



## Art & Design fair

The Staffordshire Contemporary Artist & Designer Fair celebrates its sixth year with another splendid display of creative talent.

The event showcases original and contemporary art and design and will this year take place at the Foxlowe Arts Centre over the weekend of December 2 and 3.

Leek School of Art - Buxton and Leek College, (part of Derbyshire University) are proud to co-host this event with the Foxlowe Arts Centre allowing the high quality work created by the Foundation Degree in Creative Art & Design Practice students to be exhibited alongside established professional artists and designers from the region.

Leek School of Art has a long history in Leek and since its merger with the University of Derby has seen a new school of art built with an investment of over £8 million for the college campus redevelopment overall. Leek School of Art offers a wide range of courses, for all ages, from Diploma to BA (Hons) Degree level for individuals wanting to a career in art & design and who want to become professional artists & designers. Part of the degree curriculum teaches students how to exhibit their own work, to organise and plan an event considering all aspects from health and safety, marketing and networking to displaying the work.

Much of the student work will be for sale alongside the established designers & artists and will range from ceramics, glass, contemporary craft, textiles, jewellery and more. It is a great opportunity to meet the makers and buy original Christmas gifts.

The event will run from 10am until 4pm on both days and it will be free admission.

## Rudyard Lake to be focus for Ray's talk



A friendly face from one of Staffordshire Moorlands' scenic tourist spots will be presenting an illustrated talk focusing on the past and present of the beautiful site.

Ray Perry, who spends hours upon hours looking after Rudyard Lake and the goings-on there, will be using archive film footage, a slide presentation along with modern animation for his talk on Wednesday November 15 at the Foxlowe Arts Centre.

Starting at 7.30pm Ray will be taking an audience through the years at Rudyard Lake starting from when an Act of Parliament 220 years ago gave permission for the building of the Dam at the lake through to today's Rudyard and its development. Ray will explain why the Dam was built – its construction which created the second largest reservoir in England for the canals system.

Foxlowe Talks are free admission with a bucket collection for the venue.



Keep up-to-date with what's happening at the Foxlowe Arts Centre's facebook page.

**Long-standing supporter, volunteer and trustee Chris Thompson has been appointed as the new chairman of the Foxlowe Arts Centre Trust. He follows in the footsteps of founding chair Peter Kent-Baguley who, along with founding trustees Roger Warrillow and Colin Broome, established the Foxlowe Arts Centre in 2011.**

## Volunteers continue refurb

Following an extensive refurbishment of the top floor of the original Georgian House at the Foxlowe that now houses the Creative Hub, Foxlowe volunteers have started to tidy up the function room and bar on the ground floor.

Volunteer Dawn Evans has made curtains that will help to hide essential building work. Andy Norton (trustee and music coordinator) has started work and new trustee Paul Osborne,

Foxlowe's maintenance Co-ordinator Cliff Deighton and Foxlowe chair Chris

Thompson were involved in a recent work party tackling the removal of some damp plaster in the function room.

If you wish to volunteer to help maintain and refurbish the Foxlowe Arts Centre please email [volunteers@thefoxloweartscentre.org.uk](mailto:volunteers@thefoxloweartscentre.org.uk).



*Cliff Deighton and Paul Osbourne working on the function room.*

## Performance to remember the fallen

Lance Corporal Albert Scrimshaw is the subject of a special non denominational Remembrance Day commemoration performance at the Foxlowe Arts Centre on Sunday November 12.

