

**2018 promises to be even more action-packed** than previous years: In addition to an all-time high in our membership numbers, we have a record number of fascinating talks, Open Studios, wonderful music and a brilliant murder mystery evening to look forward to, as well as our regular workshops including life and portrait drawing sessions, Playreaders and Booklovers. We've launched a new ticket price to encourage younger people to attend our events held at The Green Lane Music Room: anyone between the ages of 15 and 25 is eligible to buy a ticket for our music or performance events for just £5, providing they are accompanied by an adult paying for a full price ticket. Another innovation is a new website devoted to Open Studios: [www.crowboroughopenstudios.co.uk](http://www.crowboroughopenstudios.co.uk). You can access it directly, or via a link from [www.crowborough-arts.org.uk](http://www.crowborough-arts.org.uk). We look forward to seeing you at one or more of our events!

## It's Time To Apply for your Art in the Garden Pass!

Last year over 30 Crowborough Arts members took advantage of our collaboration with Penshurst Place - free entry to the formal gardens for the purposes of drawing and painting. Some wonderful work was produced - enough to cover a whole wall of the Winter Exhibition at Penshurst's Porcupine Pantry.

Building on the success of 2017, **Art in the Garden** officially launches on Penshurst's Glorious Gardens Weekend on 1st and 2nd June, when the gardens should be at their very best. We plan to have clothed models for you to draw again, and this year we're hoping to spend some time in the 14th century Baron's Hall. Details will be finalised nearer the time. Another project under development is the production of an Art in the Garden calendar, featuring the work of some of our artists. We will sell this to raise funds for CA, and Penshurst Place gift shop are interested in stocking it. It will of course also be available direct. Again, more details soon.

We're now ready to issue this year's passes, absolutely free to our members. So, if you haven't already done so, get in touch with Gaye Jee on 01892 853294 or email [gayejee@clara.co.uk](mailto:gayejee@clara.co.uk) to reserve yours.



## Last Chance to Book for 'Making the Medieval Garden' - 9th March, The Green Lane Music Room



And speaking of gardens, at the time of writing, there are just a handful of tickets left to meet Penshurst Place's Head Gardener, Tony Wiseman. Tony will be talking about the people, the plants and the gardens of the Medieval period. If you'd like to grab one of the last few tickets, (£8 member/£10 non members) call 01892 853294 or email [gaye.jee@clara.co.uk](mailto:gaye.jee@clara.co.uk)

## Robin Takes his Bow Once Again

International cellist Robin Michael is returning to the Green Lane Music Room on 20th April for a solo recital. He will play Bach's Cello Suites no 1 and 3 and the amazing Sonata for cello, op 8 by Kodaly. Tickets, priced at £12 for members, £15 for non-members and £5 for students, are available from Angela on 01892 664534 or email [angelavb@waitrose.com](mailto:angelavb@waitrose.com). We're bound to sell out, so get yours now!



# OPEN STUDIOS

## 1st & 2nd September 2018

We're already busy preparing for this year's Open Studios which take place on **Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd September**. This is a great event for everyone! Local artists from all disciplines have the opportunity to exhibit and sell their work, while visitors enjoy a fun day out for all the family - completely free!

If you would like to join us, please do get in touch - **the final date for applications is 20th April**. If you don't have anywhere to exhibit your work, don't worry - we will try to find a venue for you, perhaps sharing with another artist. Or, even if you're not exhibiting yourself, but you have a space which might be suitable to display the work of one or more of our artists, eg a summer house, shed, garage or gazebo, we'd love to hear from you! Go to the Open Studio website ([crowboroughopenstudios.co.uk](http://crowboroughopenstudios.co.uk)) for more details, or if you have general questions, please email Jane Smith at [janemanchoo@btinternet.com](mailto:janemanchoo@btinternet.com).

