

Celebrating our Tenth Birthday!

2010 - 2020

www.crowborough-arts.org.uk

Dear Crowborough Arts member

It seems almost unbelievable that as recently as the end of February we published our first newsletter of 2020, announcing exciting plans for the celebration of our tenth birthday. We had so many great events planned - including music from The Leon Quartet and folk dance band Stepling, another of our popular murder mystery evenings, 'Art in the Garden' at Penshurst Place, our annual garden party, Open Studios, the ZRI Band with their 'Adventures with Charlie Chaplin'... the list goes on.

Of course, everything was put on hold a month later, and, like everyone else, we had to adapt. The first thing we did was to turn the website into a space to celebrate the work and achievements of our members. We were delighted with the response - paintings, poems, videos and projects came pouring in. To keep the page looking fresh, and to make way for new contributions, items were archived after a couple of weeks. However, we wanted to create a permanent record of everything we were sent, so it's all still there: just click on 'Archive' underneath the 'Home' tab.

On July 1st we launched our second major initiative: Art Online. We were so sorry one of our flagship events - Open Studios - wasn't able to go ahead that we offered members who'd signed up the opportunity to take part in an online exhibition and sale of work. Over a dozen artists took up the challenge and sent in images of their work, together with information about pricing and dimensions etc, so potential buyers could come as close as possible to experiencing the real thing. At the time of writing, at least three artists have made sales via Art Online, which is great news - and hopefully, just the beginning! And now we can announce that a selection of work from our artists will be on display at The Courtyard Café in Rotherfield until September: -Art Online - Offline! - This will be a revolving exhibition, so plenty of reason to visit several times for coffee and cake!

If you haven't had a look at Art Online yet, please do so at www.crowboroughopenstudios.co.uk. Of course, our artists would love you to make a purchase, but it's also important to CA as an organisation that our websites are visited by as many people as possible; it gives us a real sense that everyone's still out there! So, please also visit our main website at www.crowborough-arts.org.uk. It's had a bit of a makeover in the last few weeks, with lots of new items, including news about a collaboration between artist Mary Harris and writer and Steering Group member Gaye Jee to produce a children's picture book, *Seven Sardines for Stan*. There's also a new painting from Caroline Hobbs, and a wonderfully unusual poem, *Shape Shifter*, from Laura Appleby.

Of course, as the lockdown eases (and continues to ease, we hope!) we're itching to get on with planning events, most importantly, re-booking the performers planned for this year. However, performances at the Green Lane Music Room will not be possible for the foreseeable future, due to lack of space for social distancing. We may therefore have to begin paying to hire larger venues, which we have rarely done in the past. This will mean that we can support our performers/musicians by paying the previously agreed fee, even if it means that Crowborough Arts will make a loss. That way, our members will enjoy live performance - when such things are allowed - and musicians etc will continue to receive a decent income from us.

Lastly, we hope you're all keeping well, and thank you for continuing to support Crowborough Arts. Hopefully it won't be too much longer before we're all together enjoying the creativity CA was set up to celebrate.

With best wishes

Angela Vernon Bates
Chair

