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The Foxlowe Arts Centre & Creativity

ERICA BROOK celebrates the importance of curiosity and creativity in our lives

Run, largely by volunteers, from a rich range of experience, the Foxlowe Arts Centre continues to grow into its new role in an atmosphere of relaxed but thoughtful confidence. Visitors are welcome to enjoy a drink, a meal, in the friendly meeting-place atmosphere of the café, to visit the Gallery, and the Heritage Room, the Film Theatre, to witness the weekly changes that are happening in the garden, which, static for years, is already developing its own character as it is nurtured towards growing into itself.

The Foxlowe Arts Centre engages with all ages, and many subject areas. In a time of bombardment by images and words, it offers a retreat and the space for children and adults, both as practitioners and observers, to explore diverse art forms - theatre, music, stained glass, stone carving, weaving, guitar, cooking, patchwork. It is increasingly becoming a meeting place for activities where creativity is the ingredient common to all.

What is creativity? Why is it important? Are we all creative - do we have to be 'gifted'?

One of the Foxlowe's founding principles is the recognition of the immense value to individuals of being permitted to grow through gentle practical support towards an awareness of their own ability, in terms, quite simply, of making something happen which is unique to them.

Giving the confidence through acquired skills and techniques is the gift of 'language', a means to express one's self in a particular discipline. Being able to let go, stand back and allow the beginners to start to make an individual statement is doubly creative, in the advisors to see *beyond* themselves and in the students to see *within* themselves.

This totally absorbing process, which can engage with so many different elements, is a necessary experience for all of us, an unravelling, a sorting, and a growing area which can add immeasurably to our lives. Having experienced it, we see the world differently, we become aware of opportunities in our everyday living to make, create something; we become curious, and from the passive observer, we enter the world of the creative maker.

All of us have this ability, but sadly, many of us have had our own avenues of creativity blocked by well meaning individuals. The Foxlowe is a building which is becoming home to individuals, who, through their role as volunteers are indicating the trust they have in each other and in all who may become involved with it simply as receivers and observers, that they have something special to say, and we at the Foxlowe are here to support, unobtrusively and sensitively in that process. Come and see, join us, enjoy, benefit, give.

Trustees appreciative of generous donations

Chair of trustees, Peter Kent-Baguley, expressed the gratitude of the trustees when he recently received two cheques, each of £250, from Jean Tilstone on behalf of Staffordshire Moorlands Soroptomists to help with the running costs of the Foxlowe Youth Theatre and from Glenys Robinson on behalf of the Leek Crime Prevention Panel in support of the craft workshops for young people.



The next exhibition at the Foxlowe Arts Centre Gallery is called STORY TELLING.

Five artists working in different media have been brought together for the Foxlowe Arts Centre's 8th Exhibition since it opened on the 3rd December 2011.

Every piece of art has a story to tell and this exhibition will certainly help the visitor to explore the story of each exhibit.

Amongst the more seasoned exhibitors there are some new talents and they are worth watching out for.

Caroline Bridie Gower (bright Zany paintings); Pam How (mixed media, recreating classic stories); Amy Derbyshire (ceramics with a twist); Alan Brown (photography; imaginary or real?); Iain Perry (short run screen prints).

The preview is on the 10th August starting at 6.30pm and is open to all.

Everyone is welcome to come along, enjoy a glass of Fairtrade wine while viewing the exhibits and meeting the artists and perhaps lingering a while longer, enjoying the ambience of the groundfloor cafe bar which is open on Friday evenings until 10pm for coffee and wine.

STORY TELLING opens on Friday 10th August and runs until Sunday 9th September.

Foxlowe Arts Centre's summer workshops

Enjoy the kaleidoscope of creative possibilities for young people during the summer holidays

Totally Locally Musical Youth

£10 for all 6 sessions Mondays: July 23rd, 30th, Aug 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th 2-4pm. 12-16 year olds. Be tutored professionally to perform, either as bands or solo.

Contact Ivan Sherratt 01538 385572

Weave Your Own Scarf with Virginia Kent-Baguley £5 for a 4 morning course.

Age range 9-12 years. Wool will be provided but you can bring your own.

