

Closing the Gap

Dear Supporters,

This has been a summer of completions.

During the spring the staff and students at Rowan watched with great interest as, step by step, the builder brought our long-awaited Rowan garden into being. Surrounded by an attractive brick wall containing a generous amount of top soil, the garden's first need this summer was plants and, to our delight and gratitude, these were donated to us by the Gardening Department of the University. They came with excellent gardening advice and a supply of garden containers of all shapes and sizes. At the same time, one of the garden designers at Scotsdale's has taken an interest in the Rowan garden, making a number of helpful suggestions. On behalf of all of us at Rowan, I should like to thank both for their kindness and contributions.

Not only do we have a garden now that is looked after daily by the students, as a bonus we also have an attractive, new main entrance through the garden into the Rowan building, which is welcoming to visitors, students and staff alike. Whilst the raised flower beds were being built in the wood workshop and

the planting activity was going on in the garden, some 10 miles north of Cambridge another Rowan project was coming to completion. The Donarbon commission, which occupied our time over several months, was given its final, colourful cladding of drinks' cans by a Rowan team led by Neil and Bryn. Working in the hot June sunshine they met the deadline for completion in time for the Donarbon Family Open Weekend. Again, from all of us at Rowan, I wish to thank Donarbon for giving us the opportunity to create a work of public art for their state-of-the-art waste management site.



You might imagine that after all this activity, Rowan is moving quietly into the autumn. Not so. We are just starting on a new commission, this time for Anglesey Abbey at the invitation of The National Trust.....

With warmest wishes,
Margaret Phillips, Chairman

Creating Links

We are always keen to broaden our students' learning and life experiences. This approach provides opportunities for us to share Rowan with our wider community and provides additional opportunities to meet our charitable aims.

Over the past year we have welcomed individuals, other arts practitioners and organisations to Rowan; we have taken part in local Cambridge arts initiatives and exhibiting opportunities; we have participated in The Big Weekend on Parker's Piece; we have increased our awareness-raising activities to help people who may benefit from Rowan to hear about us; and we are enjoying blossoming relationships with The University of Cambridge Office of External Affairs and Communication plus Cambridge Drawing Society.

Through our commission work for Anglesey Abbey, we have met new people and have been inspired to produce new artwork. Last, but by no means least, our wonderful body of volunteers creates valuable links and long-term relationships that we can build on for the greater good.

Ceramics Chat



Emma, Lucy & Vicky

Students in our newly-formed Friday Ceramics group chatted together.

Emma likes coming to Rowan on a Friday to do something different and says; "it

will be nice to make jewellery, it's something new. The Anglesey Abbey project is exciting; I think we could go far with it. The rocks are brilliant; they are different to what you find in the shops."

Lucy has been working on a bulrush and says that it's been a tricky shape to get right. "I like the bouncy bugs and flowers on the rocks and I am looking forward to making jewellery."

Vicky says "I have made new friends at Rowan; I am learning ceramics and really enjoying it."

Thinking in Materials



Josie Camus from The Fitwilliam Museum gave a thought-provoking evening talk that allowed us the opportunity to consider and challenge our thinking around the creative process and the materials we use. This was also a great opportunity for a group of 50 arts practitioners and like-minded people from the Cambridge area to meet and exchange ideas.

Fur, Feathers and Flutterbys

Springtime saw us accepting an invitation to exhibit our work alongside artwork produced by students and staff from The Supportive Education Department of Cambridge Regional

College at their exhibition in The Zoology Museum.

It was great to see our work in such an inspirational setting.

Creating Art, Improving Lives

Events

Opportunities to see our work are:

The Big Draw

Cambridge Drawing Together
4th to 8th October 2010
For further details (01223) 339666
www.campaignfordrawing.org/
bigdraw

The Festival of Ideas

Creating Art, Improving Lives
20th, 21st, 22nd, 25th, 26th October 2010
To book, telephone (01223) 766766
www.cambridgefestivalofideas.org

Cambridge Celebrates Age

28th October 2010
10am to 12noon, informal drop-in
Coffee morning & studio tours at
Rowan

Anglian Potters Christmas Exhibition

13th November to 12th December 2010
10am to 4pm, daily
All Saints' Church
Jesus Lane, Cambridge

Rowan's Winter Show

27th & 28th November 2010
10am to 5pm
Cambridge Museum of Technology
The Old Pumping Station

Rowan @ The Big Weekend

This year we held our Open Studios weekend on Parker's Piece as part of The Big Weekend.

Rowan's students and staff had a wonderful time and met lots of new people who had not heard of us or seen our work before. Our hands-on art activities were very popular with members of the public who were keen to seek respite from the sun and heat. Many of our students came along to support us and enjoyed the whole Cambridge Big Weekend experience.



Rowan's Training Journey 2010

Our training coordinator, Janet King, is instrumental in the development, running and management of our RARRA accredited training programme, provided in conjunction with Cambridge Regional College. This training acronym stands for Recognising And Recording Progress and Achievement which marries well with our aim of always treating our students as individuals, allowing their training programmes to be personalised. Targets are set with each student at the

beginning of the academic year and they follow their individual learning journey, along which they develop and practise skills and complete worksheets to demonstrate their achievements to the assessors at Cambridge Regional College. As usual our students have worked hard and as a result have completed a total of 60 individual learning targets over the year – they should all feel incredibly proud of their achievements.

The Art of Recycling

Our Art of Recycling project has taken off with a visit to Donarbon's recycling facility, to Budgens in Sawston to look at retail packaging, to OWL in Sawston to look at their recycling projects and enjoying some creative days facilitated by Cambridge Curiosity and



Imagination. Anna Kendrew and our Green Champions are looking forward to developing our recycling facilities at Rowan and experimenting with the creative use of recyclable and reclaimable materials in their artwork. Part of this project has been supported by a grant from Cambridge Sustainable City.



Our Mission

As an arts charity, Rowan endeavours to provide a safe, creative and unique environment where adults with learning disabilities, under the direction of artists and crafts-people, can grow artistically as well as in their abilities, confidence and self-esteem; these being vital ingredients for independent living.

Rowan Rocks!



This is a sentiment shared by everyone at Rowan as well as being a new ceramic design produced in our studios. Just telephone Rowan and ask to speak to Jeni Pain our ceramics tutor, or email her on jeni@rowanhumberstone.co.uk if you are interested in ordering your own unique Rowan Rock to grace your home, garden or office space.

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, or use our contact form on our website.

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