



Bexley Arts Trust

BAT Words-41, August 2022

It has been a long time since the last BAT Words, previously produced by Brenda who sadly passed away. Then we had Covid, so all the artistic activities we so much enjoy were put on hold.

Things are looking better now, we can go to art galleries, concerts and the theatre; not quite back to normal, but getting there.

Restarting Social Events.

Coming soon on the 23rd September 7.30pm at Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Road, Bexley DA5 3LH, in the large hall.

We have arranged a watercolour demonstration by Tony Nield, if you would like to read some poems or play some music as we have done before, let me know. If you would like to bring a picture or other art work, we can display them on tables round the hall.

There is no charge, but if you and friends would like to come, let me know as we need to get an idea of numbers.



Email John Davey Bexley_Arts_Trust@outlook.com or text 077 8631 5067

We look forward to seeing you after such a long break.

Our Next Open Art and Sculpture Exhibition at Hall Place Stables Gallery.

This will be from November 25th to 21st December 2022. Last day for submissions 6th November. The Terms and Conditions and the entry Form will shortly be put on the website <http://www.bexleyartstrust.co.uk> or email Bexley_Arts_Trust@outlook.com for any queries.

The details have not been finalised yet, but will probably be similar to this last one.

Portrait Demonstration in Acrylics

The Bexley Art Group have an acrylics demonstration, Monday 10th October 7.30 pm by Keith Morton at Baldwyns Park, Baptist Church Hall, Dartford Road, Bexley DA5 2AY.

Cost £5, pay on the door.

Our Recent Open Exhibitions at Hall Place Stables Gallery.

We managed to restart these following Lockdown, not quite back to normal as we had to manage without Selectors and were not able to have an Artist Day with the Mayor opening the exhibition, but at least we had exhibitions running again. We were delighted to have had so many great works of art in the exhibitions, reflecting the talent of local people.

The gallery is not great with the shop taking up valuable exhibition space and many members have complained about this, but there is a shortage of exhibition space in Bexley, so we have to tolerate what is available. Another victim of Covid is that there are not so many 3D or sculpture works as before, it has been easier to paint at home during Lockdown than to create sculptures.



Classes in the Local Area.

We have seen the cost of classes in the Adult Education Colleges rocket, even before Covid, many art tutors have started their own classes in Community Centres and halls. These typically cost about 1/3 of the cost of an equivalent class in the Adult ed Colleges. Some went on-line due to Lockdown, but most have returned to face-to-face classes.

This works great for painting and drawing, but is not so good for sculpture and pottery that needs specialist equipment.

Pottery classes have been particularly affected and one of our members sent the following to me:

"The previous April I paid for an 8 week course which worked out at £11.25 per hour (this is for 2 sessions each week which is my normal time)

On the morning of 24th June when enrolments started I paid £216 for 12 weeks which is £9 per hour. Several of my friends did the same. The same afternoon others enrolled and were told that a mistake had been made and the cost had risen to £433.50 which is just over £18 per hour."

This is clearly unacceptably high for most people, but pottery needs equipment that is difficult to provide in a Community Centre.

There are now so many classes and groups that it makes sense for us to get list of contacts, so if you attend a class locally or are part of a group, let me know and I will put the details on the website.

Restarting Membership for Bexley Arts Trust

Following a period over Lockdown where we had no events, so there was no point in renewing membership, we have now restarted our Membership.

It's £5 to join or renew for a year and we give a small reduction in the submission fee for our Open Art and Sculpture Exhibition.

To be a member, write to: John Davey, Bexley Arts Trust, 5 Pinewood Road, Abbey Wood SE2 0RY with a cheque for £5 to Bexley Arts Trust. Please give your address, email and phone number. If you don't have a cheque book, as many people do not nowadays, contact me and I will let you have the details for the bank transfer.



Music

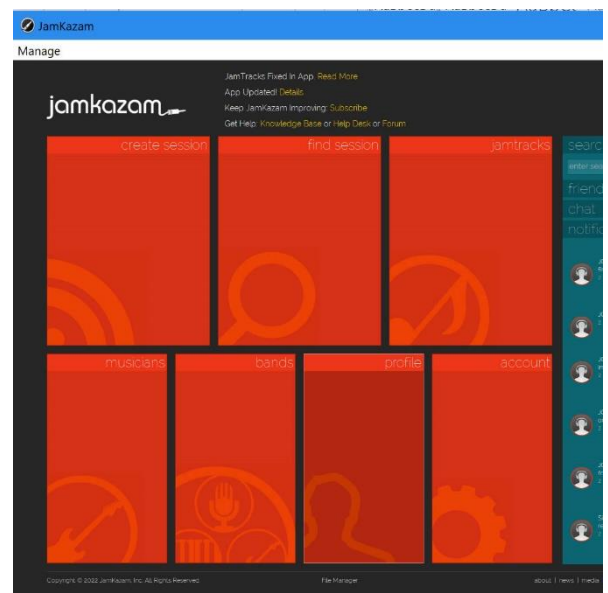
Covid affected all branches of the arts, but it is funny how we adapt to new challenges.

One thing that helped was the internet. For music at the start of Lockdown, I started using a Program called JamKazam that enabled people to play live across the internet.

It is a bit like Zoom, but specially designed for people to play music with other people across the internet. Zoom does not work as there is too much delay (latency) for a group of people playing together live.

The basic JamKazam program is free, but upgraded versions cost a small amount monthly. I use it playing with friends across the UK and so does my son playing with his friends.

There are limitations as a friend who plays the clarinet, has used it with three other clarinets, two at widely separated points in the USA with the other in Germany. He said it does not always work too well with this geographical spread. Using it across the UK, it generally works fine, once you get the hang of it. There is video on it, but it works better if you turn the video off. You do need a fast audio input to your computer, I use a Steinberg UR22C and for speed to cut down latency, you need a wired internet connection to your computer, not WiFi.



It's not as good as playing live with other people, but very convenient. You still get a small amount of delay (latency), a bit like when there is an organ at one end of a church and the choir at the other end.

Remembering Brenda

Following the sad death of Brenda Hamblin our former Chair of Bexley Arts Trust, we gave a donation in her memory to Trinity Laban for their Jazz students, as did her family. Brenda was a great lover of Jazz and it was fitting that this was chosen.

We were delighted to be invited by Trinity Laban to listen to a concert put on by their students to showcase Brenda's legacy. They do a great job educating young people to be our future jazz artists.

Let Us Know of Your Events

If you are organizing exhibitions, concerts, classes, theatre productions, groups or anything of interest, let us know and we will put a link on our website or if we get them in time, in the next newsletter.

Contact, John Davey Bexley_Arts_Trust@outlook.com and don't forget to look at our website for updates.

<http://www.bexleyartstrust.co.uk>