

Newscape

The Official Newsletter of Escape Arts

Issue 8
AUTUMN 2019

News From Home

Welcome to our new look Autumn 2019 newsletter. Celebrating our exciting Summer, we are delighted to announce the arrival of our new branding. To accompany it, we have also launched a brand new website bringing the whole organisation together, showcasing new features such as a website search tool to make it easier to find what you are looking for. It features lots of images which really help demonstrate what we do. Huge thanks to Barney Jefferies at *Bright White Space* for his work with the website, Adrian Power at *Good Stuff Partners* for his marketing guidance and of course, to Phillip Williams for our fantastic, modern and fresh new logo design. We are so excited to be able to share them with you! www.escapearts.org.uk

escape | arts
creating community wellbeing

Our new exhibition called *Stratford Born & Bred* opened on Friday, September 13th, exploring the life stories of 6 local people. The project gives a personal insight to the town and the residents personal experiences of growing up, living and working in the town. The exhibition has been created by our designer Phillip Williams and our Warwick University Intern, Aphra Hiscock. As part of the exhibition and to launch *Heritage Open Days* we will be recreating the fondly remembered *Stratford Hippodrome*, with a Charity Bingo, Dog Show, a 1950s dance off and *lots* more on Saturday, September 21st, 11am - 6pm.



NHS Public Art Project at Warwick Hospital

Our creative journey with Warwick Hospital has begun! Artist, Alisha has been talking to staff, visitors, patients and volunteers across the hospital on their opinion of what colours, images and text to include in each different area which we are transforming; including the long, main hospital corridor, the Ambulatory Ward and A&E relatives' room. Everyone has in some way been touched by the work of this incredible hospital. For us, this is just the start as we plan creative wellbeing sessions within the wards. We are launching a new sponsorship scheme to further develop this work across the hospital, transforming spaces and impacting on visitor and patient experiences. *Please get in touch for further information.*



Coventry Building Society

We are delighted to announce that the *Coventry Building Society* has chosen us to be their Fundraising Charity. They are renovating their current branch in Wood Street and we will be helping them to transform their community space. We will be planning a host of community activities together with plenty of volunteer opportunities, so *please* do come and get involved.

Shakespeare Birthday Celebrations & Scarecrow Festival

We had a fantastic time celebrating Shakespeare's Birthday with our very first *Scarecrow Festival* with *Stratford Town Trust*. In spite of the windy weather, our scarecrows managed to last two full days without blowing away! We were joined by fantastic scarecrow community builds by artists Ros Ingram, Spencer Jenkins and Ali Allen. Thank you to *LSD Promotions* for allowing us space on the *Bancroft* to host the festival and to all the amazing entries to the project by our fellow community groups. A big congratulations to the winners: *Neighbours & Needles*, who won the judge's vote with their three witches from *Macbeth* and to *Clopton Nursery* and *Stratford Escape*, who won the people's vote. Thanks to all who supported the project this year by joining our community builds and creating your own mini scarecrows. We just can't wait for next year!



The Cowshed

We were delighted to reach the target for our *Cowshed* funding in March, thanks to *your* generosity. Also we would like to say thanks to *Gro-Organics* for creating such a great space. Now we need *your* ideas on how to decorate it! From yarnbombing to art installations, we need your help to make it a truly *Escape* space. We've got exciting new projects in the pipeline now this project is complete, focusing on wildlife, gardening, plus a revival of our *Grow, Cook & Eat* project.

Volunteers Week (June 1st - 7th)

Volunteers Week 2019 featured lots of great events to say a big *thank you* to our whole *incredible* team. A bit of wet weather didn't dampen our spirits this week, which featured a trip to *New Place* with the *Shakespeare Birthplace Trust*, whose own volunteers joined us for a butcher's talk by Mark Pitcher at *The Old Slaughterhouse*. The *Nuneaton* volunteers and participants joined us for a celebration of our joint achievements. At the *WCAVA* Volunteer Awards, *Nuneaton Men in Sheds* received a *Highly Commended* award and *Stratford* won the *Creative Heritage & Arts Group* award. Congratulations to all for everything you do!



