



**Feel good!**

**Winter 2023**

# Hello and welcome from our CEO

There is so much happening! In the second half of 2023 we have been celebrating music and drama. Starting with our new holiday club, we welcomed many new people into Rowan to try out our workshops during the school holidays and specifically to engage with music in the form of a Makaton Choir, and with drama – trying out some Shakespeare prose. If you had popped in during the summer you might have heard singing, seen hands flying to the words, witches scheming at their cauldrons or even witnessed a sword fight. Such was our enjoyment of the performing arts over the summer that a musical extravaganza in November was the obvious next step. A more delightful evening has never been spent, we had songs, drama, poetry, humour and tears – with many parts written by Rowan students. Talent abounds – well done everyone for producing such joy.

Not to be outdone, the art students sent several pieces of work to an international art exhibition with three being selected for the show – one winning best in show. Over the summer, bird boxes began to appear along nearby streets, showcasing a wide range of artworks. We welcomed a new member of staff, Bryan Shore, to support Gordon and said good-bye to Wendy Hagger one of our wood tutors.

In 2024, Rowan will be 40! To celebrate this achievement, we are planning additional activities which will unfold in the new year - expect some parties next summer. We are keen to use this anniversary to share some of our students' life stories and will be engaging in a written history project. If you would like to contribute a story about Rowan or about living with a learning disability do let us know as we have an important story to tell.

As part of our 40th anniversary objectives we are fundraising for a new roof. T-shirts with our anniversary logo went on sale at Walk for Rowan and are available now. Besides our regular fundraising activities and grant applications, there will be extra fundraising events during the year with lots of opportunities to meet and celebrate the good fortune of being together and part of Rowan. Do check the website regularly.

We could not manage without our supporters and volunteers. Your contributions are an amazing list of talents, kindness and generosity. Our thanks go especially to you for making Rowan the safe, fun and amazing place that it is.

Cherie Evans  
Chief Executive Officer

# Studio focus

Introducing the print studio! Alison Ayres and Chris Deane run the studio over four days: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Both bring different techniques and skills to our students.

Alison started working at Rowan as a part-time print tutor in October 2022, but had already been working with us through her other role in the Learning Team at the Fitzwilliam Museum.

'I have invited Rowan students and staff to explore the museum collections and exhibitions, taking time to sit and draw. A special partnership has developed between Rowan and the museum. In 2019 Rowan students were invited to be part of a community-wide voice in a major exhibition which saw their artworks on display in the galleries of the museum. This resulted in the museum purchasing a ceramic piece of art made by the students for the collection

'I admire Rowans ethics and the way everyone who is part of this amazing place contributes to a caring and supportive space for all to enjoy. The students' individual creativity and generosity in supporting each other is a joy to behold and I feel very fortunate to be a part of such a special place.'

Chris started at Rowan eight years ago working as a print tutor. 'Before starting at Rowan I was working as a community artist in Essex running art workshops with groups such as Mencap, MIND and Children in Need.

'I come from a background in fine art and graffiti, I work mainly painting and drawing but anything goes.

'Alison and I both enjoy taking our students to museums. Responding to the collections and exhibitions with great drawings and their own interpretations.'

Recently, Chris has been the lead artist on our exciting commission with the Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook. Find out more on page five.



Mural in the making for the Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook



# Student focus

## Our stories

### Meet Emily



Emily has been coming to Rowan for 11 years and attends twice a week, in the print and ceramics studios.

Emily has been keen to try different types of print making, including Lino, Intaglio, and Gell plate printing. She has enjoyed all methods of printing and is pleased with the results these different techniques provide.

Emily's art has been framed and turned into cards for sale in the Rowan shop. The starting point for print ideas, is drawing, which Emily loves - her sketch books are full of colourful images, created in her very personal and distinctive style. She likes to experiment and uses different media to add colour, crayons, water-soluble pastels, paint and collage.

Emily loves nature and really enjoys drawing flowers, plants, birds and butterflies. Her favourite artists are Angie Lewin and Angela Harding, both print makers.

