

Foxlowe's annual Fashion Show

PAULINE HART reports

Once again the indefatigable Liz Bradshaw and Judy Scott-Moncrieff have inspired a hard-working team to produce the second Annual Foxlowe Fashion Show.

Last year's first fund-raising fashion show was a resounding success: visually stunning, expertly choreographed and liberal sprinklings of humour.

You won't want to miss Leek's very own Cat Walk to beat all cat walks so note the date on your calendar now: **THURSDAY 19th MARCH** starting at 6.30pm.

Entry is a mere £7 with a glass of wine or coffee/tea included - excellent value and an important fund-raising event for the Foxlowe Arts Centre.

The organisers have secured the support of Leek businesses: Wardrobe, Melissa Claire, Holly Crow, Gaddam and



Leek college students will take part, encouraging the younger generation to think about the clothes they are designing and wearing and volunteers at the Foxlowe will be modelling fashions from local traders.

It's easy to feel we are too far away from Bangladesh to do anything to help, but this fun filled event is a great example of just how connected we all are and the ways we can all do our bit to show support for people all over the world working in the industry that once produced so much wealth for Leek.

Gaddam and Huggett. Supporters supplying clothing from Ashbourne are Pachacuti and Equatorial.

There will be an opportunity to purchase clothes, hats, accessories and make up on the night.

There will be a raffle and there will be stalls in the bar area.

On April 24th 2013, 1,113 people were killed and 2,500 injured when the Rana Plaza Factory collapsed in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Sadly, social and environmental catastrophes in our fashion supply chain still continue.

The annual Fashion Revolution Day, the brainchild of Cary Somers, owner of Pachacuti in Ashbourne, was born last year. The event was marked in dozens of countries in addition to the UK and this year on Friday 24th April it will be marked by events in half of the countries in the world.

Taking part in the event to highlight the prevalent and rampant gross exploitation of factory workers in the Asian garment trade, couldn't be easier.

All you are asked to do to demonstrate your solidarity for a better deal for our fellow human beings is to wear a garment, or more than one, **INSIDE OUT**, so we can all see the label!

It's designed to spark awareness and create discussion and who knows, a change in our buying habits.



2nd April
Comedy Club
presents

Ivan
Brackenbury
Ian D
Montfort
Josh Pugh
Lucy
Thompson
compere
Andy Kind

COMEDY CLUB @ the FOXLOWE 1st THURSDAY MONTHLY

Wednesday evening monthly FREE documentary films at the Foxlowe 7.30pm

4th March: **Big Boys Gone Bananas!***

Those who saw *Bananas at any Price?* during Fairtrade Fortnight last year will be impressed by Dole's attempts to prevent showings of that film. But not a good idea from Dole's point of view, since it simply encouraged the director to film their attempts to silence him. A modern day David and Goliath. Gripping.

1st April: **Inequality for All**

Presented by Robert Reich, a former Secretary of State under President Clinton, the Guardian critic called it a "Powerful documentary...and anything but dry." It had rave reviews following its premier at the 2013 prestigious USA Sundance Film Festival, winning a special jury prize.

Foxlowe Cafe & Catering for Private Functions



*Welcoming and relaxed ambience every day 10am - 4pm
Good selection of vegetarian meals and daily meat option.
We cater for all kinds of private parties.
Contact the Centre Manager, Vicki Heath:*



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Foxlowe
Arts
Centre

ANNUAL
MEETING

all

pledgers
volunteers
supporters

welcome

23 MARCH
7.30pm
see page 3
for details

7th May
Comedy Club
presents

Andy White
Steve Day
Phil Pagett
Tom Short
compere
Lou Conran

March - April 2015

ST13 Foxlowe Arts Centre Newsletter

Issue 32

FREE

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PRIDE kicked off new Foxlowe film season

Following its nation-wide release last year, PRIDE's 'Genuine inspiration' spoke at the launch of the Foxlowe's 10th film season on Tuesday 20th January.

"Thanks to the film *Pride*, we have been reminded of the huge contribution one man made to LGBT rights in Britain." wrote Owen Jones (*Heroes of 2014 in the Guardian* 23rd December 2014) who focused on Mike Jackson, co-founder of Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners in 1984 (LGSM). Owen continued:

"Mike Jackson fought for LGBT rights at a time of state-sanctioned homophobia and pandemic public prejudice. He put into practice 'an injury to one is an injury to all', a trade union slogan which is sometimes nothing more. He and his comrades have resurrected LGSM and continue to fight for socialism and workers' rights. For those of us who want a different sort of society – in the face of what seems like formidable opposition – Mike is a genuine inspiration."

