

## Foxlowe Arts Centre Co-Ordinators

All co-ordinators are volunteers. Each has several volunteers helping with the work. Volunteers are always welcome at the Foxlowe. However much time you are free to offer your help will be most welcome. Whatever your skills there will be a task to match! Please contact the Volunteer co-ordinator Marion Fenton: 07974 063674

### Building Maintenance

Cliff Deighton  
07789 362 179

### Exhibitions: Upper Gallery

John Pursaill  
07854 948 215

### Exhibitions: Ground Floor

Pat Bennett  
01538 384167  
Viv Young  
07957 604 599

### Films

Maureen Wiskin  
01538 385799

### Gardens

Alison MacRae  
07753 172 564

### Health & Safety

David Barnes  
01538 388478

### Marketing

Marc Briand  
07799 175 909

Olivia Kehoe  
07425 114 363

### Music & Theatre

Andy Norton  
07974 063 674

### Talks

Erica Brook  
01538 528178

### Volunteers

Marion Fenton  
07938 226 469

### Web Site

Alison McCrea  
07753 172564

### Workshops

Cathey Yardley  
07734 687 020



## Landscape and Memory

ERICA BROOK is delighted with this challenging exhibition showing the work of painters, Phil Bennett and Lucy Bennett, photographer Stuart Royse, and creator in textiles, Angela Thompson, where the connecting link is landscape.

Phil Bennett's life experience is in the arts, both as educationalist and practitioner, the exhibition inviting exploration through the literature displayed throughout the Gallery indicates his recognition of influence and history. Phil's work also conveys a social message, in spite of the fact that his landscapes, dramatic in colour and simplicity, are devoid of people and animals. The emphasis seems to be on

'loneness', sweeping, often wind-swept vistas, lone beach hut, or building, they hint at Edward Hopper's work, but the only human element is the viewer, not, as in Hopper, the viewed. The effect is therefore of respite, places of escape, which allow space for thought and memory to work their own creative magic.

Lucy Bennett's work offers a different challenge where she has taken motifs from the natural world for her own journey of pattern, rhythm, colour and shape, finely detailed, leading the viewer in, through mesmerising trails of leaf and stroke of colour, creating responses bordering on disturbing suggestions of claustrophobia.

These two exhibitors could be in danger of stealing the show but for the obvious talents of Stuart Royse and Angela Thompson.

Stuart's stunning photographs, two of which are nine feet in width, indicate a deep commitment to the countryside, its panoramas and also its hidden corners. His 'Calendar' of a year in the life of a piece of woodland, shows in twelve photographs not just the seasonal changes, but also the effect of excessive flooding, indicating his concern for our natural world, and the changes in weather patterns.

Angela Thompson's beautiful textile collages are little gems in their own right, each finely executed creations in shape and colour, texture, gold and silver, could remind one of Yeat's poem 'Had I the heavens' embroidered cloth...'. These small pieces, built up through cut and hidden stitch, design and drawn, embroidered stitch, confirm her comment on herself and her life: "As long as I can hold a needle, I shall be happy."

The exhibition continues to 21 November and is open Wednesday-Saturday, 10am-4pm.

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## FOXLOWE TALKS

DEREK TATTON  
Talks programmer

Wednesday 18th November 2015 7.30pm

Somewhere over the Rainbow:

Pictures - an alternative history

ERICA BROOK

Why do we paint? How important is our understanding of shape, technique and colour for informing our appreciation of changing developments of creating pictures in the history of painting?

Through comment and discussion we will look beyond the anecdote to the practice over the centuries.

Wednesday 16th December 2015 7.30pm

Challinor and Shaw in the First World War

RICHARD BENEFER

Challinor and Shaw were a Leek firm of solicitors. In the First World War Challinor became a Lieutenant Colonel in the Territorial Force and led the Leek Battery of the Royal Field Artillery. After two years at the Front, he returned to Leek with shellshock.

