



Issue 6
Summer 2018



Newscape

The Official Newsletter of Escape Arts

News from home

We've had a busy summer and autumn here at *Escape*! You might have seen us at different community events, such as the *River Festival*, *Art in the Park* and *Nuneaton Open Arts Trail*, but now we're winding down in the run up to Christmas. Clifford Escape has now moved to its new home in Clopton, at the *Ken Kennett Centre*. Thank you for supporting us during the past year; we wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

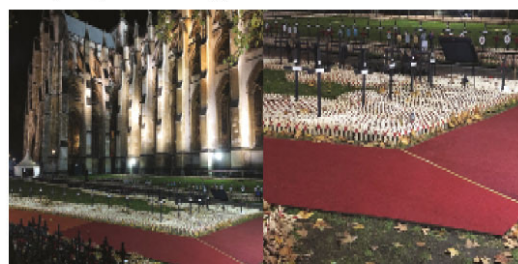
Queens Award For Volunteering

In October we were presented with our *Queens Award for Voluntary Service* by Tim Cox, the Lord Lieutenant for Warwickshire, at a party at Stratford Town Hall. This award is the MBE for voluntary organisations, which we could not have achieved without the work, support and dedication of our incredible volunteers. Once again, a massive thank you to each and every one of you: you are our life blood. It was wonderful to have so many of you together, celebrating all your hard work. Thanks to *Stratford Town Trust* for their continued support and for funding our volunteer programme for another year. Thanks also to *C.A. Rookes* for providing the lovely fizz and to *Morrisons* for sponsoring the event.



Heritage Open Days

This year for *Heritage Open Days*, we threw a marvellous two-day event celebrating Warwickshire's *Land Girls*, who all worked in the local area during *World War Two*. Eight of these incredible women, who worked on the land taking the place of the men during the War, joined us on the Saturday for a re-enacted WW2 wedding. Thank you to our wonderful volunteers, Bill and Rosie for playing our Bride and Groom and Mark for playing our vicar. We also enjoyed a WW2 Bake Off with Molly Allen and we had two wonderful performances by *Second Thoughts Theatre* & *The Bear Pit*, who performed a brilliant play based on conversations with real *Land Girls*: Nancy Cooper, Iris Faukes, Hilary Hindley, Jessie Hall, Terry Hall, Mary Payne & Margaret Simmonds who were absolutely instrumental in putting together our exhibition in support of the event.



Nuneaton Goes To Windsor!

Corinne Davies and Joanne Lole were invited to a Service to mark the Centenary of The Armistice, at Westminster Abbey on November 11th. This was in recognition of the Heritage Lottery Project, *9 Weeks*, a 2-year *Art Alert* project which told the story of an event in 1915, when 3,000 troops were billeted to the Nuneaton area. Corinne and Joanne worked with local groups and schools, including *Escape Arts Nuneaton* and as a result, the *In Stitches* group was established. The project has been exhibited widely throughout the county.

Stratford In Bloom

In October, we won two awards at *Stratford in Bloom* for our garden at *The Old Slaughterhouse*: 3rd Place *Community Garden* and the *Chairman's Trophy*. Neither of these awards would have been possible without the work and dedication of our volunteer gardener, Paul Mitchell, who has transformed our concrete yard into a beautiful space. Paul has been volunteering with *Escape* since 2010 and is an invaluable member of our team. He was also awarded the *Long Service Award* during *Volunteers Week* in June. Paul has been gardening from a young age and initially started tending to *Escape's* garden when we ran sessions from a cottage. He says, 'Gardening gives me a lot of pleasure. It's great for my wellbeing and gives me something fantastic to do. It's brilliant, all the volunteering is!' Paul, we just want to say on behalf of everyone here at *Escape*, thank you for everything you do. We really appreciate it: you are a real superstar!



New Exhibition - Warwickshire's Land Girls

This September, we launched our new exhibition, *Warwickshire's Land Girls: The Food of Love*. The *Land Girls*, as they were popularly known, were members of the *Women's Land Army*, set up to take the places of the men on the farms who had gone off to fight during *World War Two*. We interviewed eight *Land Girls* to assist this exhibition, which is based on their stories and experiences. The exhibition tells individuals' stories; the highs and the lows of the work during difficult times and the long-lasting friendships and everlasting memories they took from their experience. This wonderful and personal exhibition will be running until December.