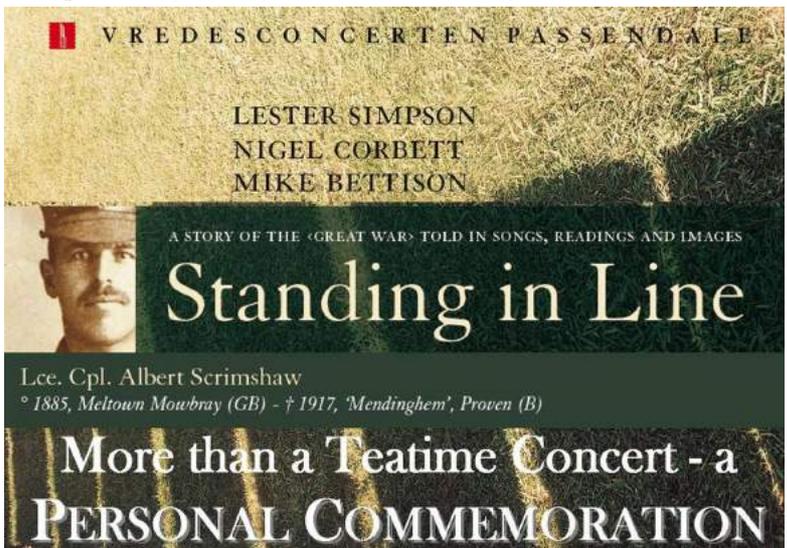
His story is being told also to honour the millions like him who suffered and died in the mud and blood of Flanders. The performance cast includes: Lester Simpson, Nigel Corbett and Mike Bettison who are being supported by the local Peace Through Folk Choir.

Albert was born in 1885 in Eastwell, Leicestershire. He worked as a butler near Oxford and married Annie, a girl from Windley, Derbyshire. He joined The "Ox and Bucks" regiment and marched off to war, never to return; wounded on 30 September near Hubner Farm, North of Ieper Albert died at Mendingham Field Dressing Station October 1 1917. Annie lived on in her lonely life in Duffield, Derbyshire, until her death in the 1970s.

It was a trip to Belgium in 1994 that changed folk musician Lester Simpson's perspective on the First World War forever. After being booked to perform music near to the scene of a bloody battle which took place in 1917, Lester remembered hearing of a relative who lost his life there. Research soon revealed that man to be Lance Corporal Albert Scrimshaw, Lester's great uncle. Now, after many trips to Belgium and the Western Front, Lester reflects on the human cost of that 'war to end all wars' and sadly notes that those who survived the bitter conflict have all now passed on.

The 'Standing In Line' performance comprises two acts of approximately 45 minutes each and features live songs and music (much of it composed by Lester), contemporary poems and letters from the front line and a large screen projection of images. The show is rounded off with some words of wisdom from Rudyard Kipling.

The performance will start at 5pm at the Foxlowe. Tickets are £10 in advance via [www.peacethroughfolk.org](http://www.peacethroughfolk.org) or £12 on the door - subject to availability.



## Gallery Views - review

There is currently an exhibition of creations from two contrasting local painters displayed within the Foxlowe Gallery.

Erica Brook and David Hunt have 'agreed to differ' for the latest exhibition which reveals the sharp, some might say, extreme contrasts of each painter where, at times, similar views of Leek, for example, are juxtaposed in a seeming oxymoron of difference. David Hunt's beautiful and atmospheric work, always based on his ability to depict what he sees, whereas Erica may take subject matter which 'ends up' somewhat removed from the external reality. This is the first time the two creatives have exhibited together and their varied work is certainly worth a look – especially for locals as Leek and moorlands scenes are at the fore in both painters' work. The 'Agree to Differ' exhibition runs until November 11. Opening times of the Foxlowe Gallery are 10am-4pm, Wednesday to Saturday. Plus it will be open on Sunday November 5 from 11am-4pm.



David Hunt is pictured above.

## Gallery Views - preview

Staffordshire Artists Co-operative will be opening their second joint exhibition at the Foxlowe Arts Centre in November.

Set up in February 2009 the Staffordshire Artists Co-operative has a shared aim of finding a way to get Staffordshire art on to the high street. In May 2009, with just seven members, they opened the doors to Gallery at 12, in Eccleshall. Since then, the Co-operative has grown steadily to 18 members with the potential to grow further. The range of art within the co-operative has broadened and now includes paintings, photography, ceramics, glasswork, sculptures, metalwork, beaded and silver jewellery, textile art, home furnishings, paper sculpture and wood work. The co-operative members are keen to contribute to the wider artistic community and with that aim Gallery at 12 hosts a charity day, twice a year, to support and promote Shape Arts, a charity which helps empower people with learning difficulties to work more inclusively within the arts sector. The members also encourage young Staffordshire artists by teaming up with local rotary groups to judge competitions where the winners are given their own exhibition and open day in the gallery. There will be an exhibition preview for 'Gallery @ 12' at the Foxlowe on Friday November 17 between 7pm and 9pm; and the exhibition will run through to January 13, 2018.

