

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



Fairtrade tea, coffee, chocolate, sugar, cocoa and wines. Wherever possible we

purchase from local retailers.

All Car Exhausts & Tyres Ltd

52 Broad Street
Leek ST13 5NS
01538 385822 / 399265

High quality service
at competitive
prices

Show this ad on your
next visit to
ALL CAR EXHAUSTS &
TYRES
52 BROAD STREET

Our Amazing Volunteers

Without our wonderful volunteers the Foxlowe Arts centre would never have become a reality writes MOIRA McCOURT, volunteers' co-ordinator.

To the beginning of March we have 115 wonderful volunteers putting in many voluntary hours. Thank you so much to all these people.

Since 1 October they have logged hundreds of hours painting, planting, cleaning, cooking and serving for the cafe, stewarding in the gallery, organising rotas, repairing and restoring, setting up films, music nights and drama...and so much more.

Without all these wonderfully committed volunteers the Foxlowe Arts Centre would never

Tuesday night is film night at the Foxlowe

MAGGIE LOCHRANE gives an overview of patrons' views.

From the outset, the film group hoped that our patrons would complete a short questionnaire. We have been delighted with the response and the replies are most encouraging.

Interestingly, up to 50% of the audience at some screenings are from outside Leek showing that we are already beginning to serve the District's villages as well as attracting several people from various parts of Stoke-on-Trent.

Several evenings have seen capacity audiences and returns suggest half of the audience were first time patrons.

A key question for the continuing development of Leek's independent cinema at the Foxlowe was: would you recommend Foxlowe Films to family and friends? Invariably the response was 100% yes!

To make sure we meet people's needs one question asks what kinds of films they would like to see? A big vote goes for recent releases but equally for art house films and a spread of genres.

have become a reality.

Recently, we gave a small 'thank you' afternoon to our kitchen and cafe volunteers who had put in a superhuman effort over several weeks while we were without a cook and cafe manager.

Our volunteers put in many more hours than they had signed up for and thanks to them our cafe and kitchen stayed open and ran entirely with their voluntary help. We know that there are many other volunteers in different areas who are also putting in lots of hours and



EXTRA EXTRA EXTRA

GERALD MEE who has screened the films at the Foxlowe with his own equipment has offered TWO MORE film events:

JUNE HALF TERM Children's Film programme to be announced.

TUESDAY 5 June 7.45pm

Festival of local films:

The Coronation Celebrations in Leek during 1953

A film made for the Leek Urban District Council by the late John Martin ARPS, AIBP who owned the well known Pharmacy at 66 Derby Street.

He was a nationally famous photographer who later moved to photographic premises in Pall Mall, Hanley where he also conducted a film processing plant for dealers all around North Staffordshire. His son, Digby followed his father's interest and became a professional cinematographer.

we hope to hold further 'thank you' events for them in the near future.

We are pleased to say that people are still keen to volunteer for the Centre and a number of potential volunteers waiting to be placed. Most people who expressed an interest in a particular area have had their names passed to the relevant area co-ordinator who should be in touch soon.

If you know anyone who could volunteer in a more 'management' capacity please let me know. The trustees and our current co-ordinators are stretched as far as they can be just now and would welcome those who can help with things like events planning, accessing funds, admin and arranging volunteers' rotas. Please contact me on: 07736244010.

Final 4 weeks of the 10 week trial period

Tuesday 10 April
Son of Rambow (12A)
Tuesday 17 April
In the Hands of the Gods (15)
Tuesday 24 April
Midnight in Paris (12A)
Tuesday 1 May
I am Cuba (PG)

Our Daily Bread

A documentary also made by John Martin, about the Bakery of J.H. Tatton in Derby Street (the premises now occupied by Ponden Mill)

This film won a 'Ten Best' Oscar in 1939, and was widely shown in the UK and abroad.

A Newsreel made by Gerald Mee during the year which commemorated the end of WW2. (part of a 15 year series of *Round and About in North Staffordshire*).

PLUS Various films of 'Old Leek' including **Leek the First Millennium.**



[www.facebook.com/
FoxloweArtsCentre](http://www.facebook.com/FoxloweArtsCentre)

Local architect with global clients champions community involvement

Champion of community power, fierce critic of soulless modernist buildings and past President of the Royal Institute of British Architects, ROD HACKNEY, was the guest speaker at the Civic Society's AGM at the Foxlowe on 30 March.

