

## Sprucing up our arts centre



**Volunteers are at the core of what we do at the Foxlowe Arts Centre.**

All the Coordinators and Trustees are volunteers and are amongst over 100 volunteers that do hundreds of hours of volunteering each week in all areas from accounts to actually producing this bi-monthly publication.

When this community venture first started in 2011 more than 40 volunteers initially helped to paint and clean the Georgian building and most of those volunteers are still volunteering in lots of different areas now.

For example, we still have Andy, David and Chris who still regularly put paint to brush and roller, sometimes with help from students from Leek School of Art. We were really pleased when Nigel (pictured), recently joined up as a volunteer to help to paint and has made a great start in painting the stairs and toilet going to the Cinema Room.

Chris is currently painting the kitchen, Andy the stage and David has refreshed the paint in the ground floor toilets.

If you would like to become a volunteer, please pop in to discuss or email Marion our volunteer coordinator at [volunteers@foxloweartscentre.org.uk](mailto:volunteers@foxloweartscentre.org.uk).

People can volunteer for as little or as many hours that suits them.

Thank you to all the volunteers who have helped to make the Foxlowe Arts Centre what it is today!



## Great musicians get together

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## Book signing for post-war childhood memories

**A Leek author has published his latest book which is all about his post-war childhood in the Staffordshire Moorlands town.**

And Michael Fisher will be hosting a book-signing event for the launch of 'Out of the Noise' at the Foxlowe Arts Centre this Summer.

Walking around the Staffordshire Moorlands town of Leek, you may hear the unusual saying 'Leek – out of the noise'.

Tucked away in between hills, our quaint market town is the setting of this nostalgia steeped memoir that returns the reader to walk the gas-lit streets of Michael Fisher's post-World War II childhood.

The narrative covers Michael's early world, from his engineer father's self-crafted toys to the 'December Disaster' when the Christmas tree caught fire. Amusing tales of seaside holidays and family antics are woven with the bustling market days of the 50s, the annual 'May

Fair' and street parties and special events, such as those to mark the Queen's coronation in 1953.

Behind the warm stories of childhood is Michael's uneasy adolescent relationship with his father, from which he retreated into the welcome arms of a favourite aunt.

Michael was raised in Leek and is still living within Staffordshire. He is a widely recognised authority on the art and architecture of the English Gothic Revival. His previous books include: Staffordshire and the Gothic Revival, Alton Towers – Past and Present, Gothic For Ever and Guarding the Pugin Flame.

Michael is a history graduate, a former research scholar and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London. He is a contributor to several heritage-related publications such as Country Life and was an historical adviser to the Time Team.

Ordained to the Anglican priesthood in

1979, Michael is now retired from parochial ministry but continues to serve as an honorary assistant priest in the Lichfield diocese.

Michael will be hosting a book signing event at the Foxlowe Arts Centre in Leek on Wednesday, July 31 from 11am until 1pm.

