

# The Situation's Big May 6th Birthday

Following on from their great events of the last twelve months, and the overarching success of last May's all-day music festival, *The Situation* are at it again. Leek's own not-for-profit music promoters will be back at the Foxlowe Arts Centre for their annual extravaganza.

*The Situation's* 6<sup>th</sup> Big May Birthday, which is hosted during the Leek Arts Festival, will be held at the Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, on Saturday 6th May and will see more than twelve acts on three stages over nine hours.

Headlining will be the local scene's rising stars, The Gurus - an outstanding live act, solid indie with a combination of catchy riffs, addictive

fragile tales of love and loss.

**The Torch**, like your first love all over again, new, exciting and unique - rowdy, ramshackle rock n roll at it's finest.

**Thieves Asylum**, an energetic new local band, formed in January 2015, commanding great support and packed houses locally and throughout the UK, including supporting high profile artists such as The Pigeon Detectives.

**Goya** - from Stoke-on-Trent, will be gracing us with one of their first live performances, playing a cool instrumental melange of grungy alternative post-rock. Join us to witness the first steps of a cutting-edge new band's journey into the local

music scene. Check out debut song Collider on the band's Bandcamp page. **John Dhali** - a truly nice bloke, and North Staffordshire's great new hope on the solo singer-songwriter scene.

**A Thousand Wolves**, alternative rock band from Leek, hard, melodic and catchy.

**Jay Johnson**, acoustic singer-songwriter with a pop sensibility from Stoke-on-Trent.

**Vienna Sunset** - a new folk-pop act, formed at Keele University, with a shared passion for fusing styles and sounds. Every member of the band is a multi-instrumentalist, and contributes vocals to the band's trademark three-part harmonies.

**Randall's Stone**, a local duo crafting home-grown songs in a blues/folk tradition.

**Starting at 2pm, the first acts will be appearing on the outdoor patio stage. From about 5pm, the action will move indoors where there will be a stage at either end of the main event room, providing an almost constant array of great live music until 11pm.**

*The Situation's* MC, Simon Edwards said: "Our Big May Birthday is always a great day, with a friendly vibe, packed with the finest in original music, local and from further afield, and this year will be no exception. Why not bring the whole family and a picnic, and make a day of it." Andy Norton agreed and added: "The calibre of this year's acts is higher than ever, with a top mix of sounds - remember to put on your dancing trousers."

**Doors open at 1.30pm, the day starts at 2pm, and runs until 11pm. Tickets £6 in advance, from [www.wegotickets.com](http://www.wegotickets.com), or from the venue, or £6 on the door. Under 16s: free.**



melodies, and carefully crafted lyrics, which will hit the spot for any fan of indie/alternative rock. *The Situation's* band-boooker, Steve Hammersley said: "Since their debut gig with us, just under two years ago, these guys have exploded on to the scene, with some great support and headline spots - come and get a piece!"

Also on the bill will be:

**Mouses** - frantic noise-pop from the North-East, a duo who produce more energy and volume than should be possible.

**10 O'Clock Chemical** - a cool new local electronic band lowering your sensory threshold with crunching riffs and the dirtiest drops this side of the stratosphere.

**Eyre Llew** - a spellbinding three-piece ambient rock band from Nottingham, returning to *The Situation's* stage at The Foxlowe for the third time, after mesmerising live performances in November and March.

**Rachel Ferguson**, a Manchester-based singer-songwriter, will be spinning delicate and

## Foxlowe Arts Centre Co-ordinators

All co-ordinators are volunteers. Each has a number of volunteers helping with work in their area. Volunteers are always welcome at the Foxlowe Arts Centre.

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 Volunteers' co-ordinator  
Marion Fenton:  
07974 063674  
or email Marion via:

volunteers@foxloweartscentre.co.uk

## Building Maintenance

Cliff Deighton  
07789 362 179

### Exhibitions:

#### Upper Gallery

John Pursaill  
07854 948 215

#### Ground Floor

Pat Bennett  
01538 384167

### Films

Maureen Wiskin  
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### Gardens

Alison McCreia  
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### GatewaySHED

Cliff Deighton  
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### Health & Safety

David Barnes  
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### Music & Theatre

Andy Norton  
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Erica Brook  
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### Volunteers

Marion Fenton  
07938 226 469

### Web Site

Alison McCreia  
07753 172564

Minutes of the meetings of the trustees, copies of the trust's annual accounts and past issues of ST13 are available for reading on site in the box files in the first floor vestibule of the Heritage and William Morris Rooms.

## Foxlowe Cafe & Catering for Private Functions

Welcoming and relaxed ambience Monday-Saturday 10am - 4pm

First Sunday monthly 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: 01538 386112



Foxlowe trustees gratefully acknowledge the financial assistance of Leek Town Council, the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Architectural Heritage Fund, Leek Lands Trust and County Councillor Charlotte Atkins'

The Foxlowe Arts Centre is a Limited Company by Guarantee: 07757326 and a Registered Charity: 1144382  
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# ST13 Foxlowe Arts Centre Newsletter

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## Top Festival Shows at the Foxlowe Arts Centre

BELINDA HARGREAVES reports

The Foxlowe Arts Centre is set, once again, to play host to an exciting and energetic programme of top music and comedy over the next few weeks as this year's Leek Arts Festival gets under way.