Shaw had an important role in the Military Service Tribunals after the introduction of conscription in 1916, first as a Military Representative and later as a solicitor representing men who appealed against being enlisted in the army.

This talk will outline the work of the two men and the impact of the war on the firm in which they were partners.

*The speakers '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 thank you.*

## Foxlowe Films

SHEENA BARNES reports on  
Foxlowe Films' success at  
the national film awards

The award ceremony was to be held at the Showroom Cinema in Sheffield on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. As you can imagine we were thrilled to have been nominated in a national competition. Twelve other film groups had been nominated in our category, some of which have been running for many years.

I was the only member of the Foxlowe film group free to attend. During the two day event I saw two films and took part in a couple of workshops. The theme of the weekend was diversity and the workshops I attended had impressive speakers and helpful ideas for marketing and special events.

The awards ceremony was held on Saturday evening and was very well organised with excellent keynote speakers, one of whom was the long standing former film critic of the Guardian, Derek Malcolm, now consultant and president of *Cinema for All*.

Every film group that had been short listed had sent one or more representatives. The audience must have numbered around 200 people and the atmosphere was electric.

Each category was awarded an outright winner, one or two distinctions and the rest of those nominated received commendations. Foxlowe Films were awarded a distinction.

It was a wonderful opportunity to meet other film groups and to exchange ideas and experiences.

## Dirt: The Movie

Wednesday

2<sup>nd</sup> December

7.30pm

To round off UN  
International Year of Soils

free admission bucket  
collection at the exit

FOXLOWE ARTS CENTRE

## Gateway SHED

ERICA BROOK reports

Symbolic as well as signifying its position in the grounds of the Foxlowe Arts Centre, the word 'Gateway' suggests an opening or opportunity, which could prove a life-changing experience should you join the GatewaySHED group at the Foxlowe.

This exciting project, initiated by Peter Kent-Baguley, has grown out of a site of desolation into a creation which will soon be the home of 'men AND women who would like to share skills, learn new ones and be part of a friendly workshop place'.

Originally begun in Australia, the first shed in the UK was set up in 2010. Our GatewayShed will be the 188<sup>th</sup> in the UK.

Initially, it will be tooled up for most things with wood: mending/making/turning/carving.

Foxlowe's GatewaySHED is hugely supported by Jo Phillips, Men's Shed Project Manager, for the Royal Voluntary Service and our Building's Co-ordinator, Cliff Deighton, who is a professional furniture restorer.

People have been encouragingly generous in giving to the GatewayShed – work benches from Leek College, tools from many private individuals, support from PMTraining, finances from willing supporters and through the FoxBox donations, individuals who have given even more, including help with financing the actual building and shaping of the GatewayShed.

For an annual membership fee of £10, you will meet welcoming men and women, join an organisation where skill-sharing, informal learning and social interaction will help to reduce the isolation and loneliness often felt by older people as they move into retirement, experience a decline in their health or the loss of family and friends.

We hope this project will provide a space that enables increased social contact and well-being and opportunities for lasting friendships between people and opportunities for inclusion into the wider Arts Centre and community activities.

*If you would like to know more, or get involved then please telephone Jo Phillips: 07423 471 018 or Peter Kent-Baguley: 07773 464626.*

## Box of Delights

ERICA BROOK points to the forthcoming seasonal excess displayed in the Upper Gallery

Our Christmas Exhibitions are always different. The infectious atmosphere of Christmas lights, tinsel, candle flame, the scent of pine and frankincense, festive mince pies and mulled wine invite an indulgence which strays into the Upper Gallery in recognition of a time of giving and maybe receiving. This is the opportunity to present a medley of exhibits, displaying a range of talents and skills, a Box of Delights, an exhibition of excess, with

