



## Foxlowe Talks

Cover illustration  
of the Talks leaflet  
Paul Klee's 'Gaze'

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 17 May 7.30pm**

**Harriett Kidd - Leek Textile Worker and Suffragette**

Bill Cawley

Leek-born Harriett Kidd's experiences in the textile mills radicalised her and led to her involvement with the Cooperative Movement, Trade Unions and Suffragette Movement, locally and nationally. She was a friend of the Pankhurst family and Virginia Woolf.



**Wednesday 21 June 7.30pm**

**Celebration of Conservation Areas**

Richard Tuffrey

Lead officer on heritage at SMDC and High Peak Borough Council and a Director of the Historic Towns Forum, Richard has published guidance on the management of conservation areas and heritage-led regeneration.



His talk is part of the national 50th anniversary celebration of the introduction of Conservation Areas in the UK in 1967, being marked locally by Leek & District Civic Society. Designated Conservation Areas help to protect buildings and places we value.

## Theatre at the Foxlowe

"Quilter and the Ghost", presented at the end of March, was the last in the present series of professional theatre shows at the Foxlowe Arts Centre.

We have now had six shows, starting with the amazing one-man "Dracula" and including a delightful (and zany) piece of puppet theatre for youngsters: "Shoe Kangaroo and the Big Bad Boot" which had an almost-full house and was loved by the youngsters for whom it was intended just as much as by their parents and grandparents.

All these shows were brought to the Foxlowe Arts Centre by Live and Local, the touring agency for the region which has financial support from Staffordshire Moorlands District Council as well as Staffordshire County Council and the Arts Council.

Live and Local has now sent round its 'menu' of the 101 shows of various kinds it is making available in the coming autumn and spring, and the Foxlowe team is now working on its choices.

Keep an eye on our website for future theatre productions at [www.foxloweartscentre.org.uk](http://www.foxloweartscentre.org.uk)



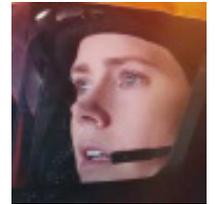
Half Term screening of the  
'U' rated Sing, on  
Thursday June 1st at 2pm

## Foxlowe Films

The Summer Season of Foxlowe Films begins on May 2 with a multi-award winning movie. The weekly movie night at the Foxlowe Arts Centre is run by a band of volunteers who carefully select which films to screen to cover all different tastes of film lovers. Films are shown every Tuesday with doors opening at 7pm for a 7.45pm start, and tickets are £5. It is advised to pre-purchase tickets for some of the more popular films. There is no allocated seating. A licensed bar is available along with hot drinks. Please note: screenings are subject to change. Please check [www.foxloweartscentre.org.uk](http://www.foxloweartscentre.org.uk) for up to date information.

**May 2: Moonlight (15).** Moonlight is the tender, heart breaking story of a young black man's struggle to find himself, growing up in a rough area of Miami. It is told across three defining chapters, with echoes of a Linklater film, three different actors play Chiron as boy, teenager and man.

**May 9: Arrival (12A).** This is Denis Villeneuve's intelligent and emotionally arresting science fiction movie about communication, memory and the experience of love and loss. When twelve mysterious spacecraft appear around the world, Dr Louise Banks (Adams) is the civilian tasked with interpreting the language of the alien visitors.



**May 16: Paterson (15).** This movie highlights the small amusing details and observations made by a bus-driving poet who is named after the New Jersey town in which he lives and works (a town which is the subject of an epic poem by American poet William Carlos Williams, which Paterson references).

**May 23: Toni Erdmann (15).** This film is outrageously funny, highly original, at times toe-curlingly embarrassing and at others tragic and melancholic. Winfried is an infuriating, practical joking father, who carries a set of false teeth in his breast pocket in an effort to reconnect with his corporate and insular daughter.

**May 30: Manchester by the Sea (15).** After the death of his brother Joe, Lee (Casey Affleck) is shocked to learn Joe has made him sole guardian of his 16-year-old nephew Patrick. Oscar winning movie.

**Films in June and July:** June 6: Lion (PG), June 13: Jackie (15), June 20: Hacksaw Ridge (15), June 27: Eagle Hunters (15), July 4: Hidden Figures (PG), July 11: La La Land.

**There will also be a special Half Term screening of the 'U' rated Sing, on Thursday June 1st. This screening will start at 2pm and tickets are priced at £1 per child and £1 per accompanying adult.**

## Ceilidh Dancing

An energetic dance session is hosted at the Foxlowe Arts Centre every month. Caller Victoria Berringer hosts her Ceilidh Dance Sessions in the Function room once a month. The evening is open to pure beginners through to the more experienced and Victoria guides participants through the dance moves, step by step. No partner needed and the evenings of dancing start promptly at 8pm and end at around 9.30pm. Admission: £3. For further information call Victoria on 07941 549901.

## Gallery Views

ERICA BROOK delves into the current creativity on show in the Foxlowe Gallery.