With more than 35 events in the 2017 line-up, festival organisers have pulled out all the stops to ensure there is something for everyone to enjoy.

And with many of the key events scheduled to go ahead at The Foxlowe, the centre's volunteers will be kept busy looking after and catering for the hundreds of extra visitors the festival attracts each year.

The Foxlowe Arts Centre's involvement with this year's festival kicks-off with folk funny-man Richard Digance who is celebrating his 50<sup>th</sup> year in show business. His hilarious songs and stories are guaranteed to get Leek Arts Festival off to a great start on Saturday April 29.

Friday May 5 will see foot-stomping folk-rock duo Sound of the Sirens at The Foxlowe. These two girls have won high praise from the likes of Chris Evans and his fellow Radio2 DJ Jeremy Vine, both of whom have predicted the Sirens will become big name stars in the near future.

Other major events being staged at The Foxlowe include Coope Boyes and Simpson on May 11, the Folk Day and Ceilidh Evening on May 13, John Bramwell on May 18, Fairport Convention on May 19, Leek's own rock legends Hunter on May 26 and festival headliners Ralph McTell and Wizz Jones on May 28.

Festival spokesman Phil Edmeades, said: "Securing Ralph McTell for Leek Arts Festival has been on our wish-list for several years and we are delighted to have finally persuaded him to perform here. The fact that he will be on stage alongside Wizz Jones – one of the greatest guitarists in the world – is the icing on the cake for us."

Other festival events at The Foxlowe include live music organised by The Situation and several comedy events – including an evening with top-flight stand up Shappi Khorsandi on June 3.

Phil added: "Leek Arts Festival moved to The Foxlowe in a bit of a rush following the sudden closure of The Swan (now The Green Dragon) in April 2011.

"Since then we have enjoyed a wonderful relationship with the Foxlowe Arts Centre and its volunteers. Every performer we have brought to The Foxlowe over the past few years – from Mike Harding to Jeremy Hardy and from Fairport Convention to Barbara Dickson – has commented on its warm and welcoming atmosphere and the enthusiasm of the volunteers who help to run it."

Foxlowe Arts Centre chair, Peter Kent-Baguley, added: "We are only too happy to be able to provide the venue for some of the highlights of the annual festival. The committee of Leek Arts Festival are great to work with and we think they do an amazing job in providing such a varied programme of events – each and every year, there is always something for everyone.

"Our dedicated staff and volunteers, here at the Foxlowe, are all gearing up for the extra events throughout the festival. We are always on the look out for those extra pair of hands – so if anyone wishes to help out by volunteering on the bar and/or glass collecting, we would love to hear from them."

### La La Land at the Foxlowe



see page 2

### Shopping for self and community at the Co-Op



Richard Digance celebrating his 50th year in show business launches Leek Arts Festival at the Foxlowe

Food store puts cash into ShedFoxlowe's highly successful GatewaySHED project has benefited from a round of donations from a food store in Leek. The arts centre was one of the three chosen charities for the West Street Co-Op's first ever Community Fund. Each time Co-op members buy Co-op branded goods they earn 5% of the total cash out for their own future Co-op purchases plus 1% goes towards the customer's nominated Community Fund charity. The more Co-op members there are who have nominated a particular charity - the more the charity gains. Foxlowe's GatewaySHED's nominated six month period ended on 8th April. The outcome? We have been awarded an impressive, and very welcome, £1,147. Cliff Deighton, who co-ordinates the Foxlowe's GatewaySHED, said: "A very big thank you to the Co-op for its community minded approach and a big thank you to all local Co-op members who nominated the GatewaySHED as their chosen charity to benefit from their shopping." A member of the West Street Co-Op's staff recently visited the GatewaySHED to take a look around the project, as well as to present users with the generous donation. The GatewaySHED is an open to all project which offers members the chance to meet up, share hobbies and make friends. Open to both men and women, the practical project is set within, and around, a former derelict garage which is situated within the rear grounds of the Foxlowe Arts Centre. It opened last summer after hours were spent by volunteers in renovating and preparing the building. The ever-growing project provides a workshop space where members can share the tools and equipment they need to learn new skills and work on projects of their own choosing at their own pace. Anyone wishing to find out more about joining the GatewaySHED can go online to [www.foxloweartscentre.org.uk/category/shed/](http://www.foxloweartscentre.org.uk/category/shed/)

Back Row L-R: Jo Phillips, Tony Allison  
Front Row L-R - Marion Cusack, Pam Deighton, Cliff Deighton, West Street Co-op Store Manager

