

## Closing the Gap

### Dear Supporters,

A long and cold winter separates this, our sixth newsletter, from newsletter 5, but throughout the icy mornings, the snow, heavy rain and unremittingly grey skies, Rowan, undaunted, has continued its adventures in the creative world.

The lanterns crafted by our students for Anglesey Abbey's winter walk looked magical on a dark and wet November evening, and the spectacular competition entry of our Quangle Wangle Hat in the winter parade along Mill Road cheered up onlookers no end, despite the cold wind and even colder toes. We won first prize, too, which warmed all of us. Judith writes more fully of Rowan's activities elsewhere in this letter.

Our other bright encounter was the AGM in January when we again welcomed Dame Norma Major, Rowan's patron, as our guest. It gave the students, and ourselves, enormous pleasure when Dame Norma formally opened the Rowan garden, and then went on to catch up with all the activities in the studios.

Cheerful we may have been, and remain so, however other, serious, matters have had to be considered over the past months. I hope you will take a few minutes to read what Des has to say in his article on Self-directed Support (SDS). From his clear exposition one would never know how many battles Des has had to endure to keep Rowan financially stable whilst officials learned how best to administer the SDS funds. The trustees have been aware throughout of the situation, and we have supported Des as much as possible, however he was the one who took the strain. It is entirely down to Des and his patient insistence that at last the finances have begun to run smoothly again.

As I write this, the sun is shining and Rowan students, staff and trustees are preparing to go to Anglesey Abbey as guests of the National Trust, to attend a visit by Prince Charles. We are hoping to add one more cheerful experience to our busy year and introduce HRH to Rowan.

With warmest wishes,

**Margaret Phillips,**  
Chairman

## Commission news

Having completed 'Hand Cradling the Earth' for Donarbon, we moved straight on to commissioned signage for Anglesey Abbey. If you visit this National Trust property and take a walk around the grounds over the next few months you will slowly see signage appearing, designed and produced in our Rowan studios. In addition, our Wood Studio's cabinet-making and design skills have been utilised to produce a pine-cone shaped Information Point that will soon be in place in the reception area.



## Drawing together



As part of the national Campaign for Drawing, Rowan delivered some drop-in workshops in the Cambridge Museums in October last year for The Big Draw; drawing together members of the public, our staff, students & volunteers plus Cambridge University Staff. Continuing this theme, we invited members of the public to join us in our studios to work alongside our students and staff as part of Cambridge University Festival of Ideas. Through this event we met some lovely people who are now brilliant advocates for Rowan, have become involved long-term and have shared some amazing skills and experience with us.



Taking inspiration from Edward Lear's poem, The Quangle Wangle's Hat, and Helen Oxenbury's illustrations, our award-winning hat led the Mill Road Winter Fair Parade. The organiser of the Hat Festival says, 'We wait with bated breath to see what you guys will come up with next year!'



We had a wonderfully exciting time visiting Anglesey Abbey during Prince Charles' recent visit. One Rowan student, Christine, reports that it was bright and sunny and there were a lot of people there. She says, 'I enjoyed meeting Prince Charles. He talked to me and shook my hand and asked me what I do at Rowan.' Heather says, 'it was exciting giving Prince Charles his present from Rowan. He is a nice man because he talked to us'.



## Looking forward

We have a range of events planned for this year all of which are designed to enhance our students' lives directly or indirectly.

### Rowan Exhibition

11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> April 2011 at Rowan  
10.30am to 2.30pm.

On 13<sup>th</sup> April, this will include the launch of the Rowan Recycling Champions Group between 1.30pm and 2pm, followed by a private view between 2pm & 3pm, to which you are invited & will be welcomed as a Friend of Rowan.

### Disability Sports and Arts Festival 2011

Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2011 at Chesterton Sports Centre, 10am to 4pm.  
Further information is available by telephoning 01223-457532 or visiting [www.cambridge.gov.uk/festivals](http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/festivals)

### Cambridge Open Studios at Rowan

2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2011  
9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> July 2011  
11am to 6pm

## Looking back



We have enjoyed a packed programme of events since you last heard our news.

