

Garden News

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

Foxlowe gardeners certainly felt that climate chaos was hitting Leek at the start of this summer, with unseasonal cold and wet weather in June after a promising start in May, and many of the insects we try to attract struggling with sodden flowers.

The removal of our buffer strip of Russian Comfrey beyond the fence was probably unavoidable collateral damage, following the redevelopment of the bank behind it, but it has meant the loss of a valuable green manure for our garden beds and a food supply for bees and other insects.

We hope it can be reinstated in due course but the timing has been unfortunate from the bees' point of view.

In compensation, our recently planted roses have started to flower and the Sweet Peas on the wedding arch have survived a shaky start.

We were also delighted to discover that the Everlasting Pea on the big arch has become established, the Love-in-a-Mist is self-seeding successfully and the Clematis has finally settled in with a wonderful burst of colour.

With reference to colour, a big thank you to Marion, one of the Shedders, who did a great job of



restoring and painting the tired-looking benches, now a vibrant green instead of flaky brown. The hay meadow has been looking its best throughout June and has been particularly colourful this year, with lots more red clover than previously, while the flowering grasses are adding an extra haze of colour as spikelets open to reveal their subtly coloured pollen.

The Staffordshire Knot pathway continues to be a draw for children, especially on June 22, when the Foxlowe hosted the Great Get Together and Garden Party organised by Peace through Folk. This was a wonderful musical event with an international mix of live music and songs, played both indoors and outside on the lawn beside the patio, along with live portrait artists and craft displays on the big lawn. The weather came good, making big brollies redundant other than for shade and providing that rare opportunity to picnic on the lawn that we Brits crave so much.

To get involved with the garden, contact Alison on 07753 172564.



Gallery News

The next exhibition to be held in the main gallery at the Foxlowe Arts Centre will be entitled 'Reflections' and will run from Saturday, July 13 through to Saturday, September 7.

Not just reflections in water, mirrors, windows, but reflections of thoughts, memories of times, places, people or inspirations.

The artwork often relates to a narrative which adds considerably to the depth of meaning in the work. Most of this exhibition is the work of a group of artists, namely Ann Brammer, Ann Holmes, Pam Keeling and Pat Lewis who have a wealth of experience and skills based around 2D and 3D stitched artwork.

Mainly Stitch is an established group of experienced artist-makers who meet regularly at Ilam in the Derbyshire Peak District.

Although the group has differed since it formed, the current members have been together for several years.

Mainly Stitch are known for their wide spread research and approach to design which encourages them to produce original work, exploring their individual enthusiasms and ways of working. The other artist in the 'Reflections' exhibition is Lesley Nixon who, through her paintings, abstracts and captures the atmosphere of our local landscape.

This exhibition is a celebration of colour and creativity and the Foxlowe Art Gallery is very pleased to be able to display this work.

The preview evening for 'Reflections' will take place on Friday, July 12 at 7pm. Opening times: Wednesday to Saturday from 10am until 4pm.

Community had a 'Great Get Together' at the Foxlowe



An annual community event which was held at the Foxlowe Arts Centre recently has been hailed as a success.

The 'Great Get Together' celebrations, which took place across the nation last month were in memory of MP Jo Cox, and Leek's event saw many musicians come together to provide the entertainment. There were also live portrait artists and craft displays at the event which ran from 10am until 5pm on Saturday, June 22.

Organiser Malcolm Hawksworth said: "There were lots of big smiles for a day that proved yet again that there is more that unites us than that which divides.

"There was great music, great friendships, united in all that we have in common.

"Thank you to everyone who got stuck in and made it all happen."

The event also saw a total of 45.1 kgs of food donations which have now been handed to the Leek Food Bank.

