

As ever at this time of year, Crowborough Arts' Steering Group is starting to think about events for the coming 12 months. We're delighted to announce the return of early music group, 'Faronel', who gave a fascinating performance back in the summer, and we hope that this will be an opportunity for those who missed them last time. Of course before we get into the New Year, there's plenty going on over the festive season. Our next production 'A Seasonal Punchbowl' is coming up soon, so put the date - 2nd December - in your diary now, and reserve your seats for an evening of brilliant entertainment.

CA members have been 'putting themselves out there' over the past few months - read on to find out about their successes. We will be adding a new feature on the website soon with links to view members' work - so watch this space!

A SEASONAL PUNCHBOWL SPICED WITH WORDS & MUSIC

To be held at 7.30, on Saturday, 2nd December
at the United Church, Croft Road,
Crowborough, TN6 1HA

Celebrate With
The Martlets
Community Folk
Choir & Band plus
Special Guests

Members: £10 | Non-Members: £12

Bookings: call 01892 853294 or email gaye.jee@clara.co.uk

Join Us in A Cup of Good Cheer ...

Plans for our annual Christmas show, 'A Seasonal Punchbowl', are well under way. This year, we're returning to The United Church in Crowborough. For those of you who don't know it, it's a beautiful space, with lovely acoustics, which makes it perfect for our musical items.

Speaking of which, this year, The Martlets Folk Choir and their superb band will perform several unusual seasonal numbers as well as one or two more familiar carols. The musical offering doesn't stop there though, and we have contributions ranging from music-hall through to classical, via contemporary music for the season. Our readings for the evening include poetry, a Christmas ghost story written specially for the event and even a visit from Joyce Grenfell!

There really is something for everyone, so what are you waiting for? Call or email now to reserve your seats, and kick off the festive season in style.

Bookings: call 01892 853294 or email gaye.jee@clara.co.uk

King Lear Prizes: Success!

The national King Lear Prizes were founded during the COVID pandemic to encourage the over-60's to produce creative work.

This year, our poetry group, 'Writing from Home' submitted a joint entry and we're delighted to say **we have won first place in our category!**

This is brilliant news for us, and it doesn't stop there! In the individual categories, Sue Marshall has been shortlisted for her poem, 'A Dance to the Music of Time' and Highly Commended for 'The Bluebell Wood', as have Christine Roberts and Fiona Bennetton for their poems, 'Two Rose Gardens' and 'Kuranda Sky Rail'.

Gaye Jee entered her short story 'The Lithopaedion' in the prose section and has been shortlisted for the Chairman's Prize. The overall result of this and other remaining categories will be announced later in November, so we will be keeping our collective fingers crossed!



A New Member for CA's Steering Group

We're delighted to welcome Sandy Infield as a member of the Crowborough Arts Steering Group. Sandy is a visual artist and teacher. She writes: 'My work is inspired by the landscapes of our cultures. I have lived in Vietnam, Bali, Uganda and now Fairwarp in east Sussex. I believe that we use pattern as a language passing stories and knowledge to each other and our children.'

Sandy has a special interest in our annual Open Studios project, but will also be involved in the general planning and running of CA. Do have a look at her website at www.Blackshedstudios.com



Mary is All At Sea



Long-term CA member Mary Hazel Harris has been successful for the second time in having her work accepted by the Royal Society of Marine Artists Annual Exhibition, held at The Mall Gallery. Mary says, "Everyone needs to try entering the Mall Open Exhibitions; there are several throughout the year and they are so welcoming to artists. If I can do it, and have work accepted, so can anyone!"

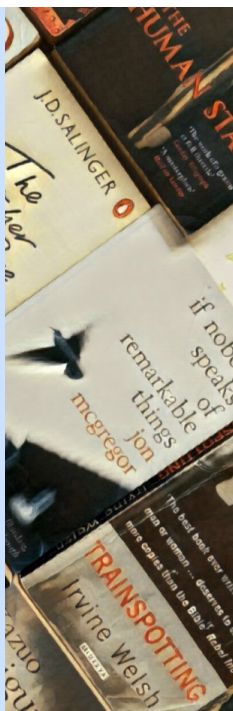
Mary's reduction woodcut, 'Pett Level', is placed at the top in this picture. Congratulations, Mary!

