



Press Release: 00.01 BST Mon 14 October 2024

Hands on and smiles wide in Crewe!
A town gripped by creativity and festival fun this
autumn half term and beyond.

CREWE//MAKES

- All roads of inspiration lead to Crewe as the town centre welcomes creative fun this October half-term and Crewe//Makes celebrates its launch weekend
- All-ages FREE activities happen side-by-side with Diwali celebrations, bringing Bollywood dance, food and art to shopping streets

Crewe//Makes

Events begin Sat 26 October 2024

FREE weekend and weekday creative activities

Launch Day & Diwali Dhamaka - Sat 2 Nov 2024 – 11am – 10pm

crewemakes.com

Crewe's creatives, have-a-go's and talented makers, young and old, have the opportunity to paint the town, dance, eat and drink at launch events for **Crewe//Makes** this half-term and beyond, as new programme of artistic opportunity for the town's residents and visitors begins.

Starting on **Sat 26 October 2024**, with the first drop-in events in a transformed shop in **Victoria Street**, **Crewe//Makes** splashes colour across **Crewe Market Hall** and **Ly2 Lyceum Square** the following weekend with a **FREE family fun day** and Diwali celebration. Crewe//Makes continues from the autumn launch through to next spring.

Devised by **CreweCreates CIC**, an organisation formed by experienced Crewe-based artists, in collaboration with **Crewe Town Council supported by Cheshire East Council**, **Crewe//Makes** sets out to celebrate the town's making heritage, as well as looking to a future of technology and advanced making skills by bringing creative fun to the forefront.

With inspiring workshops, exhibitions and events in a dedicated, accessible, high-street location, multiple events this autumn are precursors to a centrepiece making festival in next February's school half term.

Opening the [Crewe//Makes: Art Space](#) at **The Market Shopping Centre on Victoria Street** as a pop-up exhibition space, workshop and events hub from the opening weekend, organisers welcome the initiative's first artist-in-residence, **David Jewkes**. With drop-in activities on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays during this half-term and ongoing into 2025, Jewkes will be present on weekends to help visitors of all ages and backgrounds explore their creative ideas, or just have a go at something unplanned and unexpected. Other Crewe//Makes artists will be on hand during weekday opening to keep the masterpieces coming.

Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, becomes an evening focal point as November begins with the *Crewe//Makes* full day launch event. Opening in the daytime with family friendly cooking combined with Bollywood dance, activities and demonstrations, then turning attention to the comedy-meets-cooking joy of **Just More Productions**, theatre dance with a side of delicious Indian street food in the evening, **Sat 2 November** is a date for everyone's diaries in Crewe, wider East Cheshire and beyond. The week after, *Wellbeing//Wednesdays* begins, offering a relaxing space for no-pressure creative encounters in a calming environment during term time.

Listings for Crewe//Makes Oct – Nov below

Novae Baghurst, Co-Director of CreweCreates says: *"This half-term children, young people and their adults can encounter creativity and artistic possibility right in the heart of the town. Shopping goes side-by-side with drawing and painting, sculpting and other activities as Crewe//Makes takes creativity out of the gallery, studio or theatre and onto our streets. Purposely easy to find, free and with no need to book, our launch week is full of opportunities to get involved or simply watch as events unfold around us all."*

By supporting Crewe//Makes, Cheshire East and Crewe Town Council aim to continue the buzz around the town's growing cultural landscape and as a home of making skills and new technologies.

All of the confirmed Crewe//Makes events Nov 24 – Feb 25 are as follows:

Crewe//Makes: Art Space

Mondays & Wednesdays 10am -2pm and Saturdays 11am - 2pm, 26 October - 23 February 2025 (Excluding 21 December - 5 January)

Crewe//Makes: Art Space, Victoria St, CW1 2HF. Various locations from Feb 25.

Drop In. FREE, ALL AGES

Crewe's The Market shopping centre becomes home to a growing family of pop-up art galleries (until February 2025) as Crewe gets creating. With exhibitions, family-friendly workshops and activities for the public, schools, colleges and community groups, the shop-front open studio and gallery welcomes its first artist-in-residence, David Jewkes, in October 2024. Jewkes leads an open-door session for curious, creative individuals to create the first Crewe//Makes exhibition. Look forward to a weekly Saturday family workshop and weekday opening to the general public in a home for new creative ideas.

