



**Issue 3**

**Autumn/Winter 2017**

# Newscape

The Official Newsletter of Escape Arts

## **News from Home**

Escape has seen a busy summer and Autumn, full of festivals and events, with our Escape bus visiting various locations and Nuneaton showcasing their work throughout the Nuneaton Open Arts Trail. As we launch our new 2017-2018 programme theme 'Beneath Our Feet' work has started with great children's summer activities, exploring fossils and the new exhibition at the Old Slaughterhouse 'Stratford's Lost Railways' celebrating the era of steam, featuring a rare archive of local photographer Tom Williams. We launched this new exhibition during the very successful 'Heritage Open Days' where we held a 1940s steam event, built a buffet car, had totem sign and luggage label making, with the Model Railway Stratford & District Club providing a great model railway. As we approach the end of the year everyone at Escape would like to thank you all for your support and wish you all and very Happy Christmas and a lovely New Year.



We are delighted to announce that Escape Arts has been awarded the Quality for Health Level 1 Award. Quality For Health, developed by Voluntary Action Calderdale in partnership with the Calderdale Clinical Commissioning Group is a quality assurance system to support the charity sector in demonstrating the difference it is making

to service users through the delivery of high quality health services. Thanks to the whole team for contributing to this and to Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action group with their support in this.

## **The Lost Garden of Avon**

In September we launched our first piece of public art in our yard regeneration project, celebrating the Lost Garden of Avon, a beautiful space which once stood in what is now a concrete service yard. Thanks to funding from Tesco's Bags of Help scheme our adult community arts groups Stratford Escape and Paper Moon explored early 20th century gardens, working with Warwickshire Artist Alisha Miller who then created a stunning vinyl image depicting this lost garden, which including formal planting, walkways and a large ornamental pond with fountain. Further 'Lost Garden' work has included ceramics with artist Ros Ingram who has been making butterflies and flowers with Paper Moon and a flock of birds with Shakespeare Hospice children and young people's group.



Image Clare Fitzsimmons

## **Volunteering News**

We are delighted to introduce Niamh Oldham who has successfully been recruited as our new Volunteer Coordinator; this position possible through funding from Stratford Town Trust. Niamh initially joined the team through a Warwick University Internship and we are delighted to see her in this new role, which will really support all of our amazing volunteers across the charity. We would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate our volunteer gardener Paul Mitchell who spends hours tidying the yard and maintaining our garden area each week. We received highly commended for our 'community' garden in this year's Stratford in Bloom but to us Paul you are our winner!

## **Foundation House**

Escape has been offered a new office space as part of Stratford Town Trust's new initiative Foundation House. The project sees the Trust provided rent free accommodation to local charities to build a community hub for the voluntary sector. A fantastic idea and will provide the Escape team a quiet place to work and the opportunity to develop new partnerships with the other charities involved. Thank you Stratford Town Trust.



## **Coming Soon**

New exhibition 2018-The Butcher, The Baker and the Candlestick Maker. Learn all about our site, it's time as a Tudor pub with it's notorious landlord Mr Spooner. Find out about the Flaxdresser, the Baker, the Hatter the Shoemaker and all the other trades which have occupied the site over the years.



**[www.escapearts.com](http://www.escapearts.com)**



## **Stratford Escape**

**Wednesdays, 10am - 1 pm, OSH**

In July, the Stratford Escape community group went to New Place gardens with artist Alisha Miller on a research visit to study their 19th century knot garden. They then created urns out of recycled materials, all inspired by the history of The Old Slaughterhouse and Alisha's Lost Garden of Avon mural. After a break for the summer their trip to Hillclose Community Gardens in Warwick inspired haiku poetry and ceramics with Carey Moon.



## **Paper Moon**

**Tuesdays 1pm-3pm, OSH**

Paper Moon have had a busy few months creating wonderful things for the 'Lost Garden' project, including psychedelic snails, a vase of paper flowers for the 'Lost Garden' launch and totem signs for our Stratford's Lost Railway exhibition.



## **VIP's (Veterans & Older People)**

**1st Thurs of the month, 10am-12pm, OSH**

Our new Rail exhibition featured two of our VIPs Jack and Sid who both worked on the railway 70 years ago. Here they reminisce with local rail modeller Harry Cowen. Harry kindly loaned us lots of Stratford memorabilia for the exhibition. He also runs the fabulous Stratford model railway from his lovely home in Rother Street - a fantastic display and well worth a visit.



In October we celebrated lots of birthdays. D Day veteran Bill Betts celebrated his 95th Birthday, with a trip in a WWII ambulance. Mary Morgan celebrated her 99th Birthday with family and friends at Stratford Town Hall.



## **NEW: In-Stitches Stratford**

**2pm-4pm Thursdays OSH**

Inspired by the 'In Stitches' sewing group in Nuneaton, Stratford have set up its own group with initial work starting on the GAGA Blankets for Africa project. The group is open to anybody with an interest in sewing, knitting, embroidery and crocheting.



