

## Cafe Display

PAT BENNETT

Landscape photographs by Stuart Royle were on display in the Cafe in February. Stuart will be showing more of his work in the first floor Gallery later this year.

From the first week of March photographs by Martin Shakeshaft, Senior Lecturer in Photo Journalism at De Monteford University, will be displayed. The images document the 12 month 1984-85 Miners' strike. March 2015 marks the 30th anniversary of the Miners return to work. 25 years after the strike, Martin revisited the people and places that

## ALISON McCREA's Foxlowe Garden News

Green shoots are pushing up everywhere now and bringing joy to all; we particularly love the snowdrops and crocuses in the Foxlowe garden. The garden season has started already with the first of three seed swap events being held in the bar on Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February. This was quite well-attended, despite the snow and sleet outside, showing that some gardeners are hardy varieties.

Thanks to all who brought contributions; we hope they have great success with the seeds they took away. The next two swaps will be on Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March and Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> April, both running from 11.00am to 2.00pm.

Like gardeners everywhere, the Foxlowe gardeners are happily anticipating the season ahead, which promises to be a good one. The apple trees destined for the bank beside the carpark have been delivered and will shortly be transplanted into pots for their initial period of espalier training; many thanks to those generous supporters who responded so promptly to our request for sponsorship.

The Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, working with the Churnet Valley Project, will be constructing the support framework for the apples this spring and we have already acquired a range of tall peas and beans to grow on it this summer. The aim is to have colourful and unusual varieties including some heritage ones with intriguing names such as: Latvian Christmas Grey, Carter's Polish and Black Knight.

he originally photographed. The images give us an insight into the lives of those directly affected by the Government closure programme.

The exhibition that follows will be *150 years of Bridal Fashion*: A personal set of images collected from Family, Friends and Neighbours. If anyone would like to contribute an example (especially UNUSUAL or VERY OLD) in photocopy form please deliver to the Foxlowe Gallery FAO Pat Bennett.

The ground floor corridor displays will focus on local Community Arts work (currently Borderland Voices) and highlight creative work from local schools.



February this year brought us a late winter windfall in the form of 4 cycle-friendly planters funded by the Peak Park, who are keen to promote cycling in the area and loved the idea of verdant cycle-parking facilities outside the Foxlowe in the centre of Leek.

These are trough-like in shape and have a rail on each side for securing bicycles. We are currently having four painted in a suitable colour and two will be installed at the front of the building and two on the terrace at the rear. We aim to plant them up with heathers and bilberries to represent iconic plants of the Peak District, so watch this space... *If you would like to become involved with the garden or contribute plants, please contact Alison McCrea (07753 172564).*

### TOM KITCHING'S Interloper Albumn Tour

at the Foxlowe Arts Centre  
**THURSDAY 26th March 8pm**  
£8.50 advance / £10 at the door  
Tom has played more than a 1,000 gigs with top UK folk artists. Tom and his band capture an English tradition that is open to the world, confident and comfortable.



## Foxlowe TALKS

DEREK TATTON  
Talks programmer

*The lecturers 'gift' their talks to the Foxlowe, for which we thank them. Admission is free, with a Bucket Collection for the Foxlowe funds, for which we also thank you.*

### Pedlars and Buttons: Hollinsclough 1700-1800

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm

VICTORIA ROWE

Victoria is a scientist by training but motivated to discover more about where she lives by several people in Hollinsclough who had carried out local history research. "I got 'the bug' and became fascinated about the lives and times of the folk who once lived here."

Victoria has pieced together the little known story of how the entrepreneurs of Hollinsclough created a centre of button manufacturing and distribution across the country in the 1700s. In 70 years the population multiplied at least five-fold as families moved in and houses were built. Certainly a time of change and excitement in a tiny little hamlet!

### Welcoming the Belgians 1914-1915: Leek, Congleton and Nantwich Compared...

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm

PAUL ANDERTON

A fascinating insight into the way the three towns welcomed Belgian refugees in different ways.

### Useful and Beautiful - Architectural Metalwork in Leek

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 7pm

DR CHRISTOPHER WAKELING

This is a WALK and TALK event starting from The Foxlowe, please note, at the earlier time of 7pm.

## Who Remembers WILLIAM MORRIS in Leek?

PETER KENT-BAGULEY *appeals for personal recollections, anecdotes, quotes, pictures...*



William Morris:  
self portrait

*"The William Morris room is a lovely room for meetings."*

Karen Bradley  
MP

In addition to seeking material for exhibition in the first floor William Morris room the material will be helpful for our planned MAY DAY discussion session focused on the politics of Morris and the significance of his experiences in Leek on the direction of his political thought and action.

But, you say, William Morris stayed in Leek for several weeks in 1873, 1874 and 1875. However, notwithstanding that little detail of time lapse, your great-grandparents' generation (if you are my age) would have been contemporaries of Morris.

Morris is perhaps most widely known for his fabric and wallpaper designs; certainly his radical politics were deliberately 'suppressed' by his executors.

The time and programme for the FRIDAY MAY 1st session will be advertised in mid-April.

## Drama Workshops for Young People

JUSTINE COPE & ELEANOR BOTT

We currently offer a professionally run Youth Theatre at the Foxlowe Arts Centre in Leek. Classes are on a Saturday afternoon from 2.30pm-4pm and priced at £6 per session (*payable in blocks of 6*). Junior sessions are from 5-10 years and seniors from 11-18 years. Students work to

professional standards to explore all aspects of drama and performance, producing a range of Repertoire including entries to The All England Theatre Festival.

