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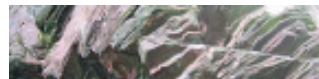
The Roaches and the 'Human' touch - exhibition by Geoff Archer

ERICA BROOK believes all of us who are familiar with the Roaches will certainly be seeing them differently after experiencing the new exhibition in the gallery at the Foxlowe Arts Centre

An exhibition not for the faint-hearted, Geoff Archer's drawings and paintings of the Roaches now on exhibition at the Foxlowe explode into rhythms and colours in a gallery which seems to struggle to contain them.

Following an abortive two years studying architecture at Manchester Regional College of Art and Design, Geoff switched to a BA course in Fine Art at Trent Polytechnic followed by an A.T.C course at Reading University which led to a teaching career for over thirty years.

In the mid 1990s he gained an M. A. with distinction in Art History at Manchester. Geoff, who lives in Macclesfield, has moved between urban and rural landscape, starting his study of the Roaches and Ramshaw Rocks in the 1990s.



GEOFF ARCHER



**an exhibition
ROCKS
26th May - 1st July**



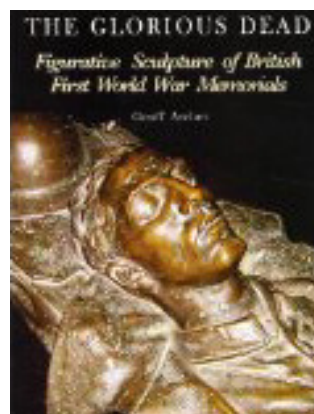
encompassing chalky green, pinks browns and black.

Moving round this exhibition, from the smaller works in oil and water colour to the much larger canvases, one has an uncanny, and sometimes disturbing, feeling of the human form locked, but attempting to escape, the rock, and the paintings, therefore, in their turn attempting to escape the canvas.

If, ultimately, a painter should be inviting the viewer to 'look with fresh eyes', this exhibition will certainly have all of us 'seeing' the Roaches, so familiar to us, in a different way.

This exhibition runs until 1st July.

The subject of Geoff's M.A. dissertation was the figurative sculpture of British First World War memorials, which led to the publication of his first book, *The Glorious Dead*, in 2009. Despite this new career as art historian, painting remains his primary interest. He continues to draw and paint. Geoff's most recent solo exhibition was at Buxton Museum and Art Gallery in 2007.



Foxlowe Films update

Following the successful ten weeks trial programme which ended on May 1 with the '60s film *My Cuba*, the film group have submitted an application to the Lottery Awards for All fund for a grant to help purchase a projector, sound system and seating.

Leek's amateur film maker and enthusiast for all things filmwise, Gerald Mee, has brought his own equipment to the Foxlowe Arts Centre for each screening and shown the films. We are deeply indebted to Gerald for his magnificent generosity but it is clearly not acceptable to develop a sustained programme on that basis.

We hope that by the time we launch the autumn programme we will have purchased our own equipment.

In the meantime, on 5 June Gerald screened five films centred on Leek



through the decades. The star attraction, which played to a packed house, was Leek's

Coronation Celebrations in 1953.

The following afternoon Gerald was back at the Foxlowe Arts Centre to screen *Up* for the children's film show.

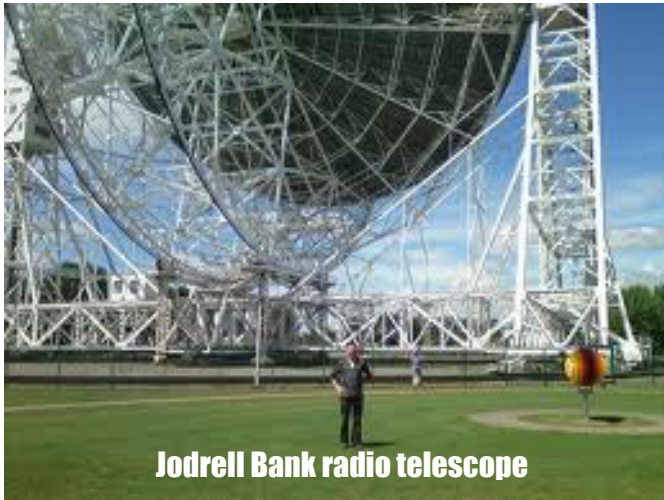
The showing of *THE ARTIST*, the sensational award winning film celebrating the golden years of silent movies on Tuesday 12 June is the last film evening until the autumn but unfortunately for those without a ticket this screening is fully sold out.