Stratford Escape

Wednesdays, 10am - 1 pm, OSH

The group worked with Ali Allen to create *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* characters for our *Scarecrow Festival* at the end of April. They used recycled materials and lots of imagination and their work won the public vote at the event. They then went on to create a group canvas of exotic birds to be included in the *Chiltern Railways* timetable commission. They then worked with Ros Ingram, one of our *Arts Council Artists in Residence* for this year, joining the cross-project creation of a ceramic installation called *Samples*, now on display at OSH.



Paper Moon

Tuesdays 1pm - 3pm, OSH

Paper Moon have had a busy few months working with artists Ali Woolcott and Ros Ingram on pieces for our *Warwickshire Open Studios* exhibition. We celebrated the arrival of the new Cowshed with a karaoke and barbecue!



VIPs (Veterans & Interesting Pensioners)

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

Our VIPs have been enjoying the summer months and sunshine, meeting outside in our new Cowshed! They have been reminiscing about the *Hippodrome* in Stratford, sharing their stories with us for our *Heritage Open Days* event in September. Remembering all the different things that used to go on at the Hippodrome, (dog shows, flower shows, bingo & wrestling to name but a few), Julie Spinks said, 'It must have been chaos, but it didn't feel like it at the time!'



In Stitches - Stratford

Thursdays, 10.30 - 12.30 OSH

The *In Stitches* Group are as productive as ever and have created many wonderful pieces. Jill McDonald knitted a great scarecrow to promote the festival, many members have made tiny hats and booties which have been donated to the *BCU* units of Warwick and Bristol hospitals and the whole group have created *hundreds* of squares, flowers, pom-poms, tassels and even a crocheted beard for our yarn-bombing event in the Yard! Also a mention for 'Uncle Dave': a member of the *VIP* group who has knitted dozens of squares for the event.



Clopton Escape

1pm-3pm, Ken Kennett Centre

Clopton Escape with guidance from Rene Harness created a fantastically detailed *Sherlock Holmes* scarecrow, which gained 2nd place in the judges vote. Led by participants Susan Brock and Pam Paffett, they then produced a great group canvas 'A River Runs Through It' showing why they love Stratford. More recently they have been working on ceramics with Ros Ingram and small chicken wire sculptures with Rene.



In Stitches - Nuneaton

2nd Mon of the month 10-1pm. The Old Café, Nuneaton Train Station,

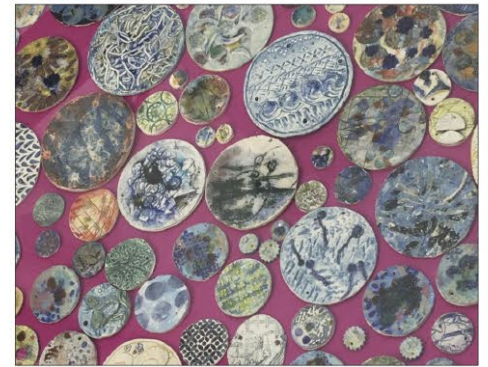
Praise has been heaped on the group for their 'George Eliot meets 2 Tone' installation. They were duly invited by *The George Eliot Fellowship* to the ceremonial wreath laying where Barry & Pat Chinn and artist Anne Taylor represented us. Meanwhile, Jayne has been showing the ladies new printing techniques. Beyond this, the talented ladies continue to make Mors bags, angels and butterflies for the *Open Arts Trail* & *The Hope Festival*.



Nuneaton Escape

Thursday 10-1 Chilvers Coten Heritage Centre

Escape Nuneaton have enjoyed working with Ros Ingram to make collaborative art installations inspired by Petri dishes. They visited the *Slaughterhouse* during *Warwickshire Open Studios* to view the completed work, and were also treated to a talk from Mark the Butcher. They later enjoyed a walking tour of Stratford. Following on, the group are creating individual childhood portraits, so have been exploring drawing, collage, stencilling and colour work with Zara Day which included a day trip to the *Childhood* exhibition at Compton Verney. Everyone is also trying their hand at weaving and ribbon art, led by Sadie Read, to create a beautiful celebration installation for the *George Eliot Garden Art* project. It also forms part of the *Open Arts Trail*.



Men In Sheds (MiS)

Tuesday and Thursday 10am-12pm, George Eliot Hospital.