"I really think this is one of the greatest scripts I have ever read in my life," said Bill Nighy. "Good scripts are rare and funny ones are even rarer, but I laughed from start to finish. And even after several times, I never got through it without crying either."

"The great thing about *Pride* is that it shows that Margaret Thatcher had it wrong when she said, famously, that there was no such thing as society, just individuals. This is the exact opposite of that terrible remark - it shows our longing to be part of something greater than ourselves, and what big things small acts of kindness can achieve," concluded Nighy.

Another great thing about PRIDE was that it played to a capacity audience. Both the film and Mike Jackson's talk made a great impact and was talked about for weeks. As Pauline Hart said: "It was a fantastic evening. Thank you so much for arranging for Mike Jackson to be there. What a fascinating speaker, so articulate and interesting. I'd seen him interviewed on *Good Morning TV* a few months ago but never expected to meet him at the Foxlowe!"

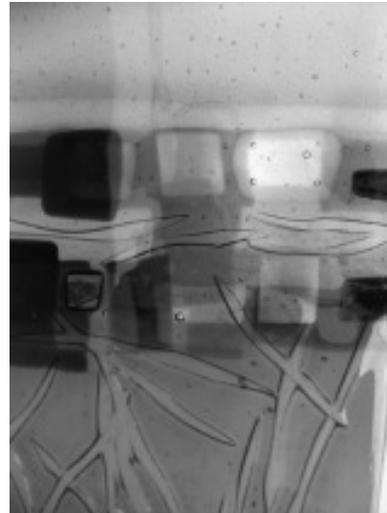
Mike emailed "A big thank you to everyone at the Foxlowe who made the evening a great success on a bitterly cold night outdoors." Mike eschewed a fee but said that a bucket collection would be appreciated. The fantastic £201.20 raised was divided between the Mark Ashton Ribbon Fund and the Soma mining disaster, channelled through KAOS, a Turkish LGBT campaigning group. The late Mark Ashton co-founded the LGSM with Mike.

PRIDE scooped Best British Independent Film, best supporting actress (Imelda Staunton) and best supporting actor (Andrew Scott) at the recent British Independent Film Awards.



WHAT BIG THINGS SMALL ACTS OF KINDNESS CAN ACHIEVE

Bill Nighy



Uncertain about abstract art?

ERICA BROOK

The next Gallery exhibition, *Wild About Colour*, features the works of Tony Wild and Kim

Bramley, both eminent in their respective fields, sharing the common link of an exuberant use of colour. On seeing Kim's work on the web, Tony commented: "I have had a good look at Kim Bramley's glass, and it looks wonderful, bright smooth and, light. It will make just the right contrast to my rough heavy mangled works. Look forward to seeing it at Foxlowe."

Tony's self deprecating comments belie the stature of the man. Born in Burslem with a life closely associated with Burslem College of Art, and his associations range through Arthur Berry, Graham Sutherland, John Piper, Ivor Hitchen to name but a few. He taught in Stoke inner city schools until 1972, then Staffordshire University until 1990, and was part time lecturer at Keele university, finally giving his time totally to his painting. His work can be seen in many national collections, including the British Arts Council.

Kim Bramley, working with glass, seems to have many parallels with Tony and his working methods. "I don't start with a fixed picture of what I want to achieve, but flow with the process. I create plates bowls, brooches, and large glass panels by fusing, slumping, and painting layers of glass in a kiln, using collage techniques of fusion, responding to the hidden depths of the glass in what I am observing."

Kim initially trained in Fashion and Textile Design, at St Martin's School of Art, London, setting up her own business as a freelance textile designer in 1992. In 1999 she retrained in kiln-formed glass, working for nine years in her studio on the remote Isle of Skye before relocating to her studio at Sandon Hall.

Exhibition curator, Erica Brook, invites those particularly uncertain about abstract art to come along and enjoy the life and energy in the use of colour for its own sake, engaging with the fact that no matter how abstract, Tony and Kim find their inspiration in the world we all experience, but respond in different ways.



*The Exhibition runs from Saturday 7th March-18th April 2015.
Gallery open Wed-Sat 10.00-4.00 Sun 11.00-4.00*