Stratford Escape

Wednesdays, 10am - 1pm, OSH

Inspired by a poem written by participant, Pam Paffett about a poorly little rabbit, the group have been working with Pam and Ros Ingram to create and illustrate a story book designed for pre-school children. The project is in response to information discovered about a former Children's Recovery Hospital in Stratford. The illustrations have been created by all members of the group, who have since gone on to make the woodland characters with artist, Steph Lester, using a needlefelt technique.



Paper Moon

Tuesdays, 1pm - 3pm, OSH

Paper Moon have been busy working with Spencer Jenkins on willow leaves for an art wall dedicated to our much loved and missed volunteer, Debbie. This was a lovely way to pay tribute to such a kind friend. After this, the group have been busy making beaded jewellery with Ali Allen and working on a whole host of 'Make Do and Mend' Christmas wrapping paper and festive decorations. Paper Moon enjoyed a fabulous Halloween karaoke and are now looking forward to their Christmas party.



VIPs (Veterans & Interesting Pensioners)

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

We have had some lovely gatherings with our Veterans & Interesting Pensioners over the last few months, including two very special occasions. Mark Pitcher turned 70 in November and Mary Morgan has just celebrated her 100th Birthday! We all got together to celebrate these two milestone birthdays: best wishes to Mark and Mary from all of us at Escape! We are looking forward to celebrating Christmas together with an upcoming festive dinner, kindly cooked by Carl Harrison at The Swan in Kineton.



In Stitches - Stratford

Thursdays, 10.30am - 12.30pm, OSH

The group were thrilled to see their amazing 'Make Do and Mend' wedding dress worn by our beautiful Land Girl bride over the Heritage Open Days re-enactment. The project, devised by Ali Allen, was inspired by wedding dresses made from parachutes during WW2, in response to the shortages created by rationing. As unofficial Mothers of the Bride, they also made place settings and dressed the top table for the wedding breakfast. The group is now working hard once again, to support the local charity GAGA and are knitting squares to yarn-bomb a tree on Bancroft Gardens to raise funds and awareness for the work they are achieving in Africa.



Clopton Escape

Tuesdays 1pm - 3pm, Ken Kennett Centre

In September, the group worked with cake designer, Molly Allen, to create the wedding cake for our Land Girl Wedding re-enactment during the Heritage Open Days. Their 'Wild, Wet Watercolours' made with Kate Wiltshire, were displayed at the Nuneaton Open Arts Trail in late September and during November they did print-making and collage with artist, Maureen Lavington, to produce work for the 'Lost Garden' project at the Old Slaughterhouse.



In Stitches - Nuneaton

2nd Monday of the month, 10am-1pm.

The In Stitches group continues to attract new members, who bring more ideas and skills to the group. Inspired by celebrations for the 100th anniversary of the suffragette movement, the group designed and made a fabulous piece of bench art. This took pride of place at the Station Gallery Bench Event, then again at Open Arts Trail, when In Stitches showcased their collaborative and individual work and gave away MORS bags. They have also made many poppies for the Warwickshire Poppy Project, which is currently on display at St Mary's Church in Warwick and made a poppy wreath for laying at the Nuneaton Armistice Day commemoration. They are currently making angels to be displayed during Open Advent Doors.

Nuneaton Escape

Thursday, 10am-1pm, Chilvers Coten Heritage Centre

Nuneaton Escape proudly received the Creative and Arts Nuneaton & Bedworth Volunteer Award for the second year running and enjoyed the evening hosted at Bedworth Life Church. The group have been involved with Warwickshire Open Studios, Open Arts Trail in Nuneaton and Benches Day at The Station Gallery, where individual and collaborative work has been showcased. They have been working on creating a garden feature for the Heritage Centre, combining ceramic and willow work with their own designs and were delighted to have the feature completed in time for Open Arts Trail. Currently, the group is making collages themed around 'women of inspiration' which includes a performance from Niamh Oldham, who chooses a different famous woman each week, then delivers a monologue in character and full costume. Inspirational!



Nuneaton Men In Sheds

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

In September, Nuneaton Men in Sheds brand new home was officially opened! A party was held to celebrate, which was very well attended: guests including the mayor and friends, plus local and regional officers. Not only did the men help to fundraise for this building themselves, but they also built it themselves... on a very cold day in February when we had lots of snow! Already their membership has expanded, with talk of increasing session days and activities. A few weeks later, they were able to become a venue for Open Arts Trail where they welcomed visitors, promoted the group and sold items. The men also helped with the Escape Nuneaton Garden Project by building custom-made planters. Congratulations, men for all your hard work!



