



Newscape

The Official Newsletter of Escape Arts

News From Home



2017 is an exciting year for Escape, as in July we celebrate the charity's 20th Birthday and May marks 2 years of the opening of our new home, The Old Slaughterhouse Arts & Heritage Studio (OSH). The Old Slaughterhouse has curated 11 local history exhibitions and attracted over 12,000 visitors. It has become a local centre for exploring and sharing local 'untold stories' and a fantastic base from which to deliver Escape's workshops. An exciting digital platform which explores the site and the exhibitions will be launched in May. It has been an incredibly busy period for the charity with exciting community arts & heritage workshops across Warwickshire and fantastic youth arts, delivered through the Escape bus and within schools in the local area. Work from all our project venues is now being collated to exhibit in a fantastic 3-day Anniversary Exhibition to celebrate Escape's 20th Birthday, at Stratford Town Hall in Sheep Street from June 29th to July 1st 2017. This celebration will showcase the people, the arts and the heritage work which makes up Escape. It will be a great way to learn about the work of the charity and those involved in making it happen.

The Magnificent Beast

In November, we welcomed our landmark sculpture, the incredible steer, created by artist Rachel Higgins, commissioned through Arts Council England. This incredible 'beast' was created from the oral history of the Old Slaughterhouse site: the steer in question reportedly ran up the stairs of the butchers shop and on its back feature two capons which were payable as part of the rent agreement of '£7 10 shillings and two fat capons' in 1880. Work with local schools and community groups have enabled people to take part in our Steer Competition. Prizes will be awarded for the most popular name given to the steer and for designing a background landscape for him. It's been a great opportunity for people to understand how and why the 'magnificent beast' was made and to create their individual artwork in response to this. The work will be exhibited and winners announced at our anniversary exhibition.



The Lost Garden Of Avon Transformation Project

The Lost Garden of Avon is an exciting arts and heritage transformation project. The image shows the area surrounding the Old Slaughterhouse in 1851. Once an area of beauty covered in landscaped gardens, walkways, an ornamental pond and fountain, it is now just a concrete yard. This project will enable Escape to regenerate this historic place through innovative landscaping and planting. Artist-led commissions developed through Escape's community arts workshops will further enrich the space. This intriguing project will underpin our upcoming creative programme 'Beneath Our Feet', which seeks to explore layers of history with exciting links to science, technology, horticulture and the natural environment. Tesco 'Bags of Help' Scheme has already raised £5,000 for this project.



Queen's Award

We are delighted to announce that Escape has been nominated for the prestigious Queen's Award for our volunteer work. The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service is the highest award given to volunteer groups in the UK. Winners receive a signed certificate from the Queen and are invited to join a royal garden party. We now work with over 100 volunteers across Warwickshire and recently, Anne Becker received a 'Big Local Hero Award' for her volunteering work in Nuneaton. We are looking forward to Volunteer Week in June, where we can say a huge thank you to all of our volunteers at a celebration barbecue on Thursday, June 1st.



As a part of this year's theme, **Life is a Celebration**, work has been leading up to Escape's 20th Anniversary Exhibition, creating a fantastic celebratory feel across all of our regular projects and activities.

Stratford Escape

Wednesday 10am-1pm, OSH

Artist Emma Caplin has just finished creating a tablecloth design with the Wednesday group using brightly coloured paper collage which will all be exhibited at the summer exhibition. From March, artist Ali Allen will be working with the Wednesday group to complete work for the 'Feast' installation as part of the summer exhibition inspired by changing aspects of food as a celebratory ingredient.



Imagine

Mondays 1.30pm-4pm, OSH

In Stratford, artist and potter, Ros Ingram has led a series of sessions with the Imagine group on Monday afternoons to create a series of 'joyful figures' out of wire and papier mache. Prior to this, Cary Moon led fantastic silk screen creations of beautiful landscapes.



Paper Moon

Tuesdays 1pm-3pm, OSH

Paper Moon has had a whale of a time making mini 'steers' and padded fabric pancakes for the Great Yard Pancake Race.



They have currently been working on miniature gardens, and will be using these to recreate the heritage of the Yard, its historic buildings and the fabulous Lost Gardens of Avon.



VIP's

**(Veterans and Interesting Pensioners)
OSH, 1st Thursday of each month 10-12**

Our monthly VIP's brunch club continues to enjoy some fantastic food, including Roni's fabulous home-made cake. We are also delighted to announce that Norman Kelloway has finally been awarded the Legion D'Honneur from the French Consul, Robert Mille. We are so proud that all of our amazing D-Day veterans have now received this prestigious accolade.



Clifford Chambers

Tuesday 11am-1pm, Clifford Chambers Garden Centre

The Clifford Chambers group is working with Carey Moon and Kate Wiltshire, experimenting with collographs, collages, monoprints, screen printing and painting, to explore vibrantly coloured, exuberant plants and creatures that will lead up to their summer work with Ros Ingram to create joyous birds.



