

Issue 7
Spring 2019



Newscape

The Official Newsletter of Escape Arts

News From Home



Escape has had a busy start to 2019. We have forged great new partnerships with *South Warwickshire NHS* after a hugely successful *Surprise Santa* visit to *Warwick Hospital* in December. Our merry team of elves joined Santa and Mrs Claus to deliver presents to families across Warwickshire, with a final visit to *Warwick Hospital* where they visited *McGregor children's ward*, *A&E*, *Maternity* and two frailty wards. Since then we have been awarded *2-year Arts Council* and *Big Lottery Community Fund* funding to deliver creative health work across Warwickshire. This will include a public art project at *Warwick Hospital*, working with patients, visitors, staff and volunteers to transform corridor spaces, relative rooms and the new ambulatory unit. We are also delighted to be working with *Stratford Hospital* and *Lomas Café*, exploring the hospital site's rich history

and local stories, past and present. We would like to welcome new Trustees to Escape: *Miranda Ramphul McCormick* joins us as our new Vice-Chair, *Stewart Bell* as our Treasurer and *Hattie Throssell* as Trustee. We also say goodbye to Trustee, *Claire Pitney*, who has stood on the Board for 5 years and to the fabulous *Emma Stuchbury*, who leaves us after 6 years to pursue a career in residential youth work. Thank you both for all you have done: we will miss you and we wish you every happiness for the future.



Lost Garden Funding

We are delighted to announce that we have reached our target for our *Lost Garden* fundraising project! We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has made donations. *The Lost Garden of Avon* has been an ongoing project for over two years, after we discovered that the Yard where the *Old Slaughterhouse* stands was once a beautiful garden. We're working with local artists and our volunteer gardener, *Paul*, to bring *The Lost Garden* back to life.

The Cowshed

Our crowdfunding project was to raise funds to enhance this further by building a wooden structure, to be known as *The Cowshed*, outside of the *Slaughterhouse*. This will directly impact on what we can deliver to the community by giving us more space to carry out our projects, which we hope to enhance with planned wildlife and yarnbombing projects. We want to say a huge thank you to everyone who has donated to this project and special thanks to *Esmee Fairbairn*, *Big Lottery Awards for All* and *Warwickshire Placemaking Fund* for their grant contributions. We couldn't do it without you! Watch this space for updates as the building gets underway!



New Exhibition - Call The Midwife

We are proud to announce our new bundle of joy: our exhibition, *Call the Midwife*! This focuses on *Stratford's* emerging maternity and general health services, from the Victorian period to the present day. We look at the different hospitals in *Stratford* during the Victorian period, such as the *Children's Isolation Hospital* and private maternity homes, going in to greater detail on the fondly-remembered *Monroe Devis Maternity Hospital*. We celebrated this event with a fantastic launch in mid February. The exhibition was opened by the Mayor, who cut the symbolical umbilical cord and we were also treated to a reading by *Pam Paffett*, who worked with *Stratford Escape* on the isolation hospital-inspired children's book, *Jeremy Rabbit has Catchamitosis*. To celebrate the exhibition, we are creating *Stratford's* ultimate baby book! If you were born at the *Monroe Devis* and would like to be involved, we would like to invite you to the *Old Slaughterhouse* to share your baby photos with us for our public archive. We are open Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 1:30-4:30pm. There is a free talk on the exhibition and tour of the *Old Slaughterhouse* every Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 2:30pm. For more information, email aliceewins@escapearts.org.uk. The exhibition runs until the end of September.



Stratford Escape

Wednesdays, 10am - 1pm, OSH

During January and February, the group worked with Zara Day to create elaborate exotic textile birds to be displayed as part of *The Birds and The Bees* installation during the current *Call the Midwife* exhibition. The enthusiasm for this then went on to inspire a colourful group collage *The Exotic Flock* created with Ali Allen, also on display at *The Old Slaughterhouse*. The group later worked towards their entry into the Shakespeare's Birthday Scarecrow Competition.



