

**From:** [Mark Cremmen](#)  
**To:** [Mark Cremmen](#); [Rita Wright](#)  
**Cc:** [David Mackenzie-Dewhirst](#)  
**Subject:** Art Matters newsletter 12th March 2021  
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Dear Artists. 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021

We hope you have what you need, are safe and well. We'll continue our calls over the next couple of weeks until the studio reopens for sessions. Please remember you are welcome to phone, text or e-mail us in-between on the numbers below.

This newsletter celebrates your artworks, thoughts and poems from the week, all of which are amazing, beautiful and help us feel connected; as did your contributions to International Women's Day on Monday. We also consider some of the work underway to open Art Matters safely on 12<sup>th</sup> April.

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*'Hope you are well. Thought I would forward you an image of the fox I created using string. Kind Regards. Moira.'*

'Animals' – this month's theme.

Thank you for the work Moira. Seeing it reminds us of the beautiful song 'Fox in the Snow' by Belle & Sebastian.

'Animals', the Art Matters theme this month, continues. Remember the Art Matters playlist on Spotify - new songs added this week include hits by Sammy Davis Jr, B52's, Joni Mitchell & Kate Bush. It's an eclectic mix of more than four hours of songs suggested by you and inspired by animals, so if you get a spare afternoon, take a listen!

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*'My dog Louis.'*

Thank you Philippa for sending in your wonderful painting of Louis.

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#### Roadmap to reopening Art Matters.

As discussed last week, the Government have set out four tests in controlling the Covid-19 virus and, if these are met, community centres will be able to reopen on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Currently, the figures look positive and Art Matters plan to open on this date. This week we have reviewed our Risk Assessment and the following work has been added and underpins safe reopening:

1. *Add anti-bac stations across studio.*
2. *Explore use of lateral flow testing kits.*
3. *Explore vending machine.*
4. *Additional funding required for cleaning in the longer term.*
5. *Building works to be completed before reopening – water heater in gents. ceiling paper; lighting.*
6. *Garage to be cleared.*
7. *Gallery cleared and cleaned – move overflow chairs and equipment to garage.*
8. *Reopening date – 12<sup>th</sup> April.*
9. *Cleaners will restart work on March 30<sup>th</sup>.*
10. *Session plan and review register.*
11. *Residency cards to be updated.*
12. *Stock Order.*
13. *Review staff work stations.*
14. *Communications – explore new website.*

Many of the measures in place when we closed in January - ensuring safe distancing, PPE, studio layout, number of people attending, creative activities etc. – will remain in place when we start back.

We'll continue to be vigilante and to keep you informed of our progress through this

newsletter and in conversations. For all the Government advice please visit the link below.  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021/covid-19-response-spring-2021>

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*'Hi guys. Here is latest (in progress); few more brush-strokes should sort 'im. Dave. Xx'*

Thanks Dave. Samuel Palmer. Looking fine.

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Thanks for sending us your new work Deanna.

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All the images can be found on the Art Matters Instagram account.

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Thank you for reminding us all Barry – it's this Sunday!

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New sketch book, new work. Thank you for sharing Pierina.

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*Do you have a message for an Art Matters friend? Send it to us and we'll put it in the newsletter. Likewise, a thought for the day, a poem, an idea or a picture you'd like to share.*

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'I'd Love a Cuppa'. New embroidery from artist Molly.

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*The sea is like music. It has all the dreams of the soul within itself and sounds them over.*

Carl Gustav Jung

*'Wishing everyone to heal and recover.  
The future awaits us!  
Don't get disheartened!  
However difficult. Take that small step!  
See you at the mountain peak.  
So we can share.  
Never give up.'*

Thank you Raj for the quote, wishes and vision.

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**WORKING  
TOGETHER  
FORUM**  
ONLINE VIA ZOOM

Save the date →



Contact [pqiservicedesk@richmondfellowship.org.uk](mailto:pqiservicedesk@richmondfellowship.org.uk) for further details

The Richmond Fellowships Working Together Forum – more details to follow.



*'Hi guys. Here's my latest hope you like it see you soon Best wishes Nigel'*  
Thank you Nigel for sending us your beautiful new painting.



*'The Boy the Mole and the Horse' by Charlie Mackery*  
A lesson in mindfulness. Thanks Lucy.

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Please continue to listen to Government advice and stay safe and stay in touch. Look after yourselves and each other.

Contacting Art Matters:

[artmatters@richmondfellowship.org.uk](mailto:artmatters@richmondfellowship.org.uk) - all staff access these e-mails. You can also call the studio number on 01737 766212 and if we are unable to pick up leave a message and one of us will get back to you as soon as we can.

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Staff mobile numbers:

David: 07741 817654 – 9:30 – 4:00. Tuesday to Friday.

Natasha: 07786 191114 – 9:30 – 4:00. Wednesday to Friday.

Rita: 07741 817651 – Tuesday – Thursday.

Mark: 077886 191154 – 9:30 – 4:00. Monday – Friday.

Until next time.

The Art Matters team.

Mark Cremmen

Studio Manager

Art Matters

Richmond Fellowship

Earlswood Road

Redhill

RH16HE

01737 766212

07786 191153

[mark.cremmen@richmondfellowship.org.uk](mailto:mark.cremmen@richmondfellowship.org.uk)

[www.artmatters-richmondfellowship.org.uk](http://www.artmatters-richmondfellowship.org.uk)

[www.richmondfellowship.org.uk](http://www.richmondfellowship.org.uk)

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