Emily also enjoys going on trips with fellow Rowan students to visit the museum collections and exhibitions in Cambridge. These trips provide the opportunity to see a wide range of art and artifacts. Emily enjoys sitting and drawing in the museum galleries which provides inspiration for her art making in the studios at Rowan. These visits are also a good opportunity to socialise with student friends and enjoy new experiences together.





## Meet Aidan

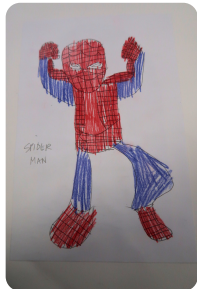
Aidan followed in his brother's footsteps and joined Rowan alongside attending Cambridge Regional College.

He has now been with us for more than a year attending once a week in the wood and print studio.



At the beginning of the year, Rowan joined with the Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook and Sainsbury's on Brooks Road to create a large-scale mural that pays homage to the wildlife of one of the city's lesser-known chalk streams. Aidan contributed amazing drawings of a swan, an eel and a kingfisher to the mural. You can see Aidan standing in front of the mural above. The mural is now up in pride of place for the community to enjoy. To find out more visit our website 'News' on [www.rowanhumberstone.org.uk](http://www.rowanhumberstone.org.uk).

More recently, Aidan has been focusing on superhero images in the print studio, including Spider-Man and the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.



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## 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](mailto:student@rowanhumberstone.org.uk).



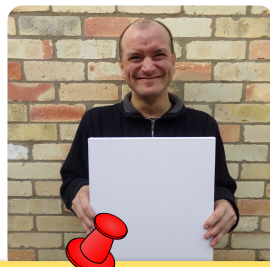
# Dates for your diary



## **Rowan Quiz Night Sunday 4 February 6pm @ The Blue Moon, Norfolk Street, Cambridge.**

Test your knowledge while making a difference!

£5pp, teams of up to 8. Book your table now by emailing [cambridgebluemoon.sophie@gmail.com](mailto:cambridgebluemoon.sophie@gmail.com).



## **Charity Art Exhibition Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 February 2024 10am to 3pm The Leys School, Fen Causeway, Cambridge, CB2 7AD**

Scan the QR code to find out how you can take part or call 01223 566027.



## **Cambridge Half Marathon 2024**

**Are you looking for a challenge?  
Sign up for the Cambridge Half  
Marathon 2024.**

Race day: Sunday 3 March 2024

Send an email to [fundraising@rowanhumberstone.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@rowanhumberstone.org.uk) – you will receive a link to join the 'Let's Do This' platform where you can start raising money.

## **Evening art classes**

Community classes are now running every Monday and Thursday evening at our arts centre.

**Ceramics - Oil painting - Sewing -  
Drawing basics - and more!**

Scan the QR code to find out more



**Sign-up for our monthly Feel good Friday to receive all our latest news,  
events and so much more.**

**Email NEWS to [communications@rowanhumberstone.org.uk](mailto:communications@rowanhumberstone.org.uk).**

# Celebrating 40 years of Rowan



Next year marks 40 years of Rowan and we're hoping you'll help us Raise the Roof in celebration!

The celebrations will last all year and you can be a big part of it. But as well as the fun and games, we are keen to use 2024 to fix a significant issue to ensure that Rowan keeps providing support for at least another 40 years

Our beloved art centre has been plagued by a leaky roof for far too long. Despite our best efforts to patch up the problem, the damage now is just too great and our temporary fixes themselves need fixing as the roof poses a health and safety risk to our staff, volunteers, and students.

The solution is a £150,000 brand new roof and that's where our **'Raise the Roof for Rowan'** campaign comes in with a solid fundraising strategy for 2024. The Rowan community is ready for a series of awesome events that will leave you grinning from ear to ear. Plus, we're on the hunt for grants to help us reach our goal.

This is a crucial project for the future of Rowan. Our art centre exists to support adults with learning disabilities in Cambridgeshire and beyond, and we can't do that without a solid roof over our heads. Let's make it happen!

Stay in the loop by signing up for our monthly newsletters, loaded with all the updates you need. Head to our website or shoot us an email at [communications@rowanhumberstone.org.uk](mailto:communications@rowanhumberstone.org.uk) with the subject line 'NEWS' to join the fun!





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