Dear All

I hope that you are all well and that you have nothing more to worry about than whether Open Studios is going ahead. I know that won't be the case for some of you and all of the OS committee pass on their thoughts and best wishes to you.

So, onto business. We have been having discussions about how we best plan for the OS bearing in mind the options that may or may not be taken in September.

We are working on the assumption that the crisis and lockdown will be over by September and that visitors will be wanting to get out and about and buying work after a restricted summer!

We are also wanting to support makers and so we want to proceed as normal with applications closing deadline (31st March) so we can get on with building the artists galleries on the website and promoting your work online, and through social media during any shutdown -  pointing visitors to your websites and social media accounts.

We will need your fee paid by the deadline to secure your place at Open Studios.

If Open Studios is cancelled, you will be offered a choice of a full refund or carrying over the booking. If we do cancel or postpone, then you can either roll over your application or have a refund. We would much prefer it if you roll over but not everyone will be able to make a different date so understand that may not be an option for you.

Because Crowborough Arts have kindly said they will refund your fee we are very keen to keep our costs down as much as possible to reduce potential losses. The main expenses are publicity and the brochure. The brochure needs to be printed some time in advance but if we simplify the format then it is possible to delay the production and printing of it.

We are talking about just having the map and a list of artists with your studio number, name, what you do and if possible, website or Facebook page information. In other words, no images or boxed details.  The format will depend on how far in advance we can confirm plans.

We will put all the information and images on the website and encourage people to go for information so at this point we still need photographs.

At the moment we have 30 artists in 14 studios. I know of about 5 applications that we know of but haven’t received so feel free to nag your colleagues- but it looks like it could be a bumper year!

Take care all of you and if you are able to enjoy this time we will certainly have some fantastic work to share with our Crowborough and beyond visitors.

Bridget