All young people are welcome so if you would like to join the enjoyable sessions you will be warmly welcomed.

# UPDATES

DEPUTY MAYOR of LEEK, Cllr PAM WOOD launched FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT in Leek prior to the screening of the fifteen minutes film, FAIRTRADE MATTERS, the theme of this year's Fairtrade Foundation's national event.

It offered an excellent glimpse into the everyday life of a family in rural Malawi. Against a backdrop of the stunningly beautiful scenery the unremitting toil of rural life dependent upon tea picking was powerfully evoked.

The difference Fairtrade had made to the rural community may be underlined with but one



example. Instead of having to cycle miles to the nearest clinic, towing a stretcher with recumbent patient Fairtrade income had paid for a small ambulance.

That's why FAIRTRADE MATTERS. It DOES improve the quality of life of financially poor people, with no economic or political power to combat the grossly exploitative world trading system dictated by the powerful



## Christmas Day Lunch at the Foxlowe

Our Christmas Day lunch for people who would otherwise have spent the day alone was a huge success. We were overwhelmed with volunteers - genuine volunteers who had not been asked to help but spontaneously offered to help once they had heard about the event.

In fact, we reluctantly had to decline the offers from eight people and we were in any event perhaps somewhat overstaffed. What a wonderful position to be in! The fourteen guests thoroughly enjoyed the occasion.

Volunteers served and ate their lunch with the guests so there was a welcoming and lively atmosphere throughout. A big thank to each who generously gave of their time and warmth and those who donated towards the cost of the event.



## Songs for Gaza Fund-Raising Concert

The 23 November three-hour sell-out, talent-packed folk concert, starring the legendary Leon Rosselson moved from the happy light-hearted to the intensely moving and thought provoking songs and linking narrative of Leon's final twenty minutes.

£550 was raised and sent to the UK registered charity, Medical Aid for PALESTINIANS for their on-going medical aid for children in Gaza following last summer's merciless Israeli bombing.

Hardly any of the £5.4bn promised by donor nations at the Cairo conference following the eventual Israeli cessation of bombing homes, schools and hospitals has materialised.

A HUGE thank-you to MALCOLM HAWKSWORTH for organising such an outstandingly successful show and to all the artistes who willingly made their contribution free of fees and even of expenses.

nations. Laughably called free trade, the only free aspect is the freedom it gives the rich nations to become richer at the expense of the poor.

For example, at the end of next year the EU is abolishing the quota system for European sugarbeet growers but NOT abolishing the £18 per tonne subsidy! We already produce more sugar beet than is needed with the

surplus given a further subsidy so that it can be sold cheaply on the world markets, further undermining the economies of developing countries.

Toiling most of one's waking hours in order to survive leaves little time for CREATIVITY! That is why the Foxlowe Arts Centre, is committed to FAIRTRADE products because our ethics leave us no choice!



## Celebrating Creativity in local schools at the Foxlowe Arts Centre

PAT BENNETT and VIV YOUNG, Foxlowe's volunteer curators for groundfloor exhibitions have written to all local school headteachers inviting schools "to showcase creative work produced by individual pupils during the school year."

Pat and Viv explain: "As a community led organisation the Foxlowe aims to represent the creative skills and wide interests of local people. We plan to have a running display of visual art work from community groups and local schools on our ground floor corridor walls that will complement the professional artwork in the cafe and first floor gallery."

Pat and Viv conclude their letter to headteachers by saying: "We're very excited about this new venture and look forward to working together with you to display stimulating and creative work that proudly represents your school."

## Six Monthly General Meeting for Pledgers, Volunteers and Supporters

MONDAY 4th MAY 2015 7.30pm.

The last Six Monthly General Meeting for was held on Monday 29th October last year.

The next General Meeting is scheduled for Monday 4th May 2015 at 7.30pm. This a little later than six months but the Trustees need time to evaluate the Policy & Programme Advisory Group's (PPAG) concluding report to the Trustees. The report will be ready following the PPAG's final sixth monthly meeting in April.

The ten member PPAG composed of pledgers and volunteers held its first meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> November last year.

Ideally members of the group are selected on a random basis to be free of all selection bias, and thus representative of the broadest cross-section of the pledgers and volunteers. However, several members of this inaugural group are self selected, having signed up at the 29th January General Meeting.

The PPAG, established by the trustees, is self-organising

and has no trustee membership.

The trustee's remit for the PPAG is to make suggestions in support of the development of any aspect of the Centre's policy and programme; to relate to trustee Derek Tatton in the first instance for referrals to the trustees; to produce at least one written report at the conclusion of the Group's term of office for inclusion on the Pledgers, Volunteers and Supporters' 6-monthly General Meeting.

**The members of the Group are: Liz Bradshaw, David Barnes, Angela Buckley, Fay Fallows, Pauline Hart, Alison McCrae, Roy Molson, Ruth Quipp, Charlie Stewart and Chris Thompson.**

The May 4th General Meeting will provide the opportunity for reviewing the year, sharing what we would like to see developed in the coming year, and how we can successfully continue to meet our competing financial challenges.