HARBOROUGH ARTISTS CLUSTER
NEWSLETTER 9, Feb 2026

Welcome to the ninth edition of the HAC Newsletter.
Please enjoy, and send content for next month's by;
March 24th to hac.artists@gmail.com titled 'Newsletter'.

ARTIST OF THE MONTH (for February was) new member Caroline Colam.
Please email Rebecca at hac.artists@gmail.com to be featured in 2026.
There are slots available towards the end of the year.

March - Kath Topham (Existing Member) - Kath also has new work on her Bio.
April - Harriet Buckby (New Member) | May - Matthew Hopkinson (New Member)
June - Mary Allinson (New Member) | July - Chloe Kempster (New Member)
August - Mark Norman (New Member)

OUR DATES: Open Studios Two Big Weekends: May 9th & 10th, and 16th & 17th
Exhibition: Sept 5th & 6th

WEBSITE WONDERS & DIGITAL DELIGHTS;

Facebook - We've got a shiny new Facebook Page for 2026! https://www.facebook.com/harboroughartistcluster/ So pop over and give it a like. Please also comment on and share our posts. Let us know your Facebook Page so we can give it a like / follow too!

INSTA - Beginning in March we will be shining our lights on member artists with weekly artist spotlight features on our social media platforms.To get involved, send 2-6 photos of your current work directly to Kath at artbykathtopham@outlook.com

New Blog Posts

Symington's Guest Book :: https://harboroughartistcluster.co.uk/2026/01/symingtons-after-the doors-closed-when-the-guest-book-became-the-exhibition/
Art (and Cluster!) for Mental Health & Well Being :: https://harboroughartistcluster.co.uk/2025/11/art-community-mental-health-why-being-part-of-something-matters/
Creative Harborough Meeting (Katy) - https://harboroughartistcluster.co.uk/2026/01/creative harborough-connecting-the-dots-across-our-creative-town/
Studio Space in Harborough - https://harboroughartistcluster.co.uk/2026/02/looking-for-studio space-in-market-harborough/

New Member Pages are up and running (thanks very much Rebecca!):

Harriet Buckby - https://harboroughartistcluster.co.uk/our-artists/harriet-buckby/
Matthew Hopkinson - https://harboroughartistcluster.co.uk/our-artists/matthew-hopkinson/
Mary Allinson - https://harboroughartistcluster.co.uk/our-artists/mary-allinson/
Mark Norman - https://harboroughartistcluster.co.uk/our-artists/mark-norman/
Chloe Kempster - https://harboroughartistcluster.co.uk/our-artists/chloe-kempster/

(Existing member) Gabie Bio update - Pet Portraits! https://harboroughartistcluster.co.uk/our-artists/gabie-read/

OPPORTUNITIES in 2026;

The Foxton Food, Drink, Arts and Gift Fayre (Via Creative Harborough) is a new venture to be run by Harborough Live Events on May 9th & 10th, June 20th & 21st, July 11th & 12th, August 1st & 2nd, and Sept 5th & 6th this year. The Fayre is strictly open to local traders and local produce, art & giftwares within a 20 mile radius of Market Harborough only. Call Steve Crook on 07968096387 for info (for a potential stall opportunity).

BINLESS No Waste Mini Art, is a concept being fleshed out by our very own Katy Dynes to run during Arts Fresco this year. Multiple gum-ball machines will be placed in public locations around town. Each machine will contain low-cost mini artworks created by local artists. Members of the public can purchase and collect artworks in a playful, accessible format. Every artwork will be packaged with a short description and optional artist contact details. *Great initiative Katy! – I am sure we will all take part and look forward to more details!*

Market Harborough Building Society has an art wall for local artists (Leics & Northants) in each branch to display their work for a month - there is no charge. Kettering branch has wall space for May, June, August and September. Market Harborough branch no longer has wall space but they have several easels that can be used and there is space in the windows. These are available after March 2nd - Later in the year it may not be available when building work starts though. Desborough branch has availability but I've not heard yet which months are free. If items sell there is no commission charged - customers pay for their purchase over the counter and the artist is paid when they collect their work at the end of the month. There are adjustable hangers on the wall so no nails are required. *If anyone is interested pop into the relevant branch, see the available space and if interested book a month via the front desk.*

WHERE WE'RE SHOWING;

Maxine is showing three pieces of work, including two cycling and her Arts Fresco drawing at Leicester Museum & Art Gallery, alongside fellow HAC members Lis Naylor, Sarah Boddy and Annie O'Connor.

Maxine is also delighted to be offering, '*Telling a Story of a Place'* workshop at Left to Draw Studios (Stacey Barthorpe) on Saturday 7th March. 10am-4pm. Exploring Union Wharf by making a concertina sketchbook and using it to record sights, sounds and feelings about the location. Booking essential, £95pp, incl. materials & lunch. Details and links to book on maxinedoddart.co.uk / LTD bookings page.

Rebecca Bennett has a solo exhibition at the Kings Head Smeeton Westerby 7-9:30pm 16th April. https://www.facebook.com/thekingsheadsmeetonwesterby/

ART TO CELEBRATE;

Rebecca Bennett won the Douglas Smith Drawing Award at the LSA's 2026 Exhibition at the New Walk Museum this Month, and Lis Naylor also won an award for her new sculpture.

NEW GROUP;

HAC Social is a new WhatsApp group for any HAC members who would like to meet socially between meetings - to sketch, en plein air get togethers, or simply for a coffee/drink. This is a huge opportunity to support each other with our ventures, as it can be quite lonely as a creative and knowing others are on the same journey maybe of help. Please message Rebecca Bennett on WhatsApp: 07976646859 and start the message with 'HAC Social' to get involved.