Book with name and age email: virginia@kent-baguley.co.uk or tel 01538 386946

Week 1 course: 10-11am on 30th, 31st July, 2nd & 3rd August.

Week 2 course: 2-3pm on 6th, 7th, 9th & 10th August.

Week 3 course: 10-11am 13th, 14th, 16th & 17th August.

Week 4 course: 2-3pm on 20th, 21st, 23rd & 24th August.

Week 5 course: 10-11am on 27th, 28th, 30th & 31st August.

Free Guitar Lessons with Paul Hill

Wednesdays 25th July, 22nd & 29th August 10am-4pm.

Are you a total beginner or recently started?

Come along to a FREE lesson for expert guidance and tuition.

Please book in advance 01538 384589 email :johnpaulhilluk@aim.com.

Musical Theatre with professional teacher Kit Henson £45 (£30 Youth Theatre members)

3 day course 31st July, 1st & 2nd August 10am - 4pm Age range 6-10 years.

3 day course 7th, 8th & 9th August 10am - 4pm Age range 11-16 years.

Learn Songs, Drama & Dance with Kit Henson professional teacher.

Please book in advance. Email: summer@foxloweartscentre.org.uk or tel 01538 386112

Pottery Workshop for Beginners £5 10+years Wed 15th August 10.30am-3.30pm

Becky Alvarez will take you through creating your own pots from scratch.

All materials provided. Parents free to join in.

Please book in advance email:-summer@foxloweartscentre.org.uk / tel 07736244010

Interactive Music Making with Khoros. Free Thur 16th August 1 -3.30pm

Musical experiences for everyone regardless of musical or physical ability.

www.khoros.co.uk for more information.

Please book in advance email: summer@foxloweartscentre.org.uk tel 01538 386112

Toddlers Music & Movement with Kit Henson £2 Fri 17th August 10.30am - 12.30pm.

Fun music & movement session with Kit Henson.

Please book in advance email summer@foxloweartscentre.org / tel 01538 386112

Button Jewellery Making with Sarah Myatt £5 Wed 22nd Aug 2pm-4pm. Age 10+

Make your own button bracelet, all materials provided.

Please book in advance email summer@foxloweartscentre.org.uk or tel 01538 386112

Acting on Film tutored by actors from local professional drama company Rotten Park Road.

Free 3 day course 28th, 29th & 30th August 10am-4pm age 18+

Learn some of the skills needed to act on film.

Please book in advance email : lynnecpayne@hotmail.com or tel 01538 386112

The Situation's Line-up

Friday 3rd August

Leek's own not-for-profit music promoters, **The Situation**, are back at the Foxlowe Arts Centre with three great local acts which are guaranteed to fit the recent summer weather.

First on is **Elly Kingdon**, an inspired and inspiring folk-punk acoustic soloist from Congleton, whose lyrics, ranging from the cute to the radical, will always grab you. 6 Towns Radio presenter, Simon Edwards, said: "Elly is one of the freshest and most original artists on the local scene."



Second up are the **Innocent Sins**, an alternative garage rock trio (Rob Goodwin, Arthur King, and Andy Smith) from Stoke, whose punchy rhythms will get every foot tapping, and may result in dancing!

And headlining this week are **Cardinal**, a catchy, rock/pop/punk quartet from Ipstones and Stoke, who describe themselves as "enjoying life whilst making and performing their passion." Combining the rock n' roll spirit and attitude of bands such as Jimmy Eat World, Foo Fighters and Green Day, their energetic and take-no-prisoners approach to music has landed them slots at several local festivals.

The Situation's Steve Hammersley said: "We would be hard-pushed to find a better line-up for a summer Friday evening than this one." Tickets £4 on the night. Doors open at 8-30pm, and the first act is onstage around 9pm.

Heritage Open Day

The Nicholson War Memorial committee has arranged for a special Sunday opening to mark the annual national event of Heritage Open Days.

Free guided tours of the Memorial will be held on SUNDAY 9th SEPTEMBER from 1-4pm.

There will be a selection of military vehicles on display.

Contact Laura Wigg-Bailey 07966 208 301 if you need more information.



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