His love of Ken Dodd and his winning smile betray Rod Hackney's Liverpoolian origins although for decades his base has been Macclesfield, when not traversing the globe to his score or so overseas' offices.

He is no ordinary architect and his single most defining characteristic is his unwavering commitment to community involvement in environmental development.

Dr Rod Hackney is frequently invited to put the case for more community involvement in housing at a number of conferences and symposia including official visits sponsored by the British Council to Russia, India and Sri Lanka.

But you don't have to go so far afield to see the fruits of his philosophy. In the late '80s the refurbishment of late C19 terraced housing along with environmental improvements to the cluster

of streets in Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent was a major riposte to the demolish and high rise approach of the '60s.

Stoke's Vic Theatre, famous for its community approach, has produced numerous major musicals on community themes.

Rod's Tunstall project inspired their musical, *Good Golly, Miss Molly*, depicting the Hawes Street community architecture scheme. It transferred to London's West End where it played to full houses in 1991 and 1992.

His autobiography, *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly* reached No.1 in one of Britain's retail bookshops in 1989. His illustrated talk was snippet of his vast and varied career.

Asked if still had one major project he would like to design and see built, he said: "Oh yes; the Olympic stadium Rio 2016.



Foxlowe's pledgers, donors and volunteers first 6 months' meeting

PETER KENT-BAGULEY welcomed some sixty Foxlowe supporters at the mid-year meeting held at the Foxlowe on 2 April.

He thought it appropriate that the Foxlowe stands at the head of the Market Place, a place where people come to exchange, to give and take. Likewise the Foxlowe itself provides the opportunity for everyone to give and take in an infinite variety of creative ways. The Foxlowe is becoming a cornucopia of creative inspiration. Not all that it offers will appeal to each person; some will focus on the music, others the drama, the gallery, yet more the cafe.

He reported an income of some £50,000, principally from donations, pledges and the cafe. £49,000 has been spent, with the major share, £38,000 on the renovation and refurbishment of the building and £7,000 on equipment and some furniture. The first two months of the lease were spent making the building fit for purpose but only four months of trading indicate that the Centre is sustainable on a revenue basis.

The challenge from the 1 November is to meet the monthly mortgage payments or increased rent from £33,000 to £50,000 annually on a renewed lease.

The question and answer session produced some very helpful suggestions which we will adopt. A renewed campaign to double the 250 pledgers and approaches to both Britannia and Sainsbury as well as the larger local firms for grants or sponsorship.

All agreed we need to be able to demonstrate the need for the Arts Centre when making bids for grants and although we are collecting visitor numbers and comments we need more data. We ask everyone to drop us a few lines telling us how important the Foxlowe is for them. Such comments emphasise that this Centre is truly based in the community and underlines that it is a people-led project.

We will meet at the 12 month stage on the 6 August to report further progress.

Foxlowe's Crafty Kids More children's craft workshops on offer

Following the over-subscribed and successful launch workshop in March a programme of monthly Saturday morning workshops has been arranged. The next one will be on 21 April and it

is important to register prior to the workshop. The focus will be on card weaving, which enables everyone to produce a piece of woven cloth which will be turned into a small bag really inexpensively. No need for costly looms just a piece of cardboard, with notches cut at each end in which the warp yarns are held.

The tools for this kind of craft activity couldn't be more economical!

All materials will be provided at the workshop but if you want to bring your favourite colours and the wool is not too thick then bring it along.

Make a note of the dates for the workshops:

May 26	June 23
July 21	August 18
September 22	October 20

Caring Companion

For a companion who really cares

Pauline Hart
Experienced carer and ex nurse

Ring Pauline on
07525189592
or
01538 372664

paulinehart80@hotmail.com

CRAFTY KIDS AT FOXLOWE ARTS CENTRE

Workshop for 8-12 yrs old

Saturday 21 April

9.30-12.30

**CARD
WEAVING**

Cost £3

Booking essential via:

ruth2tex@yahoo.co.uk

Run by members of the Guild of Weavers, Spinners & Dyers

Image is everything

when every sale counts

Crimsonlizard

High quality design for web and print

crimsonlizard.com
01538 715043

