

Press Release



30th May 2018

Community Centre chef puts taste and ethically produced food at heart of Gallery Café

Crowborough Community Centre is excited to announce the arrival of chef, Alex Armstrong, who is working with our Gallery Café team to develop their skills. Alex has worked with well-known restaurants such as *The Roof Top Café* and *A Little of What You Fancy* in London. She has also volunteered at Haywards Heath food bank and taught cooking and nutrition to community groups.

Alex's interest in working with the community and her passion for demonstrating how delicious meals from high quality seasonal and ethical produce is possible at affordable prices, has motivated her to join the team at Crowborough Community Centre.

She is on a mission to source food which supermarkets tend to overlook but which does not compromise on taste, such as wonky fruit and vegetables and small eggs from young hens. Alex will also approach our Horticultural Group to source fresh vegetables direct from their allotments. Straws, napkins and so on made of recyclable materials will also be introduced

Tonnes of perfectly edible food from farms and supermarkets ends up in landfill. Not only is this a waste of good food, it is also a waste of the resources used to produce it – from the water, heat and fertilisers used in the growing process, to the energy consumed during its transportation.

“With our planet beginning to experience the effects of Climate Change, we believe that Crowborough Community Centre can play its part by minimising food waste which is vital to maintaining a responsible and sustainable food system that eases the strain on the planet’s resources,” said Joint Centre Manager Lorna Dowson-Collins.

“We want our Gallery Café to become a thriving town centre meeting place by specialising in high quality seasonal and ethically produced food at affordable prices.”



Cafe assistant Jenni Povey-Meier (left) with new chef Alex Armstrong



Chef Alex Armstrong starts the day’s ‘food prep’ in the Gallery Café kitchen

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Crowborough Community Association

The Crowborough Community Association has been active in Crowborough since 1975, when it opened the original CCA Hall in Park Road, built in 1925 as a Guide hut. It was ‘home’ to many of the town’s local organisations until momentum for a new community centre swelled following a public consultation by Wealden District Council on future retail development in the town. With funding from Crowborough Town Council and the National Lottery and on land donated by Wealden District Council, the new Crowborough Community Centre, costing £3.2 million, opened in 2012. It is now very much at the heart of the community with an average of 260 bookings each month for a large number of clubs, associations and individuals. The Centre is now financially self-supporting having exceeded bookings and income targets.