



*New Talks
Co-ordinator
Cathryn
Walton*

*Historian Doug
Pickford*

It's good to talk

Local historian and author Cathryn Walton has taken on the role of Talks Co-ordinator at the Foxlowe Arts Centre.

Cathryn, who is a long-standing member of the Leek Historical Society, will present the first talk herself and feels confident, owing to her many contacts, of being able to provide talks on the history of Leek and the Moorlands. However the former librarian added: "I would also be grateful to receive details of talks on other subjects in order to present a range of diverse topics."

Cathryn will be launching her talks programme with 'Leek's French Connection' on September 20. Cathryn said: "In the early years of the 19th century French prisoners captured on the high seas or in land battles during the Napoleonic wars arrived in Leek. Several quickly wooed, wed and later abandoned Leek girls. Some stayed with their Leek wives and French blood runs through the veins of many Leek residents. I will relate the fascinating story of their lives in Leek, how they lived and perhaps controversially where they lived."

Next up for Foxlowe Talks will be another well-known local historian in Doug Pickford who will be presenting his talk 'Moorlands' Hidden History' on October 18. Author, journalist and broadcaster Doug said: "Perhaps Leek and the Moorlands' glorious past is not all it seems to be - perhaps it is even better. What is for sure is that there are misconceptions, mis-interpretations and mistakes, not to mention hidden truths concerning it." In his talk, Doug delves into the hidden history mysteries of our enigmatic past and comes up with a number of, hopefully, thought-provoking solutions.

All Foxlowe Talks, which start at 7.30pm, are free admission with donations very welcome for the upkeep of the community venue.



*'Denial' - just one of the movies in
the new Foxlowe Films programme*

A mix of movies

A multitude of films are set to be on offer at the Foxlowe this autumn as the volunteer team of Foxlowe Films launches a new season. The weekly movie nights at the Foxlowe have been going for more than five years and are ever-growing in popularity. They take place on Tuesday evenings with doors opening at 7pm and the screenings starting at 7.45pm. Tickets are £5.

Launching the Autumn season will be the charming, nostalgic and spirited wartime romantic drama of 'Their Finest' on September 19; followed by on September 26 the screening of the 15 rated 'The Sense of an Ending' which is an adaptation of Julian Barnes' 2011 Man Booker prize winning novel of the same name.

Heading into October, on the 3rd, 'I Am Not Your Negro' will portray the unfinished novel 'Remember This House' by author James Baldwin. This will be followed by Sweden's 'A Man Called Ove' on October 10 - this screening will include a special Film and Meal Deal at £15 per person. On October 17, it will be the turn of the 12A rated 'Loving', which is set in rural Virginia in 1958, to take to the Foxlowe's big screen, and then the fascinating documentary of 'Letters from Baghdad' will be shown on October 24 before a compelling story of a legal battle in 'Denial' on October 31. Heading into November and December, the following films are set to be screened: Frantz, After The Storm, Churchill, Fences, Maudie, and The Other Side Of Hope. A special £1 per person half term screening for families will be 'My Life As A Courgette' on Thursday October 26 at 2pm.

Gateway to creative friendships



The GatewaySHED, which stands on the grounds of the Foxlowe Arts Centre, has gone from strength to strength since its formation 15 months ago. Here, Gateway Shedders Cliff Deighton and Jo Phillips report on what's been happening in the outdoor creative hub area.

Many of our members, supporters and visitors will hopefully have seen the development of the GatewaySHED over the last year, as the creative workshop space in the garden which has become an extension of the arts centre facilities.

The aim of our band of Shedders has always been to create a friendly and inclusive workshop space where people can come together to share skills - make things in the company of others, learn new skills and chat along the way. Fifteen months on, the Shed now has a regular group of members who make, create, build, recycle, and repurpose - currently meeting every Tuesday and Saturday to share the tools and facilities to work on their own and joint community projects - and share many a cup of tea in the café too!

