

CENTREPIECES

Mental Health Arts Project

Registered Charity 1160300

CENTREPIECES ARTISTS UPDATE

DECEMBER 2018 / JANUARY 2019

CENTREPIECES 20th ANNIVERSARY ! THE YEAR AHEAD

Next year will be Centrepieces' 20th Anniversary, the fledgling project having started in 1999. We are currently starting to discuss ideas and plans for how to commemorate this occasion using the concept of a 'Journey' to show the development of the project and its artists over the years. We hope to be doing this through our exhibitions and events in 2019. All ideas welcome at this stage.

LODGE CLOSURE OVER XMAS

The last day of Lodge opening is Friday 21st December. It will then be closed until Monday 7th January. Some keyholders and volunteers may attend from time to time to sort the building out, storage, cleaning, roof ladder installation etc over the Xmas/ New Year period.

STABLES GALLERY EXHIBITION MARCH/ APRIL 2019 NEW ARTWORK NEEDED NOW

This exhibition will be installed on Thursday 14th March with a preview on Sat 16th. It will run until Sunday 14th April and come down on Monday 15th. It is important that all artists who wish to submit new work start to do so from now in order to have time to select, catalogue etc. Remember any artwork must not have been submitted before to this gallery. We are thinking of doing a retro part to this 20th Anniversary exhibition that includes work of C/P artists from over the years, with the theme 'Journey'.

LODGE WORKSHOP TIMETABLE (details below timetable)

MONDAY:	SCULPTURE (Indoor Clay/ Other Media)	10:30 – 1:00pm	(Fiona Johansen)
TUESDAY:	ACRYLIC POUR	(to 11 th December) 10:00 – 1:00pm	(Karen Larkin)
TUESDAY	SPIRIT ANIMALS	Jan 2019 10:00 – 1:00pm	(Christie Cassisa)
WEDNESDAY:	PHOTOGRAPHY	10:00 – 12:00pm	(Terry Longley)

THURSDAY:	MIXED MEDIA	Jan 2019	10:30 – 1:00pm	(Merissa Hylton)
FRIDAY:	OPEN STUDIO		10:00 – 1:00pm	(Artist led)
	OUTDOOR SCULPTURE CARVING	Jan 2019	10:30-1:00pm	(Christie)
	CONSTRUCTION	Feb 2019	10:30-1:00pm	(Christie)
	CREATIVE WRITING		1:00 – 3:00pm	(Jo Morris)
SATURDAY:	VARIOUS WORKSHOPS		10:30 – 1:00pm	(Various Tutors)

ART WORKSHOPS

SCULPTURE Fiona continues to run the Indoor sculpture and other modelling workshops on Mondays at £3 per session. Monday sessions do not need to be booked in advance.

Christie will now be running outdoor Sculpture sessions on Fridays in blocks of 3. Cost is £3 per session, the first 3 on 11th, 18th and 25th Jan will be focusing on learning Carving Skills in wood and stone. We now have a second gazebo installed to help in the winter and plan to purchase a second heater. These sessions are bookable in advance so please make sure you contact the Lodge if you are planning on attending. Extra donations may sometimes be needed towards the cost of more expensive materials such as some of the stone. In the second series of workshops on the 1st, 8th and 15th Feb, Christie will be teaching Construction Techniques with wood, wire, upcycled items etc.

WILLIAM KENDAL WORKSHOPS

Some great news, Centrepieces has been successful in its second bid for funding from the WK grant scheme. We applied to undertake 10 blocks of 3 workshops in 2019 and these will be starting in January, initially on Tuesdays. Because of the funding, these workshops will mainly be free but all participants must pay a £5 deposit, returnable on attendance at all 3 sessions in each block.

SPIRIT ANIMALS Christie will be running this first WK block of 3 sessions on Tuesdays 15th, 22nd and 29th January. Animals are used to symbolise peace, power and mystery, and Christie will be teaching skills to honour your own 'spirit animal', painting opaque animal images over atmospheric backgrounds.

MIXED MEDIA WORKSHOPS Our new Tutor Merissa Hylton will be running a block of 3 sessions on Thursdays the 10th, 17th and 24th January, where each participant will be able to create a clay candle holder and cement bowl set, cost £3 per session.

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP This continues to meet Wed 10 -12am at Hall Place Visitors Centre, to discuss photography and plan field trips (£1 donation). Contact Terry Longley, Dawn Tomkins, Neil Butler or Alex Spendley if interested as the venue for meetings can occasionally change.

CREATIVE WRITING Jo Morris continues to run this class on Fridays from 1:00 – 3:00pm, cost £1 per session.

