

Feel good!



Hello and welcome from our CEO



While it seemed forever for winter to go away, suddenly summer is here with its hat on! Everyone seems to be having exciting holidays, and we are enjoying hearing about them, lunch is now outside under the awning and trips are being planned to take advantage of the good weather. We are also busy welcoming new summer students as part of holiday programme, and some new activities including our Makaton and Shakespeare workshops – adding a new bit of fun to each day.

Since our last newsletter we have celebrated the coronation of King Charles with a volunteer event to make art - including booklets to send to hospitals and care homes. The day was sponsored by Cambridge City Council who kindly provided us with materials and lunch. Around 40 people gave up their bank holiday to attend, learn new skills, and share some wonderful time together. The day before more than 30 of us attended a lovely community lunch at Parker's Piece, making sure that the public knew we were there when our name was mentioned – we can be surprisingly loud!

We have been sharing our work around the town. One of our student artists had some amazing prints shown at an exhibition in Girton, another lent some work to a research project at Anglia Ruskin University about how the public value art, several pieces of work have been sent for a display at Michaelhouse, and others to an international art competition. Now we are hard at work preparing for our Open Studios weekend. Please remember to come along and celebrate the great things that are happening at Rowan.

As always, we are indebted to the contributions of our supporters. In particular those people who volunteer their time allowing us to provide a wider range of activities and support than we could otherwise. We are also grateful to our Friend's of Rowan who make an annual donation to support us. To celebrate these two groups, and others, we be holding a drinks party on Friday 14 July. It is important to meet, share and celebrate together – I hope that you can make it.

Finally, in 2024 it's our 40th Anniversary. We will celebrate over the next 12 months or so with a series of special events starting later this year – visit our website to be kept up to date.

Studio focus

This year we have seen a big change in our woodwork team as we welcomed two new tutors, Wendy Hagger and Sarah Healey-Dilkes. Along with Alistair Burgass and volunteer Phil Cope they are working as a team to bring out the best in our student artists. Whether this be focusing on individual projects or group projects, an array of exciting work has been produced by the woodwork studio.

For example, Sam has recently completed a commission of Paddington Bear for a friend of his parents. He has shown fantastic carving skills on a meaningful project for himself and his family. Sam was coached through the project by long-standing woodwork volunteer Phil - this was a wonderful partnership to watch in action.



Sasha has produced some great sculptural work from a goldfinch, sheep, flamingo, to an owl, using a range of materials and seems to have found some success with paper, wire, tape and paper mache!

Sasha said: 'I've really enjoyed being in the woodwork studio. I have been able to work on lots of new and exciting projects.'



Commissions are a big part of the woodwork team's day-to-day activities. They have recently been working on a couple of unique projects including a private commission for Paula Smith. Who asked for a number of unique chopping boards.

We recently completed a new 'Friends of Jesus Green Lido' plaque which has now taken centre stage at the pool.



You can read more about the most recent Cambridge City Council commission bug insect hotel which artist Frank has been supporting Alistair to make later in this newsletter.

We asked a number of our woodwork artists to describe their experiences in the workshop for us...

'Woodwork is the best'

'Always a laugh'

'Fantastic'

'The tutors are friendly and fun'

'I enjoy making new things and using the tools'

Dates for your diary



NEW summer and half term holiday club! July, August and October

Get creative and meet new friends during the holidays. Discover our creative workshops, or explore the world of Shakespeare or why not join our Makaton Choir! Download the full brochure below.

Would you like to know a little more before you book? Contact us on info@rowanhumberstone.org.uk or call 01223 566027.



Walk for Rowan Sunday 24 September Midsummer Common 10.30am

Join us and walk with friends to raise vital funds for our arts centre and forest school.

To take part in the walk or for more information email Kate on fundraising@rowanhumberstone.org.uk



Rowan Christmas Fair Wednesday 6 December 5pm to 8pm

Join us at Rowan HQ for our yearly Christmas tradition. With live music, mulled wine, a raffle, and of course the Rowan pop-up shop. Plus artwork will be available to buy from all our creative studios.