Personal projects have been wide and varied such as garden planters, vegetable boxes, tea trays and even a laptop guard for a cat made out of the regular donations of pallets that the Shed repurposes. Members have carved spoons, made signs, recycled a washing machine drum into a side table and repurposed a garden table that was destined for the scrap heap.

The Shedders, who range in age from their 30's to their 80's have also worked together on a variety of community projects and local commissions - including a compost bin, apple boxes for the Foxlowe's own Apple Fest and all the signposts used for this year's Art in the Park event. An ongoing line of shelves, hook racks and storage boxes for sale at stalls and events is helping to raise funds for the Foxlowe - and some very sweet dormouse doorstops are now being successfully sold through the café.

The Shedders have also undertaken a large amount of repair and renovation work including making things for the Foxlowe's building, grounds and cafe over the last 12 months. From repairing windows, doors and floorboards, to wobbly chairs and tables - having a wealth of creative hands around has certainly been beneficial!

Funds raised by the Shedders' activities have paid for the resurfacing of the car park, which many members helped to shovel out in the rain, along with some garden volunteers and Foxlowe Trustee Chris Thompson - big thanks to all involved. Current joint Shedders' projects include building new notice boards for the front of the building and renovating the side courtyard area so that it can be used as a smoking area for evening events.

Lots of project ideas are in the planning for the coming autumn and winter season and the workshop has proven to be a lovely space to work in all year round. The Shed has recently taken delivery of the carved oak bollards which used to be situated along Derby Street in the town. They have unfortunately deteriorated significantly, but rather than they just be disposed of, the Shedders are hoping that some can be conserved and re-sited in the garden (a Fox Henge has been mentioned!) so they can continue to be enjoyed. We may be looking for sponsorship to carry out the work. This is a long term project that the Shedders are delighted to put their creative skills to.

If you would like to join them on this, share your creative skills or learn/develop new skills - please call in, chat to any of the Shedders you may see around, follow their activities via the GatewaySHED Facebook page or email: gatewayshed@gmail.com with any queries.



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

Gallery Views - review

Past and present students and tutors from the Leek School of Art are currently exhibiting work from the 1940's to the present day at the Foxlowe Arts Centre. The Leek School of Art Alumni Exhibition covers a range of media including textiles, print, photography, glass, ceramics, sculpture, oils, watercolour, wire, acrylic, mixed media, ink, repousse silver work and pastel.

Chris Thompson, exhibition curator and Foxlowe trustee, said: "The past principal of the Leek School of Art, the late Arthur Littlewood is the earliest exhibitor and the loan to the exhibition is thanks to his widow Pam Littlewood and daughter Jackie White. This is the first time work from all three respected artists are shown side by side.

"Jackie was one of the runners up last year in SKY Landscape Artist of the Year and although some might not have heard of Arthur Littlewood they would have seen his design of the wooden manikin/maquette that is seen in most art shops."

Joe Mellor-Robinson, aged ten, was at the preview of the exhibition, which includes creations by his mum Suzanne Mellor – a tutor at the Leek School of Art. Joe said: "I really like all the work in the exhibition. There are lots of amazing pieces of art but my favourites are the drawings done with a toothbrush, the colourful landscapes, the birds in boxes and my mums photographs."

The current exhibition will remain on display in the first floor gallery at the Foxlowe until Saturday September 24.



Chris Thompson and Joe Mellor-Robinson

Gallery Views - preview

Two well-known local artists are joining forces to present the next creative exhibition at the Foxlowe Arts Centre.

David Hunt is a 'household name' in the world of painting in Leek and beyond. Throughout the years of his commitment to painting he has developed a well-earned reputation in his growing certainty of what it is he wishes to paint, and how he wishes to express himself. His creative vocabulary has enabled him to share his love of landscape - much based in Leek and the Moorlands - and the weather, ever changing through the Moorlands year.

Through his paint and how he handles it, he invites us to see and experience more of the subtleties of light and air, scene and vision, in the world around us.

