Harborough Artists Cluster 2026 (Website Version)

Meeting: Tuesday 13th January, 7pm – 9pm,
Location: Left to Draw Studios, Union Wharf, Market Harborough, Leicestershire

Minutes

Welcome!

Introduction on the Cluster for potential new members

Members Present: Allie Whelan, Chair, Maxine Dodd, Minutes, Kath Topham, Sarah Boddy, Stacey Barthorpe, Rebecca Bennett, Annie O'Connor, Lois Winfield, Birgit Lewis, Vicky Keskeys, Kay Carpenter, Katy Dynes, Andy Ground, Kayleigh Smith, David Dunmore, Rebecca Harvey (website), Gabie Read, Emily Twomlow, Lynn Loomes and Lesley Wallace, (Aspects of Stitch), Derek Brittan.

Potential New Members Present: Jako Van Der Walt, Mark Norman, Simone Apel, Mary Allinson.

Apologies: Clare Staveley, Lynda Talbott, Ruby Tomes, Sarah Luke, Chrissie Wilson, Charlie Hewitt, Kelly Gardner, Mick Henson, Rosie Jarvis, Lis Naylor, Zoe Young, Ruth Wood

Retiring members for 2026: Greta Paradine Palmer, Cate Kutas, Sally Struszkowski- All welcome to return at any time!

Finances at the end of 2025: Treasurer, Sarah Luke advised meeting by email that the current account is in good health with a working balance of £1100

Subscription and Sign Up: Fee for 2026 – Unanimous decision to keep fees as they are for 2026. This means £40.00 per membership, including our group entries to pay. Late joiners will be required to pay an additional set up fee of £10 to cover additional administration costs. Deadline for payment 31st January, 2026.

BACS Payment details as follows:

Amount: £40
Account Name: Harborough Artists Cluster
Sort Code: 77-15-17
Account Number: 22423868
Reference: LastName-Subs-26

Structure of the group: Is everyone still happy with the structure of sub-committees for events and no formal structure? Yes - vote unanimous Thanks V much to Stacey for hosting us.

Events, dates and budgets for the year: Group to agree dates for the core events:

Open Studios: Proposed and Agreed - TWO weekends in May: The idea was proposed as some people can make some dates and not others. Also, by having two weekends, visitors have more chance to complete the whole trail AND artists can visit each other! **9th - 10th May / 16th - 17th May**

Art Windows: September (whole month) Yes
Theatre Exhibition: Booking for 4th / 5th / 6th September

Additional new events: As yet unknown but recently, we have had pop-up shop opportunities, events such as Arts Fresco and Symington's exhibition, so will accommodate these in planning for the year.

Social group events: Xmas Social well received and proposal to repeat in December - Plus, Summer Social Sketch - at the Union Canal Basin, so we can draw together and buy ice cream and coffees from Stacey upstairs.

Event teams: Core groups/leaders for the above events for publicity, graphic design, promotional material, PR etc.

Promo Team - Kath Topham lead + team members. Ist meeting 2nd Feb | Open Studios - B Lewis design & trail + studio hosts | Art Windows - Lois to 'guide' new lead - TBA + team members | Distribution team | Theatre Exhibition - Allie Whelan (+ Max) lead + team members
Admin - Lead + members TBA | Young HAC team - See below. Volunteers please.

Monthly Newsletter: Review of the newsletter scheme done in 2025? Unanimously well received and enjoyed - Allie kindly will continue to produce.

Website and Social Media: Review of the work done on website and social media. All well received and supported. Rebecca pointed out that there is a new members info section that we can all access for dates, info and team members - right at the bottom of the website in the black footer area. Link here:

https://harboroughartistcluster.co.uk/members-admin/

Explore Setting up a "Junior HAC", discussion on supporting under 18s in the community. Two recent enquiries regarding younger members - Discuss and agreement were as follows:

Membership generally open only to artists of 18+ professional or semi professional.

Encourage young artists: A small team will explore opportunities to safely include young local artists of exceptional talent. This process to take time and agreed at each stage by the group at meetings.

Any Other Business: Creative Harborough next meeting 20th Jan, 7pm. Can someone stand in for Allie W as HAC rep please? Katy Dynes agreed to. Symingtons Exhibition - Collect work on Monday 26th January at 10am - 12 midday. Please bring your own packaging and arrange for someone else to collect work if not able to collect in person. Thank you.

Next Meeting: 24th Feb - Left to Draw, 7pm, Chair / notes TBC