



Issue 5  
Summer 2018



# Newscape

The Official Newsletter of Escape Arts

## News from home

It's been a very exciting few months here at *Escape*. We have had three separate visits to Buckingham Palace, two coveted awards and lots of parties to celebrate all of these exciting things! In celebration of *National Volunteer Week 2018*, which ran from 1st - 7th June, we would like to dedicate this issue of *Newscape* to our wonderful volunteers. Thank you so much for all your hard work: we couldn't do what we do without you!



## Queens Award For Volunteering

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded the *Queens Award for Voluntary Services*! This award is the MBE for voluntary services, charities and small organisations. We could not be happier or more proud of our incredible volunteers. The news was announced at an afternoon tea party with our volunteers on the 2nd June and celebrated over tea and cake! Without their hard work, enthusiasm and dedication we would have been unable to achieve this, so thank you for everything that you do! We would also like to say a big thank you to *Sainsburys*, Betty and Roni for sponsoring this event with delicious sandwiches and cake: nom-nom!

## Escape goes to Buckingham Palace!

In what is becoming a Royal year for *Escape*, three separate parties of staff and volunteers have been to Buckingham Palace. Artistic Director Karen Williams visited the Queen's Garden Party in May; Youth Arts Coordinator, Emma Stuchbury, was a guest of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle at the Royal Wedding and our Chair of Trustees, Marion Morgan and newly awarded 'Superstar of the Year', Hattie Throssell, visited another of the Queen's garden parties where they even met Prince Charles! Each of the three groups had a wonderful time as guests of royalty. Be sure to curtsy when you see them around!



## Nuneaton Creative Arts Group Volunteer Award

We are very proud to announce that our volunteers supporting projects in Nuneaton were awarded the *Creative and Arts Group* award at the *Nuneaton and Bedworth Volunteer Awards* for the second year in a row! This award is so greatly deserved and shows everyone just how brilliant they all are! We are so impressed by the quality of the work and the leadership shown by our volunteers in Nuneaton, particularly their involvement in masterminding some of the art projects. Congratulations to all!

## Volunteer Awards

June marked the start of our very own Volunteer Awards at the *Old Slaughterhouse*, which we held at the end of Volunteer Week. As well as the awards, we were treated to live music, from Noah and Ricky, who performed an acoustic set, a BBQ cooked by Bill Jones (with help from Martin Kenny) and of course, an *Escape* quiz. The awards were voted for by both staff and volunteers, which saw *all* our volunteers get a nomination in one category or more! We had a wonderful evening and



we would like to congratulate our winners: Angie (*Best Costumes 2017-18*) Caroline (*Leadership Award*) Janet (*Customer Care Award*) Rosie and Soozy (*Bright Beginning Award*) Martin (*Most Wanted on a Quiz Team*) Carol (*Community Impact Award*) Amie (*Youth Volunteer of the Year*) Hattie (*Superstar of the Year*) and Paul (*Long Service Volunteer Award*). Winners and nominees: you are all wonderful. Thank you for making this evening so special: here's to the next one! We would also like to say a big thank you to *TESCO* for sponsoring this event and providing the food.

## Stratford Escape

Wednesdays, 10am - 1 pm, OSH

The group worked with Ali Allen in April, to help complete Shakespeares giant birthday cake, then had great fun with greenwood artist, Spencer Jenkins, in May/June creating the amazing *Nest Clouds* willow installation for the new *Beneath Our Feet* exhibition at the *Old Slaughterhouse*. Group participants also helped with displaying all the art works.



## Paper Moon

Tuesdays 1pm-3pm, OSH

*Paper Moon* have had an exciting few months helping create the costumes for our *Peter Pan* theme for Shakespeare's birthday parade. They also helped the wonderful Ali Allen make book covers for Shakespeare's giant birthday cake and also making world themed bird boxes for *Warwickshire Open Studios* exhibition. In true *Paper Moon* style, we thanked our volunteers, Paul, Angie, Carol, Sarah, Stella, Anne and Rosie with a special BBQ and award giving.



## VIPs (Veterans & Interesting Pensioners)

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

Our VIPs have been celebrating our *Queens Award* with lovely cake, donated to us by Norman and Di who come once a month with Mary Morgan. They would also like to say a big thank you to our volunteers, Sarah and Stella, who support our brunch club for supplying bottomless cups of tea, plates of cake and lovely conversation. Thank you!



## In Stitches - Stratford

2pm-4pm Thursdays OSH

Our *Land Girls* wedding dress is beginning to take shape, with participants looking forward to displaying it at the *Heritage Open Days* event in September. We have several new members and everyone is creating elements in their chosen method of stitch, from embroidered tractors to a knitted bouquet of roses! A huge thank you to *Caterpillar Café's* Karen McNamara and her family for the amazing donation of haberdashery that has inspired the group to make great things.