## **Clifford Chambers**

**Tues 11am-1pm, Clifford Chambers Garden Centre**

The Clifford group have been exploring the project theme 'Beneath our Feet' through acrylics with artist Kate Wiltshire. Liz is printing up a storm, Karen has discovered a talent for impressionism, and Pam has produced a host of rabbits and hares. Sue C is more relaxed in her methods and Christine has made miles of fabulous bunting, using print techniques learnt in class. Our newest Escape members have gelled really well with the rest creating a lovely atmosphere.



## **Nuneaton Escape**

**Thurs 10-1 Chilvers Coton Heritage Centre**

Escape Nuneaton wowed visitors with their exhibition at Mary Ann Evans Hospice Gardens for Open Studios Arts Trail in September. Participants' art included batik flags, ceramic postcards, deckchairs and a walk way of 'lasting footsteps'. Autumn continued to be inspired by the 'Beneath Our Feet' theme with artist Mary Courtney. Mary started with Escape 5 years ago as a participant in Nuneaton, so we are now delighted to be working with her again. Mary invited us to be part of her 'Wordrobe' project with Nuneaton Libraries. Our volunteers are leading sessions including upcycled gift bags and jewellery/gifts leading up to Christmas. Participants made magnificent decorations for the Celebration Tablecloth event in November and all Escape Nuneaton members were invited by Art Alert to join in the thank you event at Chilvers Coton Heritage Centre.



## **In-Stitches-Nuneaton**

**2nd Mon of the month 10-1pm.**

The group have been putting in many hours to complete the Celebration Tablecloth, which looks magnificent. The Open Studios Arts Trail in September was also a chance for lots of the work to be showcased with the ladies helping to raise funds for Mary Ann Evans Hospice. The group hosted their own exhibition at The Old Café Gallery, at Nuneaton Train Station from 10th-13th Nov. This linked with 'World Kindness Day' on Nov 13th and will link with 'Green Heart Day' on Feb 15th, when work begins on making 'green hearts'. The next project is 'Golden Memories', raising funds for Alzheimer's Society.



## **Nuneaton Men's Shed**

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

The men have been busy working on Christmas items including fantastic wooden reindeers and led a successful event at Greenmoor Rd Allotments as part of Open Studios Arts Trail. Supported by Corinne Davies, the men have made great headway with securing funding to build their new shed, supported by WCC, COOP Carrier Bag Scheme, Coventry Building Society alongside their own fundraising. If all goes well, they will be planning their new home by the New Year.



## **Clay Club**

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

Members of the Clay Club have been busy making a range of creatures including birds, dragons and cats. Clay Club is looking forward to Christmas and have been making the nativity. Sophia celebrated her birthday and her mum sent in a fantastic Paddington Bear cake.





## Children's Activities

### Caterpillar Café

Fri 9.30 - 11am OSH



## Summer Arts Camps

### OSH

From Spy School to Giant Germs the heritage centre was bursting with creativity.



## LEGO Café - OSH

Lots of excited Lego builders visited over the summer; watch out for New Year dates.



## October Half Term-OSH

Curiosities of Horrors Lab - a great fun day where we conducted various science experiments. We also had an animation workshop where we created spooky animations.



## Shakespeare Hospice Children's Service

We have been working with ceramics making beautiful birds, these will be flying through the 'Yard' soon.



## LEGO Animation

New dates for Jan 20 & 28th, Feb 4th & 11th 11am-12.30pm OSH



## Escape Youth Radio

We have been working with Wellesbourne Youth Service to create a live entertainment and history radio show. Live show 14th Dec, see our Youtube channel.



## Community Events and Festivals

### River Festival

### The Magic Roundabout



## FabFest

The rain didn't put a stop to play, great music and crafts at this family fun event.

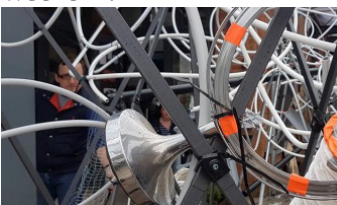


## Ali's Great Ball Run

We had a great day at Leamington's Art in the Park festival with Ali's fantastic ball run followed by a great event with Packmore's Community centre in Warwick.



Going one step further we built and even bigger HUGE ball run as part of National Fun Palace weekend.



## Unveiling of restored Marie Corelli Statue



## Engage 50+ Festival



## Heritage Open Days

### Stratford's Lost Railways



## MENCAP Carnival



## Nuneaton Arts Trail



## Nuneaton 'In Stitches'



## Staff & Volunteer Party



We held a great 'Hallobon' (mixed Halloween and Bonfire) party to thank our amazing staff and volunteers.

## Coventry's City of Culture at Warwick Castle



## Paper Moon Spooky Karaoke - it was a scream!



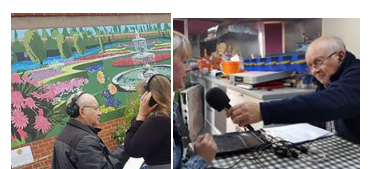
## Chilvers Coton Heritage Centre Volunteer Day



The fantastic tablecloth below formed the centre piece for the Chilvers Coton, Volunteer Day, hours of stitching went into created the final work which captured everyone involved in making it.