Crafty Club

**Thursday 10am-12pm
Sydni Centre, Leamington**

Our Crafty Club at the Sydni Centre in Leamington, led by Paula and Ros, is still growing in size. The current programme, 'Create a Plate' which has offered the group a fun, creative way to find out about health, food and lifestyle, has inspired them with ways of using the contents of the veg boxes provided from the centre's allotment.



Nuneaton Escape

Thursday 10-1 Chilvers Coten Heritage Centre

Working with Michaela McMillan, the Nuneaton group have created fantastic table-top art and candelabras inspired by Mexican folk art. This work will be entered into the Nuneaton Festival from May onwards this year. The group are just starting a new programme with Zara Day to make decorative displays to festoon the Chilvers Coten Heritage Centre Hall. Using inspiration from the centre itself, they will be exploring printed fabrics to transform into massive flora and fauna. This project is part of a larger 'Tablecloth' project run by Art Alert. Escape has been working with Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council on the 'Cinema Memories' project – artists Alisha Miller and Joanne Lole have been working with local community groups to create an interactive book for carers of people on their dementia journey, based on the large number of cinemas that used to be in Nuneaton. These will be distributed throughout GP surgeries, residential homes and community partners.



Nuneaton Men's Shed

Tues & Thurs 10am-12pm, George Eliot Hospital

The Nuneaton Men in Sheds, is now well established at the George Eliot Hospital as part of the 'Art for Health Sake' partnership. Sadly, they have just learned that they will lose their present building. The good news is that GEH have offered them a space where they can build a larger, purpose-built shed. The challenge now is to secure the funding to make this happen. Never daunted by practical problems, the men are determined to create something special as a legacy for Nuneaton men. They have now launched an appeal, so if anyone can offer donations, funds or ideas to raise funding, contact Corinne Davies at: info@escapearts.org.uk



Nuneaton Stitch Club

**2nd Monday of the Month,
10am-1pm, The Phoenix Centre,
Nuneaton**

In Nuneaton, the Monday Bermuda Stitch Group has been very busy on the George Eliot Hospital memories textile board. This work is nearly complete and will be comprised of five huge textile pieces which will hang in the hospital. They will be moving on to contribute to the 'Celebration Tablecloth' project which will be presented to Heritage centre volunteers and trustees in November.



Children's Workshops

**Lego Animation Club:
OSH, Saturdays 11-12.30**

Lego animation club has been extremely popular and we have been fully booked over the past 3 months. The children have been working hard to create their own short animated films about everything from Jurassic worlds to Elsa and Anna ice castles. The children have also been building and exploding Lego volcanos and creating zip wires to save the mini figures. The workshop runs over 4 weeks and all animations get uploaded to our Escape Arts YouTube page for everyone to see.



Tiny Trotters:

OSH, Fridays 9.30-11

Tiny Trotters is a fun, weekly story telling group for under 5s with lots of arts and crafts activities. This month we have been on a bear hunt and created puppets, made hungry caterpillars and beautiful butterflies, with robots inspired by poems. The children have especially enjoyed our big messy painting activities.



Holiday Activities

Over February half-term, families dropped into the Old Slaughterhouse to create their own Little Lost Gardens of Avon using recycled materials.



Over the Easter holiday we did some fantastic Roald Dahl art camps with lots of Willy Wonker Fun.



Kate's Storytree Project

We have joined up with Kate's Storytree to create a place to share stories and children's books. Our small library of books is available for everyone to come along and borrow. Each month we will host an event where you can come along, share stories, eat cake and talk about books. For more information and dates, visit our Facebook page.



St Gregory's School:

Over the past four weeks we have been working with St. Gregory's Primary School to create a stop-motion animated film about the Great Fire of Stratford in 1595. The finished film will be available on the new Old Slaughterhouse website. Together, the children have created a 16th century town, Tudor characters and even a model of The Crowne Inn.



Partnership Workshops

Stratford College

We were commissioned by Stratford-upon-Avon college to do a performing arts programme with the part-time entry class over a 10 week period. The students worked hard to create a Willy Wonker-inspired showcase, which was then performed to an audience of over 30 people on March 13th. The performance was a great success and showed all of the students work from film-making, to dance performances.



Shakespeare Hospice and Warwickshire Young Carers

Following a very enjoyable and successful joint fund-raising evening in April 2016, we have just finished our 6-month pilot arts intervention project. The aim has been to help young people communicate and to express their feelings, gaining new creative skills and encouraging new friendships. The activities included painting, sculpture and working with digital video.



Arts & Heritage Commissions

Stratford Literary Festival

Throughout the Stratford Literary Festival, we have been creating Alien Funfairs with Hampton Lucy and Wolverton Schools, followed by Space-ships at Broadway Academy in Birmingham: work inspired by authors' work in the schools.



