

## FOXLOWE TALKS

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.

Talks Co-ordinator: ERICA BROOK

Wednesday 20 July 2016 7.30pm

**Life of Dr Samuel Johnson**

**Phillip Brough**, retired barrister

Phillip's talk is a narrative account of the life of Dr Samuel Johnson, amongst other things a poet, essayist, biographer, lexicographer. His Dictionary of the English Language was published in 1755

Wednesday 17 August 2016: No Talk

Wednesday September 21st 7.30pm

**The Major Trauma Centre for the Potteries and its Surprising Story**

**Peter Oakley**, formerly Clinical Leader for the Major Trauma Centre

There had been a long-fought campaign to introduce major trauma centres in England to improve the care of people with serious injuries following car crashes, falls and other causes. Thanks to a concerted effort and an innovative link with North Wales, the major trauma centre in Stoke-on-Trent is now producing some of the very best outcomes in the country.

## FOXLOWE COMEDY & MUSIC

Thursday 14 July 7.45pm **Limehouse Lizzie**

Presenting the greatest hits of *Thin Lizzy*. Renowned for an action-packed pyrotechnic-fuelled explosion of a show, Limehouse Lizzy continue to keep the spirit of Celtic rock icon Philip Lynott and his band Thin Lizzy alive, well and dominating stages worldwide. Show 8.30 pm. Tickets £12.00 in advance.

Thursday 28 July **Secret Comedy Club**

Star of the critically acclaimed BBC One TV show Hospital People is back with an updated version of his sell-out five-star one-man variety show Club Sets. Tickets £10. Bar open 8pm

Friday 5 August **The Situation**

Stu Whiston appears with full band and three other amazing acts. 8.30pm. Tickets £5

Friday 2 September **Comedy Club** Bar open 8pm  
Leek's Secret Comedy Club kicks back with five



amazing acts: Martin Mor (pictured), Alfie Brown, Mark Cram, and Mark Williams with compere Dave Williams. Tickets £10.

28 September **LISA MILLS**

Mississippi native, now Alabama resident Lisa Mills could be called a blues singer, or a gospel singer, or a torch singer or an R&B singer, and each label would be accurate, not too be missed. Doors open 7.30. Show starts 8pm. Tickets £12.50.

*Part of the Leek Blues and Americana Festival weekend*



During the Arthur Berry Foxlowe Exhibition

FRIDAY 7th OCTOBER  
7.30pm

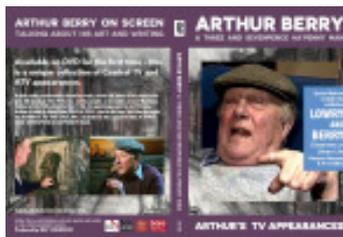
CATHERINE BURGASS  
MA PhD

Lecturer in English & Honorary Research Fellow at Staffordshire University will give a 40 minutes talk around the paintings and prints of Arthur Berry with time for questions.

One module of her teaching is *Pits, Pots and Poets: English regional writing from 1900 to the present*.

**bare WALL**

Gallery, Burslem and Foxlowe Arts Centre's Arthur Berry exhibition is reinforced by Emeritus Professor Ray Johnson's presentations of two major DVDs as outlined below and the talk given by Dr Catherine Burgass.



THURSDAY 8th SEPTEMBER 7.30pm

**ARTHUR BERRY: A THREE AND SEVENPENCE HA'PENNY MAN**

Substantial extracts from this new DVD - this is a unique collection of Arthur Berry's TV appearances available for the first time to own. Arthur talks passionately about his work, reads out some of his poems and gives his views on the The Potteries and its people as he walks around Burslem. Fellow artists

talk about Arthur's life, his paintings, poetry and drama. Arthur is seen in films from 1959 to 1994 - and in his very last film he reads his *Homage to the Oatcake*. Included in the screening will be the complete film *A Three and Sevenpence Ha'penny Man*. (DVD 90 minutes, screening 45 minutes)

