

The Wilkes Head  
16 St Edward Street Leek  
*presents*

Monday Nights 9pm

## ACOUSTIC NIGHT

(Longest running  
session in town!)  
All Kinds of Music

All Welcome

Leatherbarrow & Lovatt

57 St Edward Street, Leek.

*For the person who has almost everything you are likely to find something useful, quirky or decorative amongst our wide range of quality goods*



**The Foxlowe cafe uses ONLY Fairtrade tea, coffee, chocolate, sugars, cocoa and wines.**

**As far as possible we purchase from local retailers.**

## Moorlands Therapists

offer complementary therapies at the Free Healing Clinic on the 3rd Saturday monthly at the Quaker Meeting House Overton Bank Leek  
Booking in starts at 12.45pm.

# Foxlowe's growing programme offers exciting choices

**Peter Kent-Baguley agrees that excellence and strong local engagement are fundamental for the success of the Foxlowe**

Not only is the Arts Centre offering an increasingly wide choice of cultural creativities to be enjoyed in different ways but the Foxlowe could well be an important stimulus for the economic well-being of the town centre.

There is ample evidence that the arts are a key catalyst for economic and social regeneration over and above the obvious cultural benefits. Not only does London's South Bank illustrate this but cities and towns around the country offer ample testimony.

**Run down Margate, for example, has hosted a third of a million visitors to its Turner Contemporary gallery which opened only nine months ago in April.**

Writing in *The Guardian* just after Christmas, John Kampfner pointed out: *"Artistic institutions outside the capital - from the visual arts to theatre, music and beyond - have traditionally been overlooked by governments and private funders, so they must shout louder in order to be heard through a combination of excellence and strong local engagement. These two are not contradictory. Indeed, they enhance each other."*

Kampfner sees a new spirit of entrepreneurship taking hold in Margate "even amid the economic gloom...more than 35 new

businesses have opened in the Old Town with dozens of new jobs created."

To underline the wider creative power of arts centres, Southeastern railways report a 30% increase in passengers on the Margate line.

*Perhaps the late Cllr Steve Povey's thinking was edging in the right direction with his Leek by the Sea event. The sooner the rail link to Leek is re-established the better!*

**Leek's arts centre combined with the rail link can only spell full steam ahead for tourism.**

Our gallery, a rare new addition in itself for Leek, has got off to a superb start, showing that large numbers of people are interested in looking at different creative expressions of reality and fantasy, with record sales too! A full programme of exhibitions for the next twelve months is in place.

Our cafe has been rated by scores of people already as a wonderfully warm and welcoming environment where even children and pushchairs are welcome. Another rare addition for Leek!

The cafe is open Wednesday - Sunday during the winter months, 10am to 4pm. Starting on Thursday 19th January candle-light evening meals will be served from 7.30-9.30pm.

*The cafe amply demonstrates two of our core principles; solid*

*commitment to Fairtrade products and a purchasing policy that as far as is possible supports local retailers.*

Underlining the importance of a welcoming environment is the move to the Foxlowe of *The Situation*, starting on Friday 6th January with a line up of three bands and Burslem-brewed Titanic beers available.

The BlueFox Festival, Saturday 3 March will feature a number of local bands along with a wide range of real ale.

The emergence of the Foxlowe Youth Theatre will be a major milestone and its development will offer so many enjoyable and interesting challenges for the young people of Leek and surrounding villages.

Regular Tuesday evening screenings and possibly a Saturday or Sunday childrens' club will be launched in February.

A twice monthly programme of talks is taking shape for the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. Cathryn Walton has kindly offered to kick-start the programme with a talk entitled *The Foxlowe & Its Families* on Wednesday 8th February starting at 7.30pm.

Rooms may be hired for meetings, private parties and workshops. In March and April, for example, Jenny Newall is tutoring two 2-day practical workshops on designing and making stained glass windows.

Foxlowe Performance Arts Co-ordinator, FRED JEFFRIES reveals

## Foxlowe Youth Theatre to start in February

The Foxlowe Arts Centre is delighted to announce that Saturday morning youth theatre workshops will start in late February after half-term with taster sessions in early February.

They will be under the leadership of Katie White, a graduate of the prestigious London School of Speech and Drama, who's list of stars in every way equals those from RADA. They range over the years from Sir Laurence Olivier and Dame Judi Dench, to Tony Robinson who played "Baldrick" in Black Adder and Christopher Ecclestone, the Dr Who, of course, before David Tennant.

Leek born, Katie herself has decided to use

her talents in teaching and has recently started as a teacher at Westwood First School. She will be assisted by Tasha Morley, who will lead in movement and dance, but her skills also include such specialities as fight choreography.

As well as acting and singing etc, other activities will include props making, stagecraft and, later for the seniors, areas such as lighting and sound, with a play, or even a mini-musical at the end of each term.

The workshops will be in two sessions. The first will be for those of First School age from age seven onward and the second for Middle and Senior School pupils, up to

age 16. As Katie says, "Not only will it be a great deal of fun for everyone, but the aim will be to bring out each young persons own natural talents and abilities.

Full details will be made available through schools and will shortly also be available on our web site:

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

To ensure early direct notice though, do record your interest, the ages and genders of likely participants and a means of contact (preferably an e-mail address) with our Performing Arts Coordinator, Fred Jeffries, at:

[fredj-foxlowe@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:fredj-foxlowe@hotmail.co.uk)  
The fee will be £39 per half term. **Who will be OUR stars of the future?**

This issue will be delivered to every house in the Westwood area courtesy of volunteer ST13 distributors.

There may be potential supporters of the Foxlowe Arts Centre who are not aware that the project is underway.

We want you to have the chance to pledge your support.

In addition to this outreach work we would be delighted if each PLEDGER signed up ONE new pledger.

Moira McCourt our volunteer co-ordinator would like to hear from you if you have time to spare weekly or monthly to offer your experience and expertise.

We urgently need help in the kitchen and the cafe.

Moira's number is:  
0774 605 5095

## Foxlowe films

Foxlowe film season screenings every TUESDAY evening

If you have a passion for film then the Foxlowe Film group will welcome your help. Veteran film maker and recorder of all things Leek, GERALD MEE, a founding trustee of the Stoke Film Society, has kindly offered to loan his own equipment for screenings so that we are not faced with an immediate capital financial challenge. We want to establish a small film group which will put together a weekly Tuesday evening programme. It is also possible that we could run a children's Saturday or Sunday afternoon film show if there is a demand for it. Please ring Peter Kent-Baguley 07773 464626 if you would like to join the group to programme films at the Foxlowe.



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tapas y cubos

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The Tapas Bar in Leek

