



New home for creativity

A creative business, which offers a host of art focused community workshops, is now based at the Foxlowe Arts Centre.

It has been the mission of Cabbage Rose to display and promote the work of awesome artists and artisans, as well as to unleash the creativity of those who in live and visit Leek, through amazing workshops.

Caron Colbert started Cabbage-Rose online in September 2011 with a focus on sales and events such as the Festive Gift Fair, Girl's Day Out, and Country Living shows in Birmingham, London, Glasgow and Manchester.

She soon set down roots in St Edward Street in Leek in May 2013, with a physical shop supporting and developing a network of local artists and artisans. Besides showcasing their creativity, they also went to work demonstrating and passing on skills and inspiration through adult and children's workshops.

Caron said: "People in Leek were so supportive, and the workshops kept growing, so we moved to a bigger space in Stanley Street in August 2016.

"There we accommodated over 42 local artists and artisans, with more than 20 different regular adult workshops plus a huge selection of children's craft and art workshop activities.

"Local glass artist John Green assisted in co-running the new space, but too many people wanted in on the fun and so we soon had to move again."

Cabbage Rose is now based within The Foxlowe Arts Centre in Leek.

Caron said: "The Foxlowe Arts Centre has become an amazing partner in helping us to accommodate the popular workshops and parties, plus this move has allowed us to do so much more in unleashing the creativity of Leek.

"We mostly use the workshop space but also overflow into other fantastic spaces in the Foxlowe as well as the café – which has proved very popular with the Saturday Krafty Kids parents and with participants on the full day workshops.

"Together with the Foxlowe Film club, we also have full day sessions of children's activities which run during the holidays and the gallery has created a Christmas exhibition and shop showcasing work from many of the artists and makers that were in the shop on Stanley Street."

Caron added that they are proud to be working with "so many amazingly talented artists."

She added: "The adult workshops continue to expand in numbers and variety and we have planned for more than 25 adult workshops in the first half of 2019.

"The children's workshops, holiday workshops and birthday parties continue to be popular, with local crafter Sharon Holloway "Betty RedButton", and qualified teacher Deb Knowles, providing fun and educational craft activities for all ages of children.

"Leek has been a wonderfully inspiring and supportive home for the creative vision of Cabbage Rose, and we are grateful to our many wonderful customers – old and new."

To find out more about what Cabbage Rose has to offer go online to

www.cabbagerose.co.uk.



Farewell to Janet

Dedicated Foxlowe Arts Centre supporter Janet Broome was known to many in Leek and it is with sadness that she passed away before Christmas. However, here we are not going to dwell on the sadness of losing such a lovely character of our town, but instead celebrate that we were lucky enough to have had such an inspirational lady within our community.

One of the most monumental feats which Janet accomplished was to spearhead a long running campaign to preserve Leek's historic town centre. In the 80's many of Leek's listed buildings within the town centre came under threat of being demolished and turned into a 'shopping centre of numbing mediocrity'. However, Janet spearheaded a campaign to preserve the Butter Market and surrounding buildings, by pushing the campaign both locally and even to national level, including articles in Private Eye.

The battle over the redevelopment continued until 1994, when shock election results, a parish poll and the on-going campaigning headed by Janet for the sympathetic refurbishment of the town's heritage, saw the collapse of the controversial plans.

Janet, aged 84 years, was the beloved wife of Colin, dearly loved mother of Jonathan and the late Jane and special granny to Imogen and Oliver. Janet was a remarkable lady who not only strived to save the preservation of her home town, and was a keen and dedicated supporter of the community run Foxlowe Arts Centre, but she also pursued an extensive career in lecturing and demonstrating on the history of a number of culinary delights including bread and herbs. She was a Fellow of the UK Herb Society and was also voted Best of ten speakers at one of the USA Herb Society National Conference.

Janet, who was a gentle but courageous lady, will be missed by all who knew her.

Submissions welcome

Do you host a regular activity at the Foxlowe Arts Centre? Or perhaps you have thoughts about the Foxlowe Arts Centre, which you would like to share? Please get in touch with our editor Belinda Hargreaves at hargreavespr@outlook.com

Foxlowe gigs in pictures by Giles Metcalfe



Thunder Hammer.



Thunder Hammer.



John Bramwell.



