

The Situation's Big May Birthday IV

Following on from the barnstorming success of last May's all-day music festival, Leek's own not-for-profit music promoters, *The Situation*, are at it again with this year's extravaganza, *The Situation's Big May Birthday IV*. By far the biggest event of Leek Arts Festival, the venue is the Foxlowe Community Arts Centre, Leek, on Sunday 3rd May - fifteen acts on three stages in nine hours!

Headlining will be Manchester's rising stars, *Ten Mouth Electron*, an outstanding live act, with shades of psychedelia, shoegaze, post-punk and krautrockabilly. *The Situation's* band-booker, Steve Hammersley said, 'It's going to be a whole day of outstanding music, but these guys really must be seen to be believed!'

Also on the bill will be:

Brahma-Loka – from Mossley, Manchester, this band play psychedelic desert music, like a five-membered organic machine.

We Few – a great new Stoke-on-Trent band, with a gritty modern rock sound, including members of the fantastic Sound Casino.

As Equals – previously known as Interlinked, a hook-laden post-hardcore band from Leek, who have played on *The Situation's* stages on several occasions. Always a great live act.

Deep Shade – a Wigan-based three-piece alternative rock band, with shades of funk and punk mixed into a sound all their own.

Vulpes Vulpes – cool post-punk electronic Indiana Jones band from Stoke-on-Trent, with a nice bass groove and cool electronic sounds.

Nylon 9 – indie-punk lunatics from the gurgling swamps of the Leicester music scene - think Iggy, Captain Beefheart, Suicide.

Rise The Fall – a new Leek three-piece playing their own twist on indie rock, with great songs, and a thrusting rhythm-section.

Tickets £5 in advance, from www.wegotickets.com/event/316280

£6 from the venue, or £7.50 on the door.

Strange Rivers – opening the indoor electric stages – a great new four-piece band from Leek, whose first gig was on *The Situation's* stage at the Foxlowe earlier this year.

Guitar driven self penned titles straight from the heart.

Greg Murray & The Seven Wonders – headlining the outdoor patio-stage – an excellent Irish singer songwriter and his band writing original songs of love, life and loss. A mix of folk, indie, Irish, Latin influences with lush harmonies.

James Biddulph Jnr – a cool singer-songwriter, bringing his soulful blues songbook to the open air stage

TJ Lee - a singer-songwriter from the Northwest with influences from Paul Simon to the Velvet Underground, reflecting in his material; which ranges from the dark to the funny, the funky to the soulful.

The Trent Vale Poet - the vituperative potherb ranter spouts rhyming couplets railing against the constraints of modern society...

Dom Morgan – quirky and upbeat singer-songwriter from Leek, with a great voice and a unique style.

Bones - Leek's favourite busker performing a set of his own catchy material.

The Situation's Simon Edwards said: 'Our Big May Birthday is always a great day, packed with the finest in original music, local and from further afield, and this year will be no exception. Why not bring the family and a picnic, and make a day of it!'

Andy Norton, *The Situation's* other stalwart, agreed and added: 'The calibre of this year's acts is outstanding, with a great mix of sounds – remember to bring your dancing trousers!'

Doors open at 1:30, the day starts at 2pm, and runs until 12 midnight. 3 stages and 15 acts - outdoor 'Patio Stage' featuring acoustic and stripped back sounds, followed by two alternating indoor stages.



7th May
Comedy Club
presents

Andy White

Steve Day
Phil Pagett

Tom Short

compere
Lou Conran

COMEDY CLUB @ the FOXLOWE 1st THURSDAY MONTHLY

Tuesday evening weekly Foxlowe films Bar opens 7pm Screening starts 7.45pm

5th May The Imitation Game (12A) UK/USA 2014 114 mins

The story of persecuted gay genius Alan Turing driven to suicide after he cracked the German Enigma code that saved thousands of lives.

19th May The Company You Keep (15) USA 2012 125 mins

Robert Redford's thriller is a

thoughtful gripping story of the human cost of political radicalism.

