shopping, anyone?

With warmest wishes,

**Margaret Phillips,**  
Chairman of trustees

## Love Your Local Market

Again, Rowan's students took part in this national celebration of local markets by entering Cambridge City Council's art exhibition 'How do you see Cambridge Market?' A group from Rowan visited the exhibition in The Guildhall and along with members of the public chose their favourite story, poem, song, painting, drawing & photographs. We were thrilled to hear that the public voted for Rowan's Stephanie Wood as a first prize winner in our category. Stephanie received tickets to Cambridge Rock Festival and prizes from the market traders.



## Walking for Rowan 2013

This popular fundraising event has become a fixture within our annual calendar of events and is driven by the enthusiasm and commitment of our students. Some students raise sponsorship, some take part in the walk & some provide encouragement to their friends. It does not matter what contribution a student makes to the event; it is fully valued by everyone and is part of a team effort. Together over the three days of the event, our students walked a commendable 60 miles.

This year we were thrilled to be joined by our Patron, Dame Norma Major, and our Mayor, Councillor Paul Saunders.



Our students enjoy taking part in events within our community which means they meet new people and visit new places as well as linking up with familiar places and people. For a few years we have been without a minibus which has impacted on our ability to be reactive and spontaneous when the opportunity to go out into the community arises. As a result, our students decided to use this fundraising event to raise money for a replacement minibus.

Further donations towards our students' fundraising initiative will be appreciated by everyone at Rowan and can be made by sending a cheque (payable to Rowan Humberstone) or via our online BTmydonate page <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/rowan>



## Disability Sports & Arts

Cambridgeshire's population turned out to take part in an array of sporting and arts activities at the launch of this year's city-wide Disability Sports and Arts Festival; a celebration of the diverse range of creative and sporting activities and events that are inclusive and accessible to all. During the launch event on the 9th June at Chesterton Sports Centre Rowan invited visitors to 'Drop by and Doodle'. All who joined us experienced our unique combination of welcome, warmth and freedom to be creative.



## 'Magic of the Ordinary' Exhibition

About 300 artworks by local and national artists of all ages, including artworks by Rowan, will be exhibited for sale. Proceeds from the sale of these works of art will benefit Rowan and SOS Children. So, don't miss out on this opportunity to invest in a unique piece of artwork for a very reasonable price of £45.

**Put the date in your diary and we will see you there!**

Saturday 16 November & Sunday 17 November 2013, 10.30am to 4pm Chesterton Community College, Gilbert Road, Cambridge CB4 3NY



See our work, meet our people

FREE EVENTS, OPEN TO ALL

**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

Rowan Christmas Cards  
now for Sale

*Anglesey Abbey in June*

On a slightly chilly but sunny June day a group from Rowan visited Anglesey Abbey. The grounds provided inspiration for some drawing and Rowan's ceramic skills were utilised when we visited the historic Lode Watermill to make a mould of one of the mill stones. This enabled us to cast a section of mill stone for Anglesey Abbey staff and volunteers to use as a teaching & visual aid for visitors. At Rowan we love any excuse to bake so a bag of Lode Mill Stone Ground flour had to come back with us and was made into a wonderful loaf of bread by our Changing Images students.



*Contacts*

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

**Registered Charity No. 1099555**  
**Registered Company No. 04448427**

**When does outsider art become insider art and who decides?**

Roger Cardinal introduced the term 'Outsider Art' as the title of his 1972 book and it has increasingly been used to loosely refer to any artist in the margins of 'mainstream' art who is untrained or with disabilities or suffering social exclusion. It has over the years variously been called Naive Art, Self-Taught Art, Raw Art, Art Brut, Folk Art or Marginal Art.

At Rowan we have always fought against defining our 'art' as much as we resist labelling our students, because of the stigma attached to these labels. Our students, already pushed to the margins of society, do not benefit from the prejudice that comes through labelling.

What we offer our students is the dignity of valuing them as individuals and so valuing their art as a personal expression of their ideas and themselves.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of November Rowan is benefiting from, and also participating in - along with many 'artists' producing work - a charity Art Exhibition called Magic of the Ordinary, set up by White House Arts.

The magical element about this event is that all work is sold anonymously, that is to say the artist is unknown until the work is purchased. In our fashion-conscious, brand-conscious, self-consciousness this turns on its head notions of what is insider or outsider art. The viewer is forced to value each art piece for its individual merits, how it speaks to their own emotions and imagination, and not in the context of the artist's renown.

Recently I came across Japanese 'outsider art' called *Souzou* which has the very simple and beautiful dual meaning of 'creation' and 'imagination'. Surely this should define all 'art'.

**Des Trollip, Director of Operations**

*Learning Disability Awareness Day*

Addenbrooke's Hospital held its inaugural Learning Disability Awareness Day in June. We were thrilled to be invited to share our work at this awareness-raising event which attracted hospital staff of all disciplines. The Chair of Cambridge University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Jane Ramsey, addressed the event and shared the professional and personal motivation that drives her support for this awareness-raising initiative.

This day was a great networking opportunity for us as an organisation to meet new people and organisations that will enrich the lives of our students, an example at this event being Inclusion East which is a community interest company that campaigns for, and raises awareness of, the kinds of support that should be available for people with learning disabilities and their families.

Conversely, we took the opportunity to offer our services and share our knowledge and expertise with others. We have offered to support Addenbrooke's Hospital's learning disability awareness-raising activities and while at the event were pleased to link up with community mental health workers who were keen to work with us on developing Finger Labyrinths which they use in their work to aid a sense of calm, relaxation and peace and quieting of the mind.



*During the Summer ...*

Hannelore Latta invited us to display our work during her open garden weekend at Ring Farm in Colne. Mrs Latta's gardens are beautiful and so it was a pleasure to display and view our work in-situ and to hear the heart-warming responses of her guests.

Beautiful weather and meeting members of our local community made for an enjoyable afternoon during the Chesterton Festival Community Fun Day; a firm favourite for us to attend each year.

We opened our doors in July as part of Cambridge Open Studios. Our visitors enjoyed making some art with us, looking around our studios and a good number were tempted into parting with some hard-earned money and went home with some unique works of art.

Visitors to Anglian Potters's Summer Exhibition in the College Library at Emmanuel College were able to enjoy our work alongside that of other professional ceramicists in East Anglia.

