



www.crowborough-arts.org.uk

It's all change for the New Year at Crowborough Arts! Well, not really *all* change - we're the same team as ever, but we do have a new logo - one that we thought looked a bit fresher and more contemporary. And our big news is that Co-Chair, Angela Vernon Bates is stepping down as lead on Open Studios, although she will still be very much in evidence in organising music and other events. Angela's replacement is artist Sandy Infield, who has been a mainstay of Open Studios for several years. For those of you who don't know her, Sandy introduces herself below. And we're open for OS applications already - so do get in touch if you'd like to take part.

Meet Sandy Infield ...



After more than ten successful years organising and running Crowborough Arts' Open Studios, Angela is stepping down, although she will continue as co-chair of CA. She's done an incredible job, and I'm so grateful she's invited me to take over this year.

A little bit about me: I'm a fine art painter and printmaker, currently exhibiting at the Chalk Gallery in Lewes and running Black Shed Studios in Fairwarp. I trained moons ago at the Slade School of Fine Art in London. Since then, I've worked and

exhibited around the world. Along the way, I've done teacher training in Bangkok, assisted in a ceramics studio, and even painted murals on café walls and bathroom ceilings!

What I love most about art is how it brings people together, and that's what makes Open Studios so special. I'm coming into this role with a lot of energy and excitement, and my aim is to make this year's event as inspiring and successful as ever.

I'm really looking forward to meeting everyone, hearing your ideas, and working together to celebrate the incredible creativity in our community. Here's to another wonderful year of Crowborough Open Studios!

Make Your Voice Heard at our AGM!

Our **Annual General Meeting** will take place at 3 pm on Sunday, March 2nd, at the Green Lane Music Room. It's a great opportunity for our members to get together to hear what we've been up to over the past 12 months, and to find out what's coming up. And of course to see old friends, and perhaps make new contacts.

Do you have any artistic projects or ideas that you'd like to share? Please do join us - we're always looking for new inspiration and people who'd like to take an active part in CA.

Please let us know if you can make it! RSVP by 24th February to Angela at avbiq@icloud.com



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Calling all

ARTISTS & MAKERS

- professional or amateur -

Would you like to exhibit and sell your work?

Join Crowborough Arts' OPEN STUDIOS WEEKEND

Please visit www.crowborough-arts.org.uk for full details and an entry form

Closing date for entries: 1st April 2025



LIFE DRAWING & PORTRAIT SESSIONS

Would you like to come along to our relaxed, friendly, pay-as-you-go sessions with good parking nearby? See diary dates overleaf, and come along to The Scout Hut, Whitehill Road, Crowborough

More info from: [richardnottingham49@gmail](mailto:richardnottingham49@gmail.com)



Faronel Review



Faronel are (l to r): Michael Withers, Ruth Force & David Force

A cold, wet, windy afternoon was not a good day for a concert - but although all seats were sold and we had a waiting list for cancellations, no one failed to turn up. And how right they were!

I had asked the three musicians to bring many instruments to play, demonstrate and talk about music from the Mediaeval and Renaissance period. They managed to bring 19 in all- and it was a delight to see and hear the unusual sounds that some of them made.

The trio sang, played and talked with such enthusiasm they delighted everyone and during the interval they had no break as they were besieged by members of the audience who wanted a closer look It was a memorable afternoon and was enjoyed by everyone.

Angela Vernon Bates

Update on The Martlets

The end of the year was a busy time for The Martlets Community Folk Chorus and Band. On December 28th, we wassailed the apple trees on the Millennium Green in Rotherfield, and having banished whatever evil spirits that lurk in the apple trees back we spent the rest of the evening making music in the back bar of the Kings Head.

A week later, we were in St Denys' church for 'A Feast of Fools' - our annual concert for The Rotherfield Protection Group. It was somewhat of a last-minute turn-around of performers, as choir leader Alessandra Testai was unwell, so Gaye Jee stepped in to assist the singers. However, Gaye had lost her voice, so Christine Roberts kindly and very ably took over in reading Gaye's ghost story!

A high spot of the evening was a traditional Mummers' Play, performed by members of The Martlets, with leader Robin Jeffrey as a fearsome Turkish Knight! The evening was completed by solos from violinist Ellie Gingell, together with songs from Alex Jeffrey and Brian Gulland, who also joined the band on bassoon and harmonium.

We have more exciting performances coming up, with a return to NT Batemans booked in, together will appearances at Michelham Priory and other venues in the offing. Watch this space!



The Martlets Band at The Kings Head on our wassailing evening! Choir members waiting their turn in the foreground.

THE FERDINAND TRIO

Friday, 28th February, 7.30pm at
The Green Lane Music Room



Nicola Eimer - Piano
Florence Cooke - Violin
Christoph Richter - Cello

Members £20
Others £23
From avbiq@icloud.com

*These internationally acclaimed musicians will play
Schumann -Trio in F Major; Henze - Adagio Adagio;
Mendelssohn -Trio in C minor*

All Aboard for Towrag

At the beginning of November, we dipped our toes into the choppy waters of 'grog-fuelled shanty punk', when pirate-themed band **Towrag** played at The Kings Arms, Rotherfield. The pub was crammed for a Wednesday night and everyone enjoyed the energetic and sometimes tongue-in-cheek treatment of traditional shanties and other ocean-going material.



A collection was taken in aid of Folly Wildlife Rescue, and before you could say, 'Ahoy there!', we'd raised nearly £250, thanks to the generosity of the audience. People are already asking when the band will be back, and the answer is 'soon'! We're just tying up a few loose ends before announcing a date.

Dates for your Diary

Life Drawing: February 13th, 24th; March 13th, 24th; April 17th, 28th; May 15th

9.30 - 12.15, £14 members, £16 others.

Details from Richard at richardnottingham49@gmail.com

Portrait Drawing: February 3rd, March 3rd, April 7th

10.00 - 12.00. £12 members, £14 others.

All Life & Portrait sessions at Scout HQ, Whitehill Rd, Crowborough, TN6 1RJ. Details from Richard at richardnottingham49@gmail.com

Martlets Folk Choir

Regular rehearsals: January 30th; February 6th, 13th, 27th; March 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th

All sessions 7.00 pm at The Scout Hut, North Street, Rotherfield £6 (members) £8 (non-members) per session.

Details from gaye.jee@clara.co.uk or call 01892 853294

February 28th: The Ferdinand Trio

7.30, The Green Lane Music Room. £20 members, £23 others.

Bookings: avbiq@icloud.com

AGM: March 3rd, 3.00

The Green Lane Music Room

All members welcome - RSVP avbiq@icloud.com

Full details of all events at www.crowborough-arts.org.uk