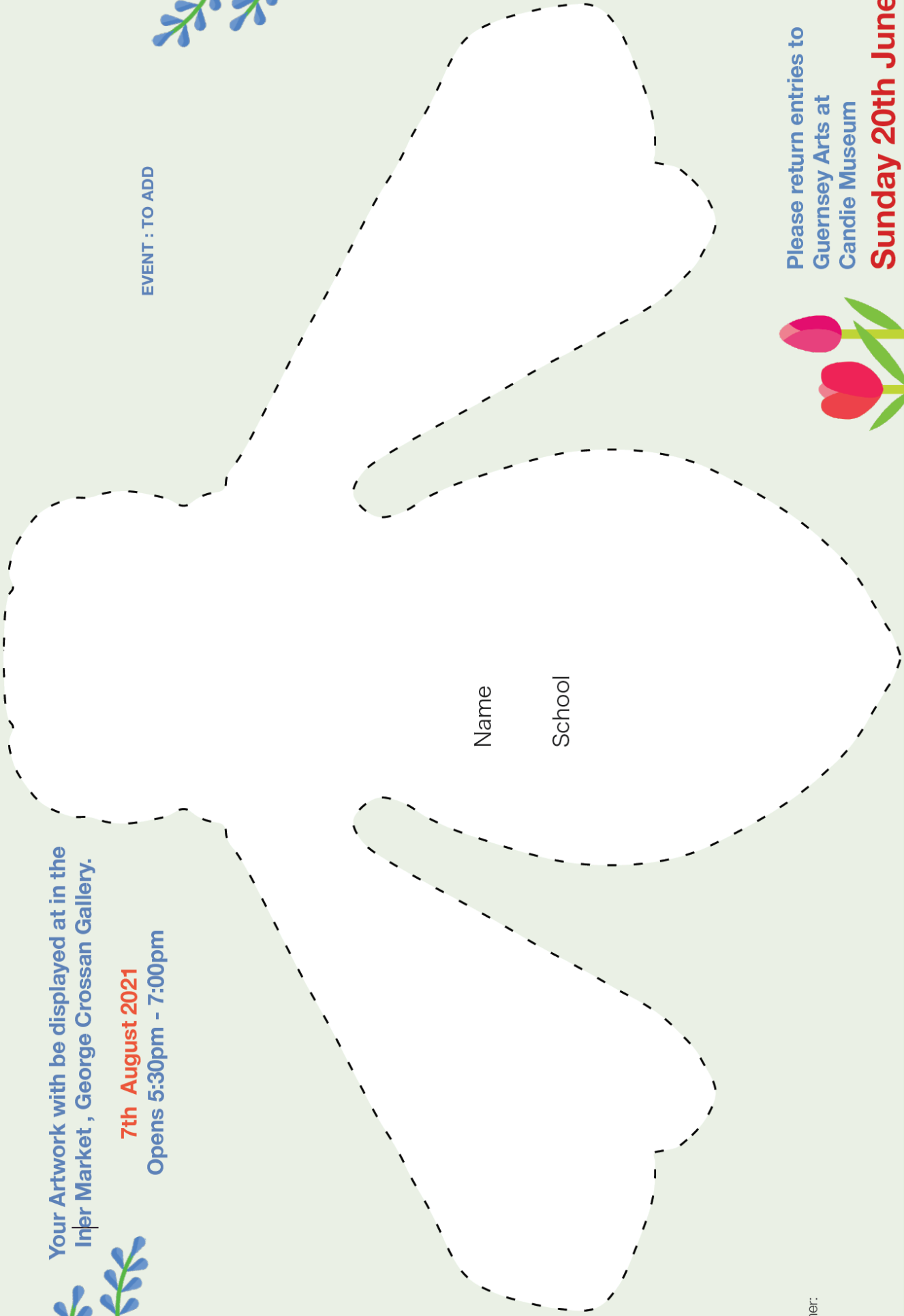


# CREATE A SOLITARY BEE 2021

Your Artwork will be displayed at in the  
Infer Market , George Crossan Gallery.

**7th August 2021**  
Opens 5:30pm - 7:00pm

EVENT : TO ADD



Name

School

Disclaimer:  
To add



Please return entries to  
Guernsey Arts at  
Candie Museum

**Sunday 20th June**



In Guernsey, we have around 90 species of bee - six are bumblebees and one is the honeybee. These species are social and live in colonies. The other 93% are solitary bees - that's 83 species!



They are not aggressive or territorial, they do not swarm and rarely sting (when the fe-males do sting it's not painful).



Despite the fact that it is often thought that the honeybee is the best pollinator all our plants, this is not true. Solitary bees are far better pollinators. For example, a single red mason bee is equivalent to 120 worker honeybees in the pollination it provides.



Some solitary bees make nests in hollow stalks, but most dig tubular burrows in soil, sand, mortar or wood. A few nest in empty snail shells!



Some solitary bees are called "cuckoo bees" because these bees lay their eggs in the nest of other species.



Solitary bees vary considerably in size and appearance. The smallest are just 5mm in length, the biggest are 15mm. Some are quite furry, while others have no hair at all. Some have yellow and black stripes like wasps.



Like bumblebees, most solitary bees hibernate in the winter and emerge from their nests when the temperature rises. Some species are only seen in spring, others through the summer, and some like the Ivy Bee, only in autumn.



Unlike bumblebees and honeybees, solitary bees do not live in colonies, produce honey or have a queen. However some species nest in groups or "aggregations", but they are still nesting on their own.



The female does all of the work. She makes the nest and provides each larva with every-thing it needs to survive. They do not tend to the young as they grow and never get to see their offspring emerge.



You can help solitary bees by putting up bee boxes in gardens, which will be used as nests by species such as mason and leafcutter bees.



Some line their nests with mud; others use leaves or plant hair.

Planting bee friendly flowers and not cutting lawns often, will help bees.

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