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The *What's It Worth* feature held at the Foxlowe Arts Centre by Moorlands Radio antiques expert, Allan Pickering, has been very popular. Many interesting items including pottery and jewelry have been brought in for a free valuation. The next valuation session will be 11am-1pm on Wednesday 19th September.



## Foxlowe Films: autumn programme

LOUISE WALKER introduces Foxlowe Films' new autumn programme which opens on Tuesday 25 September with *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*

The feedback from those who attended the pilot emphasised that films at the Foxlowe Arts Centre were highly valued. Audiences were drawn from 26 locations and everyone said they wholeheartedly recommend Foxlowe Films to family and friends.

With that evidence of need, interest and support, we made a successful application for a grant from the Leek Town Lands Trust, which has enabled the purchase and installation of our own projection equipment and vastly improved sound system.

By popular request the new season starts with *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*. With a stellar cast of some of the greats of British stage and screen, Judi Dench, Maggie Smith, Ronald Pickup and Bill Nighy, this delightful comedy is sure not to disappoint audiences.

The autumn programme includes box office hits, world cinema, documentary and classic films that will appeal to existing and new audiences.

October's films are: *The Angel's Share*, (2) the prize winning latest bittersweet comedy from Ken Loach is set on the west coast of Scotland. *Carancho* (9) is a compelling Argentinian thriller; *Marley* (16) the new definitive biography of Bob Marley released to rave reviews earlier this year and *Moonrise Kingdom* on (23) is a magical tale of two 12 year olds who run away into the wilderness together. Directed by Wes Anderson (*Fantastic Mr Fox*) it stars Bill Murray, Frances McDormand, Tilda Swinton and Bruce Willis.

For half term there is a matinee screening for children with *Pirates! In an Adventure with Scientists!*

on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November at 2 pm - from the creators of Wallace and Gromit. It should delight children and parents alike.

The Tuesday night screening during half term is the Peter Bogdanovich stylish, cult classic, coming of age tale set in small town Texas in 1951. Filmed in black and white it stars a young Cybill Shepherd and Jeff Bridges.

You can pick up the full programme from the Foxlowe Arts Centre, Tourist Information, Leek Library or download from the Foxlowe website: [www.foxloweartscentre.org.uk](http://www.foxloweartscentre.org.uk). Tickets for all the films are available from Colloco

(Sheepmarket), Over the Rainbow (Derby Street) and from the Foxlowe Art Gallery, priced at £5 with the children's matinee £1 for children and free to the accompanying adult. All evening films will start at 7.45 pm with a licensed bar and hot drinks available from 7 pm. The children's matinee will start at 2 pm.



**Interpretation** the Foxlowe Gallery's 9th Exhibition opens on 15 September until 14 October.

### Stephen Hodgetts

Local photographer Stephen Hodgetts' collection of black and white images are in the form of abstract studies of architecture and still life. Stephen has been working in black and white for over twenty years and has a particular interest in producing creative images using the effect of monochrome to emphasise shape and form. His work has been published in international photography magazines and he has been invited to talk to the Royal Photography Society about his work.



### Jon Braley

Jon grew up on Leek's Haregate Estate, studied at Leek College before studying BA (Hons) Fine Art at the University of Derby and then gaining an MA in European Fine Art at Winchester School of Art.

Jon's paintings are about how we relate to nature in an urban, technological age. The more we live in cities and cocoon ourselves from the natural world, the more we become separated from it. Like ancient myth or legend, the natural world has managed to become something romanticised but distant, an essential part of our identity but increasingly we have trouble reconnecting with it.

Jon is a successful modern artist living and working in London. Last year he was amongst just 45 artists showing their work at the prestigious Walker Art Gallery.

### Josh Howard

Currently studying Art and Design at Leek College, Josh is somebody to watch out for. Josh won joint 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the 2D/3D category at this year's Staffordshire Moorlands Open Art Exhibition and 1<sup>st</sup> prize in last year's Staffordshire Moorlands Open Art Exhibition in the same category. His work is already in private and corporate collections.

## Professional, award-winning actor/writer to make his debut at the Foxlowe Arts Centre

Staffordshire Moorlands based REC (Rural, Educational, Community) Theatre Company are coming to the Foxlowe Arts Centre at the end of September with two of their multi award winning shows.

