



**Amour (12A) 7 May**  
This year's best foreign film Oscar winner and holder of the 2012 Cannes Film Festival Palme d'Or, *Amour* has garnered universal praise for its examination of the effects of a degenerative disease upon a comfortable and cultured octogenarian couple, retired classical music teachers savouring their golden years together when Anne suffers a stroke that leaves her partially paralysed. Adapting to the challenge of a changed relationship, their world shrinks and the bond of love is tested in extremis. An incredibly moving tale of devotion - "this is as close to perfection as filmmaking gets." Geoff Andrew, *Time Out*.

*France/Germany/Austria (subtitled) 2012 128 mins*

**The Lady (12A) 14 May**  
The story of Burma's democracy movement and the woman at the heart of it. Michelle Yeoh leads as Aung San Su Kyi and David Thewliss as her husband, the academic and writer Michael Aris, who must endure long separations. *France/UK 2011 132 mins*

**Les Miserables (12A) 21 May**  
This adaptation of the long running stage musical based on Victor Hugo's classic novel, from The King's Speech director, Tom Hooper received 8 Oscar nominations. *UK 2012 158 mins*

**Sightseers (15) 28 May**  
On their first holiday together Chris wants to show Tina this sceptred isle, through a caravan

journey taking in Keswick Pencil Museum, the Ribbleshead Viaduct and the rolling countryside beyond. When the eccentric young couple's romantic dreams are challenged by litterbugs, noisy teens and National Trust toffs something has to be done. Whilst not something the tourist board will be supporting, *Sightseers* is an enjoyable, pitch-black comedy with a wicked sense of humour. *UK 2012 88 mins*

**Half Term Children's Matinee**  
Thursday 30 May 2pm  
**BRAVE (PG)**  
USA 2012 100mins  
*A grand adventure full of heart and memorable characters.*

*Tickets heavily subsidised thanks to an anonymous donation.*

children & adults each £1

**Quartet (12A) 4 June**  
*Quartet* is a charming, funny and insightful film in which four ageing opera singers are reunited at Beecham House, a specialist home for retired musicians. Plans for their annual Verdi's birthday concert begin to unravel with the arrival of a former grande dame of the opera and news that Beecham House is facing closure. Dustin Hoffman's directorial debut draws a stellar cast including Michael Gambon, Maggie Smith, Billy Connolly, Pauline Collins and Sheridan Smith. *UK 2012 98 mins*

**Tickets for Foxlowe Arts Centre events available:**  
[www.foxloweartscentre.org.uk/tickets](http://www.foxloweartscentre.org.uk/tickets)

## Foxlowe Arts Centre's stand at the annual Leek Show

Saturday 27th July

Planning is progressing well for the Foxlowe Arts Centre's debut at the annual Leek Show. Centre volunteers, Cliff Deighton and David Rushton, will shortly be contacting all groups that have used or continue to use the Arts Centre to offer them a sheet of cardboard so that they may use that amount of space to tell the world something about their group's activities.

"We want our marquee to illustrate the whole range of activities at the Foxlowe Arts Centre so that the scope of what we are trying to achieve comes across clearly." said Cliff and David, who added: "We will be delighted to hear from anyone with suggestions, offers of help on the day distributing leaflets and donations to help us meet the £147 cost of the stand. Contacts: Cliff Deighton: 0789362179 David Rushton: 07779834771 [cliff.deighton50@btinternet.com](mailto:cliff.deighton50@btinternet.com)



NorthByNorthwest promise **An Inspirational Evening of Soulful Jazz**. With one goal in mind, to bring to you the very best in smooth jazz to calm the spirit and fire the soul. Expect classics like *Mornin'* by Al Jarreau, George Benson's *On Broadway*, Stevie Wonder's *Love's in Need*, Summer Breeze from the Isley's. Featuring the spontaneity and improvisation of a Jazz club gig crossed with pure soul vocals and grooves. And much more. An unmissable show for any regular listeners to Jazz FM and a real treat for musicians of all ages. [www.northbynorthwestlive.co.uk](http://www.northbynorthwestlive.co.uk) Saturday 8th June 7.30pm at Foxlowe Arts Centre.

## Foxlowe Garden News

Since the arrival of spring was not as imminent as expected, work in the garden was delayed but the willow hedge has now been pruned and the first grass cutting of the season completed.

The scrubber trees above the old garages are due to be removed at time of writing, making it possible for the new fence to be installed. The Staffordshire Wildlife Trust also has some exciting new projects planned, one of which is a mini-beast hotel that can be constructed by local schoolchildren and provide shelter and overwintering for beneficial insects.

The garden will be hosting many outdoor activities this summer, one of which will be a **Seedling Swap**, organised by Transition Leek on the 11<sup>th</sup> May, 10.30am-2pm.

We are still hoping to attract more garden volunteers. Working in the garden prompts some great interactions with visitors and we love to see them, especially children, enjoying what we have to offer. However, with limited numbers at present, we can't be sure of having sufficient holiday cover. If you would like to get involved, even if only for a few occasions each season, please contact Alison McCrea (07753 172564).

