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# CENTREPIECES ARTISTS UPDATE

# AUGUST - SEPT 2019

### NEW POP UP STUDIOS IN BEXLEYHEATH NOW OPEN !

Centrepieces new space in the old Argos shop in Bexleyheath Broadway is now fully open. There are currently 20 downstairs studio spaces for artists, 18 of which have already been taken. These, combined with a themed exhibition space and featured artist gallery, space for workshops which have already started with an Acrylic Pour run by Karen Larkin, and public opening between 12-2pm every day, represent a big step forward in what Centrepieces can offer its artists, and in the development of the project itself. So a big thanks to the team of artists and volunteers led by Karen and Peter Kent who have worked so hard to achieve this in such a short space of time. When available studio spaces cost Centrepieces artists just £10 per month.

### LODGE WORKSHOP TIMETABLE (details below timetable)

MONDAY: INDOOR SCULPTURE (Mixed Media) 10:30 – 1:00pm (Lucy Thomas)

TUESDAY: EXCITING WAYS WITH PRINTMAKING 1 (Sept)10:00 – 1:00pm (Sue Wieck)

 ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM (Sept/Oct) 10:30 – 1:00pm (Peter Kent)

 MAKING A WOODEN BIRD HOUSE (Oct) 10:30 – 1:00pm (Lucy Thomas)

 EXCITING WAYS WITH PRINTMAKING 2 (Nov) 10:00 – 1:00pm(Sue Wieck)

**WED: PHOTOGRAPHY 10:00 – 12:00pm (Terry Longley)**

**THURSDAY: EMBELLISHMENT ART AND TEXTILES 10:30 – 1:00pm (Lucy Thomas)**

FRIDAY: OPEN STUDIO 10:00 – 1:00pm (All artists)

 OUTDOOR SCULPTURE 10:30-1:00pm (Christie Cassisa)

 CREATIVE WRITING 1:00 – 3:00pm

SATURDAY: VARIOUS WORKSHOPS (AT THE POP UP) 10:30 – 1:00pm (Various Tutors)

ART WORKSHOPS AT THE LODGE (UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED)

SCULPTURE Lucy continues to run weekly Mixed Media sculptural workshops on Monday mornings, working with various media including clay and papier mache, which cost £3 and do not need to be booked in advance.

Christie is restarting Friday morning Outdoor Sculpture Sessions on Fridays from 30th August which will cover all aspects of stone and wood carving according to the interest and development needs of individual artists. These are also on a drop in basis costing £3 per session.

EXCITING WAYS WITH PRINTMAKING Sue Wieck is offering two short courses on a wide range of experimental approaches to printmaking on Tuesday mornings, the first block of 3 is on 3/9, 10/9 and 17/9, the second on 29/10, 5/11 and 12/11/19. These classes need to be booked and paid for in advance, cost £10 per course.

ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM Peter Kent is running 3 Tuesday sessions based around the work of three of the abstract expressionism artists, Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko and Frank Bowling. These will be on 24/9, 1/10 and 8/10/19, costing £10 for the course, to be booked and paid for in advance.

USE OF WOOD TOOLS TO MAKE A BIRD HOUSE Lucy Thomas’s dad Tony will be running two sessions on Tuesday 15th and 22nd October, introducing the basic use of wood tools in creative construction. Cost £8 for the two classes, to be paid in advance.

WILLIAM KENDAL FUNDED WORKSHOPS

The grant to support the programme of workshops free to artists has almost run out. The last in the series will be an Acrylic Pour workshop in August run by Karen Larkin and Creative Portraits to be rescheduled with Merissa.

CREATIVE PORTRAIT TECHNIQUES Following on from Merissa’s successful Life Drawing course she will be running a 3 week course on learning and practising how to draw and paint a self portrait or someone else, using different media with a photo as reference. Cost £10 (refundable if attending all three as it is a WK funded course), dates and venue to be confirmed.

##### MIXED MEDIA WORKSHOPS Lucy Thomas continues to run these workshops on Thursdays, Embellishment Art is finishing at the end of August, she will then be moving on to Weaving and Textiles. Cost is £3 per session, no need to book.

**PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP This group meets on Wednesdays between 10 –12pm either in the Pop Up Space Bexleyheath, the Cafeteria at Sainsburys in Crayford, at the Lodge or in the 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, for details of venue.**

**CREATIVE WRITING These Friday afternoon sessions will be resuming shortly, details to follow soon. Cost £1, no need to book.**

SATURDAY OPENING AT THE POP UP SPACE

Saturday Opening has now moved for a trial period to the new space in Bexleyheath, with a variety of workshops. Normal opening time is from 10 – 1pm subject to keyholder availability.