## Clifford Chambers

Tues 11am - 1pm, Clifford Chambers Garden Centre

We have been busy making fantastic ceramics with artist, Carey Moon, which are soon to be exhibited. In June, the group explored watercolours with local artist, Kate Wiltshire, with help from our members and volunteers, Maureen Lavington and Jackie Nixon. They volunteered to share new water colour and ink techniques, pursuing our theme *The earth beneath our feet*. We are putting together a journal of our various techniques to show how we got there.



## Nuneaton Escape

Thurs 10-1 Chilvers Coton Heritage Centre

*Nuneaton Escape* were shortlisted for the *Creative Arts Volunteer Award* on June 7th at Bedworth Life Church. They are also now film stars as they were invited to contribute to the *WCAVA* film about the volunteer awards. They've enjoyed getting to know Niamh and how she works with our wonderful volunteers and participants, and would like to say a huge thank you to all of our members of *Escape Nuneaton* and our staff volunteers who support us in so many ways; the list is long, and our thank you to all is huge.



## In Stitches - Nuneaton

2nd Mon of the month 10-1pm

The *In Stitches* ladies are currently hosting extra sessions to make work for local projects including creating 'bench art' themed around the *Suffragette Centenary*, a poppy wreath for *Armistice Day Centenary*, and they continue to make and distribute 'MORS' bags. Some participants volunteered to make and donate work for *Gathering Memories*, and the *Alzheimer Society* project, <https://gatheringmemoriesuk.wordpress.com>. Along with this, *In Stitch* participants source and donate much of the material and share inspirational ideas for the projects. In September, they have volunteered to man their own exhibition for *Open Arts Trail* and one of the ladies has volunteered her own garden and home as the exhibiting venue! They are always welcoming new members and are very generous with their friendship and time: such a lovely group.



## Nuneaton Men In Sheds

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

*Men in Sheds* continue to work with the community, despite being very busy with their new home, which is almost ready. A celebration event is being planned for September. They have already attracted new members and have volunteered to showcase their talents at their own venue for *Open Arts Trail* later this year. They have volunteered to make planters for *Nuneaton Escape's* garden project at the *Heritage Centre*. The men always attend our celebration get-togethers and are invaluable with their offers of help and expertise.



## Clay Club

Thurs 10am-12pm, Sydni Centre, Leamington

*Clay Club* have made the decision to expand into an individual organisation. We would like to wish them all the very best as they embark on their new journey in Leamington: it's been great working with you and we look forward to working together on upcoming projects in the future.

**GOOD LUCK!**

## Children's Activities

### Caterpillar Café

Fri 9.30 - 11am OSH

*Caterpillar Café* has had a busy few months at *The Old Slaughterhouse*. We have visited the farm, constructed our own houses, explored with bugs and now we are hunting for treasure with pirates! After receiving a grant from *Stratford Town Trust*, we have the opportunity to hoist our sails and set off for an adventure in the Jungle at Tyler House hub every Friday, 10am-2pm over the summer holidays (July 20th - August 31st). We will have an exciting range of activities, such as our firm favourite *Cookery Nook* and will be offering brand new *Keepsake Crafts*. We will also be joined every week by child-centred groups offering fantastic FREE trial sessions!

For more information, visit our website on [www.caterpillarcafe.co.uk](http://www.caterpillarcafe.co.uk) or visit us on Facebook at [facebook.com/caterpillar.play](https://facebook.com/caterpillar.play).

### Lego Cafe

#### New LEGO & Games Café

We are delighted to announce *Lego Café* will be running every Tuesday & Thursday during the summer holidays, 12 - 4pm at the *Old Slaughterhouse* with new lunch menu and fabulous games now part of this fun afternoon of FREE activities.



### February Half Term

During February half term we hosted *Secrets of the Swamp Monster* art workshop for children 6 - 13 years old. Everyone had lots of messy fun using mod-roc to make their own swamp monsters and recycled materials to make swamps.



### Animation Club

During May half term we hosted animation camp for children. Over the day, children designed and built sets, characters and props and created animations with the help of our volunteer team. They assisted with all aspects and made the day enjoyable for all participants.

## Motor Festival

We teamed up with the *British Motor Museum* and hosted a *Wacky Races* themed *Lego café*. Participants built their own vehicles, which were then entered into a competition to win tickets for the *British Motor Museum*. We would like to say a huge thank you to all of our volunteers, who were fantastic.



## Easter

Our *Humpty's Great Egg Hunt* over Easter was a great success, with over 100 families taking part hunting for eggs around the town and creating fabulous Easter Bonnets. We even had a visit from the Easter Bunny and a chicken!



## Mental Health Picnic

We were invited to attend *Stratford Hospital's Community Well-being Picnic* on 13th May. It was a lovely day where we made cupcakes on sticks and played with Lego.



## River Festival

We had great fun taking part in the *River Festival* this year! We made bugs out of recycled materials with children: Ali Allen built another amazing ball run and Hattie Throssell won our staff and volunteer competition by selling the most flower garlands! Thank you to Soozy, Paul, Hattie, Rosie and Karen for all your hard work and enthusiasm on what was our hottest *River Festival* yet!



