

VOLUNTEERS' CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday 9th December
4.30-6.30pm

Relax from your labours volunteering at the Centre and enjoy the time with mulled wine or soft drinks, mince pies, a short festive film and carols round the Christmas tree.

Thanks to all you loyal and hardworking volunteers who have done so much to help the Foxlowe Arts Centre to have such a successful first 12 months.

RSVP

by telephone or note to
Foxlowe Arts Centre
01538 386112

WHAT THE DICKENS....? It's The Phoenix Singers' Christmas Concert!

This year's Christmas concert by the Phoenix Singers and the Young Phoenix, provides a musical version of one of the most famous and well-loved ghost stories: **A Christmas Carol** by Charles Dickens. The choirs are celebrating the bicentenary of Dickens' birth by performing a brand new cantata created by The Phoenix Singers' musical director, **Ashley Thompson**, working in collaboration with playwright and actor **Deborah McAndrew**.

Saturday December 15th, 7.30pm, All Saints Church, Compton. Tickets £8 (£2 for under 18s) at Leek Tourist Office; Picton Street P.O.; Picture Book, Stanley St. or by phoning 01538-385579.

Tickets for Foxlowe Arts Centre events go on line:

www.foxloweartscentre.org.uk/tickets

The Foxlowe cafe uses

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

buy from local retailers.



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Return of our Firm Favourites - Plus...

ERICA BROOK sees works by Anita Hill, David Hunt, Rachel Talbot and Jonathan Walker to delight all

The Exhibition, Take 2 is affirmation of the Foxlowe's first complete year as the Art Centre of Leek. David Hunt, Anita Hill and Jonathan Walker, all of whom exhibited this time last year, are joined by Rachel Talbot, sculptor.

Rachel's childhood memories of her grandmother, where, even as a youngster she observed the ageing face and body, were the beginnings of her close attention to detail. Old book illustrations are her fascination and source material, from which she translates two dimensions into three. This 'old-world' element in her illustrative pieces exudes its own quality through the patination suggesting time passed. Her *Two Dames*, a closely observed and articulated sculpture of two wigless pantomime 'dames' fascinates but also disturbs as one studies the closed world of the performers.



Jonathan Walker, with once again a display of caricature animal characters presenting the extremes of wisdom and cunning, continues to show his expertise with watercolour, and a seeming ease of execution in his technique. Jonathan's childhood has an enormous influence on his work, reflected in the importance of colour to him. The suggestion of a glimpse into a story pervades his work, and he delights in the amount of times people have written to him, telling their own stories from his paintings.

Anita Hill's painting career was triggered on her thirtieth birthday by the gift of a paintbox from her mother. This led to painting classes with Doris Brown, who banished all colours from Anita's box except four, Doris's chosen palette. From then on Anita was hooked on colour, delighting in subtleties and extremes. Her *Moroccan Market*, with its slab of vivid blue sky and white silhouetted building, its shoppers painted in blocks of rich warm colours is one end of the spectrum against the delicate, limited palette (largely blue and yellow) of *Windy Walk*, *Horton*, at the other.

David Hunt's inspiration is more immediate. Triggered by a view, his response is then to his surface, and its texture, deliberately variable from piece to piece. Although responding to the image, in portraying it, he is delighting in the marks his materials make. Close inspection of any surface will show slashing strokes as he builds up his layers of colour, thus creating the shimmering effects of light and shade in which he delights.

Not afraid to repeat himself, his four paintings *Spring Walk 1, II, III & IV*, can be seen as an experiment in composition of cropped and extended vistas. It would be interesting to see David doing a 'Monet' in terms of presenting the same scene at different times of day, or seasons, adding yet further dimensions and intensity. *The Elderflower - Pixie Meadow*, epitomises David's ability to present even a modest tree in its magnificence, a shimmering mass of white blossom, exuding light in an already light-drenched landscape.

An exhibition to delight all. May the Foxlowe Arts Centre look forward to a third *Firm Favourites* display next year. *The exhibition runs until 13th January 2013.*

Foxlowe Films

DEC 4th TROLL HUNTER is a dark tale of Trolls from Norway: just the thing for a winter's night. Released in 2010, it failed to garner much screening in the multiplex world but has developed a cult following via the internet. The government says there's nothing to worry about - it's just a problem with bears making trouble in the mountains and forests of Norway. But local hunters don't believe it...

Foxlowe Films round off the autumn season on 18th December with the little known Christmas classic: **The Shop Around the Corner**. James Stewart and Margaret Sullavan, fellow workers in a gossip-ridden small emporium in pre-war Budapest. This deliciously delicate 1940 comedy focuses on the various obstacles blocking the path of two potential lovers, both unaware they are in fact courting each other by mail in an anonymous correspondence. *You've Got Mail* was Hollywood's reworking of this classic, but the original is far superior. On a cold winters night it will warm the cockles of your heart and fill you with seasonal cheer. Mince pies and mulled wine should be on offer in the bar before the film so come along and get in the Christmas spirit. This may be a popular screening so it would be as well to book tickets to avoid disappointment.