**See the website** [**www.centrepieces.org**](http://www.centrepieces.org) **for workshop updates or** **artists@centrepieces.org** **email group, or telephone the Lodge on 01322 554 589**

**CENTREPIECES 20th ANNIVERSARY AGM This event took place on 16th July in the Great Chambers in Hall Place, followed by lunch and a social gathering at the Lodge. It was opened by the Mayor of Bexley, with interesting talks by a number of Centrepieces artists and volunteers, the space itself being transformed into a temporary art exhibition. Everything went off very well and the Trustees decided that they would like to continue to hold our future AGMs there.**

**BODY IMAGE EXHIBITION This Centrepieces Mental Health Awareness Week Exhibition has now moved to the new POP UP SPACE in Bexleyheath where it will remain until World Mental Health Week in October.**

**BEXLEYHEATH RAILWAY STATION Following previous discussions this station is now under new management, and C/P artist Mark Harrison who also works there has now secured the waiting room for Centrepieces art exhibitions on a rotating basis. Contact Centrepieces if interested as the work needs to be of a particular size and depth in order to fit into their standard poster type locked frames.**

**CREEK CREATIVE STUDIOS IN FAVERSHAM Fatma Durmush and Fiona Johansen have both recently held very successful exhibitions in the upstairs café gallery and downstairs basement white space, and sold work. This has been an important step to support our artists in holding solo exhibitions, and well worth the hard work and travelling involved. Christie Cassisa will be holding an exhibition there from 14th – 27th October. Let us know if you would like to be considered for a future solo exhibition either at this venue or elsewhere.**

**LIBRARY EXHIBITIONS We have just held exhibitions at both Erith and Sidcup libraries, and intend to repeat these throughout the year.**

**STABLES GALLERY The new retail units have now been installed in the Stables Gallery, which unfortunately reduce the available exhibition space, and in the view of those from Centrepieces who have already had a look will impact negatively on the exhibitions themselves. We have already booked the gallery several years in advance and if we continue will need to modify our exhibitions accordingly. Centrepieces next Stables Exhibition runs from the 12th September – 11th October 2020.**

**SLADE GREEN COMMUNITY CENTRE We continue to rotate artists work being shown there and will be putting forward proposals for workshops for people with dementia and their carers (Christie), and Mosaics workshops (Karen), both of which will need to be funded.**

**BEXLEY COLLEGE Centrepieces artist and tutor Merissa Hylton is in discussion to run further art sessions at the LSEC in Erith.**

MERCHANDISE The new Centrepieces T shirts with a colourful design by Kim Campbell are now being sold from the Lodge at £10 each, available in L, XL and XXL sizes These are primarily for workshop tutors and public events, but are also generally on sale to Centrepieces artists and the public. Aisling has started to produce more General Cards utilising selected images of Centrepieces artists work, for fundraising purposes. Karen will soon start to produce a Calendar for 2020. Centrepieces Trustee Britta Von Zweigbergk’s second new book, ‘Centrepieces, A Story of Mental Health and Art in Bexley’ with input from many people involved in Centrepieces over the years is now going for a 2nd reprint and is on sale at the Lodge at £14.99, available to Centrepieces artists and volunteers at the reduced rate of £12.99. Britta has also just finished another book, an anthology of Poems by Bexley Hospital patients including some Centrepieces artists, which will soon be published under Centrepieces Press.

FUNDRAISING Karen Larkin’s mum kindly held another Eltham Garden Fundraising Event on Sunday 18th August with around 70 people in attendance including the Mayor of Bexley and which raised £1K ! A big thanks to Karen’s mum and her team of helpers.

We are currently completing an application to the Mayor of London’s Cultural Seeds grant scheme for a project entitled ‘ Art Healing’ which has been devised and will be run by Peter Kent.

News has just broken that a £1M partnership bid to the Arts Council ‘Creative People and Places’ scheme, involving Erith Exchange, Bexley Council and several other organisations for a project entitled ‘Made in the Estuary’ has been successful. Centrepieces Trustees Guy Tarrant and Rosie Eaglen are on the Creative Board and we hope that Centrepieces may eventually receive some project funding from this.

MORE HALL PLACE INSTALLATIONS We are continuing to accept ideas for outline proposals for further artwork in the Gardens at Hall Place, for which Centrepieces will require funding. We are planning to scale the ‘TWELVE’ as the last series was called, down to about ‘SIX’. Please get in touch if you have any further suggestions/ feel able to take on one of these projects.

ALCOCK and BROWN Centrepieces was involved in workshops creating designs for new Ceramic artwork in Crayford Town Centre to celebrate the centenary of the first flight across the Atlantic from Ireland to Canada. The local connection is the Vickers factory where the plane was built and one of the pilots (Alcock). Karen Larkin and Lucy Thomas attended the opening event in Crayford on Tuesday 23rd July and met HRH The Duke of Kent.