

THEATRE at the FOXLOWE

We will soon be in a position to name shows and dates for the next season of theatre at the Foxlowe Arts Centre (Autumn '17 and Spring '18) The Foxlowe has put in bids to Live and Local, which brings professional theatre companies to small venues, for 12 shows over the period from October to May. The list includes work for young children (like this year's much-enjoyed "Shoe Kangaroo") as well as for adults. There is set to be comedy, a Shakespeare adaptation successfully re-located to a pub setting, and even a dance company. It's too soon to say how many we will be able to fit in for the next programme, but full details will be available in the next ST13 newsletter (September - October 2017).



Left: Gervase Phinn.



Right: Bad Touch.

Comedy and classic rock on the cards for Foxlowe's stage

The Foxlowe Arts Centre's varied programme of gigs is continuing to bring in some great acts to the community-run venue. Here are just some of the fine examples still to come this year.

While the monthly comedy nights at the Foxlowe Arts Centre are having a summer break, there is still a special evening of laughter on offer on July 31 with a return visit from Tim Binns with his Edinburgh Festival Preview Special. Tickets are now on sale at £10 from the venue.

Sunday September 3, radio and television presenter Mark Radcliffe will, once again, be visiting the Foxlowe Arts Centre, this time with his 'Should You Be Interested' show. Expect songs and stories of middle aged angst and ennui along with tales of ineptitude and encounters with some of music's most famous names who Mark has on speed dial. Tickets to see Mark at the Foxlowe are priced at £16.50.

The five-piece classic rock band Bad Touch will be appearing at the Foxlowe on Friday, November 10. Hailing from Norfolk, the band have recently released their second album: 'Truth Be Told' which celebrates classic rock with Southern boogie influences, with heavy guitar riffs and an iron-clad, tight rhythm section, in the great tradition of Black Crowes, Lynyrd Skynyrd and Led Zeppelin. Advance tickets to see Bad Touch, along with guest Mollie Marriott, are priced at £14.

And on Saturday November 18, the Foxlowe will play host to An Evening with Gervase Phinn who tells hilarious stories of his life as a teacher and school inspector. Gervase has published five volumes of memoir, collections of poetry and a number of books about education. He has a particular interest in children's literature and literacy. Tickets to see Gervase are priced at £17.50.

For further information and to purchase tickets for the above events, go online to www.foxloweartscentre.org.uk.

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
01538 385799

Gardens

Alison McCrea
07753 172 564

GatewaySHED

Cliff Deighton
07789 362 179

Health & Safety

David Barnes
01538 388478

Marketing

Marc Briand
07799 175 909

Music & Theatre

Andy Norton
07974 063 674

Talks

Cathryn Walton
01538 388429

Volunteers

Marion Fenton
07938 226 469

Web Site

Alison McCrea
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 Films

Two film screenings are still yet to take place as part of the current Foxlowe Films season. On Tuesday July 4, the PG rated Hidden Figures will be screened in the first floor cinema room within the Foxlowe Arts Centre. Hidden Figures tells the incredible untold story of three brilliant African-American mathematicians, whose work at NASA enabled to gain an upper hand in the Space Race. The final screening of this season will take place on Tuesday July 11 with the multi-award winning 15 rated La La Land musical.

Foxlowe Films start at 7.45pm, with doors and bar opening at 7pm.

Tickets £5. For further information visit www.foxloweartscentre.org.uk.



Folk at the Foxlowe

The next folk music slot at the Foxlowe will take place on Thursday July 13. Presented by Leek's long-standing Cuckoo's Nest Folk Club, Folk at the Foxlowe will, this time, play host to an evening with one of the best singer/songwriters on the British and European folk scene: Pete Morton, pictured above. Tickets are priced at £10 and available by calling 01538 385260 or from the venue. Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start.



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



The Foxlowe Arts Centre is a Limited Company by Guarantee: 07757326 and a Registered Charity:1144382 Trustees : Peter Kent-Baguley (chair), Marc Briand, Colin Broome, Faith Cleverdon, Belinda Hargreaves, Andy Norton, Paul Osbourne and Chris Thompson.

