

Home to major festival events

The Foxlowe Arts Centre is, once again, playing host to the major gigs for the Leek Arts Festival.

The creative extravaganza for 2019 has already begun and this year's programme features more than 35 events across a number of venues in our Staffordshire Moorlands town. Major gigs in this year's Leek Arts Festival, and which are being hosted within the Georgian building of the Foxlowe Arts Centre, include comedy geniuses The Bar-Steward Sons of Val Doonican (tickets £14) on May 4, Fairport Convention (tickets £25) on May 9, Tom Robinson (tickets £22.50) on May 16, Dean Friedman (tickets £22.50) on May 19, the Birmingham Conservatoire Folk Ensemble (tickets £15.50) on May 23, and Irish folk

superstar Cara Dillon (tickets £22.50) on May 31.

Arts Festival spokesman Phil Edmeades said: "With nearly half of all this year's Leek Arts Festival events being staged at the Foxlowe it's impossible to over-emphasise just how important the relationship between the festival committee and the arts centre is.

"Without the Foxlowe it would be extremely difficult for us to stage big-name events like Cara Dillon, Tom Robinson or Dean Friedman as there simply isn't anywhere else in Leek with either the space or the facilities we need. "The

Foxlowe is key to the festival's success and we are, as always, extremely grateful for the help and support everyone there gives us."

To see a full list of festival events taking place at the Foxlowe Arts Centre, turn to our What's On section on the back page. Tickets can be purchased from the Foxlowe.

To see the full list of events taking place across the town, visit www.leekartsfestival.co.uk



Visiting wildlife

We often see lots of lovely wildlife in our beautiful Foxlowe Garden. Here is a picture of a visiting squirrel which our editor took recently.

New gallery is a growing success

The Fox & Crow Gallery in the Foxlowe Arts Centre is celebrating three months of being open this month.

Cathey Yardley, Sarah Jayne, Chris Mayhew and Sarah Taylor are the team behind the Fox & Crow Gallery.

Cathey said: "We have had an amazing few months with so much support from the local residents and artists."

Chris added: "We would like to say a big 'Thank You' to everyone who has been in to see us and buy from our talented team of artists."

The gallery is home to creations from around 22 artists at any one time, with new artwork, quality design home-ware and gifts that are unique to the gallery. The creative team is always interested in new artists who are being invited to email the gallery or look out for artist call outs

through the gallery's social media pages. This May, The Fox & Crow Gallery will be taking part in the Leek Open Studios on Saturday, May 4, a trail around Leek which takes people around different independent artists and makers at nine different locations.

At each of these venues the artists and designers will be demonstrating the process which goes into the work they sell. In The Fox & Crow, Sarah Taylor will be demonstrating the process of applying lithographs to her ceramics which are on sale in the shop.

To obtain a map for the Open Studios event just pop into the Fox & Crow Gallery or one of the other participating locations listed on the Leek Open Studios page on Facebook.

Meanwhile, Cathey Yardley and Chris Mayhew are also taking part in the Leek



Arts Trail displaying their work at Leek Cycle Solutions in Leek's Market Place from Wednesday, May 1 until Saturday, May 11.

This will host 23 artists in 22 venues which again are on the same map as Leek Open Studios.

Artists in the Creative Hub on the top floor of the Foxlowe Arts Centre are also taking part in this event. They can be found in studios 1, 4 and 6.

For further information about the Fox & Crow Gallery email: thefoxandcrow-gallery@icloud.com.