## Warks & Cov Radio



## Commissioned Work

### Moomins Day with Literary Festival



## Shakespeare's School Jester Project





# SPOTLIGHT

## PERSONNEL

### EMMA STUCHBURY

Emma joined us in 2014 after moving to Stratford. New to the area, a friend recommended Escape and we are so pleased that she did! Emma plays an integral part in almost everything we do, in our sessions and behind the scenes, but of all our sessions Emma is involved the most with our Lego animation club, Youth radio programme and holiday arts camps. 'I love being part of Escape and I hope it goes from strength to strength, reaching more people that wouldn't normally come.'



## TRUSTEE

### DAN SENTER

Dan found Escape in 2014 after relocating to Stratford from Sheffield. He's mainly been involved in the Operations side of things, helping Escape to get set up on the internet and showing us how to make the most of the web. 'Every time I meet with people involved with Escape I'm blown away by the amazing projects and work underway. It creates a fantastic buzz! I am so proud to be involved in the helping the great work!'



## VOLUNTEER

### VANESSA PRESTON

Vanessa first heard about Escape 15 years ago and joined as a participant in our Paper Moon sessions but found she enjoyed helping all the other participants even more! Now Vanessa helps out in various arts sessions, helps man our cafe and clean up after everyone! Vanessa hopes to volunteer with us for a long time in the future and we hope that she will too! 'I love taking part and enjoy everything I do! Thank you'



## PARTICIPANT

### HEATHER OSMOND

Heather has been with us at Escape from the very beginning. She joined Paper Moon over 20 years ago and has been here every week since. Her favourite thing to make is Christmas decorations with lots of glitter! 'I really like coming to Paper Moon as it has made me much more confident and has helped me make lots of new friends. Thank you to Karen and everyone else at Escape'



## Upcoming Events at the OLD SLAUGHTERHOUSE

### Escape at the Victorian Market

Come and join for with our 'alternative' Victorian Market, find us outside Natwest.

8th, 9th, 10th Dec

### Escape AGM

12th Dec, 7pm OSH

### Christmas Fun Day

16th Dec, 11am-4pm, OSH

## CLOSED 22ND DEC – 20TH JAN

### Animation Club

Jan 20 & 28th, Feb 4th & 11th

11am-12.30pm, OSH

### Adult Evening Classes

#### Paper Clay with Ros Ingram

Feb 5th 6.30-9.30pm £25

#### Fused Glass Birds with Ros Ingram

Feb 7th 6.30-8.30pm £25

#### Valentines Day Sugarcraft with Molly Allen

Feb 12th 6.30-9.30pm £25

#### Sugarcraft Flowers with Molly Allen

Feb 21st 6.30pm-9.30pm £25

#### Fused Glass Fish with Ros Ingram

Feb 28th 6.30-8.30pm £25

#### Ceramic Hares with Ros Ingram

March 5th 6.30-9.30pm £25

#### Etched Glass Panels with Ros Ingram

March 7th 6.30-8.30pm £25

#### Willow Wigwams with Rachel Harwood

March 14th 6.30-9.30pm £25

#### Willow Creatures with Rachel Harwood

March 21st 6.30-9.30m £25

#### Felting Workshop with Corinne Davies

March 26th (times and cost TBA)

### Jan – April Exhibition

The Butcher, the Baker, the Candlestick Maker featuring our new heritage centre digital timeline.

### Green Hearts Day - February 15th

Join in the fun at Nuneaton Escape

### Half Term Art Camp

February Tuesday 20th 9am-4pm



EscapeArts



Escape\_Arts



Escape\_Arts



[www.localgiving.org/donation/escapearts](http://www.localgiving.org/donation/escapearts)

## New WEX Project

We are delighted to announce the launch of our Escape's new Work Experience project. With funding received from Social Action and Stratford Town Trust we will be developing exciting work experience and youth volunteer opportunities based on local arts and heritage events and activities. This project will develop innovative, creative and community impact work experience placements where young people can really make a difference within their communities. It is aimed at young people looking for school work experience placements, undertaking Duke of Edinburgh, Arts Award or Extended Project Qualification.



## Other News

### Lego Club Donation

A huge thank you to PCSO Barney Tandy and Police Mutual for the 'Force for Good' donation of £100. The money will go towards buying new green screen equipment for our LEGO animation club.

### VASA LUNCH CLUB

Super monthly lunch clubs for older people-gorgeous food! 18th Jan, 15th Feb, 15th March

### Christmas Preparations

As the rest of the world prepares for Christmas and the season's festivities we have been doing so too at The Old Slaughterhouse hanging hundreds of baubles from every corner of the roof.



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteers operate at the heart and soul of the Escape family. Your hard work and continued support is invaluable and we celebrate this at every possible occasion! Whether it's attending events with us, working at the heart of the community, or delving deep into the archives researching for our exhibitions, volunteering for Escape Arts has something for everyone. All ages and abilities welcome. If you are interested in volunteering please contact [niamholdham@escapearts.org.uk](mailto:niamholdham@escapearts.org.uk)