The men continue to be creative with their many commissions and community projects. They generously give their time to help with other activities, particularly in the setting up of an extra group. This occurred in response to the overwhelming amount of comments from women who wanted to get involved with the fantastic work our *Men in Sheds* group does. We are now very pleased to announce the creation of our newest workshop: *Women Working With Wood*. Meanwhile, Barry Chinn of MiS made a fabulous model of *Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church*, Bulkington, which was displayed at their 100 year consecration ceremony. In June at the N&B WCAVA volunteer awards, they received a certificate in recognition of their activities: well deserved congratulations to all!



Childrens Workshops

Lego Café

We enjoyed a brilliant summer of *Lego Cafés* during the summer holidays in our brand new outdoor space, *The Cowshed*. We're delighted to announce that we will now be hosting this free *Lego* drop in every Saturday! In addition to this, we will also return every Thursday, Friday & Saturday during school holidays. Thanks for all your support.



Pop Up Pets

This was a very successful event. We had many families join in throughout the day to draw their pets and favourite animals in *pop-art* style. All had a great time! We found that the children were really getting involved and enjoyed experimenting. We had many creative interpretations, making each piece of work unique.



National Play Day

We had a *fantastic* day working with *Stratford District Council* delivering free activities for young people of *all* ages. It was attended by around 700 people enjoying all the free activities provided in *Bancroft Gardens*. *Escape* took the bus and provided junk modelling, *Lego* and we also invited *Kate Storytree* to join us, telling stories to little ones.



Holy Trinity C of E Artscape

This has been a great term for Holy Trinity C of E. Very popular, with a group of 20! We have been creating all sorts of arts and crafts including toilet roll animals, clay models, photo frame holders, theatre box puppets, masks and origami. The next after-school art club started again in September, offering a range of new activities.

Escape Health and Wellbeing Sessions

As part of the *Artist in Residency* commission, cross-project delivery staff and volunteers had the opportunity to spend 3 afternoons on the ceramic installation project: part of the newly created *Escape Health & Wellbeing* sessions.

Discover Gather Give Festival

Escape worked with *Discover, Gather, Give Contemporary Arts* on their inaugural festival at the beginning of June, hosting a free drop-in *Pop Art Pets* workshop for children and *Ceramic Garden Hens* which were a *great* success: once again, bringing more new visitors and raising awareness of *Escape's* work.



Stratford River Festival

Escape was delighted to attend the *Stratford River Festival* again this year, where we began building an aquarium to be displayed at the *Stratford Music Festival* in September. Thank you to all our *brilliant* volunteers for another hot weekend and thank you to all who came and supported us this year. We hope to see you all again in 2020!



Mayors Weekend

We celebrated the *Mayors* weekend in June by hosting a *fantastic* community yarn-bombing event, with free food & drinks, plus pom-pom making for all the family. *The Old Slaughterhouse* is being transformed by *beautiful* coloured squares knitted and crocheted by all the groups and the *In Stitches* group is now working towards creating our brand new outdoor space.



Belgrade Theatre Arts and Health Symposium

Ali Allen presented a workshop at *The Belgrade Theatre* during their 3 day *Arts & Health Symposium*, designed to showcase the benefits of *Creative Health* to the *Healthcare* sector. She was joined by participant/volunteer, *Penny Rodrigues*, who gave a moving account of her experiences of being part of *Escape*. The workshop was also well received during the recent *South Warwickshire Mental Health* event again raising awareness and opening new networking opportunities.

West Midlands Community Railway Conference

In July, *Joanne, Mel, Niamh* and *Alisha* went to *Liverpool* for the *West Midlands Annual Community Railway Conference*. The group enjoyed hearing about other community projects supported by *West Midlands Rail* and had a special trip up the *Liver Building*. Thanks for a great day. We're very excited to work with you at the *Nuneaton Station Gallery!*

Orchestra of the Swan Community Weekend

Many of the projects have been engaged working to provide artwork to enhance this event, held on Sept 14th and 15th. Working on their theme of *Carnival of the Animals* we created deckchair covers and a *huge* aquarium made from recycled materials. It was also an opportunity to see the large book-spine artwork which was displayed to complement their *Human Library* activity on the Friday evening prior to the event.



Warwickshire Open Studios

Escape has again been a part of *Warwickshire Open Studios*, including an opening event celebrating *National Wellbeing week*, a visit from *Nuneaton Escape*, which included a *Butchers* talk by volunteer, *Mark Pitcher*, lunch and a local *'Town Walk'* tour arranged for the afternoon and a community event celebrating *Mayors Community Weekend*. The two workshops offered, *Fused Glass* and *Enamelling*, proved very popular.