Community classes

Join us this September in our new evening art classes. Take the opportunity to learn a new skill, meet new friends, and do something fun after a hard day at work.

You can see all the opportunities on our website and new classes will be added soon. Don't miss out!

Sign-up to our monthly Feel good Friday to receive updates on our latest news, events and so much more. Email NEWS to communications@rowanhumberstone.org.uk.

Student focus

Our stories

Meet Frank



Frank has been coming to Rowan for six years. He attends twice a week in the woodwork and ceramics workshops. We sat down to chat with Frank to find out more about what he has been doing and about his time at the arts centre.

What do you do at Rowan?

'Well, I go into wood and just help with the commissions. I make projects for my family and just do stuff with the community. I am in the pottery class as well. I work in the pottery class with Abi and Sarah. I did not know how to do pottery, but Abi showed me how to do it. I've learnt new skills in pottery.'

What are you currently working on?

'We have been decorating wood to create something that we can sell. I'm working on different things and designs. I drew owls, then we created the wooden owls to sell.'

'I enjoyed making the pencil pots. I've done a lot working with The Fitzwilliam Museum with Emma. I enjoy going on trips.'

'I like working as a group. I like working by myself – I like a bit of both.'

Why do you enjoy coming to Rowan?

'I just like to get the experience. Just joining in the activities, working with people, just having a laugh with people. And just saying if you have got any problems, or stuff.'



I hear you have been supporting woodwork tutor Alistair with a recent commission...

'Yes. This is a bug insect hotel created for the Cambridge City Council. A bug hotel for a park. I was drilling the holes with Alistair. The holes are for the bugs so they can get in and out. We were rearranging the shape of the wood. Putting on different insect designs.'



What new skills have you learnt at Rowan?

'I've learned how to use the tools and how to be safe in the workshops. I've been using the drills, the hammers and the chisels and the basics.'

(What about in ceramics?) 'Glazing in pottery, firing, using my hands to work the clay and make holes.'

How would you describe Rowan to someone who has never been?

'I think everyone is just fun to be with. Everyone is fun and a laugh. I join activities. If people do need help with stuff, then I just help out.'

'It's a happy place!'

Become a student artist!

Are you interested in joining Rowan? Would you like to find out more?

Get in touch and arrange an initial visit with our team. They will show you the arts centre, answer any questions and you will get an opportunity to see us in action.

Contact us on 01223 566027 or email student@rowanhumberstone.org.uk.



Rowan around town



Window Wanderland
In February we took part in the Cambridge Window Wanderland Trail with LoveCambridge. Rowan tutors and students created a wonderful display, inspired by the theme 'The Living Planet', at the Cambridge University Press bookshop.

Cambridge Half Marathon



High Sheriff Award

Rowan Chairman David McConnell had the honour of receiving the High Sheriff Award on behalf of Rowan from Jennifer Crompton who showed us great support while she was High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire.



Celebrating the King's Coronation

We had a wonderful extra May Bank Holiday Monday at Rowan celebrating the King's Coronation with students, volunteers, friends and family. Enjoying arts and crafts, plenty of cake, and great company. With thanks to Cambridge City Council Community Grants. We also created activity booklets which have now been sent out to hospitals and care homes in the local community.



Christ's Lane benches

Cambridge City Council has installed new benches along Christ's Lane, the busy footpath between Christ's Pieces and St Andrew's Street. Each bench has two or three glass frames and local artists can send artwork to display in them. Rowan students proudly displayed their artwork earlier this year.



Art Exhibition 2023 'Together'

We had a terrific weekend at our annual charity art exhibition entitled 'Together', raising a fantastic £4,278. A huge thank you to everyone who took part and who supported the event.



rowan

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01223 566027

info@rowanhumberstone.org.uk

www.rowanhumberstone.org.uk

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