## Warwickshire Open Studios

June 16th – July 1st

*Escape* opened its stunning home, the *Old Slaughterhouse*, during these two weeks to become part of this increasingly popular arts trail event. As well as our new *Beneath Our Feet* art exhibition, showing work created by all of our community groups, there was a programme of evening ceramic and fused glass workshops, led by Ros Ingram for visitors to get involved with. They were also invited to have a go at free block-printing techniques. It was lovely to welcome the Nuneaton group, who came to admire their work, join in and enjoy a lovely sunny BBQ in the garden.



## Fab Fest

*Escape Arts* spent the weekend at *Fab Fest* where we were continuing our work from the *River Festival* on the *Escape Multimedia Bus*: creating bugs and weaving a background for them to go on. We were treated to live music and lovely food across our weekend. Thank you to everyone who came to say hello! We would like to say a big well done to Tori, who is also one of our lovely volunteers, for organising another wonderful event!



## Hodgson Green Funday

We enjoyed another sunny afternoon at *Hodgson Green Community Funday* in July. Great to see everyone working together to make a fun-filled family afternoon.



# SPOTLIGHT

## PERSONNEL: LIZZIE

Lizzie has joined us this summer on a six week internship from Warwick University, where she is in her second year studying French and History. She has been working on our exhibition, Warwickshire's Land Girls, researching and even meeting some of the Land Girls themselves! *'I've loved being a part of Escape, I feel very valued, included and appreciated! Thank you.'*



## TRUSTEE: PAUL

Paul is the most recent addition to our board of trustees. He has been working with Escape as part of his job at Shakespeare Birthplace Trust for a long time, giving us invaluable access to their archives. *'I was delighted to become a Trustee to help continue the wonderful work done at Escape. Since joining I've only just begun to appreciate just how much Escape does and am really excited to find our more and help ensure our success into the future.'*



## VOLUNTEER: CAROLINE

Caroline has been volunteering at the Old Slaughterhouse for a year and a half, where she joined our team as she was interested in both art and heritage and how the two come together. She volunteers with us once a month, enjoying the variety where no two days are ever the same! *'What I like about Escape is the inclusivity that it brings, Escape is for everybody. The word that you wouldn't associate with it is boring!'*



## PARTICIPANT: DELL

Dell Harris attends our Clifford Chambers, Stratford Escape and In Stitches groups. She has been with us for over two and a half years and has been involved in many of our community projects including working on Shakespeare's birthday cake and our upcoming Land Girl wedding dress. *'I meet people who've given me a zest for life. It's such great fun, there's such kindness and I love it!'*



## Upcoming Events at



### 'Stratford's Land Girls' (Exhibition)

September; October; November  
Art Exhibition of Bench Covers at Nuneaton Rail Station

8th September

### Heritage Open Days (Drop-in):

Stratford's Land Girls Theme

14th and 15th September

### Nuneaton Open Arts Trail

22nd and 23rd September

### Fun Palace (Drop in)

Saturday October 6th, 11am-4pm

### Children's Halloween Spook Camp

(Half-term) Tuesday, October 30th.

### Christmas Installation: 'Make do and Mend'; A Wartime Christmas.

December 2018

### Adult Evening Classes

#### Ceramic Tea Light Holders

with Ros Ingram

8th October £35

#### Fused Glass Christmas Decorations

with Ros Ingram

7th November £35

#### Porcelain Buttons with Ros Ingram

12th November £35

#### Enamelled Jewellery with Melissa

Keskinkilinc

14th November £35

#### Ceramic Christmas decorations

with Ros Ingram

19th November £35

#### Needlefelt Birds with Steph Lester

26th November £35



### Christmas Sugarcraft Unicorns with

Molly Allen

28th November £30

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## WEX Project

Work Experience and Youth Volunteering at Escape are going from strength to strength! We now have key relationships with Stratford College and Stratford School as well as a number of youth wellbeing organisations. Anyone between 14 and 22 is welcome to apply to become part of our team, running workshops, Café and Festival events... having fun and learning essential work skills all in one go!

## NCS - National Citizen Service

Sarah Methuen spent two days working with young people as part of their summer citizen placements, working on an awareness campaign about Escape and they work we do. They went out and spoke to local people about the charity and then worked with Welcombe Radio at Foundation House to present their findings on a live radio show. It was great to meet everyone and thanks for all your hard work.



## WCAVA Mental Health Annual Conference

We were here with our information display: great to see so many organisations coming together to support collaborative work across the whole of Warwickshire.

## Schools Career Detective Day

Escape joined forces with Stratford High School making our Big Build creations and we had a fantastic afternoon working with Primary School children from across Stratford.

## Claverdon WI

Escape hosted the Claverdon Women's Institute in June, where they were treated to a talk on the history of the Old Slaughterhouse from Niamh Oldham over tea and cake. We also enjoyed a very special butcher's talk from Mark Pitcher, who soon found out he knew all the ladies for one reason or another! We really enjoyed having you: thank you for coming!

## 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)