



*Keeping you in touch with BArts and the local Arts scene*

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**No.10, April 2021**

## ★ ★ Jason Theatre School is 70! ★ ★

Joy Spriggs, founded Jason Theatre School in 1951 and from then until she was 80 dedicated her life to the school, its pupils and the arts, Her granddaughter, Lauren, and co-principal, Tracey, took over when Joy retired. Joy is now 90 and very proud of what Lauren and Tracey have achieved

First classes took place in Joy's front room, then moved to St. James's Church Sunday School on Enfield Highway. Joy was *thrilled* when 58 pupils responded to the ad in the local paper and paid just 2s 6d for their hour's lesson!

As the school grew, 'Miss' Joy, as she was known, took her classes to Trinity Church in Enfield town, where they continue to this day! When she moved to Broxbourne in the 70's, she started classes at Wormley Scout Hut and these are *also* still running today.

With branches in Broxbourne, Hoddesdon and Enfield, the school has always offered exceptional training in ballet, tap, modern, national, jazz, singing and acting and many local families have been part of the magic! Thousands of pupils have been through its doors and second and third generations of past pupils have joined the Jason Family!

Over 70 years, the school's success stories have produced A-list celebrities, choreographers, West End performers, ISTD examiners, teachers and more— an array of talent to be justly proud of. However, *every* Jason pupil is seen as a star, and proved even more so during the world pandemic.

The school has had to fight to *survive* these difficult times and could not have done it without the support of the pupils, families and staff. The children have always been the driving force behind all of their decisions and they have done their best to keep them motivated, mentally and physically through these strange times! They hope that, subject to regulations, they will be able to run face-to-face classes for the Summer Term and cannot *wait* to see them all to celebrate this Platinum Anniversary of Jason Theatre School! Here's to the future of arts and the *next* 70 years!



Early Days



Joy with Lauren



Joy



## Broxbourne Arts Forum is 21 this year!

Broxbourne Arts Forum was founded in 2000 by the amalgamation of two long-established independent groups, Broxbourne Arts *Council* and Broxbourne Midsummer Festival, and aims to combine the principles and best practices of each by providing an annual Arts programme to *complement* the Borough's mainstream events and cater for 'minority' tastes.

Sadly, the Midsummer Festival was abandoned after 2004 because of major issues over getting adequate publicity in prime sites.

BArts' helped to draft a borough Arts Policy, but it was never formally adopted by the borough for financial reasons.

We remain dedicated to representing our voluntary arts groups, however, and, with our *small* team, to

*'Bringing the Arts to Life'.*

## The Survival of the Fittest

To survive and thrive in any area of the arts takes commitment, versatility and stamina, so it's remarkable how many of BArts' theatre schools and groups have been around for a long time, when the odds have so often been stacked against them.

Fifty years ago, the range of leisure activities was much narrower than it is today and 'celebrity culture' and passive entertainment were not as dominant, so ticket sales were easier to achieve.

However, the past year of restrictions has reminded us of the value of creativity, *live* performance and social interaction....so we look forward to the return of theatre and concerts....

***"There's no business like show business.... SO let's go on with the show"!***

## Other BArts' groups and their birthdays

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# Congratulations!

Celebrating the wonderful women, responsible for creating marvellous 'Mayhem' in Hertfordshire  
Thank you for being .... YOU!

March 8th

International Women's Day



**"Nothing is impossible, the word itself says I'M POSSIBLE"**  
Audrey Hepburn

## Mayhem Theatre Arts Celebrates Talent and Teamwork

Of course, it isn't *only* the feminine influence that has contributed so much to Mayhem's success—a few talented *males* have made a significant input, too!

# National u3a Day June 2nd

Celebrating the international organisation and the huge range of activities on offer in branches all over Britain from Arts, Science and Languages to Pub Lunches and Woodwork!

