



Issue 4
Spring 2018

Newscape

The Official Newsletter of Escape Arts

News from home

Time seems to have gone so fast since our Autumn Newsletter. We have been delighted to welcome a new administrator to the team, Lorraine Davies and a new Business Manager, Rebecca Wass. Rebecca has been appointed thanks to *Heritage Lottery Resilience* funding and will really help us build a strong, secure future: watch this space. We are also delighted to welcome Paul Taylor from *The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust* who has agreed to be part of our Board of Trustees.

We have now moved our office to Foundation House: thank you *Stratford Town Trust* for making this happen. It's proving invaluable working alongside other local charities in this new space. We also would like to thank Richard Anthony and the *NFU* for more office furniture and supplies. *Escape* was delighted to be nominated for four categories at this year's *Pride of Stratford Awards*, we were nominated for Educator, Arts Organisation, Impact Award and Pride of Stratford. We won the *Educator of the Year Award* which is a huge testament to our dedicated staff team and incredible volunteers. Thank you to all our very many supporters who nominated us: we know there were a lot of you and to *Touch FM* for hosting such a great evening.



New Exhibitions & Heritage Centre Website

In January we launched our new exhibition, *A Journey Through Time*, exploring the history of our site from 1466 to the present day. In addition to being the slaughterhouse at the back of *Hensons Butchers*, we were also a flax-dressers, a joiners and even a Tudor pub! As part of this project we are proud to launch our new website for the heritage centre www.oldslaughterhouse.org.uk featuring a digital timeline with great detail of the history of our site and the history of Stratford, showcasing podcasts, animation and virtual reality. Get transported back in time to explore our vast history. We would like to say a big thank you to Barney and everyone at *Bright White Space* for their creative design and advice during the development of the website. You can also find out all about events, workshops and volunteering at the heritage centre and we look forward to introducing a new interactive blog, developed by our work experience students and volunteers, about Stratford stories and historic items.



LIFTING THE LID ON STRATFORD'S LOOS

Our Littlest Exhibition

In March, we opened our littlest exhibition, *Lifting the Lid on Stratford's Loos*, written by our wonderful Warwick University intern, Anna Campbell-Hall. This piece of work is our smallest exhibition and showcases the timeline of the toilet as well as funny stories and memories to read whilst you spend a penny! The exhibition was opened formally with the cutting of the chocolate log. We look forward to welcoming you to our loo!

Volunteer News

Our volunteer Coordinator, Niamh has been busy leading her first staff training session and developing a new handbook for volunteers. She has also organised two great volunteer 'thank you' events, including a Tudor themed party to celebrate our *Pride of Stratford* win and a great Easter fancy dress party, complete with inflatable chicken and Easter Island man costumes (see photos opposite). Volunteers are at the heart of *Escape* and new volunteers are always welcome. Please do get in touch if you are interested in getting involved. We look forward to meeting you!



Stratford Escape

Wednesdays, 10am - 1 pm, OSH

The group have had an enjoyable and productive few weeks working with North Warwickshire-based artist, Sadie Read. Continuing on with the *Beneath our Feet* theme, they have created an 'alternative' washing line. The clothing produced will be displayed as part of the *Old Slaughterhouse's* exhibition during Warwickshire Arts Week in June 2018 and then again during *The Open Arts Trail* in Nuneaton in September. The work reflects the participants' personal thoughts on their heritage and surroundings



Paper Moon

Tuesdays 1pm-3pm, OSH

Paper Moon have had a busy few months! Over the Christmas period they worked with artist, Zara Day on a 4 week project continuing on our 2017-2018 theme, *Beneath our Feet*, including some beautiful fabric birds.



VIP's (Veterans & Older People)

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

Karl Harrison (formerly head chef of *The View* in Stratford-upon-Avon) hosted a lovely Christmas dinner for our VIP's and volunteers, featuring turkey and the full trimmings! Our veterans had a great time. We had a lovely turn-out and the food was amazing, thanks to you, Karl!



In Stitches - Stratford

2pm-4pm Thursdays OSH

Stratford's newly-formed *In Stitches* group has been growing in numbers. Since the first flurry of needles, knitting and crocheting their yarn-bombed tree for the GAGA charity, they have now added embroidery and tatting skills to their membership. Having just worked toward the *Green Hearts* project, leaving hand-made mementoes in the town as random acts of kindness. They are now hoping to create an exhibition vintage wedding dress in the Autumn.



Clifford Chambers

Tues 11am-1pm, Clifford Chambers Garden Centre

Clifford Chambers group have been busy crating beautiful knot gardens with local artist, Barbara Fidoe. Using a mixture of techniques including painting, screen printing and embroidery they have produced some striking pieces that we hope to display in the Spring. With artist, Ali Allen, they are currently involved in the recreation of Shakespeare's birthday cake for Stratford's annual procession.



