

Garden News

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

Summer is the time for enjoying the great outdoors and Foxlowe visitors have certainly had lots of opportunity to enjoy nature in the garden. Despite our concerns, the comfrey behind the back fence is making a comeback and the sweet pea on the wedding arch is now swamping the roses.

Our laid back policy towards self-seeded plants means that we do get a lot of surprises but usually pleasant ones, although the exceptionally vigorous growth of some, especially the nasturtiums, means that a fair amount of cutting back is necessary to reveal some of those plants that we actually planted ourselves.

We've been lucky enough to have two new garden volunteers this summer: Dylan Oates, who is doing his silver Duke of Edinburgh award and gaining experience in the garden and elsewhere, and Judy Gregg, who has previously worked in the kitchen and is now looking for a period of outdoor volunteering - a very warm welcome to both. Dylan is happy to try his hand at the full range of skills and was therefore only too willing to have a go at scything the hay meadow. It's always tricky finding a suitable time to mow it before the grass gets flattened by the rain. Fortunately, this year the torrential rain in July didn't do too much damage to the hay, although a quantity of soil was washed out of a planter on the patio by excess rain spilling off the roof and bypassing the downspout.



As always at this time of year, we are getting ready for our annual Apple Fest, this time being held on Saturday, October 12, between 11am and 2pm, and with every hope for an outdoor event, as the last two have been forced indoors by bad weather.

We will have the usual mix of unusual apples to taste and buy, locally produced cider and apple inspired games, along with the magical apple/peeler/corer, the machine that can produce an edible slinky.

The centre point of course will be the apple juicing and bottling, so all surplus apples and windfalls can be brought to turn into delicious juice. Full details can be found on the website at www.foxloweartscentre.org.uk/event/apple-fest-2019, for those who want to bring apples for juicing and find out the right sort of bottles to take juice away. As these are screw-top 75cl wine bottles, we're urging all our supporters to start drinking now, if you haven't already done so, as we will need a lot.

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

Gallery News

The next exhibition in the Foxlowe Gallery will be 'Enos Lovatt, Sculpture and Works on Paper, 1960's.'

There will be a preview evening on Thursday, September 12, from 7pm until 8.30pm.

British abstract artist Enos was born in 1937 on the outskirts of the Potteries and spent most of his formative years first in Gillow Heath and latterly, until his marriage in 1971, at Mow Cop.

His parents had a smallholding on Mow Lane where they brought up their five children. Enos Senior had been a miner and, after an accident, worked in a factory and at his smallholding. His wife Gladys had studied art before her marriage and, along with her husband, was very encouraging and nurturing of the creativity of the children.

Much of the subject matter of Enos' early work, before he went to the Royal College of Art in 1959, was informed by his surroundings and in particular his family. He created a large number of images of himself, his father, his mother and his siblings.

Before attending the Royal College of Art, Enos attended Portland House in Burslem and then studied for his NDD at Stoke on Trent College of Art (Burslem College of Art) from 1954-54. He then did his National Service as a trainee medic and was based in Scotland, mainly Glasgow, where he sometimes attended classes at the Glasgow School of Art. At the Royal College of Art, Enos was a contemporary of Peter Blake and David Hockney and his work captures that great sense of the Art History of that era. On leaving the Royal College in 1962, Enos took on the role of part-time lecturer at the Burslem School of Art until 1968 and latterly was a full-time lecturer in painting at North Staffordshire Polytechnic from 1970 until his retirement in 1992.

The 'Enos Lovatt, Sculpture and Works on Paper, 1960's.' exhibition will run at the Foxlowe Arts Centre until November 2.

The Foxlowe Gallery opening times are: Wednesday to Saturday from 10am until 4pm.



Bottles needed to fill with festival produce

An appeal is being made for empty wine bottles which will be filled with the fruits of labour at an annual event at the Foxlowe Arts Centre.

This year's Foxlowe Apple Fest will be taking place on Saturday, October 12 between 11am and 2pm.

Foxlowe Garden coordinator Alison McCrea, who has organised the Apple Fest, said: "With luck we will be able to hold it in the garden.

"As usual, we expect to fill a few hundred 75cl wine bottles with the juice pressed from

all the apples brought by our lovely visitors. "That means a lot of wine needs to be drunk between now and then, so we are asking for willing volunteers.

"Please start saving all your screw-top 75cl wine bottles to bring with their tops to the Gardeners' small shed in the Foxlowe garden.

"A crate has been put out for people to place the bottles in.

"Alternatively people can bring them ready washed on the day if they are planning to bring apples for pressing."