

General information

Introduction

English Bridge Studios is an arts centre in the former Old Abbey School, used as a primary school until the 1960s and then as an Arts Annex to the Wakeman Technical College until the 1980s. Run since 1985 by the charity English Bridge Workshop Ltd, it is now managed by MakeSpace Arts & Well-Being CIC, and renamed English Bridge Studios. The aims are to provide studio space for local creatives, promote the arts in general, and support community participation in the arts.

Community Space

The building has two large halls available for hire by the half day, day or evening. (Currently the upper hall is closed due to maintenance issues). Tables, chairs, easels and painting supports are available. The spaces are available at hourly rates according to time and size of event:

Rate 1: Weekdays, 8am - 6pm

Rate 2: Saturday/Sunday 9am - 6pm (and evenings for groups under 25 in number)

Rate 2: Sunday - Thursday evenings, 6pm - 11pm

Rate 3: Friday/Saturday evenings, 6pm - midnight (groups over 25 in number)

Bookings must include setting out and tidy up time within the booked hours. Those wanting repeat bookings can set up an account on the online hall booking system. Regular users (approx once a month for at least 6 months of the year) can arrange keyholder access.

Studio space

There are a number of studios available for resident creatives, as well as hot desk spaces for hire by the day. All spaces have water, a sink and background heating but the occupant is responsible for all equipment necessary for the activity undertaken in the studio. These spaces are let at an affordable rate benchmarked against similar facilities in the area.

Resident creatives are invited to monthly studio meetings, expected to assist in the running of the studios from time to time, and preference is given to those who offer community arts engagement activities in the halls.

Potential users of the building should be aware that at present there is no lift to the toilets, which are on the first floor, and minimal kitchen facilities.