Co-operative members participating are: Angela Smith jeweller working creatively with wire, glass, beads and semi-precious stones; Helen Cartlidge artist working in watercolour, inks, collage and mixed media; Lyn Cooke Silversmith jeweller; Pom Fuller Watercolour artist, teaches and runs workshops; Tina Paramore Papier Mache sculptor and artist.;Tom Hackney Abstract artist and furniture restorer; Sally Hadley Photographer, hand-made papers and pressed flower artist; Jo Hill textile artist specialising in wall art and home furnishing; Vance Lupton wood turner; Mike Wheeley abstract artist and sculptor; Louise Spencer textile artist, felt and silk scarves and accessories; Craig Sumner fine artist working in oil, watercolour, pastel pen and ink; Wayne Tomlinson Mixed media painter of land and seascapes; Jo Hearn Ceramic and glass artist; Charis Jones Metalwork artist, blacksmith; and Ronnie Cruwys pen and ink street drawings and painting traditional egg tempera icons.



## Garden News

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

Despite generally disappointing weather this year, the garden benefitted from frequent spells of autumn sun, perfect for a couple of outdoor weddings. The wildlife did its bit with clouds of red admiral butterflies around the willow to delight the wedding guests. Being wild life, these were accompanied by wasps, all intent on supping the honeydew produced by the clusters of large willow bark aphids. Fortunately the wasps seemed to ignore people, their main target being the competing butterflies. The aphids also explained the swarms of ladybirds reported by the Forest School children in August.

Storm Brian drove the Apple Fest indoors after knocking our gazebo about a bit the night before. However, the good folk of Staffordshire Moorlands and beyond were not deterred by a little bad weather and came with copious bags and basins of apples. The new mill proved its worth by munching smoothly through all 190kg, albeit with the odd hiccup when obliged to overeat. The dozens of bottles kindly donated before the event were clearly very welcome. This year we had even more apples from the National Fruit Collection for sale and cider from the Old Saw Mill in Congleton, the same people who provided cider before, but now from their own in-house operation. The apple identification took off this year with lots of unknown varieties for enthusiasts to practice their ID skills on. We also welcomed Clarice Ash who set up her face-painting stall to complement the other activities for children.

Many thanks to all the lovely people who brought us wine bottles, cake, jams and chutneys (we will be asking for recipes) and the café for making the very popular apple, parsnip and cider soup. Also the Gateway Shedders, who put on a display of their wonderful work. The day would not have been such fun without your help. Leftover apples, cider, jams and chutneys will soon be available in the café, along with surplus apple juice and the remaining apples on the Foxlowe's own trees, kindly donated by their sponsors. We are now getting ready for the winter, and starting to plan our Christmas Wreath workshop, which will be on Saturday December 16 between 11am and 1pm. Finally a very warm welcome to our latest garden volunteers, Laura Heath and her daughter Iris, who so far have been doing a tremendous job cutting the garden lawns – a great double act!

*If you would like to become involved with the garden please contact Alison McCrea on 07753 172 564.*

## Rolling back the years of bicycle club

The Heritage Room at The Foxlowe Arts Centre is currently playing host to a 'Rolling Back The Years' exhibition celebrating the story of the Leek Cyclists Club which was founded in 1876.

The exhibition was opened in September by local cycling hero Les West. National Amateur Road Race Champion and arguably the Bradley Wiggins of his day, Les was a silver medallist at the World Championships and national professional champion in 1970 and 1975. In 2009 Les was inducted into the Cycling Hall of Fame.

Organised with the support of the Leek and District Historical Society, this exhibition is open to visitors Wednesday to Saturday 10am to 4pm until Spring 2018.

The society's chairperson, Joan Bennett said: "It has been a real pleasure working with such a group of enthusiastic people in the Cyclists' Club and the exhibition rightfully celebrates the club's importance to our local and national history."

*An early 'bone-shaker' mounted by one of the founders of the Leek Club.*

