



## Free tickets on offer for show

The next theatre piece brought to the Foxlowe Arts Centre by Live and Local, the third this spring, will be on Thursday March 15.

"Here I Belong" is a thoughtful, compelling and charming portrayal of 60 years of village life seen through the eyes of one village resident, from her youth to the fight to stay in her own home in old age.

Elsie has lived here all her life. She's seen elections, weddings, war, people coming, people going, from the Coronation in 1953 to her birthday party today.

Staged cabaret style, the action happens all around the audience and yes, there will be cake!

This funny and moving journey through life is brought by Pentabus, the Shropshire-based company which brought "Launch Party" as one of our first Live and Local productions, as supported now by Arts Council England, Staffordshire County Council and Staffordshire Moorlands District Council.

Advance tickets are now available at £11 (Alternatively pay £12 on the door). Students can purchase tickets for the discounted rate of £8 PLUS there are free tickets available for the first ten under 25s to book for this show at the Foxlowe Arts Centre!

*This is a limited offer and terms and conditions apply.*

## Big names aim for festival

The biggest creative festival in Leek's entertainment calendar is set to start in April – and the Foxlowe Arts Centre is, once again, proud to be the venue for the extravaganza's main events.

This year's Leek Arts Festival is, yet again, set to see some big names visit the Staffordshire Moorlands – namely comedian Tom Allen and singer-songwriter Aerynn, plus both Fairport Convention and Barbara Dickson will be making welcome return visits to the Foxlowe Arts Centre.

Festival vice-chairman Phil Edmeades said the committee are delighted with using the Foxlowe as the 'home' of Leek Arts Festival. He said: "Since 2012 when Leek Arts Festival had to make a move to the Foxlowe following the sudden closure of our former base at The Swan, the relationship between the two organisations has proved a huge success.

"We are delighted to be able to call the Foxlowe 'our home' and equally delighted to be a part of the continued growth and expansion of this wonderful volunteer project.

"This year the Foxlowe will host a record number of more than 20 Leek Arts Festival events – we really couldn't manage with it or its brilliant volunteers."

This year's festival, which mainly takes place during the month of May but will also run into June, will kick off at the Foxlowe Arts Centre in April with an evening of comedy presented by comedian Tom Allen.

The sharply-dressed well spoken comedian has made regular appearances on television shows including Mock The Week, 8 Out of 10 Cats Countdown, Live at the Apollo, and The John Bishop Show.

Tom will be bringing his one man show 'Absolutely' to the Foxlowe on Wednesday April 25 and tickets, which are priced at £14, are available at [www.leekartsfestival.co.uk](http://www.leekartsfestival.co.uk).



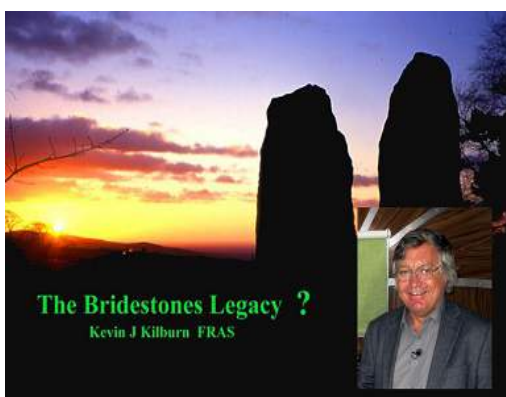
## Sites of historical interest

Historical sites will be the focus for the next two Foxlowe Talks which are organised by local historian Cathryn Walton.

Kevin Kilburn will be delivering his informative talk about The Bridestones, which is the biggest megalithic monument in Cheshire dating to the end of the Neolithic period, on Wednesday March 21.

Then on April 18, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust's Roaches Warden Jon Rowe will present 'The Roaches – a Natural History'.

Both talks start at 7.30pm and are free admission with donations to the venue very welcome.



## Top folk stars will be in full voice

Three folk nights, organised by Leek's own Cuckoo's Nest Folk Club, will be taking place at the Foxlowe over the next two months.

Funny songs and captivating stories are set to be on offer when Bernard Wrigley will be performing at Folk At The Foxlowe on Thursday March 8. Bernard, alias The Bolton Bullfrog, entertains at a multitude of events from dinners and concerts, to festivals and ceilidhs. Bernard also has many television appearances under his belt including on Coronation Street, Emmerdale and Last of the Summer Wine, to name but a few.

On Thursday March 22, guitarist, singer songwriter and composer Kevin Dempsey will lead the Folk at the Foxlowe evening, while on Thursday April 12 The Voice finalist Sally Barker and her new band IOTA will be visiting Leek.

Doors open for all Folk at the Foxlowe nights at 7.30pm for an 8pm start and take place in the first floor Rainbow Room. Tickets are priced at £12 and they are available from the venue. For further details about Cuckoo's Nest Folk Club call 01538 385260.