SPOTLIGHT

PERSONNEL: NIAMH

Niamh has been working with *Escape* for 3 years. She joined the team as an intern from Warwick University and never left! She is now our Volunteer Coordinator & Digital Media Co-ordinator. Niamh says, 'I'm so passionate about *Escape's* work across the community. Everyone who is a part of *Escape* is part of a big family and I'm so lucky to play a role in this brilliant organisation.'



TRUSTEE: MIRANDA

We are delighted to welcome Miranda to our Board of Trustees, in the role of Vice Chair. Miranda is a former lawyer and her charity background includes being Chair of the Board of the *Shakespeare Hospice*. Miranda says, 'I have been very impressed by all those working for *Escape Arts* who I have met so far, including our incredibly hard-working CEO, Karen Williams, and her team of staff and volunteers, as well as my fellow trustees. I am honoured to be part of the team and will do my best to contribute to the on-going success of the charity.'



VOLUNTEER: ANGIE

Angie has been volunteering with *Escape* for five years, where she supports our *Paper Moon* group and the operations in the *Slaughterhouse*. Before this, Angie joined *Escape* as a participant and found she enjoyed the art so much, she wanted to offer us more of her time. 'Escape Arts does a variety of different things I enjoy. I like arts and crafts and meeting new people, which makes me happy and helps with my loneliness. Thank you *Escape!*'



PARTICIPANT: RONI

Roni currently attends our *Stratford In Stitches* group. She is famous for her scrumptious cakes on sale in our café and knitting gorgeous characters for our shop. Roni says, 'I love cooking so it's nice to make cakes and know that somebody else is benefiting from it. I also love knitting and it's great to see your hours of work on display. There's a real camaraderie at *Escape*: we all have a laugh and get on together and help each other. It's so nice to be part of such a happy group of people.'



UPCOMING EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

'Stratford Born & Bred' - New Exhibition (Old Slaughterhouse)

13th September - 21st December, 2019

Heritage Open Days (OSH)

Saturday 21st September, 11am - 6pm

Nuneaton Open Arts Trail

Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd September, 2019. For further details, please visit: www.openartstrail.org.uk

Nuneaton Hope Festival

Saturday 13th October, 10am - 4pm at the Abbey Theatre, Nuneaton.

Evening Classes (OSH)

Porcelain Christmas Decorations with Ros Ingram

Monday 4th November, 6.30 - 8.30 £35

Enamelled Christmas Decorations with Melissa Keskinilinc

Sunday 17th November, 10.30 - 3.30 £65

Lino Etching with Ros Ingram

Sunday 24th November, 10.30 - 3.00 £65

For more dates and further information, please visit our website.

Bus Sponsorship

With our new branding, now firmly in place, it is a great time to update the bus and a fantastic opportunity for companies to get their name and logo seen across the region. Comparable local press advertising can cost anything up to £500 or more for just one week's coverage. We are looking for companies to share our supporter spots on the bus, alongside our charity funders. For further information contact:

karenwilliams@escapearts.org.uk or look at the sponsorship page on our website.



Artist's impression

Please visit our website:

www.escapearts.org.uk

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www.localgiving.org/donation/escapearts

WEX Project

What a Summer it has been for our work experience provision! More young people than ever before are choosing to spend valuable time with us, working as part of our team, and supporting the fabulous range of arts workshops that we provide for different community groups. One participant said, 'Thank you so much for letting me come here! Now I know how a charity like yours works... and how happy you make people feel! This has really inspired me to look into community wellbeing within my career path.'



Evening and Day Courses

The ever popular evening and day workshops have been running throughout the summer, with glass, ceramics and enamelling. We have also hosted art activities for private parties, including Hen Parties and Baby Showers. We will be holding more in the autumn/winter and details will be available on our website.



Building Hire

Did you know that you can hire the *Old Slaughterhouse* for as little as £7.50 an hour? This beautiful Grade II listed building is the perfect place for band rehearsals, meetings and parties, offering an environment immersed in local history and community art that suits all needs. To find out how you can hire the space, contact: info@escapearts.org.uk

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