## Summer Comes Before Spring: Guitar Recital by Eleftheria Kotzia

The skill and brio of Ellie's performance on 17th February gave so much pleasure to the audience, who loved her relaxed manner and insightful introductions to each piece she played.

We were taken on a tour of the Mediterranean, with music, sometimes personal - sometimes political - from Greece (Ellie's homeland); Iran, a Persian Ballad - an exquisite jewel-like love song with much use of harmonics; France, arrangements of two French songs; and of course, Spain. The well known '*Asturias*' by Albeniz and fiery '*Invocacion y Danza*' by Rodrigo displayed much use of tremolo and *rasgueado* Flamenco technique, which gave the music a dramatically different dynamic and true Spanish flavour.

It was an exciting evening, and with several Greek and Greek speaking members of the audience there was a lot of animated post-concert discussion.

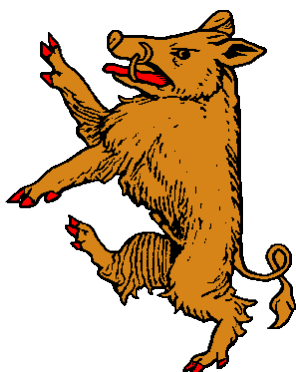
Angela Vernon Bates



# You're Invited to be a Party to Murder!

Lots of our members have asked when we're going to put on another murder mystery event, following the successful and popular "Murder at St Vernons" back in 2016. Well we've bitten the bullet (no, that's not a clue!) and have arranged another one!

The hilarious "Murder at Wyldboare Hall", once again written by CA Steering Group member Gaye Jee, and performed by professional murder mystery company *The Company Upfront*, will be produced at The Kings Arms in Rotherfield on Saturday, June 23rd. The evening will commence with a complimentary glass of fizz while mingling with members of the Wyldboare-Swill family: the eccentric inventor Lord Algernon Wyldboare, his imperious wife Lady Patience and wayward daughter Araminta. You'll also meet some of Wyldboare's somewhat motley staff including the dodgy Julian, secretive ex-military man Dickie, and downtrodden char, Mrs Cascara. Over dinner, the events leading to a dastardly murder will be played out. You'll be invited to question the suspects before your team completes their answer form to name the murderer and the reasons behind the crime.



*A satisfied customer from our last production wrote: "What a fabulous afternoon we all had ... as a group we have done lots of murder mysteries but we unanimously agreed that this was the best of them all."*

Tickets are £35 for CA members and £38 for non-members, to include a glass of fizz, and two course buffet meal.

We sold out last time, so reserve your places now by emailing [Gaye.jee@clara.co.uk](mailto:Gaye.jee@clara.co.uk) or calling 01892 853294.

## Life Drawing Live with The Royal Academy

As part of 'From Life', its celebration of life drawing, the Royal Academy attempted something new: the first ever live-streamed life drawing class. Led by contemporary portrait artist, Jonathan Yeo, artists from anywhere were invited to sit at their computers and access the website and draw the male model in a variety of poses from two minutes in length to twenty minutes. At least three CA members participated in this class including myself and Mary Harris, convener of our own Crowborough Arts life drawing sessions.

In most respects this 'new technology' style of class was not so different from any other life class except, I would say, in terms of the lighting. I personally found the rather strong 'chiaroscuro' effect of the lighting was a little demanding on the eyes, as was concentrating on a screen for an hour. However, I felt just as engaged in the drawing process.

As Crowborough Arts members we are very lucky to have access on a regular basis to life drawing (and portrait) classes, convened by Mary Harris. Models of all types are provided and although these sessions are untutored, there is plenty of opportunity to talk to your fellow artists about your work. See our website for details of our life and portrait sessions.

The RA's exhibition, 'From Life' is showing in the RA's Sackler Gallery until 11<sup>th</sup> March.



