

Closing the Gap

Dear Supporters,

We are delighted at Rowan that increasing numbers of new students over the past months have chosen to come to us and be part of our daily arts programme. The Self-Directed Payment scheme (SDP) seems to have given people with learning disabilities in Cambridge the incentive to seek us out. We, in turn, have introduced more classes, opening up Fridays to our students for the first time. Our firm intention is to keep our class groups small so that the quality of what we do remains unchanged. Des has set a limit on the intake, and for the first time we are looking at Rowan having a waiting list.

You may wonder why we have not taken advantage of the situation and crammed in as many students as we can; we could certainly do with the money. The answer, of course, is that it is about more than money at Rowan. Our students' wellbeing remains at the heart of what we do, and we shall just have to find other ways of bringing in funds. When I asked Des for an update on student funding recently, the

explosion of exasperation was probably felt several miles away. Sorting out a streamlined solution with the County Council continues to be a burden willingly undertaken by Des, but it occupies more time than it should.

Fortunately, Rowan has some wonderful supporters in the community. Judith gives the latest news below, however I must at this point thank most warmly the soldiers of Waterbeach Barracks, who, with serious matters of conflict on their minds, still raised a magnificent £1500 for Rowan. We are so very grateful.

Rowan being Rowan, we have taken the matter of funding into our own hands, and in September our Rowan students will set about fundraising themselves. Walking for Rowan is the latest project we are planning, and a first for our students, who I know will approach this new adventure with all the enthusiasm and cheerfulness and pride that is theirs. So shall we.

With all good wishes,

Margaret Phillips,
Chairman

Creative highlights

In June Sharon Cairns, a Rowan friend and supporter, facilitated an incredibly inspirational Haiga workshop for our students. Haiga is a Japanese artform that combines imagery and poetic observation using ink, a brush and a simple but powerful poem. We welcomed Shuho Fukushima, Master Instructor of the Touto Haiga Exchange and translator, Kazuko Yoshino, to Rowan and enjoyed a truly memorable art session.



Our commissioned signage for Anglesey Abbey is nearing completion. If you visit this National Trust property over the coming months please do let us know what you think of our work.

Fundraising News

Waterbeach Barracks

Des, Abi, Debby and Judith recently received a cheque for £1500 from Lt. Colonel John White MBE RE, and Sergeant Robert Lopez at Waterbeach Barracks on behalf of everyone at Rowan. Rowan and The Army Benevolent Fund were chosen as beneficiaries of Works Group Royal Engineers (Airfields) recent sponsored Triathlon, organised by Sergeants Lopez and Ciaron Ford. Members of the Unit, who are in active service around Britain and the world, came together for this swimming, kayaking, cycling and running fundraising challenge event at Waterbeach Barracks. As a result, all those who facilitated and took part in this event have contributed directly and positively to improving a group of people's lives through donating money they have raised to a local charity.



Walking for Rowan - our latest initiative

To raise funds for Rowan our students, volunteers and staff are holding a sponsored walk along the towpath of The River Cam between Cutter Ferry Bridge and The Fort St George Pub on 13th, 14th & 15th September, between 10.30am and 12noon. In true Rowan team-work spirit we are looking forward to walking 25 miles between us all. One mile to celebrate each year Rowan has been in existence!

If you would like to sponsor our efforts, you can visit our website to make an online donation or send a cheque to Rowan made payable to Rowan Humberstone Ltd.

Looking forward

As well as our sponsored walk in September, in October we are looking forward to spending a day at Anglesey Abbey making clay tiles with visitors. Currently we are at the planning stage for our Big Draw event that will be taking place in some of The Cambridge University Museums.

Following our award-winning entry at Mill Road Winter Fair Hat Festival last year, we are hoping to create another award-winning hat this year for 3rd December and we hope you will come and visit Rowan on 14th December between 5pm and 8pm to enjoy our Winter Open Studio evening.

Looking back

We have been very busy fulfilling our commissioned signage for Anglesey Abbey as well as other individually commissioned work. Sadly, we recently had to send our minibus to the scrap-yard and now need to fundraise for a replacement.

We participated in Cambridge City Council's first Disability Sports and Arts Festival and we continue to enjoy support from Cambridge Drawing Society.

Cambridge Open Studios was a great success when we welcomed 300 people through the doors at Rowan over two weekends in July.

All our students who were enrolled on Rowan's training programme with Cambridge Regional College are to be congratulated on the completion of their portfolios of work and we were delighted to be invited to join the College's annual exhibition in the Zoology Museum: Wings, Whiskers and Wonders.



Good food, good company and sunshine. This was the recipe for our first barbecue in our new garden.

More creative highlights

Students and staff at Rowan presented an exhibition of artwork to celebrate the completion of two projects: The Art of Recycling and Life Through a Lens. These projects were partly funded by Cambridge City Council.

The Art of Recycling involved Rowan students learning about recycling and waste reduction in a creative way under the leadership of art tutor, Anna Kendrew. Following on from this project, Cambridge City Council Recycling Champions Co-ordinator, Mark Buckton, presented Rowan with a Recycling Champions Certificate of Achievement.

Life Through a Lens was a wonderful opportunity for a group of Rowan students to develop a greater awareness of the world around them while at the same time learning practical digital-camera skills. Art tutor Debby Lauder took each student on an individual journey, enabling them to capture images reflecting their interests and personalities, culminating in a unique body of imagery that tells individual stories.



A commission we undertook 10 years ago recently returned to Rowan for some much needed repairs and restoration. Reed village sign is now back in-situ providing a stunning welcome to this Hertfordshire village.

How can you support Rowan?

- Let your family, friends and colleagues know about Rowan
- Take part in or support events
- Volunteer your time at Rowan, supporting students within the studios or using your professional or practical expertise to support the business side of Rowan.
- Donations of money of any size help towards the costs of our core work. These donations can either be put towards a larger cost, or to purchase specific items. Cheques can be made payable to Rowan Humberstone or visit our website to make an online donation.
- If you are tidying up and discover art and craft materials that you no longer need, we may be able to utilise them. If not, we will be able to recommend other worthy recipients through our network of contacts.
- You may have ideas of your own, personal to you, about how you can support Rowan. Please do not hesitate to contact Rowan's staff team.

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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