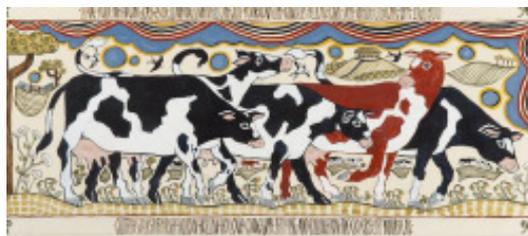


*Thanks to JO PHILLIPS who drove to Skelmersdale this week to collect enough end-of-line wood flooring to cover the SHED floor. Previously selling for £69.99 per box, B&Q generously donated the wood to UK SHEDS. Also, a big thank-you to the local man who donated two very useful industrial steel shelving units.*



ISABELLA HINTON raised £50 selling apple pies and apple crumbles at the AppleFest Sunday on the back lawn of the Foxlowe. The seventeen year old Westwood Academy Sixth Former has to raise £1,700 for the two week community work project in Morocco during June 2016, organised by Westwood Academy.

*Sue Prince picture*



something for all. Many exhibitors will be familiar to our visitors including painters **David Hunt**, landscape and atmosphere, **Jonathan Walker**, illustrator *par excellence*, **Sue Prince**, exquisite egg tempera work rooted in historical design, **Margaret Brothwell**, breath of fresh air delight in paint, and **Erica Brook**, with **Pam How**, painter and printmaker of strong design, and **Pat Rhead-Phillips**, painter of narrative and printmaker.

We have ceramicists **Hazel Higham**, folk art, **Mark Smith**, ships and the sea, and **Sue Blatherwick**, plates and spontaneity, with **Gill McMillan**, and **Perry Walmesley-Pitts**, both creators of work of great delicacy, who also make beautiful ceramic jewellery. **Sarah Myatt**'s glass jewellery is well known to the people of Leek and beyond, as is **Carol Phillipson**'s textile work. **Jane Charles**' imaginative glass sculptures, **Chris Thompson**'s

eccentric and popular sculptures and **Roger Waterhouse**, wood turner, creator of beautiful wooden pieces complete the plethora of talented work.

*We hope you will be able to attend the preview on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 7.00. The exhibition concludes 24<sup>th</sup> December, and the Gallery is open 10am -4pm Wednesday- Saturday, and the first Sunday in December, (Totally Locally) 11am - 4pm.*

## Garden News

Foxlowe Garden co-ordinator, **ALISON McCREA** highlights a final flurry of activity before winter dominates

The climax of the growing season was celebrated in the garden in early October with an Apple Fest that invited participants to enjoy the apple harvest in all sorts of ways. There were opportunities to taste 20 different British apple varieties, produce the longest apple peel, bob for apples and of course join in with the production of gallons of juice. The event was attended by all ages and the sun shone all day. What could be better?

Later in October, the gardeners participated in the Foxlowe Talks programme, with the talk 'Why on Earth should we care about soils?', which highlighted the parlous state of world soils but also the exciting new discoveries that give hope for the future. In the discussion that followed, two BBC documentaries: 'Farm for the Future' and 'The Magic of Mushrooms' were mentioned. Links to these videos are now available in a News post on the Foxlowe website.

Some of our visitors will have noticed one of Britain's most iconic fungi, fly agaric with its red cap and white spots, on the small lawn. This is a fine example of the mycorrhizal fungi discussed in both talk and documentary that contribute to plant nutrition. The gardeners welcome it every year for its wildlife value and appearance but advise against eating it, as it's well-known for its hallucinogenic properties, which used to be used in shamanistic rituals, especially in Siberia.

The garden team are now getting ready for winter, tidying the garden, cutting back dead vegetation and planning next year's activities. But before the tail end of the season, we will have a flurry of activity planting the six sponsored apple trees into their designated places on either side of the archway.

The details have not yet been finalised but the event will take place during National Tree Week (28th November - 6th December).

Our final event will be joining with Foxlowe Films to screen the award-winning documentary 'Dirt: The Movie' on Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December to round off UN International Year of Soils. Details are on the website.

*If you would like to become involved with the garden or contribute plants, please contact Alison McCrea (+44 7753 172564) or e-mail [volunteers@foxloweartscentre.org.uk](mailto:volunteers@foxloweartscentre.org.uk).*