Shakespeare Week

During Shakespeare Week we worked with the Guild Chapel to create printed panels inspired by the hidden Dance of Death Medieval wall paintings in the Chapel.

SPOTLIGHT

PERSONNEL: JACKIE NEWTON

Jackie has been finance administrator with us for 2 1/2 years, processing payroll, invoices, paying all the bills and generally keeping OSH functioning!



"There is never a dull moment at Escape. It's a very happy, lively and fun place to work, although trying to work whilst Paper Moon's karaoke is going on downstairs can be a bit of a challenge, and I didn't realise that dressing up as an elf was part of my job description!"

TRUSTEE: MARION MORGAN

Marion has been Chair of the Board of Trustees for 18 months but she has been on the board for 3 years and before that she's been participating, as well as leading sessions!



"I am honoured to be the Chair of the Board of such an incredible organisation. The creativity, inspiration and hard work shown by all our teams and participants is amazing and truly unique. Thank you for everything you all do"

VOLUNTEER: HATTIE THROSSELL

Hattie has only been with us for a few weeks but she's already getting into the spirit of Escape! "I really enjoy spending time at Escape and seeing how much they do to help everyone around them. I'm proud to spread the word of all they do through this newsletter and I hope to work with Escape for a long time to come. I want to thank everyone for being so friendly and welcoming"



PARTICIPANT: GILL BROMLEY

Gill has been with us at Escape Arts Nuneaton from the beginning - over 5 years ago! Gill attends the weekly sessions as a participant, volunteers at community events and helps with fundraising. She is also one of the founding members of the stitch group. "I love the companionship, working alongside a professional, yet friendly team and participating in community projects. It makes me feel so proud to see our work shared with others"



Upcoming Events at THE OLD SLAUGHTERHOUSE

Stratford Escape Events & Exhibitions

Toll House & Stratford Riverside Exhibition
May, June.

Motor Festival - Wacky Races

Sun 30th Apr & Mon 1st May 1pm - 4pm.

Children's Animation Day *

Tuesday 30th May, 9am - 4pm.

National Volunteer Week

1st - 7th June.

Warwickshire Open Studios

18th June - 3rd July.

Escape 20th Birthday Exhibition

29th June - 1st July - Stratford Town Hall.

Stratford River Festival

Sat 1st & Sun 2nd July - Recreation Ground.

Summer Art & Media Camps *

July 24th, 25th & 31st, August 1st, 7th, 8th,

14th, 15th, 21st & 22nd, 9am - 4pm.

Marie Corelli Exhibition

July, August, Sept.

* Charges apply - booking is required.

Summer Adult Evening Courses

Artist-led Workshops, price includes materials, firing (ceramics), parking and refreshments.

Willow Wigs with Rachel Harwood

Weds 10th May 6.30 - 9.30pm: £25.

Ceramic Cats with Ros Ingram

Mon 15th & 22nd May 7pm - 9pm:

£25 per session.

Fused Glass Inclusions with Ros Ingram

Monday 5th June 7pm - 9pm: £25.

Etched Glass with Ros Ingram

Mon 12th June 7pm - 9pm: £25.

Nuneaton Escape Exhibitions:

Chilvers Coton Heritage Centre Open Day

Sat 29th April.

'On Track'

1st - 31st May: Nuneaton Train Station.

Nuneaton Escape Exhibition

Until June 10th: George Eliot Hospital.

Open Studios

Sep 23/24th: Mary Ann Evans Hospice.

Who I Am - creative workshops on coping with dementia - see website for details.

Other News

Escape has received a huge donation of £467 from a national organisation after playing host to a Stratford-upon-Avon themed lunch. Escape Arts welcomed 70 members of the Junior Chamber International (JCI) UK Senate to the Slaughterhouse arts space where the visitors heard from Mark Pitcher, a former butcher who shared personal anecdotes from his time working on the site when it was still a working slaughterhouse and butchers shop.



Upcoming Exhibitions

We have been working with Stratford Historic Buildings Trust, who are renovating Clopton Bridge Toll House, to research and reveal the site's untold stories in true 'Horrible Histories' style. This exhibition will be launched in May, after which we focus on writer Marie Corelli and how her writing and 'attitude' impacted on Stratford. Also a talk by Nick Birch.



VASA

We are delighted to support a new lunch club for older people every third Thursday of the month at The Old Slaughterhouse, ran by VASA, who provide fantastic home cooked food and great company.



 EscapeArts

 Escape_Arts

 Escape_Arts

 Localgiving

www.localgiving.org/donation/escapearts

Volunteer Artists Needed

Volunteer Artists are needed to lead occasional 2/3 hour daytime art or craft activities. The sessions are held in the Stratford area and have around 12-15 adult participants of mixed ages and abilities. All expenses will be paid.

Contact us: info@escapearts.org.uk (01789) 532110
Charity Number 1097718