Children's Workshops

Lego Café

Over the summer holidays we re-opened *Lego Café*, but also included board games. The events were a great success, enabling families to enjoy affordable family time.



Animation Club

Our *Lego Animation Club* has continued to be successful and runs every Saturday 11am -12:30pm. The children have been busy making all kinds of animations from *Spooky GraveYards* to *The Great British Bake Off*. The animations can be viewed on our *YouTube* page.



Caterpillar Café

This summer has seen *Caterpillar Café* move in to its new home at *Tyler House*. We are thrilled to see how successful it has become and we wish Karen and Emma lots of luck as they embark on this new chapter.



The Willows Artscape

Since September we have been busy delivering an arty after-school club at *The Willows* Primary school every Tuesday. Participants have been busy working on a miniature fair ground, clay models, Jackson Pollack-inspired pieces and much more. Over the Christmas term, we will be working with chocolate and recycled materials.

Shakespeare Hospice

Great fun was had during a two-day project working with the *Children's Bereavement Group* in September. Working with artist Ali Allen, they created a light-reflective installation to be hung in the *Youth Hub*, to be enjoyed by all the groups who meet there. Based on birds, butterflies and anything that flies, it brings light and colour to the space.

Escape's Big Builds

Over the summer, we revisited our old giant arts and play workshops and introduced *Escapes Big Builds*. We ran 10 extremely successful workshops at *Foundation House* and worked with 62 children. The project's success was down to the hard work and commitment of our wonderful volunteers. Each week had a different theme, allowing us to build rockets, giant games, dinosaurs, eggs, unicorns, costumes, secret spy gear and so much more. We're pleased to say that the project will continue next year.



Community Projects

We had a wonderful time at *Art in the Park* in Leamington in August. Ros Ingram made beautiful bracelets and headbands, which went down a treat and Spencer Jenkins wowed the crowds with willow leaves. Down at the *Escape* bus, we were weaving a landscape and making birds to fly on the landscape. Thank you to everyone who supported us at this event and thank you to our volunteers for all your help on two very hot days!



The Stratford Link Project

Escape participant, Laurence, has been involved in creating a CD during a recent project run by *The Link Project*. The thought-provoking and sometimes humorous album, is the result of weekly sessions writing and recording, spanning several months. *The Link Project* is a drop-in centre for homeless, socially isolated and vulnerable people. For more information, please contact Doug Armstrong on 07772568175. CDs are available to buy from *The Old Slaughterhouse* and cost £10, with all proceeds going to *The Link Project*.



WWI, 100 Year Commemoration

We are delighted to announce that our *World War One* exhibition, showcasing the stories of our local boys who went to fight in the Great War, is currently on display at *Holy Trinity Church*, marking 100 years since the armistice. Thank you for having us!



Barista Training with Monsoon Estates Coffee

We would like to say a big thank you to Chris and everyone from *Monsoon Estates Coffee* for hosting staff and volunteers in a Barista training session in October. Thank you for having us and sharing your invaluable knowhow!

**MONSOON
ESTATES
COFFEE COMPANY**

Warwickshire CAVA AGM

Escape were invited to speak at *Warwickshire CAVA's AGM* this year, when Joanne, Mel and Corinne discussed the impact *WCVA* have had on helping us to achieve our *Quality for Health Award* in 2017. Thank you to *WCVA*: here's to another year of our working together!



Debbie's Wall

With the help of artists, Spencer Jenkins and Ros Ingram, plus artwork from *Paper Moon* and *The Shakespeare Hospice Children's Service*, we are delighted to announce the creation of *Debbie's Wall*, in memory of a much loved volunteer. Thank you to Debbie's friends and family for your donations to this project. Debbie is always in our hearts. Thank you also to *Joules*, the *NFU* and *Stratford Town Trust*.