FRIDAY 16th SEPTEMBER 7.30pm

**ARTHUR BERRY AT THE VICTORIA THEATRE**

This is the story of Arthur's work with Peter Cheeseman, Director of the Victoria Theatre, from 1976 to 1986 - when Arthur's play *St George of Scotia Road* was the opening production for the New Victoria Theatre. TV interviews, and sequences with Arthur and the actors who worked with him, give an engaging insight into his writing and how his plays were realised for the stage. Film and recordings of Arthur talking about the plays and characters, photos, programmes, Arthur's designs for stage sets and character paintings for the actors - preserved in the Victoria Theatre Collection - bring Arthur's theatre work to life. (DVD 80 minutes, screening 40 minutes).

## FOXLOWE promotional leaflet

An attractive professionally designed A5, full colour 4page leaflet was launched in June gives a brief overview of the genesis of the Arts Centre with encouragement for more people to support it by simply popping into the cafe for a cuppa, coming to events, volunteering, making a regular or one-off financial donation. We have completed the first 2 years of our 15 years mortgage which costs £7,500 monthly. We are exceedingly grateful for the support of the Leek Town Council's annual grant of £25,000 for the first three years. It pays 3.5 months annually, gives us time to develop additional income streams and boosts present ones so once the Town Council support ends the added income will cover those 3.5 months. We are on target: our strategy has worked, reflecting the tremendous local communitarian commitment, especially significant during this prolonged period of austerity.

## Summer Workshops

Arranged by Workshops Co-ordinator Laurel Mahoney

**Drama Summer School** Monday 25-Friday 29 July  
10am-12 noon (5-8 years) 1-3 pm (9-12 years)  
£5 per child per session.

Olympia Pattison-Corney develops children's playfulness and physical awareness of themselves and others through drama activities. This intensive week will give the children confidence and assurance in themselves. The final session will include a short 'performance' of their work.

**Drink & Draw with Andrea Joseph** who will take you on a visual journey through the Foxlowe and help you build a fantastical sketchbook of images using models and spaces to amaze; **Drawing Gym** with Chris Thompson and **Yoga with Paula Charnley**.

Limited spaces on the workshops so please book in advance: Laurel Gallagher (workshops coordinator) 07971 810 946 [laurelmahony@hotmail.com](mailto:laurelmahony@hotmail.com)

Full details in Workshop leaflet to be published shortly.

## Leek Volunteers' Day

ERICA BROOK reports

Symbiosis at its Best - from One Volunteer to Another

Chris Thompson, himself a founder volunteer of the Foxlowe Arts Centre, and the main organiser of Leek's Volunteers' Day, held on June 5<sup>th</sup> during National Volunteers' Week, expressed his thanks and appreciation to all volunteers from the numerous participating local voluntary groups, for their support towards making this a warm and welcoming day for families, and individuals, old and young.

Alison McCrea, who, with her partner, Nigel Williams, is developing, amongst other things, the Foxlowe Garden was "thrilled to see so many people using the garden and with so much happening."

Here, John Bishop, together with Sue Rylands and Laurel Gallagher, embracing the environment of the Foxlowe and the Park, worked with children and parents developing the project of *making spaces into places* that immersed children and their parents in a creative understanding of the relationship between the designed and natural worlds in which we live.

John said 'This was an environment in which people could come and go as they wished in



*Busy children making spaces into places with Sue Ryland and John Bishop*

the building and the gardens. In this way they enjoyed a diverse range of interests that is an unusual experience in the present day commercial world"

The GatewaySHED, inspired by the Men's Shed movement, evolved out of a derelict garage at the entrance to Foxlowe's carpark to become a purpose-built carpentry workshop. It was an appropriate part of Volunteers' Day that the project was formally opened by SMDC Leader and Foxlowe patron, Councillor Sybil Ralphs.