Booklovers: A Book Group with a Difference

There's something special about sharing a favourite book with others - and if you're someone who likes to do this, CA has just the group for you!

Unlike most book groups where everyone reads the same book and then discusses it, Booklovers encourages members to speak about their favourite books so that others get a good recommendation of what to read next.

It's a small, friendly group, but there are one or two vacant spaces at the moment. If you feel like it might be your thing, please contact Christine Roberts on 01435 873672 or 07967 593520 for more details.



Daniel Tong

Dan returned once again to play Beethoven and Schubert piano sonatas to a full audience at The Green Lane Music Room. He is a favourite amongst many of our concert goers and this time was playing on the new piano - kindly donated by member Ann Symonds - which is slightly larger than the old one, and has a beautiful tone. This was fully exploited by Dan in his playing of Beethoven's



Moonlight Sonata. After the interval Schubert sonata Opus 27 in B flat finished a wonderful afternoon of music.

'Writing From Home' Poems Displayed at National Trust's Bateman's



The poems, displayed on easels

You may remember that in the last newsletter, we reported on a visit to Bateman's, by our poetry group, 'Writing from Home'. Taking our visit as an inspiration, all seven members produced poems, which were then displayed in the kitchen of Rudyard Kipling's country home.

We've had some great feedback from visitors and are grateful to the staff at Bateman's for this opportunity - we hope to continue having a productive and creative relationship with them!

Dates for your Diary

Life Drawing: November 16th, 27th, December 14th, Jan 11th, 22nd
9.30 - 12.15, £14 members, £16 others.

Details from Richard at richardnottingham49@gmail.com

Portrait Drawing: December 4th.

10.00 - 12.00. £12 members, £14 others.

All Life & Portrait sessions at Scout HQ, Whitehill Rd, Crowborough, TN6 1RJ. Details from Richard at richardnottingham49@gmail.com

Martlets Folk Choir Rehearsals

November 16th, 23rd, 30th, December 7th, 14th

All sessions 7.00 pm at The Scout Hut, North Street, Rotherfield except for November 16th which will be at the Memorial Institute, North Street, Rotherfield

£6 (members) £8 (non-members) per session.

Details from gaye.jee@clara.co.uk or call 01892 853294

Booklovers: November 21st; 2024: January 9th, February 13th, March 19th, April 23rd, May 28th, July 2nd

Call Christine Roberts on 01435 873672 or 07967 593520

December 2nd : A Seasonal Punchbowl - Words & Music

7.30, The United Church, Croft Road, Crowborough, TN6 1HA

December 29th : The Martlets Wassail The Apple Trees

7.30, The Kings Arms, Rotherfield. Free.

January 5th : A Festival of Fools - a Celebration for Twelfth Night

7.30, St Denys Church, Rotherfield. £10 or £25 for a Family of 4

March 3rd: Faranel Early Music Ensemble

3 pm, The Green Lane Music Room. £15 members, £18 others.

Bookings: email avbiq@icloud.com

More details of all events at: www.crowborough-arts.org.uk

Peter Medhurst: The Glory of Venice



Peter in St Mark's Square

In September we were lucky enough to have a return visit from singer, instrumentalist, historian and musicologist Peter Medhurst, this time to speak about one of his favourite destinations: Venice. Peter writes: 'With its huge variety of cultural influences from Southern Italy, Northern Europe and from the East, Venice was designed by its citizens to be a place of exceptional vibrancy and beauty.'

Peter has an encyclopaedic knowledge of many of the great European cities, and regularly leads tour groups to explore music and art *in situ*.

Sadly, we could only be transported to *La Serenissima* in spirit, but Peter did a wonderful job of evoking the city's cultural history with images and music as well as his spoken eloquence.

The sold-out event was held at Four Seasons' Barn in St Johns, and we are once again grateful to Vanessa and Grant Bradford for hosting us.