Crewe//Creates: Art Space Family Drop-In Workshop

Saturdays, 26 October 2024 – 24 February 2025 (Excluding 21, 28 December and 4 January), 11am - 2pm

Crewe//Makes: Art Space, Victoria St, Crewe CW1 2HF

Drop In. FREE, ALL AGES

Crewe's town centre becomes a creative playground as shopping streets become Crewe//Makes avenues for art, there are free opportunities to get hands-on with art materials in the company of Crewe//Makes: Art Space artist-in-residence and specialist workshops run from October 2024 to half-term in February 2025. The Arts Space will be busy throughout the week for artists, passers-by, families, schools, colleges and community groups. The walls in each repurposed shop will showcase art by local artists and makers made in the Crewe//Makes initiative.

Crewe//Makes – Launch

Sat 2 November 2024, 11am - 4pm

Crewe Market Hall, CW1 2BL & Ly2 Lyceum Square, CW1 2DA.

FREE, ALL AGES.

Crewe's communities show off their creative and culinary talents as Crewe Market Hall and Lyceum Square Ly² become the stage for a free, family-friendly, fun day of activities, workshops, outdoor stall, demonstrations and street food. From Caribbean cake to Asian noodles, you can sample the tastes of the town. Traditional crafts will be created, painted, woven and assembled. Singing, theatre, music and other performances, including Ri-Ri's Dance Academy's Bollywood dancing performance and workshop, funded by Crewe Town Council, and the hilarious food-themed *Do What Your Mamma Told Yah!* from Just More

Productions, led by a performing chef, adds to the atmosphere and takes Crewe//Makes out onto the street.

Crewe//Makes - Diwali Dhamaka

Sat 2 November 2024, 6pm - 10pm

Crewe Market Hall, CW1 2BL. FREE, ALL AGES.

A celebration of Diwali in the centre of Crewe, brings together the town's communities to celebrate the Hindu festival of light. As part of Crewe//Makes with free family activities in the town centre, daytime activities move into evening with the colour, tastes and sights of a traditional Diwali celebration. After a day of devising dances, songs and rehearsing, children's and grown-up's performances will open the event before Foot Vibes dancers take centre stage. The visual and sonic feast will be paired with the tastiest, traditional Indian food and drink. Crewe//Makes Diwali Dhamaka goes ahead in partnership with the Crewe Asian store and Crewe Market Hall.

Wellbeing//Wednesdays

Every Wednesday, from Wed 6 November 2024, (term time only) 12pm -1pm.

Crewe//Makes: Art Space, Victoria St, Crewe CW1 2HF

Anyone can join CreweCreates every Wednesday during term time for *Wellbeing//Wednesdays*, a relaxing hour of creative mindfulness at Crewe//Makes: Art Space. Drop-in for doodling, making, or trying a new craft in dedicated time and space to unwind and switch off. Calming music plays during the lunch hour session, surrounded by inspiring exhibitions, a purpose-designed backdrop to help people recharge. It's an open space for all, whether escaping work, taking a break from home, retired or on maternity leave. No experience needed.

Crewe//Makes is funded by Cheshire East Council, SPF (UK Shared Prosperity Fund) and Crewe Town Council.

Crewe//Makes partners include South Cheshire Chamber of Commerce, Crewe Engineering and Design UTC, Cheshire College South and West, Crewe BID and Hope 4 More.

For the most up-to-date advance and real-time event information from Crewe//Makes, including plans for the town's weekend-long event in February 2025, connect via the following social media profiles:

www.instagram.com/crewecreates

www.twitter.com/crewecreates

ENDS

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Notes To Editors:

About CreweCreates CIC

The Crewe//Makes programme of events, including learning and skills development opportunities, has been designed and will be delivered by CreweCreates CIC, a Community Interest Company with community involvement as its foundation. Bringing significant experience of delivering events nationally and internationally as artists, creative community-builders and mentors to aspirational, creative individuals and groups, CreweCreates has been founded by Crewe-based arts professionals, Jamie Chalmers and Novae Baghurst.

The programme has been funded by Arts Council England, the government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Cheshire East Council and Crewe Town Council, with support from the Crewe cultural strategy group: Cheshire East Council, Crewe Lyceum Theatre, Crewe Town Council, Crewe Library, Mid-Cheshire Hospitals Trust, South Cheshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Crewe Engineering & Design University Technical College Cheshire College South & West, and Cheshire Archives Service.



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