Thunder Hammer.



Little Unsaid.

Gallery Views

The next exhibition to be staged in the Foxlowe Gallery will be presented by the collective group of the Shires Artists.

Running from Friday, January 11 until Saturday, March 2, the Shires Artists exhibition is entitled 'What a Wonderful World'.

Shires Artists is a social and exhibiting society of artists, not simply painters.

Their membership is made up of professional and semi-professional artists who are both highly talented and versatile and whose aim is to exploit their many talents to the full, providing all types of art, contemporary, traditional and abstract, often with a modern twist. Their mission is to take art forward, producing work that will appeal to all and grace any wall.

A spokesman for the group said of their exhibition at the Foxlowe: "As artists we see many things in this wonderful world that are often missed. The shapes, colours and the beauty of nature, the pervading tone and mood that surrounds us.

"We try to capture empathy and engage with our viewers to increase the appreciation of their visual experience. This exhibition aims to draw you into this 'Wonderful World'."

As quoted by Leonardo Da Vinci - "The artist sees what others only catch a glimpse of."



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. With admission to the gallery 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 help showcase some of the most creative work in the area, and beyond. To offer your help email volunteers@foxloweartscentre.org.uk



Garden News

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

The amazing year of 2018 was rounded off for the gardeners with the Christmas Wreath Workshop. The now annual event was held on a Sunday, to coincide with the last Sunday Supplement market before Christmas, and also to allow some of our busy café staff an opportunity to take part.

The response was so good, we had to run a second session in the afternoon and it's been proving a lovely relaxing and sociable occasion, with something beautiful and unique for participants to take away at the end of the day. Despite using lots of willow for the bases, we still have plenty left, so if anyone wants any please get in touch.

That same week, the last of the Apple Fest juice was converted into an apple and brandy punch, which was served to visitors in the bar before the last two films of the autumn season. Along with sales of juice and 'Not Supermarket' apples in the café, it brought the final tally for Apple Fest to just over £472.

We have been fortunate this autumn to have the help of three temporary volunteers, two students from Buxton and Leek College, and another getting the work experience to complete his Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award. All have done sterling work, helping with a variety of heavy tasks, including in particular the reorganisation of the composting area. Another key development has been the repositioning of the wedding arch that was installed temporarily last summer. The bride and groom very kindly donated it to the garden and it's now in its permanent position between the vegetable and fruit beds. The gardeners have since spent an enjoyable time deciding on decorative climbing plants to train up it, so watch this space.

The happy couple also donated several of the straw bales that had been used for seating at their wedding, so Sheila, our vegetable expert, is currently working on plans to use a couple as raised beds. All will be revealed in due course, so there's lots of new stuff to look forward to in the spring, along with the spring flowers.

If you would like to become involved with the garden, please contact Alison McCrea on 07753 172564 or by e-mail at volunteers@foxloweartscentre.org.uk.

Tales of romance and ghost hunting

2019 brings a welcome return visit and a new company to the Foxlowe Arts Centre's Live & Local programme. 'One Hundred Different Words for Love' from the acclaimed creator of award-winning 'Team Viking' will be on the Foxlowe stage on Thursday, January 24.

Looking back on a devastating breakup, master storyteller James Rowland shares his quest to survive in a way that every member of the audience can understand. It's a show that talks to all of us: the broken-hearted, the full-hearted and those who've got a bit of heart to spare.

Both hilarious and heart-lifting, this very personal story of romance, despair and friendship is told with great charm and wit, live music, original songs (and unoriginal emotions) and above all, heartfelt honesty.

And then on Thursday, February 21, the Little Earthquake company will be presenting 'I Ain't Afraid of no Ghost' - a comic investigation into an 80s childhood haunting where nothing is quite what it seems.

Over 30 years ago, director and performer Gareth Nicholl's family home was haunted by a rather playful poltergeist. Cupboard doors would open, Madonna records would spring into life in the wee small hours; the final straw, however, came when the family pack of Kit Kats disappeared.

Using family heirlooms, iconic 80s toys, interviews, photographs and real-life home videos on stage, Gareth sets out to get to the bottom of this paranormal mystery; what was really going on?

Inspired and fantastic fun to watch.

Both shows will start at 7.30pm and tickets can be purchased through the website or from the Foxlowe itself.