The Shed will give women and men the opportunity to share tools and skills under the experienced guidance of Foxlowe volunteer Cliff Deighton.

The event, including good food in the Foxlowe cafe and live music throughout the day, was aided by the sunny warm weather, with not a cloud in sight, an opportunity for all to reflect on so much that is positive in our community, where many volunteers came together to celebrate, not only what they give, but how they benefit in return, from the organisations which they serve.

## BURNS' NIGHT

Saturday  
28<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Long-standing Foxlowe pledger John Knox has generously volunteered to co-ordinate next year's Burns' Celebration.

The date is booked and the detailed planning is well advanced. The evening promises to be every bit as enjoyable and an all-round success like the first Burns' Night celebration in January this year.

John and his family moved to Leek from their native Scotland 43 years ago. He has always been involved with the Scouting movement and charity work.

If you would like to offer to help with the evening please contact John: 01538 383588 or [john@johnknoxltd.co.uk](mailto:john@johnknoxltd.co.uk)

## Live & Local Theatre shows at the FOXLOWE

We have secured the following four theatre presentations at subsidised rates courtesy of the Live & Local Organisation. We print the details and synopses for each to offer maximum notice for entering in diaries: we hope to get well attended audiences. Details re ticket prices and sales outlets will be published nearer the time but note the dates in your diaries now!

### FRIDAY 14 OCTOBER 7.30pm

GIANTS ON THE HILL (Cendric Theatre Co)  
If you're undecided or confused on the debate about sustainable energy such as wind farms, why not come and see a play about it to help you make up your mind? The performances are inventive and entertaining and tackle the wider concept of 'energy' with the actors creating sound effects onstage using wine glasses and other props. Their ultimate aim is to transport energy with them from venue to venue.

### THURSDAY 17 NOVEMBER 7.30pm

LAUNCH PARTY (Farnham Maltings)  
The show is very much about family relationships, how they stretch with distance and whether they can be broken by lack of communication, and themes in the play have been inspired by The Golden Record, a recording carried on the Voyager spacecraft offering 'alien' life a snapshot of the sounds and music which represent human life.

### Post-Christmas matinee for the young at heart

WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY 2017 2.30pm  
SHOE KANGAROO AND THE BIG BAD BOOT (Garlic Theatre)

Well-known for their beautifully made puppets, their shows are quirky, imaginative and feature clowning, mime and stories you won't hear anywhere else. This show is a fantastical journey (inspired by Spike Milligan) to the island of odd shoes in the company of Kangaroo and little Roo who have an adventure with the Big Bad Boot.

### THURSDAY 30 MARCH 2017 7.30pm

QUILTER AND THE GHOST (Arletty Theatre Co)  
Warm, nostalgic theatre show with songs telling real life tales of ordinary yet inspiring women forgotten by history. A fascinating story-quilt is the centrepiece of the set.

## Hygiene Rating

*Following the revisit of the Environmental Health Officer on 16th May 2016 we are delighted to report that confidence in our management procedures hygiene standards has been restored after the failings recorded in the routine inspection on 11 January.*

*Our Food Hygiene Rating is 4.*

*The officer explained that the regulations prevent a 5 Rating immediately following a 1 which we were awarded in January.*

## Garden News

Foxlowe Garden co-ordinator, ALISON MCCREA, and her partner Nigel Williams are on a well-earned three weeks break from Foxlowe volunteering, cycling round the Continent. In their absence, Jane Tattersall, Penny Oakley and Will have been holding the fort and keeping pace with the exceptionally rapid growth of weeds and the lawns. It must be very encouraging for the hard-working garden volunteers to know that so many visitors are most appreciative of the ever developing landscape.

*If you would like to become involved with the garden or contribute plants, please contact Alison McCrea (07753 172 564) or e-mail [volunteers@foxloweartscentre.org.uk](mailto:volunteers@foxloweartscentre.org.uk).*

*Details of news items can be found on the Garden page of the Foxlowe Arts Centre website.*