The current Gallery exhibition, *Making a Mark*, displays the work of Cheshire-based group ArtsXstra. Founded in 1996 by Gill Broadhurst and Judith Quinn as *Moving Clay*, the creative twosome had soon grown to an interesting and exciting group of artists working in wood, ceramics, printmaking, textiles, glass, jewellery painting, now exhibiting throughout the British Isles. In 2011 *Moving Clay* was renamed *ArtsXstra* to embrace all disciplines. Members of the group whose work is on display are Joanne Risley, Helen Kaminsky, George Fogg, Adrian Homersham, Jeff Teasdale, Karlina Sheldon, Chris Sheehan, Julie Hamer, David Lacey, Bruce Lyons,



Phil Bennett, Clive Weake, Antonia Ginourie, Katie Fawcett, Jayashree Jaipal, Katy Fawcett, and Joanne Risley.

An exciting exhibition, with too many names to mention specific details of their work individually, but collective comments about this exhibition begins with an endorsement of their subtitle: 'Quality and Variety'.

This is a group which indicates creative exploration, some within several disciplines. Each exhibitor is strongly individual and all demanding our attention because of the strengths of their different comments.



The exhibition runs until May 13th. 10am - 4pm: Wednesday to Saturday & Sunday 7th May 11am - 4pm.



*Ceramics by Geoff Fogg, top right & Blue Iris left.*

*Stag by Julie Hamer, and nude by David Lacey.*



## Comedy at the Foxlowe

Leek's Comedy Club, which moved to the Foxlowe Arts Centre several years ago, is an ever-growing in popularity event.

The laugh-a-minute evenings feature regional and national comedians who have the audiences in stitches and, at more times than not, crying with laughter.

Each regular comedy night, which is presented in conjunction with Funhouse Comedy, is held on the first Thursday of the month with doors opening at 7.30pm and the shows starting at 8.30pm. Tickets are priced at £10 and a licenced bar is available.

The next regular comedy slot at the Foxlowe, which will be staged on Thursday, May 4, will feature the likes of Alan Hudson, Julian Deane, Lenny Sherman, Jay Islaam, along with compere Lou Conran.

Thereafter, on Thursday June 1, the stage will be dominated by Alistair Barrie, David Ward, Brennan Reece, Karen Sherrard with compere Dave Bryon.

The Foxlowe Arts Centre will also, for a second year running, be playing host to the English National Comedian of the Year Competition.

Sunday, May 14 will see ten comedians battle it out on the Foxlowe stage for the national recognition. Tickets for this special comedy extravaganza are priced at £6.

And there is even more comedy offering at the Foxlowe Arts Centre over the next two months with a visit from national comedy star Shappi Khorsandi – but I am afraid, but also pleased, to say that this gig has sold out! To keep an eye out on the comedy gigs at the Foxlowe visit [www.foxloweartscentre.org.uk](http://www.foxloweartscentre.org.uk)

## Garden News

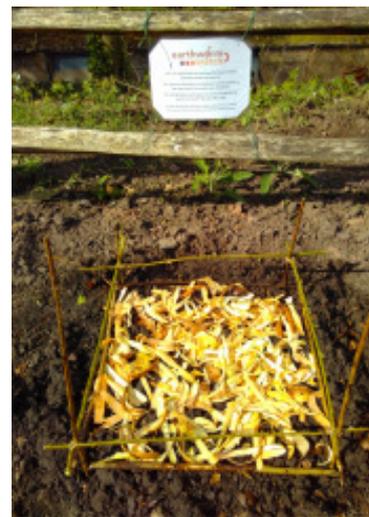
ALISON McCREA, Foxlowe Garden co-ordinator, reports on the latest developments in the green-fingered world at the Foxlowe.

Last year the Foxlowe gardeners celebrated International Year of Pulses but this year they have decided that it's the worm's turn – specifically the earthworm, whose underground endeavours improve nutrient availability, drainage and soil structure.

Their worth was first recognised back in 1881 by Charles Darwin, who "... doubted whether there are many other animals which have played so important a part in the history of the world, as have these lowly organized creatures."

For this reason we are taking part in the citizen science project *Earthworm Watch*, which is organised by the Natural History Museum and Earthwatch Institute (Europe).

There are two parts to our contribution: one is an experiment to see the numbers and diversity of worms attracted to an area of soil that has been



covered with compost for a month and the other is a survey to compare these characteristics under different soil coverings (habitats).

The experiment was set up in two of the vegetable beds at the end of the April Seed Share and the worm count

and ID session will take place at the start of the Plant Share on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> May (between 11am and noon), when we will also be doing the habitat survey.

Progress is continuing with other garden activities: prunings from the willow hedge are being used as part of the fence to protect the hay meadow.

The uprights, passed on to us by the GatewayShed, may look like wood but are actually recycled plastic and being given yet another lease of life. We expect the little garden shed to be in place by the time you read this. We have not yet had any suggestions for a colourful design on the door but live in hope.

The first of the garden vegetables, broad beans and early peas, have been planted. It's now a race between the plants and the slugs to see which moves fastest in this cold weather.

*If you would like to become involved with the garden or take part in a weekend work party, please contact Alison McCrea (07753 172 564) or e-mail [volunteers@foxloweartscentre.org.uk](mailto:volunteers@foxloweartscentre.org.uk).*