*Zugzwang*, by Duncan Battman, is an obscure word in the English dictionary, referring to a situation in chess that applies to Alec, played by Martin Beard, as he walks out of his wife's funeral. His son Trevor (Glen Naden) comes, only to find Alec playing a game of postal chess. The conversation that ensues reveals the parallels between Alec's life and his chess game.

*Martin Beard won the award for Best Actor at Hale festival when this show was first produced 25 years ago and subsequently best production at Buxton Festival Fringe.*

The second show is a double award winner

for writer and performer Martin Beard as the now middle aged Don Juan who reflects upon his life, loves and adventures as an



uninhibited libertine up to the point of his final comeuppance for all his misdeeds. You will either love him or hate him, or maybe a bit of both.

The REC Theatre Company and its drama school have been a leading influence and driving theatrical force behind Buxton Festival Fringe for

the past seventeen years.

They were the first company to introduce managed venues to that fringe and former REC Drama School students now continue that tradition as the company concentrates on developing small scale touring of rural venues in Staffordshire and Derbyshire.

This will be the REC's debut at the Foxlowe Arts Centre, for two nights only, as a double bill on Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th September.

*Zugzwang* 7.30 pm followed by 15 minutes interval then *Don Juan* at 8.15 pm. The shows end at 9.00 pm followed by an after show discussion.

Tickets are £8.00 and Concessions £7.00. For further details, reviews and news please go to: [www.rectheatre.co.uk](http://www.rectheatre.co.uk) or telephone 07725 919 178 for information. Advance reservations 07725 919178 or by e-mail to: [rectheatre@me.com](mailto:rectheatre@me.com)



### National Heritage Open Weekend

The Nicholson War memorial will be open on Sunday 9th September, 1-4pm, for free guided tours. There will be a display of World War two military vehicles.

Cllr John Povey Chairman of the Friends group said "Our regular third Saturday of the month openings have been very popular and this Sunday opening will give a chance for those for whom Saturday is inconvenient a chance to look inside the building.

"A small team of volunteer tour guides have hosted the openings since February and I would be delighted to hear from anyone else who may wish to join the guide team."

An exhibition about the Memorial, entitled Poppies and Silk: Leek's Nicholson Legacy is at the Nicholson Institute from 13th October until 8th December. For details see:

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

Details about the Heritage Open Weekend across the country see:

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

On Saturday 8th September *Mud and Letters Home, a Great War Living History Event* takes place at Leek Library organised by Staffordshire Library Service, 10am to 3pm. There is an opportunity to find out about life in the trenches, see army equipment, and to look up World War 1 service and pension records. It is a free drop in event with activities for children.



Chris Thompson, our almost resident artist and Exhibitions Co-ordinator is leading the redesign and refurbishment of the large function/stage room and the adjacent bar/family room ...and all on a shoe-string.

No surprise then that he is appealing for dark hard wood ladder back and wheel back chairs and also oval, drop leaf, gate-legged tables.

He is also looking for a 2 or 3 seater Chesterfield sofa and chair it has to be leather or pleather due to cleaning. If you can help or know someone who can, please contact Chris: 07793 711 844. He will be delighted.



### Foxlowe's media team building

Are you able to help on a voluntary basis to develop the Foxlowe Arts Centre's promotion and marketing?

We are looking for a few people to form a small team who can help to keep our website CMS and social media sites up to date with events and activities, prepare press stories to raise the profile of the arts centre and help with general internal and external communication.

If you feel you have the skills, have a keen interest in the Foxlowe arts centre and Leek, with possibly the experience required to tackle any of the following areas then we would be delighted to benefit from your expertise and experience for an hour a week, or more if you have the spare time:

working with a content management website and/or facebook;  
preparing, distributing and following up press releases;  
writing internal / external memos;  
contributing to our monthly ST13 newsletter.

This is potentially a small team so you wouldn't need to have the skills and experience for all of the tasks. If you are interested or would like to know more please email: [hello@foxloweartscentre.org.uk](mailto:hello@foxloweartscentre.org.uk) or telephone 01538 382615 and ask for Marc.