



News September 2020

AGM 2020

A year ago we scheduled this year's Annual General Meeting for Monday September 21.

Much has happened since the end of the last financial year in March and after some deliberation we agreed to hold our AGM 2020 but virtually. We sent reports and invites to our 192 members by email. One bounced; one unsubscribed; 66 members opened the email; 26 clicked on the content; and 15 voted in favour of the six resolutions with no one voting against. We received a few comments: the error in the date of next year's AGM (i.e. should be 2021); the excellent Annual Report; what a lot was achieved last year (i.e. 2019/20); wishing us luck in these difficult times; and expressing a wish to be a trustee to take responsibility for the Community Gardens.

The trustees for the forthcoming year are: Amanda Box; Andrew Hulme; Derek Gibbons; Deryck Tucker; Jill Hawkins; Ken Daniels; Kevin Hall; Mick Moutrie; and Stephen Ratcliffe. Next year's AGM will be Monday September 20, 2021 and we hope that all members can attend.

Closing

The last financial year 2019/20 was very successful but it did not end well with the appearance of the Coronavirus aka Covid-19. We closed the Centre at the end of March in accordance with Government instructions and furloughed all of our staff from the beginning of April. We emptied the office and it remains closed for the foreseeable future. Please use the email address below if you wish to contact us.

We survived the last six months thanks to the help of many people including the Government's Job Retention Scheme (aka furlough); a Business Support Grant from Milton Keynes Council; and several generous donations from individuals. We intend to survive and to come out on the other side maybe next year.

Since our Centre Manager left us in June for pastures new after many years of invaluable

Reopening

We reopened the Centre in July and been slowly taking bookings since.

We split the building into four separate zones: the ground floor and the upper floors each with its own toilets thanks to last year's refurbishment project; the Space which has its own toilet; and the grounds outside the building. Ground floor users come in through the front door and upper floor users and any other visitors through the back. Our intention is to maintain a safe environment with only one user group in one internal zone at any one time. We host some events in the grounds and the Community Gardens have carried on. Some of our previous regular users have returned including the Monday youth clubs and we are hosting various one off events in October as listed below.

We received much invaluable advice from Community Impact Bucks over the last few months and prior to reopening discussed our plans with the local Public Health officer. Rules and advice change. Community Impact Bucks work closely with ACRE who work closely with Government.

Lanterns 2020

*****2020 LANTERN PROJECTNEWSFLASH*****

The wait is finally over...the theme for this year's 'Stony Stratford Lockdown Lantern Project' is Christmas at Home!

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, there will be no Switch-On Day this year, so we are teaming up with the Stony Community Advent Calendar project to bring your family a special artistic opportunity for your own home..

We will be selling lantern kits (on-line sales only) for you to create a lantern or a window scene at home to decorate your front window – you could even do both! The streets of Stony Stratford, Galley Hill and Fullers Slade will be allocated a number to represent each day of Advent, but this year we will be asking you to have all your lanterns and window displays lit up from 1st December for everyone to enjoy throughout the festive month.

Look out for a Lantern Leaflet through your door at the beginning of October. Lantern Kits will be available to buy on-line from Monday 12 October.

There will be two sessions for you to collect your kit/s from York House on Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 November at York House

Don't worry if you live outside of Stony Stratford, you can still join in with the project – just let us know what street you live in and we'll make sure your creations are included in the video which we plan to make of all the lit windows on 1st December.

For further information please go to

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/161331770478/>

<http://york-house.org.uk/about-us/lantern-project/>

Let's bring some Christmas cheer after a difficult year....



October events

Eat Street
1700 to 2100
Friday October 2

Take-away service with priority for pre-booked orders.
For more details please click the link below

<https://www.facebook.com/EatStreetMK>

Unique handcrafted goods

Created by artisans of Stony Stratford & surrounding area

'Perfect for Christmas gifts'



You are invited to an

**EARLY CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EVENT
&
ART EXHIBITION**

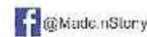
**Saturday 3rd October 10am - 4pm
York House, London Road, Stony Stratford**

Art for sale by selected artists

- Lisa Campbell
- Alan Chown
- Mason Edwards
- Roy Holding
- Sally Luff



FREE entry
Covid19 safety procedures in place



Vintage Open- Air Cinema

Hallowe'en

Friday October 30

Hocus Pocus (PG)

1700 to 1900

The Exorcist

1930 to 2130

Saturday October 31

Hocus Pocus (PG)

1700 to 1900

Shaun of the Dead

2000 to 2140

For further details of VOAC then please go to

<https://www.voacinema.co.uk/>

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