U3A Talk and Presentation

In August, Ali Allen was invited to give a talk and presentation about *Escape* to the *Shottery* branch of *The University of the Third Age*. *Shottery U3A* is a very friendly and welcoming group, which was started in 2008 and now has a membership of some 100 people. They meet in *St Andrew's Parish Centre*, Church Lane, *Shottery* on the first Tuesday of each month starting at 2pm. For more details of *Escape's* talks and presentations, please contact: info@escapearts.org.uk

SPOTLIGHT

PERSONNEL: ALICE

Alice joined our team as an apprentice and will be working with us for the next year. Alice wanted to get involved with *Escape* as she enjoys working closely with the community, taking part in a diverse range of activities and working with people of all ages. *'It's so wonderful to be a part of Escape. The staff are so welcoming and friendly. I like the fact that I can get involved and have freedom to make my ideas a reality! Thank you, Escape!'*



TRUSTEE: LOUISE

Louise has only just joined the Trustee team, having initially heard of *Escape* through her employer, *National Grid*, where she has worked for two years. Louise worked with us in 2017, evaluating our volunteer programme and we are thrilled to welcome her to the team. Louise says, *'Escape matters to me because I know from my working environment that everyone can struggle sometimes with their mental health and well-being and that the arts can really help the mind relax and enjoy life.'*



VOLUNTEER: TONY

Tony has been volunteering with *Escape* as a member of *Men in Sheds* in Nuneaton since 2014. Tony is known as the 'artistic one' amongst the men who make different things at the request and need of other local organisations. *'A good thing about being a part of Men in Sheds, is being creative. It is nice to make things for yourself and for others, but it is very rewarding to help our fellow men. It is nice for people to come to us and have that breathing space and have people to talk to and something to do. Thank you!'*



PARTICIPANT: ALISON

Alison has been coming to *Nuneaton Escape* since the project began in 2010. She enjoys taking part in the various art & craft activities and projects in Nuneaton and looks forward to getting out each week to come to the sessions. Alison says: *'Coming to this group is very therapeutic for me. We have great fun and I've met some really lovely people!'*



Upcoming Events at the

OLD SLAUGHTERHOUSE

Make Do and Mend Christmas: Family Workshops

Saturday 1st, 8th and 15th of December, 1.30 - 4.30pm

New Exhibition: February 2019 Stratford's Bumps, Babies and Beyond.

Offering a new perspective on the Town's Maternity and Childhood Services.

Evening and Daytime Courses

Following the success of our last term of evening events, we will be running our next term from March 2019 onwards. In addition, due to popular demand, we will also be running more daytime Sunday courses – an opportunity to spend more time and learn new techniques in media such as Ceramics, Enamelling, Needle-felting, amongst others. Please check out our website or Facebook page in the New Year for further details. *Please note, gift vouchers are available.*

Spacehive: £2 Pledge



Did you know that the Old Slaughterhouse was once located in a beautiful 19th century garden? We are currently crowdfunding through Spacehive to further transform our outdoor space reflecting this once beautiful garden. We are proposing to build a temporary wooden structure, which will be known as *The Cowshed*. We are also hoping to install more community art to bring this lost garden to life. If everyone who reads this donates just £2 each, it will make a huge difference to making this dream a reality! To donate, please visit the *Escape Arts* website, select 'About Us' and click 'Fundraising'. Thank you so much.



EscapeArts



Escape_Arts



Escape_Arts



Localgiving

www.localgiving.org/donation/escapearts

WEX Project

After a fantastic summer of festivals, fêtes and parties, here we are in the winter season and it's time to wrap up warm! Our work experience participants have been a key element in this year's successes in combating isolation in the community and bringing the stories of Stratford to life, so we are excited to welcome more applicants for 2019.

Come and be part of a professional team and learn how to focus your creative skills to benefit others, support community arts workshops, get involved with event organisation and host our exhibition and café space. Exercise essential work and communication skills.... and add them to your CV!

If you are between 14 and 22, drop us a line and ask for an application form.

Lions Leadership Awards

Huge congratulations go to some of our youth volunteers who have completed their *Lions Leadership Awards*: Amie Davies, Elisha Harris, Jess Fitzsimmons and Toby Wilson. To complete their leadership awards they have either completed 50 or 100 hours of volunteering across a variety of projects.



Stratford's Youth Consultation

Stratford Town Trust funded Emma and the *Escape Bus* to go into Stratford High School to get young people's ideas and thoughts on what they would like to see happening in the town. We had a great response and as a result we will be starting a *Youth Drop-in Café* in the new year and working with partners to continue the development of new projects with and for young people.

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