

We haven't forgotten that it's Crowborough Arts' Tenth Birthday this year, but sadly all our planned celebrations have had to be cancelled because of the Covid situation. So we've decided to make next year our 'Official Birthday' and bring you as many of the interesting events and fantastic music that we missed this year, plus many more exciting ideas we have been working on to make it a real celebration - regulations permitting, of course.

I'd like to thank all those loyal members who have renewed their membership even though we've not been able to hold any events, those who have made donations, and those who have sent us messages of support. It makes our job very worthwhile.

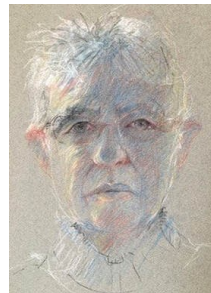
Things are slowly opening up and we will begin to hold our life/portrait sessions again at the United Church, while a new poetry group is meeting on a regular basis (see website for details). So we are moving slowly forward, and we hope next year will be a truly exciting one for us all.

So let's look forward to next and a truly celebratory season. Viva 2021!

Angela

King Lear Prize: Success for CA Members

We're delighted to announce that Mary Harris has been shortlisted for the King Lear Prize for Art, a national competition for artists over 70 that has been running during the pandemic. The competition was so-named because Shakespeare wrote King Lear through a time of plagues in this country. Mary's self-portrait 'Isolation Depression' is one of just 12 to be selected, out of 4,000 entries.



Another CA member, Stella Mance was also recognised in the competition: Stella Mance was awarded a Highly Commended for her painting 'Bee Heaven'.



Many congratulations to both Mary and Stella. It's lovely to know that the talent of CA members is justly appreciated!

Life and Portrait Drawing Resumes



Drawing by Angela Vernon Bates

We're delighted to announce that from Monday, 28th September, our life and portrait drawing sessions will resume at The United Church. This is possible as they fall under the banner of 'education' and so are not subject to the 'rule of six'. Full health precautions will be in place, however, and details of these are available on our website.

The dates are as follows:

- Monday 28th Sept Life
- Monday 5th Oct Portrait
- Thursday 8th Oct Life
- Monday 26th Oct Life

and thereafter the same pattern ie 1st Monday of the month, 2nd Thursday of each month and 4th Monday of each month.

Please email richard.nottingham@btinternet.com or call 01892 852681 to book a place, or for more details.

And Now for Something Completely Different



Angela in her treatment room near Wadhurst

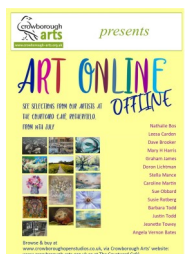
Steering Group member Gaye Jee recently visited CA member and Gong Master Angela Mason for a gong bath treatment. She explains the "bath" aspect refers to the experience of being "bathed" in sound. She says, "It's completely different to anything I've experienced before and

I'd recommend it to anyone. I came away feeling completely renewed and refreshed."

At some point in the future, when such things are allowed, we'll be inviting Angela to do a demonstration and to talk about her work. You can find out more about Gaye's experience, and how to contact Angela, on our website.

Art Online - Last Few Days

Our Art Online exhibition - created as we were unable to run Open Studios this year - has been extended as some works are displayed at The Courtyard Café in Rotherfield. The Courtyard is now open for business, so do drop in for a coffee or lunch, or visit CrowboroughOpenStudios.co.uk to see the full range of work.



Opening the Memory Box

Autobiography, biography, memoirs, family history, life writing: there is no end of interest in these fields at present and one that extends far beyond the famous and their experiences. It was with these thoughts in mind that our in-house writer, Gaye Jee, came up with the idea of helping people to recapture their own memories and turn them into memoirs to share with their families. Her service is called **Memory Box** and I recently had the opportunity to talk to her about it.

She explained to me that, some years ago while studying for a Masters degree in Creative Writing, she engaged in a project writing about her own family's experiences in the East End of London during the first part of the 20th century. She began with familiar family stories, and then interviewed the older members of her family to flesh these out. She found the more they talked about the significant events in their lives, the more they remembered – the actual act of recalling the past unlocked more stories and more detail. To learn more, I asked her how she envisaged the process unfolding.

"It would be very much a two-way thing - we would schedule a series of sessions to explore the aspects of their lives that they want to recall. I would hope to form a personal bond with my clients and, if possible visit them in their own homes, although we could meet remotely if necessary."

Gaye went on to explain that she would meet up with a prospective client for an initial, free, discussion with a view to scoping and focusing the work on the story the client wants to tell.

How long would it take and what would it cost? Gaye envisages around ten to twelve 90-minute sessions, spaced at least a week apart. Pricing would be agreed in advance, based on the number of sessions.

If the client wanted to turn their memoir into a book, with photographs or other illustrations, Gaye is able to offer that service at an additional cost. However, the client would very much 'direct' the process to ensure they get exactly what they want - material they want to share with their families and friends.

Gaye is currently looking for a "guinea pig" and would be happy to offer her first 'Memory Box' client a substantial discount for the interview process and preparation of a first draft of the manuscript, plus the free initial meeting to discuss content and what they're looking for.

If you've encountered Gaye's work before, one thing you can be certain of is that she will produce a fine piece of writing worthy of the teller. So, if you're interested in becoming the **Memory Box** "guinea pig", please contact her at gaye.jee@clara.co.uk or call her on 07799 842244 or 01892 853294.

Christine Roberts

Have You Been Framed? If Not ...

Crowborough Arts has been given a selection of frames which might be useful to some of you. Mostly they are glazed and would only be suitable for watercolour or pastel as there is no rebate to hold a canvas. Some are traditional black/gold but there are one or two wooden ones that can be painted. Some have paintings in them which you'll have to remove.



There is also a small number of oil paints - colours fairly limited but although they are old they have not been used and the tubes are still soft in spite of a little oil seepage.. Also a large piece of primed canvas on a roll for those of you that stretch your own.

If you're interested let me know angelavb@waitrose.com but please don't ask me for details, you must come and look.

Angela Vernon Bates

Bursary News

Rebecca Lindsay, who has just completed her PhD at the University of Reading, was awarded a CA bursary in 2017 to assist with expenses to attend the world's largest children's literature conference.

Rebecca writes: "With the support of the Crowborough Arts Bursary, I was able to go to Canada to present my paper on 'The Real and the Ideological Child' at the International Research Society for Children's Literature Congress 2017. This was such an incredible experience as a first year PhD student, and I could not have done it without this bursary. Thank you so much!

I have now submitted my thesis, 'Psychoanalytic Readings of Language, the Unconscious, and the Desire for the Object', which looks at various critical theories, literature and psychoanalysis. I have included a special thanks to Crowborough Arts in my thesis acknowledgements page for your generosity."

We send Rebecca many congratulations, and look forward to addressing her as Dr Lindsay!



Gaye worked as a commercial copywriter before turning to fiction and has written many short stories and plays, including the three murder mystery productions put on by CA. She recently published a children's book, 'Seven Sardines for Stan', illustrated by Mary Harris, and has had several pieces broadcast on BBC Radio Kent.