The Celebrating Age coffee morning we held in October was an acknowledgement of our organisation's commitment to people of all ages. Cambridge Drawing Society has continued to support us through volunteering and inviting us to exhibit our work during their Autumn exhibition. We contributed to the magical atmosphere at Anglesey Abbey's Lantern-Lit walk in December by making some lanterns and celebrated the Christmas season with a party. Our new garden has been enjoyed by everyone and our Patron, Dame Norma Major, formally opened the garden during our AGM in January this year. Finally with support from two City Council grants, our students have been participating in our Art of Recycling and Life Through a Lens Projects, which culminate in an exhibition in April.

## Self-directed support

At Rowan most of our students now have access to some form of direct payment and personal budget for adult social care. This has been rolled out across learning disability in Cambridgeshire as self directed support and is set to encompass a new way of working across the adult social care system.

The white paper "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say" 2007, outlined the key elements of a reformed adult social care system for England. "Transforming Social Care" is driven by demographic pressures and changes to public expectations.

- By 2022, 20% of the English population will be over 65 and the number of those over 85 will have increased by 60%.
- Older people, disabled people and people with mental health problems rightly expect both equality of citizenship and support which places dignity, care, unique needs, greater choice and control at the centre of any intervention.

This new policy is referred to as "Personalisation" and comprises a number of key elements:

- A common assessment of the person's social care needs, based on a self-assessment wherever possible and why it is called SDS.
- The assessment identifies care and support needs, which relate to an allocation of funding known as the personal budget.

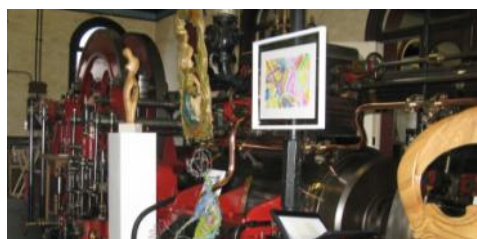
- The client takes control of the personal budget or may ask that this be administered by a relative, carer, an organisation or the Council.
- Knowing the budget available, the person takes control of their own care through a support plan to be funded within the available personal budget.
- Self-directed support allows more choice and control for people, identifying what is personally important to them and how they would like to see their support delivered in a way which best suits their individual needs, priorities and circumstances.
- The role of social workers will change in emphasis from assessment and gate-keeping of resources to advocacy, information, advice and "brokerage", helping people to arrange their own services.

SDS has restored dignity and transformed the lives of many people, carers and families who are now empowered to make more choices for themselves.

At Rowan we support this move to SDS but we do have concerns about the commoditisation of care, a lack of independent advice and advocacy for clients during assessment, the subjective nature of the assessment, the lack of sophistication to amount to a genuine assessment and the pressure of budgetary constraints on decision making.

**Des Trollip**  
Director of Operations

## Winter Snow



A cold, snowy November weekend saw us in the Museum of Technology presenting our work alongside a number of local artists. This was an opportunity to introduce Rowan to a new audience as well as to meet up with loyal and committed Friends of Rowan.

## Venue & Studio Hire

Rowan regularly hires out its gallery and studios for workshops, courses, exhibitions and events. If you are interested, please do contact us for information on prices and availability.

If you would like to receive information about Rowan by email, including future newsletters, please contact Judith by sending an email to: [Judith@rowanhumberstone.co.uk](mailto:Judith@rowanhumberstone.co.uk), or use our contact form on our website.

## Contacts

**Des Trollip,**  
Director of Operations  
[des@rowanhumberstone.co.uk](mailto:des@rowanhumberstone.co.uk)

**Judith Jones,**  
Marketing & Fundraising  
[Judith@rowanhumberstone.co.uk](mailto:Judith@rowanhumberstone.co.uk)

**40 Humberstone Road**  
**Cambridge, CB4 1JG**  
**Cambridge (01223) 566027**  
[www.rowanhumberstone.co.uk](http://www.rowanhumberstone.co.uk)