Volunteer  
Faith Cleverdon.

## Gallery Views - current exhibition

Our current exhibition for 2018 in the Upper Gallery is entitled "Baggage" and runs until Saturday March 31.

It has been produced by a group of artists who call themselves #SEVEN and a guest artist.

#SEVEN (hashtag7) is a group of colleagues who met working at Newcastle-under-Lyme College rediscovering their own way of working through collaboration.

The artists taking part are Heather Hancock, Joyce Iwaszko, Jeanette Fanthome, Sara Penny, Ruth Rowland, Sharon Porteous and Hazel Higham, while their guest artist is Paul Gosling. To find out more go online to [www.facebook.com/hashtagseven](http://www.facebook.com/hashtagseven).

## Garden News

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

Despite the cold weather, activity has been ongoing in the garden, thanks to our hardy volunteers. Admittedly a lot of their time has been spent in the café, planning for the coming season, as well as enjoying the wonderful food. One key activity has been helping the Shedders with the demolition of the unstable wall opposite the council offices, our contribution being mainly to remove old mortar from the bricks, so that as many as possible can be reused. The plan is for a temporary fence to run from the stack of bricks and behind the bee hotel until the demolition can be safely completed and the wall rebuilt.

One of our stalwarts in this activity was Faith Cleverdon, recently retired as a trustee, who has joined the garden team in order to spend more time outdoors – a very warm welcome to her. Another very welcome new volunteer, Sheila McHale, who joined us before Christmas, has agreed to be lead volunteer for vegetable growing. For this reason, much of our time in the café has been spent poring over seed catalogues and a companion planting table, as well as discussing different potato varieties. The vegetables will be grown in the middle three bays in front of the back fence, with salad veg in the big patio planters, and we will be planting currant bushes, red gooseberries and autumn raspberries in the bays on either side.

We are now gearing up for the Seed Shares this spring. The first will be held in the bar on Saturday March 3 and the second on Saturday April 7 (11am-2pm). These work on the principle of a seed swap but those who have no seeds of their own to share can still participate by making donations instead. There are usually plenty of seeds to go around and often some very unusual ones. Details are on the website. We have also set the day for our annual Plant Share, which will be outside on Saturday May 19.

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

## Gallery Views - next exhibition

A former Staffordshire Moorlands artist is returning home to exhibit her first solo exhibition at the Foxlowe Arts Centre.

Textile Tectonics will be presented by Stacey Harvey-Brown from Saturday April 7 through to Saturday May 12. There will also be a special preview evening on Friday April 6 at 7pm.

Having lived in the Staffordshire Moorlands for more than 25 years, Stacey is delighted to be showing her first solo exhibition at the Foxlowe Art Gallery. Beginning her study of weaving in Rudyard, nearly 30 years ago, and living in the area for over 22 years, Stacey expanded her weaving studio and taught courses for 12 years before recently moving to South West France where she continues to teach and exhibit.

Weaving is not usually associated with three dimensional forms but Stacey draws from natural forms found on her travels around the world. Recent explorations of forms found in the sea: corals, seaweeds, flatworms medusa and nudibranchs have inspired new weaves that are 'Made To Be Touched', this is set to be a truly tactile exhibition.

*The Foxlowe Arts Centre's gallery is situated on the first floor of the Georgian building. Opening hours are Wednesday to Saturday from 10am until 4pm and the first Sunday of the month between 11am and 4pm. Admission to the gallery is free. The Gallery Co-ordinator Jane Wilde has a band of committed volunteers who help to curate and steward the Gallery. However, Jane is always on the look out for additional volunteers to come on board to help showcase some of the most creative work from across the Staffordshire Moorlands and beyond. To offer your help email [volunteers@foxloweartscentre.org.uk](mailto:volunteers@foxloweartscentre.org.uk)*



## Feast of films and documentaries

The current season of Foxlowe Films continues in to March with a variety of screenings. First up this month will be the 15 rated Loveless on March 6, followed by the PG rated The Fencer on March 13. On March 20, The Death of Stalin (15) will be screened and the PG rated Goodbye Christopher Robin will be the film for March 27. Doors open for each Tuesday evening Foxlowe Film at 7pm for a 7.45pm start. A licensed bar and hot drinks are available. Admission is £5 with advance tickets available to purchase.

There is also a selection of documentary screenings available at the Foxlowe this Spring with A Plastic Ocean on Wednesday March 7, followed by Tomorrow on Wednesday April 4. The documentaries are free admission with donations to the venue very welcome. There will be a licensed bar, hot drinks and a Fairtrade stall on offer at each screening when doors open at 7pm for 7.45pm start.



*A Plastic Ocean.*