SATURDAY OPENING AT THE LODGE

Opening is normally from 10 – 1pm subject to keyholder/ workshop tutor availability, so do please check to ensure the Lodge is open. Tutored sessions using art materials usually cost £3, externally funded workshops are free. Current planned workshops include quilling, wood burning, lino stamp printing, pebble painting and modelling with polymer clay.

See the website www.centrepieces.org for workshop updates or artists@centrepieces.org email group, or telephone the Lodge on 01322 554 589

ARTWORK IN HALL PLACE GARDENS (THE 'TWELVE') It has been agreed that THE TOTEMS will continue to be displayed in the grounds of Hall Place. FLOTSAM and JETSAM, created by Guy and Kim will be shown in the newly refurbished Erith Exchange at the old Carnegie Library once the building is ready. Guy is talking to the project SWAC about a further recycling project with schools. The Fundraising team are still looking for funding for the two new Breezblock Designs that Guy and Kim have created for the Butterfly Jungle and Jambs Owls at Hall Place.

SOLO/ SMALL GROUP EXHIBITIONS We have booked 3 solo exhibitions for Centrepieces artists in 2019, all at Creek Creative in Faversham, Fiona Johansen and Fatma Durmush in August and Christie Cassisa in October. Let us know if you would like to be considered for a future exhibition.

SLADE GREEN COMMUNITY CENTRE We continue to show work here. Christie and Karen are currently putting together proposals to run Art workshops for people with dementia and their carers (Christie) and Mosaic workshops to create a very large piece for the library within the building (Karen). We will then apply for funding through the Community Centre.

REPTON CONNECT COMMUNITY CENTRE in Ashford. Centrepieces continues to exhibit work here and publicise its activities.

XMAS CARDS 16 cards were produced from 25 submitted, at 60p each or £3 for 6. The quality has been very good this year and they have been selling well. Thanks to all the office staff for the hard work put into making them.

FUNDRAISING

Sidcup Rotary Club has agreed to fund £1K towards the costs of workshops to make the Mosaic Sculpture (BROKEN IS BEAUTIFUL) for the new plinth in Hall Place Gardens once built. They have agreed to give us the rest if within 6 months we are unsuccessful with alternative fundraising.

People of Places and Culture Guy, Rosie and Geoff have been attending meetings to discuss an application to the Arts Council of England from Bexley, which is recognised as an area where people are under engaging in the arts. This will be a very large (£1-2M) partnership bid and is very competitive. We are currently talking to Erith Exchange, it is currently unclear whether the Council will support the bid or which other organisations will form part of the consortium. We will keep you updated on progress.

House of Fraser Fiona, Karen and Geoff recently met with one of the managers in the Bluewater store who approached Centrepieces with view to offering support to us in some way. It was clear that they have a very positive approach to mental health in their workforce. We discussed a range of ideas, and will mostly likely start with a space to exhibit C/P artists work in their store.

Cultural Seeds This is the Mayoral Funding Scheme of between £1-5K to fund grassroots organisations like Centrepieces. At a recent Trustees Meeting in December it was decided to work on a theme of 'The Journey' to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Centrepieces in 2019, and work up some ideas relating to art themes and artists and then submit an application.

Centrepieces as Chosen Charity A class of year 8 students at Bexley Grammar School chose Centrepieces as the Charity about which they will be making a presentation in a competition involving the six classes in their year, the winners receiving £1K for their Charity. So Karen and Fiona went along and met with the class to brief them, explaining what we do in relation to mental health recovery and art. Fingers crossed !

AUCTION 2018 This year's Auction took place at the Erith Exchange in the old Carnegie Library building. We took on the challenge of making it happen in an unfinished space with the builders still very much present and busy. In the end it worked extremely well, over 200 pieces of work were on display hung on exposed brickwork and plaster and the effect was amazing. Centrepieces artists ran workshops in the space in the 2 weeks before the exhibition itself on Sat 1st December while the public were viewing. Many advance bids were made and over 50 attended the auction on the day. 65 pieces sold and takings were in the region of £2.7K, which is the best Centrepieces has ever done. It took a massive effort by all the Centrepieces volunteers to achieve this and we are now starting to discuss what to hold next year and what modifications to make.

BRITTA'S BOOKS Centrepieces Trustee Britta Von Zweigbergk has just written 2 new books, the first entitled 'Tales of Bexley Hospital' which is based on her 'Asylum diaries' of the years she was Head of Art Therapy at the old Bexley hospital. Copies are held at the Lodge, priced at £9.99. Britta's other book, which has input from many people involved with Centrepieces, is about the evolution of the project and art therapy covering a period from the mid 70's to mid 90's. It is Part 1 and called 'Centrepieces, A Story of Mental Health and Art in Bexley'. The first draft should be ready before Xmas.