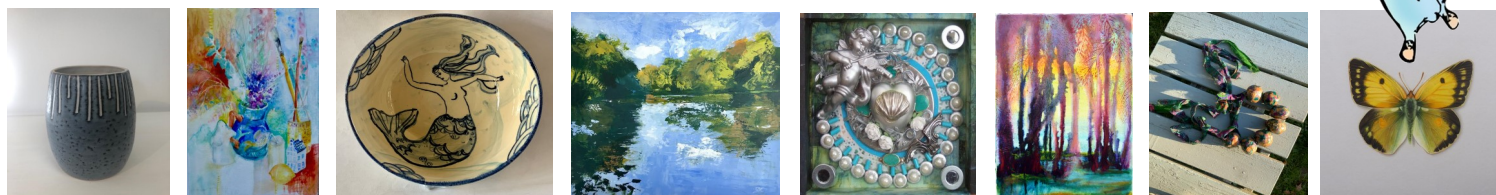


## ARTISTS' & MAKERS' DIRECTORY

*Unique Gifts Created Locally*



**It's not too late** to browse the wonderful selection on offer from our members and collect before Christmas! Support your local arts community *and* buy local - it's a no-brainer! Just go to our website to snap up some of the unique pieces on offer - including paintings, prints, ceramics, jewellery - even creative writing classes, gong therapy or the chance to give the gift of a memoir writing service. Solve your present conundrums now by visiting [www.crowborough-arts.co.uk](http://www.crowborough-arts.co.uk)



A selection from our Artists' & Makers' Directory

## The End of an Extraordinary Year

In spite of not being able to share our 10th birthday in the way we had planned and hoped to do, we still managed to overcome lockdowns and tier systems to bring everyone some activities over the year. Although most events were online we even squeezed in some live activities as well! The website was redesigned to act as a showcase for members' work and news, and this is updated regularly, with older items being placed in the Archive section, to provide a permanent record of these extraordinary times.

Beginning with the visual arts: in the break between lockdowns, figure drawing sessions were set up in Julia Ball's lovely garden during the hottest part of the Summer, forcing both artists and model into the shade. Everyone loved the venue and drawing outside. When the United Church re-opened, the life and portrait sessions were resumed there, run by Richard Nottingham, but sadly only for a few weeks as the lockdown closed in on us once again.

Artists who had signed up for Open Studios this year were invited to display their work in 'Art Online' - a virtual exhibition. This worked well and several pictures were sold. As an offshoot of this, we had 'Art Online/Offline!' - a live art show at the Courtyard Cafe in Rotherfield, featuring work from the website. Organised by Leesa Carden, the work was rotated to include as many artists as possible, give the limited space. Sadly, for personal reasons, the Café had to close for a period, so we extended the online exhibition to run concurrently with the live one.

The Poetry Group, run by Christine, was successful in providing both live and Zoom meetings, and the 'Inspired by Art' workshop drew some wonderful and interesting results - all of which are still available on our website - and showcased some real talent among our members. The Booklovers Group were also able to continue to meet online - thanks to Zoom - and Gaye organised a series of 'Mini-Newsletters'.

The year finished with the On-line Artists' and Makers' Directory - a showcase for members to advertise their work and services in time for Christmas. This ran alongside our Christmas Card Competition - three designs were chosen and cards are now on sale (*see over*).

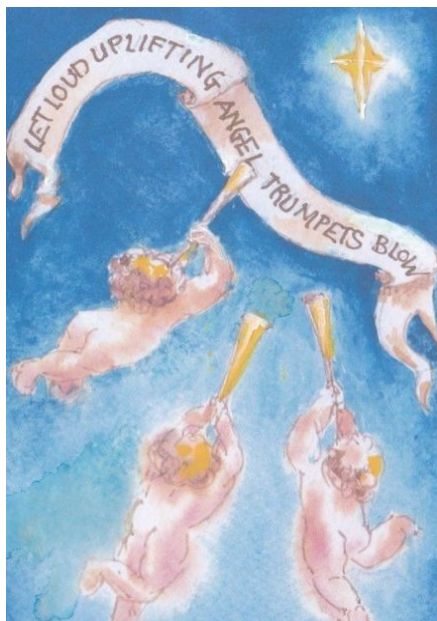
Sadly, all musical events had to be cancelled because of the COVID restrictions and I miss seeing you at Green Cottage. However with a little daylight ahead I'll be rebooking most of the performances for next year, and we also hope to be able to host our ever popular Open Studios weekend in 2021.

Thank you for all your support over the last months and here's to a Happier New Year for us all!



Angela Vernon Bates, Chair

## Christmas Cards Competition - Winners' designs available to buy now!



(L to R) Karen Webster, Angela Vernon Bates & Mary Hazel Harris

This year, it seems that many of us are turning back to the tradition of sending Christmas cards, turning the trend of the ubiquitous greeting via email or e-card. As so many of us are unable to see friends and family, a physical card is a good way of showing you're thinking about them. With this thought in mind, we decided to hold a Christmas card competition, and to use the three most striking designs to send each of our members a personal greeting. We were delighted to receive over 30 entries - there was a vast range of styles and it was difficult to short-list the final six. The three winners were selected by an independent professional designer.

We were so pleased with the winning designs, we had extra printed so they could be made available for members to buy. Over half have been sold already, but it's not too late to get your order in! The cards measure 6" x 4" and have a simple 'Happy Christmas' message inside. They are £5 for a pack of 6, and you can choose from all the same design, or mixed designs with two of each in a pack.

You can pick up in Crowborough or Rotherfield, or if you have difficulty getting out, we can deliver locally at no extra cost.

If you would like to buy place an order, please email Gaye at [gaye.jee@clara.co.uk](mailto:gaye.jee@clara.co.uk) or call her on 01892 853294.

## Donate Alongside CA to Restore a Very Special Instrument!

Crowborough Arts received an appeal from Trudy Harper, on behalf of her father, Roger Taylor, who has lived in East Sussex for over 40 years. Roger is now 85 and lives in High Broom Care Home in Crowborough.

Trudy writes, 'In my garage is a very special but rather sad and dilapidated pianola which predates 1910. It has been a very special machine in our family and has lived in many different homes. It featured in all family celebrations as Dad peddled like fury to the strains of 'Daisy Daisy', 'Get me to the Church on Time' and 'The Dashing White Sergeant'.



Trudy has launched an appeal to raise £2,000 for the restoration of the pianola, so that it can be rehomed to High Broom for the entertainment of all the residents. She says, 'We would love to see Dad peddle away again ... please help us raise the funds to restore a little piece of history and give the High Broom Community a Christmas Gift to remember and share and get the twinkle back in a rather eccentric octogenarian's eyes.'



Crowborough Arts is delighted to donate £300 to such a great cause. If you would like to make an independent donation, please go to the GoFundMe page: [gf.me/u/y6dwii](https://www.gofundme.com/u/y6dwii).