26th May The Theory of Everything (12A) UK 2014

OSCAR and BAFTA Best Actor for Eddie Redmayne's, portrayal of Stephen Hawking, both a chronicle of the greatest mind of our time and a tender love story.

2nd June Still Life (12A) UK 2014 92 mins

Poignant and beautifully crafted film. Through its subtle examination of loneliness, loss, community values and the human connection, Pasolini (Full Monty) has produced his most quintessentially English work yet.

Don't forget the

Foxlowe Arts Centre

GENERAL MEETING

all pledgers volunteers supporters welcome

4 MAY
2015
7.30pm

7th May
Comedy Club
presents

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Steve Day
Phil Pagett
Tom Short
compere
Lou Conran



*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:



The Foxlowe Arts Centre is a Limited Company by Guarantee: 07757326 and a Registered Charity: 1144382
Trustees : Peter Kent-Baguley (chair), Colin Broome, Andy Norton, Derek Tatton, Gareth Taylor & Roger Warrillow.

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“WILLIAM MORRIS NOT OF SUFFICIENT STATURE”

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Community Art - Cafe Arts

ERICA BROOK
reports

In the exciting exhibition *One Hundred and Fifty Years of Bridal Fashion*, themes are taken from poetry, philosophy, history and sociology, to link drawings, designs, and photographs of 150 years of bridal wear.

The idea of Pat Bennett, this beautifully presented and engaging exhibition, staged by Phil and Pat Bennett and Viv Young, is an inviting study, not just of bridal wear, but social history and changing attitudes culminating not in a further bridal outfit, but photographs of civil partnerships from 2005 with the men attired in their dignified grey suits, a far cry from the brides depicted, but just as close in sentiment.



Only in the past week Pat and Viv have offered help to Sue Gibson, from *Lifework*, a charity which supports people on the autistic spectrum, to help display photographs, drawings and paintings to advantage. So much of this work is in its poignancy - touching on aspects of the human condition.

This spectrum is only part of the hub of the diverse talents, skills, and conditions which gives us insights into the society we live in, encouraging understanding from the viewer, and as importantly, confidence in each exhibitor of their own ability.

If you, your group, school or organisation are interested in displaying your work in the Foxlowe arts centre, please contact Pat Bennett

pbennet6@sky.com or Viv Young
viv@vivyoungarts.col.uk

Annual meeting of pledgers, volunteers and supporters

7.30pm Monday 4th May 2015 at the Foxlowe Arts Centre

One of the most resonant sections features the same wedding dress which was worn through three generations. Firstly, worn by each of three sisters at their individual weddings, then two of their daughters, and finally by a granddaughter for her wedding in Las Vegas: a timely reminder of some constancy in our too chaotic world.

Pat Bennett and Viv Young have taken on the challenge of managing the exhibitions throughout the ground floor area of the Foxlowe arts centre with energy and vision.

They are both keenly aware of the challenges the Foxlowe faces in its attempts to engage the people of Leek throughout all sections of the community, and have shown their awareness from their first ventures, with exhibitions in the hallway of paintings from Churnet View and Westwood First Schools.

The first of what is hoped will be the beginning of exhibitions displaying the talents of young people in our Leek schools.

This does not stop with schools, but extends to Leek College, and individuals and groups of adults who are aspiring in their creative aims and would welcome the opportunity of a show case for their work, hopefully inspiring further creativity.



The next General Meeting, on Monday 4th May 2015 at 7.30pm. is a little longer than six months after the last general meeting held on Monday 29th October last year because the concluding report of the Policy & Programme Advisory Group's (PPAG) was not completed until early April.

The ten member PPAG composed of pledgers and volunteers held its first meeting on 5th 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 and 6 of Four members of this inaugural group were self selected, having signed up at the 29th January General Meeting.

The remit for the PPAG, established by the trustees, was 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 were: 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, the most fundamental one being the monthly mortgage payment of £7,730.

Hopefully, more people will be inspired to contribute to some of the many important tasks to support the developing momentum at the Foxlowe.