

How lovely to be able to do what CA was created to do! Our activities finally commenced once again with our best ever Open Studios at the beginning of September, with over 40 artists exhibiting in 14 different venues. This was followed smartly with 'Inspired by Art', (a music and poetry evening) and 'ZRI's Adventures with Charlie Chaplin' which combined a fantastically lively concert with a screening of a classic Chaplin film. We were delighted by the positive comments we received about all three events, the first that many of our members had attended since lockdown was lifted. We've got a couple more concerts coming up this year (see below) and are busy planning next year, which we hope to fill with unusual and uplifting events. Onwards and upwards!

ETRUSCA
Music for Christmas
 Saturday, 4th December, 7.30pm
 The Green Lane Music Room

Pre-booked tickets only from angelavb@waitrose.com
 Members £15 | Others £18 First drink free, then by cash donation

Happy Birthday to Us - At Last!

Our new season of post-lockdown musical events was opened by the amazingly versatile ZRI Band, providing the accompaniment to the Charlie Chaplin film "The Adventurer".

Held at Crowborough Community Centre with its cinema-size screen, a large audience enjoyed the hilarious film, together with the wonderful music and additional songs from the band.

This event had been planned for CA's 10th birthday celebrations in 2020, which of course had to be cancelled, but we were lucky enough to be able to re-book the musicians for this year. At the end of the concert, by special request, the band played 'Happy Birthday' to finally celebrate our 11th anniversary.

Everyone commented on how special and entertaining the evening had been and how good it was both to celebrate Crowborough Arts' birthday and to hear live music again.



Lockdown Poetry Unlocked

On 17th September, we held our very first Crowborough Arts poetry reading and music evening, 'Inspired by Art' in 'Four Seasons Barn', at the home of Grant and Vanessa Bradford. The poetry group was started by Christine Roberts at the beginning of the first lockdown, and most of our meetings in 2020 were conducted via Zoom. The initial course created by Christine was on the subject of 'ekphrastic poetry', ie poetry inspired by another art-form, in this case paintings and sculptures. We have gone on to meet monthly and now write to a pre-agreed theme, but the 'Inspired By Art' evening showcased the ekphrastic poetry written during our first few meetings.

The readers were Laura Appleby, Di Hills, Gaye Jee, Barbara Murray and of course Christine Roberts. Images of the artworks that had provided the inspiration were projected during the readings, and the folk-inspired duo 'Intarsia' provided rousing musical interludes. We were so pleased with the positive reception from the audience, we're hoping to do it again in 2022. Watch this space!

New Singers For Old Songs

While out on a walk in the countryside around Rotherfield earlier this year, Gaye Jee and Alessandra Testai came up with the idea of introducing the traditional songs of Sussex to our members. We wanted to reflect the way songs would have been shared in times past, with everyone learning by ear and no singing experience necessary - in fact the richer the mixture of different voices, the better! Autumn seemed like an appropriate time of year to plan the workshop, and so in late October, around 25 of us got together for a hugely enjoyable few hours learning 'The Old Songs of Sussex' with Alessandra and her husband, Robin Jeffrey. The workshop concluded with a brief performance of what we'd learned - and positive feedback from attendees has encouraged us to think about forming a more regular choir to perform this repertoire. More information to follow, and additional members welcome!

"ALL BY MOUTH"

An Evening with Jeni Barnett

Friday, 4th February 2022, 7.30pm The Green Lane Music Room

Known in 'The Business' as 'The Mouth', Jeni is a renowned actress, television presenter and voice artist.

Her TV appearances include stints on 'Loose Women', 'Great Food Live' and ITV's 'Too Many Cooks', plus too many more to mention.

At 72 she claims to be 'over the hill, under the radar and just round the corner from Crowborough!'



Book your tickets now for a rare opportunity to be entertained and informed by the biggest personality in East Sussex!

Pre-booked tickets only from gaye.jee@clara.co.uk or call 01892 853294

Members £10 | Others £12 First drink free, then by cash donation

Welcome Back to Open Studios



This year saw a welcome return for our annual Open Studios Exhibition after a two-year gap. Over 40 artists took part, and we were specially pleased to welcome a group of seven new artists from Fairwarp, and all new members who took part. Not forgetting our faithful regulars, of course!

Several artists exhibited together in large hubs which made it easier for visitors to get round most of the venues, and also helped artists who live outside the town to exhibit more locally. A wide range of work was displayed, including pottery, raku, paintings, drawings, woodcuts, lino-prints, jewelry and papier-mâché and textiles. A lot of work was sold as visitors enjoyed visiting the studios in the warm sunshine.

Get Your Crowborough Arts Christmas Cards!

We have some cards left over from last year for just £2.50 a pack! See our website for more details.



Winter Exhibition Launch at Penshurst Place



A good crowd attended the launch of our Winter Exhibition at The Porcupine Pantry on Friday 19th November, and it was lovely to see old friends meeting up, as well as new faces. David Tate OBE and his wife Jenny, CA's patrons, welcomed everyone, and Philip Sidney, son of Lord and Lady De L'Isle, spoke on behalf of Penshurst Place.

We were delighted by the variety and quality of work that was submitted and although we didn't have room for quite all the pictures, we were able to hang at least one from every artist.

This is the seventh exhibition we've held in the Pantry, thanks to the generosity of the Penshurst estate. Everyone agreed that we were so grateful that this, and other events, could go ahead this year, after the cultural desert that was 2020.

Penshurst is holding a Christmas Market on Saturday, 18th December and CA has a stall showcasing work from our members. We'd love to see you there - there'll be lots to enjoy, including all the Penshurst Farmers' Market stalls, and lots more unique seasonal offerings including gifts and wreathes etc. Make sure it's in your diary!

Dates for Your Diary:

November 27th: The Pasqualati Quartet play Beethoven

7.30, The Green Lane Music Room
£15 members, £20 non members
Email: angelavb@waitrose.com

December 4th: Etrusca

Our Christmas concert with Alessandra Testai & Robin Jeffrey
7.30, The Green Lane Music Room.
£15 members, £18 non-members
Bookings: angelavb@waitrose.com

December 6th: Portrait Drawing

10.00 - 12.00, The United Church, Croft Road, Crowborough, TN6 1HA
£10 members, £12 non-members.
Email: richardnottingham49@gmail.com

December 9th: Life Drawing

9.30 - 12.30, The United Church, Croft Road, Crowborough, TN6 1HA
£12 members, £14 non-members
Email: richardnottingham49@gmail.com

December 18th: CA Stall at Penshurst Christmas Market

9.00 - 2.00, The Porcupine Pantry, Penshurst Place, TN11 8DG

4th February 2022: 'All by Mouth' - An Evening with Jeni Barnett

7.30, The Green Lane Music Room
£10 members, £12 non-members
Bookings: Call 01892 853294 or email gaye.jee@clara.co.uk

8th May 2022: Daniel Tong (Piano)

The Green Lane Music Room - more details tba

19th November 2022: Laura Snowden (Classical guitar)

The Green Lane Music Room - more details tba

More details of all events at www.crowborougharts.org.uk