The spring season programme will commence on January 22nd and is likely to include *Anna Karenina*; *On the Road*, *Untouchable*; *Beasts of the Southern Wild*, and *Ralph Fiennes' Coriolanus*, and hopefully some 2013 Oscar-tipped films. Programmes and tickets out from 5th January. The film group is heartened that screenings continue to be popular with lots of positive comments in the feedback sheets. Initial heating problems have now been fully resolved, so you can look forward to screenings in warmth and comfort in 2013.

THE SITUATION present

**FRIDAY 7th December
8.30pm with first act on
stage at 9pm - free**

Simon Edwards, the *Situation's* chairman and 6 Towns Radio presenter said: "Our great friends the Taskers, from Stafford, are back, due to popular demand. They are the county's only brother-sister guitar-and-drums grunge ensemble. You will tap your feet, you may hum and smile, Jack Tasker will squeal and shout, Sophie B Tasker will sit serenely, whilst producing a wall of precision drumming. If you've not seen them before, don't miss them this time."

Cherry Lightning, an outstanding and energetic alternative/rock three piece from Leek open the show. "These guys always put on a great show," continued Simon Edwards."

Steve Hammersley, the *Situation's* band-booker, said: "This event will round off our first year at the Foxlowe arts centre. We really hope you can all come along, and help us to make it a big celebration. We'd also like to thank everyone who has supported us in our first year."



HERBS FOR CHRISTMAS

**Wednesday 12 December
7.30pm**

Final TALK for 2012

Don't, whatever you do, miss the entertaining and informative illustrated talk by JANET BROOME, one who really knows her herbs.



Foxlowe arts centre friends, Leek-based PIVA, offer several festive performances during December

PIVA's Jane & Eric Moulder report

We have exciting news about forthcoming concerts. We're really pleased to be collaborating again with Border Voices for 2 seasonal concerts, one in Leek on 1st December and then again in Leominster on the 2nd December.

Border Voices is a specialist renaissance chamber choir directed by David Hatcher. This gives us the opportunity to explore a repertoire of motets and choral music by Praetorius, Hassler and Schutz. Glorious renaissance harmonies all with a seasonal slant. The concerts will also feature the first outing of our new chamber organ!

It's been great fun exploring this music and doing something a bit different for Piva. However, all the elements of a normal Piva concert will still be there; fascinating anecdotes and stories as well as a bit of *raushcpfeife*, hurdy gurdy

and bagpipe to get you going!

Saturday 1st December at 7.30pm - All Saints Church, Compton, Leek. Tickets from Leek Tourist Information, Colloco or simply buy tickets on the door. £8.00 and £7.00 concessions, under 12 free.

Sunday 2nd December, 7pm, Priory Church, Leominster. Free of charge but retiring collection for Priory funds.

Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th December at Little Moreton Hall, Scholar Green.

Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without Piva at Little Moreton Hall. Join us for our traditional Christmas shows at this fantastic venue. All the old favourites will be played - some fun and frolics guaranteed. We will be playing 4 shows each day on Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th December between 11.30 and 4.00pm.

The songs of Bob Dylan have shaped the music scene over the past 50 years, with recordings by singers ranging from the Byrds and Eric Clapton to Adele. On Tuesday December 11th The Dylan Project bring their own interpretation of the Dylan catalogue to the Foxlowe arts centre with a line up composed of members of Fairport Convention, Little Johnny England and fronted by rock legend, Steve Gibbons, this is more than a mere tribute band. For all fans of folk-rock the evening promises a rich and refreshing mix of genres and moods.

The previous Saturday, December 8 the Foxlowe hosts a Barn Dance celebrating 40 years of the Cuckoo's Nest Ceilidh Band. Some of the 56 previous band members will join founder Dave Rhead and caller Colin Higgs to share stories of weddings, wakes (even a divorce party) in farms, village halls and schools up and down the country.

More details and booking: Dave Rhead 01538 385260.

Party time at the Foxlowe arts centre

Christmas Party at the Foxlowe arts centre on Friday 21st December 8pm features live music from FUNK STATION supported by Dub Partisans

Funk Station is a 7-piece live band that specialises in 70's & 80's funk, soul and disco. Supported by Dub Partisans. Tickets £12.50 including Christmas party buffet (£10 for volunteers and pledgers).

New Year's Eve party at the Foxlowe arts centre with live music by Dominic 'Chuck Berry' Cooper and Rollin' Home. A high energy night of Rhythm and Blues to see in 2013.

Don't forget your boppin' shoes - you'll need 'em! Tickets £17.50 (£15.00 for volunteers & pledgers) includes New Year's Eve party banquet and New Year's Eve Toast at midnight. Tickets available online www.foxloweartscentre.org.uk/tickets and the Foxlowe arts centre.

MOORLAND THERAPISTS

hold a free healing clinic on the 3rd SATURDAY of each month (except December) 12noon-4pm.

Therapies include reflexology, reiki & spiritual healing.

Sessions are free but donations accepted towards costs.

Quaker Meeting House
Overton Bank, Leek.