Sir Bernard Lovell - father of the giant Jodrell Bank radio telescope

RAY LOWE, long-time friend of Sir Bernard Lovell, will give a talk on the life and achievements of the famous scientist on Wednesday 13 June 2012.

The Soviet Union's initial foray into space was first detected by the giant radio telescope at Jodrell Bank, just a few miles away down on the Cheshire Plain. Unless you have actually been close to the telescope it is difficult to appreciate its vastness and complex structural engineering which permits its giant bowl to focus in any direction. The photograph below hints at the scale of the structure with the human form as a guide.



Jodrell Bank radio telescope

Ray Lowe's talk will outline the breadth of vision and insatiable curiosity which underpinned Sir Bernard's creativity.

Now in his 99th year, Sir Bernard Lovell can look back over a career which included important research on radar which was so vital for the air defence of Britain in World War 2 and a post-war career at the University of Manchester largely focused on the telescope at Jodrell Bank.

The talk will start at 7.30pm.

New Civic Patron

CONGRATULATIONS to Cllr Pam Wood on becoming the new Leek Town Mayor.

On being asked how she prefers to be addressed she said: "Call me Mayor Pam."

Along with the Leader of the District Council and the local MP, the Town Mayor is one of the Foxlowe Arts Centre's three patrons. Mayor Pam is a Foxlowe Pledger and a regular visitor. Cllr Wood said: "As Mayor, I will support you officially in whatever way I can." MANY THANKS to the retiring Mayor, Cllr Barry Cowie, who gave us tireless support and of course officially opened the Foxlowe Arts Centre in December last year.

That feels a long time ago because so much has happened since then. We are sure to continue to enjoy Barry's frequent visits.

Funding Strategy

We are undoubtedly developing a strong basis on which to build a bid to the Big Lottery and other major grant funding bodies for capital funding for the purchase of the Foxlowe property. We have a core of some 250 pledgers paying £104 per year to contribute towards the purchase price.

An incredibly varied and sustainable programme of activities has been developed in barely six months, attracting large numbers of people from the town and across the District. That is important evidence of need.

Originally, the trustees' hoped the surplus from centre activities together with a growing number of pledgers would provide the monthly revenue to meet the cost of the mortgage until capital grants began to flow.

We would need 300 more pledgers to achieve that. Now it is clear that we need an intermediate strategy.

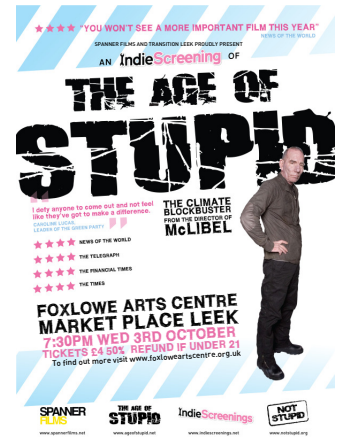
The creation of a property holding company set up to attract investments, NOT donations. £1m is the target. It sounds a lot! Well, we always new the financial challenge to buy the property to make it secure for the people of Leek & District would be tough. Break it down and it doesn't sound so tough! It is 10 people each investing £100,000 or 20 people at £50,000; 40 people at £25,000. With £500 blocks of shares the scheme should attract a large number of people for a 3% minimum annual dividend.

This company would buy the property and be the landlord of the Foxlowe Arts Centre which would have its future secured. For more details please contact the Chair of trustees, Peter Kent-Baguley: 07773 464626.



www.facebook.com/FoxloweArtsCentre

THANK YOU GARDEN PARTY
for all Foxlowe Arts Centre volunteers and their families
Sunday 10 June 4pm
Full details from Moira McCourt: 07736 244010



THE AGE OF STUPID, the highly praised 2009 film starring Pete Postlethwaite is a challenge to respond to the dangers facing humankind across the globe if the causes of climate change are not addressed.

This presentation along with two more environmentally focused films, to be screened at the Foxlowe Arts Centre in November and December, is a joint venture between the environmental group, Transition Leek, and the Foxlowe Arts Centre.

Open to all, we particularly want to attract younger people and will be approaching both Leek High Schools and Leek College. Funding has been secured to offer a 50% refund on the ticket price for under 21s.

Discussion groups could be facilitated in schools and at the Foxlowe Arts Centre .

For more advanced information please contact Nigel Williams of Transition Leek: 07752 400865.

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