Paper Moon

Tuesdays, 1pm - 3pm, OSH

Paper Moon had a lovely Christmas break, but then quickly got busy again getting ready for spring and our new exhibition, by making bees to hang in the garden room. We next concentrated on creating not one, but two scarecrows for *Escape's* Scarecrow Festival! Working together to create our characters was a wonderful and hilarious experience for the group and we were all excited to see the finished products!



VIPs (Veterans & Interesting Pensioners)

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

Our VIPs would like to say a huge thank you to Carl and the staff of *The Swan* in Kineton. Our Christmas meal was absolutely gorgeous: thank you to everyone who made our Christmas party so lovely! We have met up a few times since Christmas, where we have enjoyed catching up and thoroughly enjoyed the delicious food cooked by Phil Williams.



In Stitches - Stratford

Thursdays, 10.30am - 12.30pm, OSH

Since Christmas, they have created knitted *Jeremy Rabbit* characters, grass and flower meadows, plus many beautiful items for Warwick and Bristol Premature Baby Units. Some are on display at *The Old Slaughterhouse*. All items will be donated after the exhibition. The group are also busy knitting and crocheting squares, flowers and making pompoms for our yarn-bombing event in June. Other members of the group are creating embroidered and cross-stitch pictures.



Clopton Escape

Tuesdays 1pm - 3pm, Ken Kennett Centre

Clopton Escape have had a busy few months working on lots of exciting projects! We started the year by experimenting with different printing techniques under the guidance of Maureen Lavington, producing some stunning creations. We've also been busy working with artist, Steph Lester, on fabulous felt creatures. Great fun was had by all! We would like to send a *Get well soon* message to our participant, Liz.



In Stitches - Nuneaton

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

Whilst still making beautiful angels (currently on display at *The Heritage Centre* and *The Station Gallery*) in readiness for *The Hope Festival* in October, *In Stitches* are also working on creating a gown for a George Eliot metal frame. The theme of the dress is *2 Tone*, bringing together George Eliot's and *2 Tone's* anniversaries: both local and sharing common passions for equality and the common man having a voice. Working with a seamstress, they have researched original Victorian dress patterns to design a bespoke frock. This will be the 2nd installation for the Art Garden project.



WOOL NEEDED!

Our *In Stitches* group requires donations of wool for our yarn-bombing event in June. Please bring to either *The Old Slaughterhouse* or *Foundation House*.

Nuneaton Escape

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

Before Christmas, *Nuneaton Escape* tried their hand at decoupage, brilliantly led by Jenny, and then had a go at water colour techniques, enjoying creating designs by listening to music whilst reminiscing and sharing happy memories of Christmas. The New Year started with a challenging project *Who I Am Too*, thinking about what it means to be part of a community and designing unique logos, which then become part of the design for a community sheep sculpture. The group's work is showcased at *The Station Gallery* and a celebration event at the end of March brought all participating groups together, along with local funders, dignitaries and partners. In February, we enjoyed a Valentines lunch and a session led by Carol, a volunteer from *Macmillan*, who taught us how to make hedgehogs out of old books. We raised £120 to donate to the charity. The group also made butterfly-inspired art, bunting, hangings and an installation for *The Hope Festival* - it's all looking fabulous!



Nuneaton Men In Sheds

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

Men in Sheds have had a busy few months and are inundated with commissions and projects. They are getting so much interest from new members that they are looking to increase their session days. They currently are working with *Escape Nuneaton* on their Art Garden project, based at the Heritage Centre, and have designed and built a gazebo to become the focal point for upcoming George Eliot Bicentenary-themed art installations.



Children's Workshops

Animation Club

Our young *Lego* animators have been very busy working on a variety of animations featuring everything from super science labs, to life-saving emergency service stations and creepy graveyards. We are very grateful for all the support we received from our Duke of Edinburgh students and volunteers. If you would like to join our *Lego Animation Club* please email youth@escapearts.org.uk for more information.



David Walliams Half Term Camps

Over February half term we held a two day Art Camp at *The Old Slaughterhouse*. The days were inspired by David Walliams's books, *Gangsta Granny* and *The Midnight Gang*. The children had lots of fun making their own gangsta clothing and crown jewels on the *Gangsta Granny* day. We then created our own *Midnight Gang* where we all wore our pyjama's all day and built scenes representing the best day of our lives.



