

Crowborough Arts - building the arts community



In February 2011, 'Crowborough Arts' was born as a follow up and development of the Crowborough Arts Festival in 2010.

I talked to Sue Petszaft, the Chairman, who told me that the aim of Crowborough Arts is to support and promote all the artistic activities in and around Crowborough across a wide range of arts. From music, visual arts and literary events to skill-sharing and workshops, the group work hard to publicise all the events and strengthen the local arts

community, including supporting community events by other organisations.

The group has been growing from strength to strength over it's first year and now has over 80 members. Whether you are a local artist yourself or would just like to become involved from your interest in the arts, you'll be very welcome. Membership is just £12.50 per year for individuals, £20 for families or £25 for sponsors. Income generated from membership goes towards paying for the activities the group put on so becoming a member is a great way to show your support for the group.

There are benefits to becoming a member: If you are a local artist you get to promote yourself and your work on the website; you get discounted tickets for some of the events organised, discounted art supplies from the SAA (Society for All Artists) online shop and a 25% reduction on framing at J & K Gallery (Croft Road).

The Crowborough Arts committee already have a full programme for the remainder of 2012 which you can find on their website at www.crowborough-arts.org.uk

The events that are organised by the group are open to everyone so I thought I would try my hand at printmaking at a recent 'Artists in Residence' display at Millbrook Garden Centre. Millbrook have given the group great support by making a studio space available for displays and workshops. Sue gave me some pointers on what I needed to do and I was well on my way.



I'm having a great time



To make the print I first had to make shapes onto a piece of polystyrene

using all types of tools from keys to rusty old screws. I then chose my colours and evenly rolled the paint onto the polystyrene before pressing it firmly onto a piece of paper. My second print was made using soft cut which reminded me of lino cutting at school. I had a great afternoon having a go at the printmaking and will keep a look out for other activities the group are running in the future.

To find out more about Crowborough Arts, visit the website at www.crowborough-arts.org.uk or email rayhen@books4.demon.co.uk



My attempt at printmaking - lino cut on left and print on right



Artists in Residence: (L) Mary Harris, (R) Sue Petszaft