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'Volunteering at the Foxlowe is amazing'



Big Clean Up. See Page 2



Volunteers are the backbone of the Foxlowe Arts Centre – every single person who gives any amount of their free time to help keep the community venture going is valued and we, the trustees of the centre, can not thank each and every one of them enough.

And it is for this reason that we are introducing a 'Volunteer Profile' to the ST13 newsletter – to help celebrate and recognise all that our wonderful volunteers do.

And who better to focus on initially than someone who spends hours upon hours at the Foxlowe helping to maintain and nurture the beautiful gardens and also spends hours in her other role as the venue's website administrator.

Alison McCrea, pictured above has been volunteering at the Foxlowe Arts Centre since it opened in 2011. The mum-of-three and grandmother-of-two, along with her husband Nigel, co-ordinates the maintenance and nurturing of the Foxlowe Garden.

She said: "We first got involved with the Foxlowe after hearing of the plea for pledgers to help turn the venue into an arts centre and then we started helping in the garden as we both enjoy gardening.

"Back then, there was just mown grass areas and the car park, but nothing else at the back of the Foxlowe."

Since then, retired environmental scientist Alison has spent many hours, with the help of fellow volunteers, in making the gardens what they are today. There is a beautiful willow fence, a wild flower area with a Staffordshire Knot mown through it, a Bee Hotel, a quirky archway with plants growing up it, and a wooden spider for youngsters to clamber on. Plus there is a variety of fruit and vegetables growing in the garden that are available for people to enjoy, and some are also used in the Foxlowe's kitchen.

Alison, aged 68, said: "I am pleased with the fruits of our labour. It is great that we produce food but the primary purpose is to make the garden look nice and for it to be structured for children to play in."

As well as lovingly maintaining the garden, Alison also co-ordinates green-fingered focused activities and events such as a Seed Swap Day and Plant Share initiatives.

Originally from Northern Ireland, Alison moved to Leek ten years ago. She said of why she volunteers at the Foxlowe: "Because I like it. The great thing about volunteering is that you don't have to do it. If you don't like it, then don't do it. Obviously you do need to have a little bit of commitment once you have said you will do something, but you can generally pick and choose when you volunteer.

"I find volunteering is very rewarding, especially at the Foxlowe. What I love about the Foxlowe is that there is such a diversity in both the activities on offer and also the people who volunteer here.

"Everyone is so committed to this wonderful institution. It is a wonderful place to meet people who share your commitment and passion – people from all different backgrounds and experiences who you would perhaps not normally get to know in the world of work or social scene. It is not a private club, everyone who wants to, can get involved. It's amazing."

Alison added: "We have a great team of volunteers helping to keep the Foxlowe Garden as it is. Some have taken responsibility for certain aspects such as the planters on the patio, the border edges, and the wild area by the Bee Hotel.

"If there is anyone else who would like to come and help, they would be more than welcome." Although Alison volunteers at the Foxlowe Arts Centre most days, the main gardening day for the venue is on Tuesdays. Anyone interested in offering additional help in keeping the gardens as they are today can pop along then or call Alison on 07753 172564.

Festival gigs success at the Foxlowe Arts Centre

The Foxlowe played host to more than 20 Leek Arts Festival events during May and June.

Key festival events for the 2017 extravaganza included Richard Digance, Sound of the Sirens, Fairport Convention, John Bramwell, Hunter, and the Birmingham Conservatoire Folk Ensemble – with many selling out and ensuring a capacity audience in the Georgian venue's function room.

Leek Arts Festival spokesman Phil Edmeades, said: "This year's packed programme could not have gone ahead without the help and co-operation of The Foxlowe.

"We are very grateful to the trustees for allowing us to treat the building as our home and, of course, to the wonderful Foxlowe staff and volunteers who staff the bar and other facilities during festival events.

"We've been using the Foxlowe as our main venue since 2012 and the level of support we get from the arts centre and everyone involved there just gets better every year."

A full analysis of the 2017 Leek Arts Festival is currently under way and details of overall costs will be available at the organisation's annual general meeting in September.