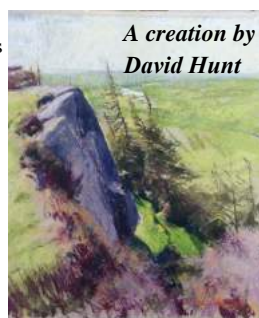
This next Foxlowe Gallery exhibition, 'Agreeing to Differ', also has the work of Erica Brook, largely Leek and Moorlands based in her subject matter, but dramatically different in approach, with her themes as a starting point towards - from the beginning - an unknown destination.

Over the years, David and Erica have exhibited in group exhibitions, but this is the first when visitors are invited to see the work of both side by side. Their differences seem extreme, but they have in common their need to

paint, which, though based in colour and composition, has been the response within each, to their own voice, continuing to lead them in very different directions. It is hoped, whatever their thoughts and preferences, exhibition visitors will enjoy the contrasts, as David and Erica have, in their 'agreeing to differ'. The Preview Evening will be on Friday September 29, with the exhibition running until Saturday November 11. Gallery open Wednes-Sat 10am-4pm, and Totally Locally Sundays – October 1st, November 5th 11am-4pm.



A creation by Erica Brook



A creation by David Hunt



Garden News

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

July and August saw many garden visitors and rampant plant growth, although some plants had suffered following the spring drought, notably the tree mallows and the peas. As we have no outdoor water tap and are largely dependent on the small butt by the GatewayShed, watering gets difficult when this runs out. The problem should be resolved once the large white water tank is positioned to collect water over the winter. Luckily we've been substantially helped in this by volunteers from the Shaw Trust, who came for work experience in July and did sterling work, not only helping to move the tank and laying paving underneath it, but also shifting a large quantity of compost, tidying the car park and regularly mowing the lawns. Many thanks and please come again.

We were also delighted to host Inside Out Forest School's Summer Camp. They left us some gorgeous fairy swings beside the tomato pots and reportedly counted a huge number of ladybirds in the willow - always good to know. We look forward to seeing them again, too.

The apples beside the car park will soon be ready to pick but we are saving the first fruits for the tree sponsors. The six varieties were chosen to ripen from August through to October, with Discovery and Grenadier (a cooker) being the first to be ready. The two cookers are positioned between eating apples on either side of the archway, the other being Charles Ross. The remaining eaters are Herefordshire Russet, Pixie and Sunset. Of course we won't need to juice these at the Apple Fest on Saturday, 21st October, as that's for windfalls and surpluses from wildings and mature apple trees. There will also be lots of opportunities to taste and buy unusual varieties, locally produced cider, a range of apple cakes and a diversity of jams, as well as participating in the glorious juicing jamboree. We also hope to be able to help visitors identify their own unknown varieties, but no promises! Full details are on the website and Facebook page.

Finally, a warm welcome to Robin Wardle, a new volunteer who comes all the way from Macclesfield and is already making an impact. We look forward to seeing much more of him. Although our team is growing, there is always work to do, especially in the growing season when volunteers are away on holiday.

If you would like to become involved with the garden please contact Alison McCrea (07753 172 564) or e-mail volunteers@foxloweartscentre.org.uk

Great outdoors fun for youngsters

Youngsters have been enjoying many aspects of the 'great outdoors' at the Foxlowe Arts Centre. Former Westwood High School student, Esther Brock, used the Georgian building and gardens to host a two-week Inside Out Forest School Nature and Nurture Summer Camp. The daytime camps saw children aged between five and 12-years old discovering and connecting with their natural surroundings through a range of activities including bush craft, mini beast hunting, shelter building and campfire cooking.

Esther said: "I have thoroughly enjoyed holding my 'nature and nurture' Forest School Camp at the Foxlowe. With the use of the upstairs cinema room for the yoga, attached arts studio for the nature crafts and beautiful gardens for the outdoors activities and campfire it really has been an excellent venue and is a hidden gem in the heart of Leek.

"Having Brough Park on our doorstep for nature walks was an added benefit. I will be most definitely holding more holiday camps at the Foxlowe in the future."

To find out more about the camps, go online to www.insideoutforestschoo.com