Nuneaton Escape

Thurs 10-1 Chilvers Coton Heritage Centre

The decorating efforts at the *Celebration Tablecloth* event have been rewarded with over 13,500 views on Google! The Heritage Centre has never looked so splendid and the team even asked to keep the decorations in place for future events. We have been so fortunate to have volunteers lead sessions in beadwork, textile crafts and heat press work. Plus, we were delighted to welcome back Zara who helped the group make birds as part of the *Beneath our Feet* project. We look forward to seeing them all together later in the year. The group also took part in the *Green Hearts* project with *In Stitches*, making hearts from card, paper, beads and lots of glitter and bling, to give away.



In Stitches - Nuneaton

2nd Mon of the month 10-1pm

From November to February, hundreds of *Green Hearts* have been created. These were left in different places in the community and they were also given out to visitors. Each one carried a tag inviting people to 'share a kindness'. *In Stitches* took part in *Art Alert's* 10th Anniversary celebration, hosting their own drop-in workshop and helping to make 'Mors Bags', which will be left at a local Co-op for shoppers to use if they have forgotten their own. *Gathering Memories*, a national project raising funds for the Alzheimer's Society, is challenging each of our sewers to create their own memory piece, which may be uploaded to the projects gallery. The group are also making poppies for *Warwick Poppies 2018*, to form a tribute to the men who died during WWI. The poppies will be displayed at St. Mary's Church in Warwick, during November and December. Along with all this, we are also pleased to be working with Alisha Miller as part of the *International Women's Day* celebrations.



Nuneaton Men's Shed

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

Men in Sheds are happy to finally move in to their new home: all the funds have been secured and the shed built. Their new space is much bigger and better equipped. They are keen to personalise the space, but they are still finding time to make lots of items and carry out repairs for people. One of the participants says he calls it 'going to work'... but he has never been happier!



Clay Club

Thurs 10am-12pm, Sydni Centre, Leamington

Members of *Clay Club* had a very busy Christmas! Members worked on the Christmas Nativity, making the wise men, shepherds and little donkeys! Their beautiful ceramic ducks now decorate the Sydni Centre walls.



Children's Activities

Caterpillar Café

Fri 9.30 - 11am OSH

Fantastic creative story telling sessions for toddlers with monthly talks from childcare specialists.



LEGO Animation Club

Our LEGO animation club has been fully booked and you can watch their amazing animations on our youtube channel *Escape Arts*.



LEGO Café

Over half term we held another packed LEGO cafe. It's free to enter and parents can relax whilst the children play. It runs from 1- 4pm every Thursday during the school holiday.



Kate's Storytree

We have been delighted to welcome back Kate's Storytree to *The Old Slaughterhouse*, playing games and reading books. Come and join in for the next session when Kate visits us here at the *Caterpillar Café* on 11th May, 9-12.



Birthday Parties

We have held some great birthday parties at the centre, from Lego building to Jewellery making each one is themed specifically to the child's interest.



GAGA Tree

Stratford *In Stitches* group created lots of knitted squares to adorn *Escape's* tree at *Holy Trinity* churchyard, the squares were then made into blankets and sent to Africa.



Christmas Round Up

It seems a long time ago now but we had some fantastic events over the festive period. We surprised lots of children who for one reason or another couldn't visit a traditional Grotto on our surprise 'Grotto on the Go' Santa visits. We also sent the Grotto to the *MENCAP* Christmas Disco, where Santa and the Elves danced the night away.



Christmas Fun Day

We held a great community Christmas fun day at the heritage centre where children got to meet Santa and make special *Polar Express* Trains.

Victorian Market

We braced the freezing conditions to support the *Victorian Christmas Market* with the building of one of Ali Allen's giant 'snow' ball runs and an exhibition of weird Victorian postcards. A chilly but fun time had by all.



Christmas Parties

Finally we had a host of Christmas parties, from *Nuneaton Escape*, to *Clifford*, to *Paper Moon* and our Volunteer and Staff party, a great time was had by all.



Evening Classes

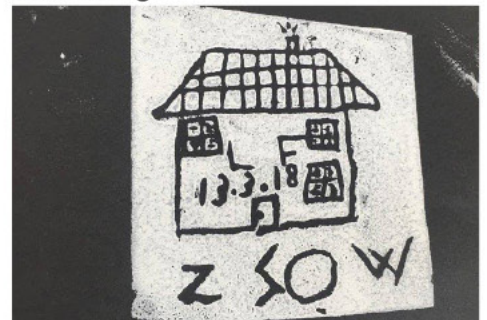
Our Spring adult evening classes have been as popular as ever, with ceramic, glass and willow workshops held at the heritage centre: fantastic fun and superb creations. See the back page for summer classes.



Partnerships & Commissions

Shakespeare Week at the Guild Chapel

Artist, Ali Allen led inspiring printing workshops in the chapel with local schools based on the graffiti present in the building.



Literary Festival: My Author Projects

Artist, Ros Ingram led ceramic and sculpture workshops at Arden Fields and Alveston Primary, based on the *Shifty McGifty* books by Tracy Corderoy.



Stratford Primary After School Club

We are delighted to be running an *Escape Arts* after-school club for years 9 and 10 at *Stratford Primary School*. We look forward to helping the children make some incredible creations!