### Note on picture

*The picture shows a mini-beast hotel at the Leiden Botanical Garden in the Netherlands, which is similar to the one planned.*



## Illustrative Life

ERICA BROOK perceives the influence of the commercial world in the current exhibits

Five exhibitors, Angela Smyth, Chris Thompson, Rod Shone, Sarah Jane Brown, and Julia Jowett present an exhibition of paintings and sculpture, where, largely, the sense of humour is a common theme.

Sarah Jane Brown stands alone in her serious comments about herself and her work, small sculptures using 'upcycled' materials, soldered wire and metal and paper which she states are images collected on her travels.

Chris Thompson, the co-ordinator of the Foxlowe Gallery, has sculpture as well as a group of small paintings worked in pen and pencil crayon. As with Sarah, Chris uses found and recycled materials in his sculpture with his work having the touch of humour throughout. His meticulous designerly drawings, defiantly stand alone, with no compositional element, the connection throughout being the sea.

Julia Jowett's complex account of the making and source material of her pieces, originating in the world of "folk tales, childhood stories and surreal imaginings, instinctive feelings and traditional craft processes to create considered folkloric narratives that intrigue" and using observational drawing, traditional needlework, and silk screen printing techniques, do invite one to explore her work further.



Angela Smyth  
The Wrestlers

Angela Smyth's work is of immediate appeal to a younger audience, with her one liner comments, calligraphy which is integral to each work, inevitably witty, which hold her pictures together, her style of blocks of colour and

intricate black line is cleverly executed telling her story of modern-day human emotion.

Rod Shone's background in graphic design, illustration and printmaking and his work with design and advertising agencies shows in the pieces of work he has on display. Different from the line and block of the other painters exhibiting, Rod's work shows a strong printmakerly approach, still, largely, with a sense of humour, but leaning, at times, towards the more disturbing aspects of life with his use of very dark palette.

An exhibition which reflects the impact of the commercial world and therefore begs important questions. The Gallery is open Wednesday-Saturday 10am-4pm and Sunday 11am-4pm. The exhibition ends June 9th.

### ANGELA SMYTH

has generously donated one of her exhibits:

**LEEK I'll Make You Want to Stay**

for us to raffle for Arts Centre funds.

Tickets are just £1 on sale at the Arts Centre

*Please ensure this is generously supported*

Draw: Saturday 8th June

### CLIFFORD DEIGHTON B.Sc

Furniture Restorer/  
Conservator

(modern & antique)

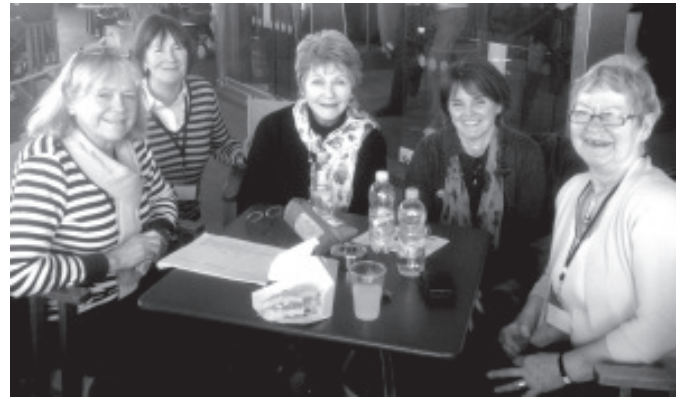
all work undertaken is treated sympathetically with an emphasis on retaining as much of the original surface and construction as possible.

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## Film Group's Southbank Joy

MAUREEN WISKIN promises sure-fire winners

The Foxlowe Film Group is often asked how we decide which films to screen. We use a variety of approaches including tapping into previous knowledge if the film is an 'oldie', scanning film reviews in the general press and investigating specialist sources such as the British Film Institute and others.

We are constantly on the lookout for which films are being nominated for awards and we take notice of film critics, whose opinions we have learned to trust.

Just occasionally there is the opportunity for those running independent cinemas to watch films in advance of their general release. Last month all five of the group signed up for a three day screening event run by the Independent Cinema Organisation (ICO) at the British Film Institute on the Southbank in London - at our own expense I hasten to add.

The prospect of watching twelve films over three days was less daunting than it sounds and between us we saw eighteen films which ranged from good to great.

Among them are some sure fire winners that we will be screening this autumn so you can look forward to another varied season of great cinema.



Veteran singer-songwriters Peggy Seeger and Leon Rosselson, Janet Russell, Jim Woodland and Grace Petrie were the five members of *The Anti-Capitalist Roadshow* collective of singers and songwriters who thrilled the audience of more than

sixty on the 16th April at the Foxlowe Arts Centre. Through their mastery of lyrics, tune and delivery they proclaimed their *different way of looking at the world* during their two-hour show. As if all that were not gift enough, they have generously given a clutch of their CDs for us to raffle for Arts Centre funds.

## Evening meals will be offered before the following Arts Festival events

Wednesday 8th May: Albert Lee

Friday 10th May: Steve Gibbons Band

Thursday 16th May: Fairport Convention

Friday 24th May: Rob Vincent

Thursday 30th May: Birmingham Conservatoire Folk Ensemble

6pm with last orders received not later than 7.30pm

*Booking is advisable: telephone 01538 386112*