## Life Drawing Tutorials with Ashleigh Fisk

Thursday 12th April & Saturday 21st April, 10 am - 1 pm  
The United Church, Croft Road, Crow-

**Ashleigh Fisk** is a young local artist, currently studying for a BA at The Slade School of Fine Art. Her first life drawing session for Crowborough Arts proved so popular and successful, we've invited her back!

**Cost per session: £15**

**Contact [m.h.harris@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:m.h.harris@hotmail.co.uk) to book a place.**



### Dates for Your Diary:

**Sunday, 25th February, 3 pm: Crowborough Arts AGM**, Green Cottage, Green Lane, TN6 2DF. RSVP to Angela on 01892 664534 or email [angelavb@waitrose.com](mailto:angelavb@waitrose.com)

**Monday, 26th February, 9.30 am - 12.45 pm: Life Drawing** - United Church Hall, Croft Road, Crowborough, TN6 1HA. £10 members/£12 non-members. Contact Mary H Harris or call 01892 653487

**Monday, 5th March, 10 am - 12 noon: Portraits** - United Church Hall, Croft Road, Crowborough, TN6 1HA. £7 members/£8 non-members. Contact Mary H Harris or call 01892 653487

**Thursday, 8th March, 9.30 am - 12.45 pm: Life Drawing**, United Church Hall, Croft Road, Crowborough, TN6 1HA. £10 members/£12 non-members. Contact Mary H Harris or call 01892 653487

**Thursday, 8th March, 7.30 pm: Play Readers, *Dancing at Lughnasa*** by Brian Friel. Contact Julia Ball on 01892 655505 or Christine Roberts on 01892 853159.

**Friday, 9th March, 7.30 pm: 'Making the Medieval Garden'** - a talk by Tony Wiseman, Head Gardener at Penshurst Place. The Green Lane Music Room, Crowborough. £8 members/£10 non-members. Call 01892 853294 or email [gaye.jee@clara.co.uk](mailto:gaye.jee@clara.co.uk).

**Thursday, 15th March, 7.30 pm: Booklovers.** Share a book you've enjoyed and get recommendations from others. Contact Christine Roberts on 01892 853159 for more details.

**Monday, March 26th, 9.30 - 12.45: Life Drawing** - The United Church, Hall, Croft Road, Crowborough, TN6 1HA. Call 01892 653487/email [m.h.harris@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:m.h.harris@hotmail.co.uk)

**Thursday, 12th April, 10.00 - 1 pm: Life Drawing Tutorial with Ashleigh Fisk.** United Church Hall, Croft Road, Crowborough, TN6 1HA. £15. Contact Mary H Harris or call 01892 653487

**Friday, 20th April, 7.30 pm: Cello Recital from Robin Michael** - The Green Lane Music Room. £12 members/£15 non-members/£5 students. Call 01892 664535 or email [angelavb@waitrose.com](mailto:angelavb@waitrose.com)

**Saturday, 21st April, 10.00 - 1 pm: Life Drawing Tutorial with Ashleigh Fisk.** United Church Hall, Croft Road, Crowborough, TN6 1HA. £15. Contact Mary H Harris or call 01892 653487

**Thursday, 10th May, 9.30 am - 12.45 pm: Life Drawing** United Church Hall, Croft Road, Crowborough, TN6 1HA. £10 members/£12 non-members. Contact Mary H Harris or call 01892 653487

**Monday, 4th Jun, 10 am - 12 noon: Portraits** - United Church Hall, Croft Road, Crowborough, TN6 1HA. £7 members/£8 non-members. Contact Mary H Harris or call 01892 653487

**Saturday, 9th June, 7.30: Rudyard Kipling - His Life & Verse:** A talk by Geoff Hutchinson. More details to follow.

**Saturday, 23rd June, 7.30: 'Murder at Wyldboare Hall':** fund-raising murder mystery dinner at The Kings Arms, Rotherfield. £35 members/£38 non-members. Call 01892 853294 or email [Gaye.jee@clara.co.uk](mailto:Gaye.jee@clara.co.uk)