The Willows Artscape

Pupils at our afterschool art club at *The Willows* primary school have been really busy doing lots of different art activities. Some of their favourite activities have been creating loot llamas and also chocolate making. We have also made windmills and worked with clay. Please email youth@escapearts.org.uk if your child goes to *The Willows* school and you would like to find out more, or book.

Volunteering Fair

Our new apprentice, Alice and volunteer, Graham went to Stratford-upon-Avon school to talk to students about *Escape Arts* and its volunteering opportunities. There were lots of positive feedback, especially about our new *Youth Café*. This was a great way to approach younger people about our available volunteer roles and activities such as heritage researcher, working with children, baking yummy snacks for our café and supporting our art groups. We hope to go again in the summer for an even bigger and better Fair.

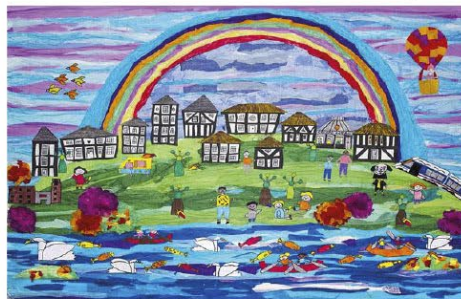
Asylum Seekers project

Over February we worked with Warwickshire County Council's leaving care and asylum team, artist Tim from *BRINK* and young refugees, to create a piece of work that depicts the journey of a refugee: fleeing their home towns, making their way across to Europe, then finally to the UK. Keep an eye on our Facebook page to find out when the work is being exhibited.



Chiltern Railways Project

We were delighted to be commissioned to work with *Chiltern Railways* in developing artwork for their new Stratford line timetables. *Escape* presented seven pieces which will feature on their most used timetables over the next 12 months, with pieces on display at Moor Street Station in Birmingham.



Nuneaton Open Advent

Nuneaton In Stitches and *Men's Shed* were thrilled to be a part of the *Nuneaton Open Advent Calendar* in December. The *Stitch* ladies opened up the Station Gallery and sung carols, showcasing their Christmas angel work and *Men's Shed* opened their new community hub to support men's wellbeing in the area. Great fun was had by all!



GAGA Tree

In January, we said goodbye to Sarah, who had been the charity Director and *tour de force* since 2015. We wish Sarah all the best in her future career and look forward to working with her successor, Claire.



Men and Women In Sheds

After the huge success of *Men's Shed* in Nuneaton, we are excited to announce a brand new 12 week course, *Men and Women in Sheds*, for all ages and abilities at the *George Eliot Hospital*. A great opportunity for people looking to learn new skills, make friends and have fun! For more information, email Corinne at corinnedavies@escapearts.org.uk



First Aid

In January, staff and volunteers were treated to First Aid Training, with the wonderful Gill from *Brookvale First Aid*. A huge thank you to Gill for a brilliant day and thank you for making us qualified First Aiders!



Community Café

Since Christmas, we have been delighted to attend the community café at *Foundation House*: a wonderful way to bring local organisations together. Thank you to the staff at *Foundation House* and *Stratford Town Trust* for all you do! We look forward to hosting one with you soon!

Bidford Consultations

We were commissioned by WCAVA to undertake consultation with young people from Bidford about their views on the current Youth Centre. Emma and Karen met the group and were made very welcome by staff and young people. One session involved eating *Bush Tucker Bugs*. The young people came up with great ideas on how to improve the centre: a venue and project they each valued greatly. We look forward to seeing how the space develops.

Escape AGM

We celebrated 2018 with our AGM in early December, which was a great way to end a great year. Thank you to everyone who came to support us and continue to support us year in, year out.

Birthday Parties

We hosted a variety of arty birthday parties for local children: each party tailored to the child's interests. Recently we have hosted *Harry Potter*, *Space* and *Lego*-themed parties. If you are planning a party, email youth@escapearts.org.uk to find out more.

