

# Bexley Arts Trust

## BATwords



By Katarzyna  
Morzynska

Newsletter October 2019 No 32



By Kevin  
Meekings

### Open Art & Sculpture Exhibition

Winter 2019

At the Stables Gallery

Hall Place, Bourne Road  
Bexley DA5 1PQ

*Admission free 10am-5pm*

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> January to Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2019**

***Come to meet the artists from 12 noon on Sat. 5<sup>th</sup> January***

A reminder of the upcoming event, the Winter Exhibition, which will need all your wonderful submissions to ensure the usual high standard now expected of us. It may be even more important this time as it may be the last as we know them.

A letter received from Judith Mitlin is reproduced below which will explain the previous point. The proposals therein raise a great deal of concern, threatening the loss of the one venue suitable for longer exhibitions in the borough or nearby boroughs. Please write to Judith if you find these plans unacceptable. The letter:-

Dear Stables gallery hirer,

As you are aware Hall Place & Gardens moved to the management of the London Borough of Bexley in April 2017. A successful bid to the HLF has enabled us to appoint consultants to look at ways in which we can make the site sustainable for the future. This will ensure more public engagement, sales opportunities and an overall increased experience for all visitors to the site.

The whole site redevelopment proposals, if agreed, would see an investment in Hall Place of over £600,000 demonstrating the Council's commitment to ensuring the long term future of Hall Place as one of Bexley's premier attractions. One aspect of these proposals is to make far better use of the Visitor Centre, creating an integral welcoming arrivals area to the site.

With this in mind it has been suggested that we move the main reception to the visitor centre and to integrate the shop into the Stables Gallery space.

The gallery, therefore, will become part of a new destination retail space, offering local crafts, books and art work as well as souvenirs relating to the House and Gardens. Our intention would be to maintain the wall space in this area for group exhibition displays, with a new and improved hanging system to allow for a quicker turnaround that will not disrupt the retail space opening opportunities.

While this might have some impact on the type of exhibitions that we will be able to honour going forward and potentially reduce slightly the wall hanging space, the footfall through the area would greatly increase, as it would be intended to direct all visitors out via this area as part of the new layout. It would also make the purchase of a piece much easier for the buyer, prompting many more 'impulse' buys.

We appreciate that this may not suit all programmed exhibitions and, if progressed, we would need to work with some groups to look at new ways to hang their exhibits and some groups may unfortunately need to look at finding new venues. If we are unable to accommodate your future bookings we will, of course, reimburse any deposits already paid.

Subject to a final decision by Members in January 2019, and to us securing capital funding, it is anticipated that this work could take place during Spring/Summer 2019. We will of course keep you updated and will be happy to meet with you in the coming months (once we know if this is to be progressed) to discuss your future bookings.

Yours sincerely

Judith Mitlin

**Head of Libraries, Heritage & Archives**

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**Other items:**

**The Last Social Gathering at Badwyns Park was a real success with most going home with selection of artwork produced following Suzie Baker's clear and encouraging demonstration. Thank you again Suzie and participants.**

**Blackheath Art**

**Several of our members belong also to Blackheath Art Society and are currently showing in Greenwich .....>>>>**