NHS Retirement Foundation Talk

Karen Williams had the pleasure of giving the *NHS Retirement Foundation* talk. Organiser, Gill told us: 'Everyone really enjoyed the presentation and they all wanted to talk about memories'. Great stories they all were too.



SPOTLIGHT

PERSONNEL:

Anna Campbell-Hall

Anna was on a 6-week post grad internship with us, sharing her vast knowledge in everything heritage on the culmination of her History degree.



Her work made up the majority of our new toilet exhibition, though she also participated in and was a great help with, our arts workshops.

"I loved every minute at the Slaughterhouse and engaging with the public. Thank you to everyone at Escape"

TRUSTEE: Sharon Walpole

Sharon has been on the board for almost 2 years and also attends our In Stitches group. Sharon has been most supportive with the modernisation of the IT systems used by Escape Arts, as well as all things online and communications. *"What I love most about Escape is the passion of its people. I have never felt so instantly welcomed anywhere before. The activities are completely inclusive and it is wonderful to see how relaxed and happy everyone is. I am passionate about Escape Arts and am proud to be a Trustee."*



VOLUNTEER: Sarah Brunson

Sarah has been volunteering with us for five years, joining us after hearing about our arts activities in our old home at Bell Court! Sarah now supports Paper Moon every week and VIPs on the first Thursday of every month. Sarah says: *"It's got to be one of the things I really do love so much; seeing the smiles on people's faces when they make something. It's so rewarding!"*



PARTICIPANT: LORENZO

Lorenzo attends our LEGO animation club every week without fail. He has a very creative mind, makes fab animations on such a broad range of topics and is a great friend to everybody. *"I love coming to LEGO club because I like building LEGO with friends. I have made lots of animations. I especially like the cookies because they are delicious."*



Upcoming Events at



ESCAPE Arts

Motor Festival: Wacky Races (Drop In)
Sunday 6th and Monday 7th May,
1pm - 4pm

Children's Animation Art Camp*
Tuesday 29th May, 9am - 4pm

The Butcher, the Baker, the Candlestick Maker (Exhibition)
Explore the many trades which once operated in the heart of town through a fun arts installation.
May, June and July.

Warwickshire Open Studios 2018
at The Old Slaughterhouse.

Thurs 21st June - Sat 30th June
The Slaughterhouse will be exhibiting our community art work and open to provide a welcome 'coffee and cake break' for those on the Open Studio trail.

Beneath Our Feet (Exhibition)
Bringing together creative work from across Escape Arts projects, exploring local heritage, people and places.
June, July, and August

Children's Summer Art Camps *
July 24th, 25th, 31st, Aug 1st, 7th, 8th, 14th, 15th, 21st & 22nd, 9am - 4pm
(offsite-booking required)

*pre booking required and charges apply for marked events only: please contact: info@escapearts.org.uk

Summer Evening Workshops 2018

Paper Clay Bowl: 21st May
6.30pm - 9.00pm £30

Ceramic Foxes: 18th June
6.30pm - 9.00pm £30

Fused Glass Birds: 20th June
6.30pm - 8.30pm £30

Ceramic Owls: 25th June
6.30pm - 9.00pm £30

Fused Glass Panels: 27th June
6.30pm - 8.30pm £30

Ceramic Glazing and Decorating Techniques: 9th July
6.30pm - 8.30pm £30

EscapeArts

Escape_Arts

Escape_Arts

Localgiving www.localgiving.org/donation/escapearts

WEX Project

This Winter, the Escape team have been working to raise the awareness and accessibility of work experience within our organisation. We are delighted to report the success of the new, streamlined WEX programme. This enables our young participants to learn new skills, grow in confidence and be inspired by career possibilities. Whether they are fulfilling volunteer hours for external awards or simply want to get involved, we can actively support them and help them grow.

Detached Youth Consultation

Escape will be leading a programme of detached youth consultation across Stratford after Easter. As part of a Stratford Town Trust initiative, Escape will be working in partnership with lots of local youth and community agencies, with the aim to involve young people in developing much needed new services and projects in Stratford: watch out for the bus in town!

Warwickshire Community Service

Turning Point is a service for people with Learning Disabilities that offer group activity sessions, workshops and one-to-one sessions at various locations in South Warwickshire. This free group session runs every Wednesday from the Slaughterhouse. For more information please contact Dan Jhutti at: daniel.jhutti@turning-point.co.uk

TURNING POINT
inspired by possibility



Refurbishment

Whilst we were closed over the Christmas period, we were very busy giving the Old Slaughterhouse a new look! Thank you to staff and volunteers who gave up their time to help us achieve this: we couldn't have done it without you!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are currently looking for interested individuals to join our brilliant volunteer research group, collecting oral history for our upcoming exhibition, Stratford's Land Girls. The role will include interviewing the Land Girls themselves, learning to use digital equipment used to collect oral history, and meeting with your fellow researchers to work together on the best way to present an exhibition based on the oral history you collect. This is an exciting opportunity for those who wish to find out more about their local heritage whilst becoming part of our very own digital archive and living legacy. For more information on the role, please contact: niamholdham@escapearts.org.uk