SPOTLIGHT

PERSONNEL: CORINNE

Corinne has been a part of the Nuneaton Escape team since 2012. She initially started work with us as an artist but now holds the title *Community Liaison Coordinator*. Corinne was instrumental in setting up Nuneaton Men's Shed and Nuneaton In Stitches, whilst also working closely with local schools. Corinne says, 'I love that we deliver high quality projects; we offer real variety and stretch people. It's very rewarding to give opportunities for people to join in with a project and feel like part of the community.'



TRUSTEE: HATTIE

Hattie is a big part of Escape! She has been volunteering with us for two years and does the brilliant job of putting these newsletters together. She's also just been unanimously appointed as our new trustee! Hattie says, 'My role is to find things for the newsletter but as Escape does so much for so many different people I didn't know what a lot of it was. Being a trustee is great as I wanted to get more involved and show my support for all the great work Escape does.'



VOLUNTEER: GRAHAM

Graham has only been volunteering with Escape since late 2018, but he has already made a big impact on our team, where he supports our operations and our community events. Graham says, 'I enjoy helping the community and making a difference to young people's lives. There's something new to do everytime I go!'



PARTICIPANT: JENNY

Jenny is a huge part of the Escape family! She first joined our Imagine group three years ago and has since become a popular member of Stratford Escape and a founding member of Stratford In Stitches! Jenny has worked on big projects with Escape, such as Shakespeare's Birthday Cake in 2018 and recently began volunteering with us too. Jenny says, 'I love doing craft things and helping people. I already knew a lot about craft, but I'm also learning so much! Everybody here is so friendly and nice.'



Upcoming Events at the OLD SLAUGHTERHOUSE

Call the Midwife – Exhibition

February through to September 2019.

Community Yarnbombing (as part of the Mayor's Community Weekend and Warwickshire Open Studios)

Saturday, June 15th 1:30-4:30pm and Saturday, June 29th 1:30-4:30pm

Stratford River Festival

Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th July.

Evening Classes:

Ceramics with Ros Ingram

Sunday, 2nd June, 10:30am-3:30pm, £65.

Fused Glass with Ros Ingram

Monday, 24th June, 6:30-8:30pm, £35

Enamelling with Melissa

Keskinilinc Sunday 30th June, 10:30am-3:30pm, £60

We will also be holding several workshops during Warwickshire Open Studios in June this year, including Fused Glass with Ros Ingram. For more information, please email: info@escapearts.org.uk



Please visit our website:

www.escapearts.org.uk



WOOL NEEDED!
Our Stitch Group is about to embark on a very special yarnbombing project. If you have any spare wool, we would really appreciate donations, or if you would like to get involved by knitting or crocheting 4 or 8 inch squares, you'd be very welcome! Contact info@escapearts.org.uk for more information.

EscapeArts

Escape_Arts

Escape_Arts

Localgiving www.localgiving.org/donation/escapearts

WEX Project

Work experience with Escape Arts is continuing to grow into an exciting provision. Our Saturday spaces are now full with participants from all around the Stratford area. They are gaining skills such as communication and team work and really enjoying the activities they are supporting. Our schools links are becoming stronger as our week-long work experience places in the summer are filling up too. Participants get a working week in the thick of it with our Escape team!

Warwickshire Open Studios 2019

Following last year's success, The Old Slaughterhouse will once again be a host venue during Warwickshire Open Studios from June 15th-30th. We will be holding several Arts Workshops during the period and inviting the general public to take part in a yarn-bombing event. For more details please look on our website, or search for Venue 35 on the event's own website.



Youth Café

We are delighted to announce that we are now hosting a Youth Café every Thursday and Friday, 3:30-5:00pm. Please come along and bring your friends: we've got free wifi and big discounts on food and drink. If you're looking for somewhere to finish your work or somewhere to hang out with friends, then this is the place for you!

Renovation

Over the Christmas and New Year period, we closed for six weeks to refurbish The Old Slaughterhouse. A huge thank you to our volunteers for all their help in putting the building back together and a big thank you to the NFU for donating new furniture for our office space.

Coming soon in the next edition of *Newscape*....

Find out all about our *Community Scarecrow Festival!*

Our contribution to the *Stratford Festival of Motoring*.

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