HAC Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 24th February 2026: 7-8.30pm

Welcome & Introductions

The group welcomed several new members and made some quick introductions.

- Harriet introduced herself as an abstract painter (first time at the group).
- Jenny shared she lives in Harborough and specialises in watercolour painting and lino printing.
- Mary A said she mainly sculpts but experiments with many materials.
- Ruth Wood introduced herself (can't always make a Tuesday meeting due to childcare); she owns a gallery/jewellery shop in town, makes jewellery, and does portrait and life drawing.
- Caroline shared she is a punch needle textile artist, featuring bright colours
- Mary Y introduced herself as a surrealist oil painter and graphic designer.

Attendance, Apologies & Logistics

Apologies noted from Henrietta (via Katy), Maxine, Allie, Annie, Mike, Chloe, Ruby, Matthew, Kelly and Derek.

Group decided to take the photo at the end rather than interrupt the meeting.

Team Appointments (clarifying *"who's in which team"*)

- There was some confusion surrounding the team spreadsheet/access; it was agreed it would be emailed around once finalised.
- Teams mentioned: Admin, Promotion (promo), Open Studios, Theatre, Art Windows 2026, Young artists, Finance, and Initiatives and Distribution.
- Admin team: Allie, Maxine, Rebecca (website lady), Clare and Zoë (also seeking additional members for chairing/minutes).
- Promotion team: Birgit, Kath, Emily, Rebecca (website lady), Sarah B, Allie, Kayleigh, David, Mark.
- Open Studios team: Birgit, Kayleigh, Andy, Henrietta, Mary Y.
- Theatre team: led by Maxine and Allie for now (Maxine handing over); first meeting expected March/April.
- Theatre team members listed: Lynda, Gabie, Rosie, Mary A, Andy, Kayleigh, Becky, Harriet, and Jenny; hanging team: Birgit, Vicky and Henrietta.

- Art Windows team structure confirmed: coordinators Andy and David; Rosie (with Sarah and Annie) doing shop/window rounds; Lesley coordinating Aspect of Stitch; Kath as “the link”; Jako as Art Windows admin co-ordinator.

- New initiatives / pop-up exhibitions team noted (incl. local liaison such as Arts Fresco and Creative Harborough): Sarah, Lis, Katy, Becky, Andy, Gabie and Tim.

- Distribution team organisers listed: Vicky, Ruby, Katy, David, Gabie, Rosie, Kelly; Ruth asked to join distribution and was added.

- Young Artists team: Annie, Emily, Sarah, Emily moving from promo to young artists. Young Artists leadership clarified: Zoë Laughton agreed to lead; Katy Dynes also put herself down to help generate ideas.

- A previous enquiry about young people joining the main group was referenced; group confirmed this had been responded to and the answer was a “no” to children joining the main group.

Updates: Finance, Promo, Open Studios, Art Windows & Theatre

- **Finance update:** ~£2,800 currently in the bank; budget of £1,000 total for marketing/promoting three events (about £330 per event), aiming to finish the year with ~£1,000 remaining.

- Theatre hire is separate from the marketing budget.

- Promo update: team has met and wants to create consistent branding/assets across socials, website, and event publicity; will contact team leads to coordinate needs earlier this year.

- **Open Studios update:** registrations largely received by 5:30pm; remaining checks e.g. images sent/studio vacancies for artists without a space and confirming participant hosts e.g. Stacey.

- Open Studios new process: identify artists needing studio space and match them with hosts who can offer space. Open Studios space matching discussed live; multiple people needed space (noted roughly 7) and several hosts/venues offered capacity.

- Open Studios follow-up: Birgit will produce an updated spreadsheet and email individuals if anything is missing.

- Reminder: members must send in images (good quality) and short descriptions for Open Studios promotion to Kayleigh; details are in the email/form sent from the HAC email.

- **Art Windows update:** team meeting was well attended; coordinators Andy/David confirmed; Jako handling admin; Rosie collecting feedback from shops and identifying shops missed previously.

- Art Windows planning: aim to allocate artists to shops by end of June so artists can meet shop owners before summer.

- Art Windows risk management: discussed heat/light damage to artwork; plan to allocate sensitive work to shaded shops where possible; option to display prints instead of originals (with clear labelling that it's a print and originals can be purchased). Mark very kindly offered to create prints of "vulnerable" work for display.

- Leaflet/shop outreach idea: create a simple branded info asset (for shop owners to express interest) that can be shared via socials, website, local business networks, and potentially printed for in-person drops.

- Art Windows suggested lanyards/badges for shop-visiting volunteers for professionalism; Maxine has them to hand over later.

- Group planned to put a sign-up sheet on the table for members to indicate commitment to taking part in Windows.

- **Theatre update:** theatre team meeting likely March/April; no immediate actions needed in this meeting.

AOB

Social ideas, Creative Harborough, Zines & Next Meeting

- New agenda item proposed: *"initiatives/social ideas"* (e.g., outdoor sketch/plein air meet-ups in good weather e.g. Welland Park) so members can also create together, not only run events.

- Idea raised to create a WhatsApp group specifically for social/plein air meet-ups; Becky volunteered to email asking for phone numbers/opt-in and set it up.

- Marian brought in bunting intended for Open Studios promotion (made a couple of years ago); members invited to take pieces.

- Creative Harborough shared by Katy, as a new-ish hub connecting creatives across Harborough; members encouraged to sign up via the Creative Harborough website.

- Creative Harborough festival planned for September (ties in with Arts Fresco and town-wide *"celebration"* activities).

- "Bin-less" mini art idea introduced (Claire at Paint Pottle's concept): gum-ball-style machines placed around town in September, dispensing free mini artworks in reusable capsules via tokens; optional contact details can be included with artworks.
    - *Discussion included practical questions (token distribution, preventing token hoarding); idea suggested to distribute tokens via independent shops to encourage footfall.*

- Newsletter note: Allie is writing a newsletter this weekend; “Bin-less” info will be included there.

- Additional Creative Harborough opportunities shared via Tim: pop-up exhibition space under the grammar school (central to town, previously used with a busker); potential low-cost arts sale/pop-up at Kings Hall (behind the car park near Joules), and possible market space for artists to work: all under discussion.

- Zines agenda item: clarified as small (maga)zines; potential interest in workshops and using Risograph printing was discussed; Clare to share the email contact directly with interested parties.

Photo taken at the end.

Next meeting date agreed: 14th April 2026, at Left To Draw - 7pm.