The Borough of Broxbourne has 3 branches!

u3a

u3a

The U3A started in Toulouse, France, in 1973 as an extra-mural activity at the Faculty of Social Sciences. Since then, it has spread all over the world, with various modifications to suit circumstance and need.

"The 'third age' is defined as a time in your life when you have the opportunity to undertake learning for its own sake, unrestricted by the needs of full-time employment or raising a family. There is no minimum age.

The term 'university' may be misleading, or off-putting. There are no educational requirements, no compulsory activities or 'tests', it is simply an opportunity to pursue a subject or activity that interests you, in the company of like-minded people. Subjects can range from Astronomy and History to Pub Lunches and Knit and Natter. A recent publicity slogan '**Learn, Laugh, Live**' attempts to encapsulate the aims.

## The University of the Third Age—an international organisation

The organisation has just changed its logo from bold capitals **U3A** to lower case **u3a**, which is believed to be more 'modern', in an attempt to attract a younger membership.

In spite of its worldly success, there is still a feeling that the u3a's profile isn't strong enough and too many people have never *heard* of it, or have misconceptions about it. With this in mind, there will be a **National u3a day on June 2nd** and the Borough of Broxbourne's three branches—**Broxbourne, Cheshunt and Lea Valley**—are planning some special events and activities to demonstrate what they can offer, especially to the elderly and people living alone.

The National u3a is already receiving information about what some branches will be getting up to which includes flash mobs, walking cricket matches, planting flowerbeds and yarn-bombing! (**obviously growing old dis-gracefully!**)

**Lea Valley U3A** was the *first* to be established in the borough, in 1992, so now nearly 30 years old. **Broxbourne U3A** became a 'splinter' group when Lea Valley's membership reached bursting point. Both groups usually meet at the Spotlight. **Cheshunt U3A** was formed some time later, preferring to meet in Cheshunt's Wolsey Hall. Some members belong to more than *one* group, to be with friends, or to pursue a particular activity.

u3a

## Zoom Talks

u3a

### Broxbourne u3a at 10.00 am

**April 15th** Toulouse Lautrec and the French Music Halls  
**June 17th** Miss Jekyll's Gardening Boots  
**July 15th** Work of Dogs for Good  
**Aug 19th** Wildlife On Your Doorstep

### Lea Valley u3a at 2.00 pm

**April 12th** The Art of the Poster in WW II  
**May 10th** Reliving Our Own Story  
*Post War Society*  
**June 14th** Fools Gold: Dark Light  
*The Flannan Island Mystery*

[broxbourneu3a@outlook.com](mailto:broxbourneu3a@outlook.com)

[lvu3a@live.co.uk](mailto:lvu3a@live.co.uk)



## Bad News for Mayhem Theatre Arts and The GO Hub.

Plans for additional housing in Goff's Oak and a possible replacement of the Village Hall have been 'on the back burner' for some time. The building had not been well maintained by the Borough of Broxbourne prior to Mayhem's take-over in 2017, under the new name the GO Hub, and problems with the roof and asbestos have been of increasing concern recently.



**Public Consultation?!** In the second week of March, BArts was made aware by one of its group members that a consultation document relating to the GO Hub had been produced on February 22nd and the final date for responses was March 18th! It was subsequently revealed that Mayhem knew *nothing* about the document, nor did some of the regular users of the venue. They had somehow been *left out* of the process. A consultation that *excludes* key interested parties would appear to be seriously flawed.

**BArts' Response** BArts managed to produce a quick, official response to the proposed plans, which have an emphasis on sport.

**Proposed Plan Details** Entrance Foyer/ small café, Kitchen, Meeting Room Main Hall 13m x 23m, Equipment Store, Female Toilets (4 cubicles) Male Toilets, Disabled toilet + Baby Changing facility, Office + Boiler room etc.

There are *no plans* to include a stage or dressing rooms, which have been an important feature of the current building. This would be a *backward* step, rather than an *improvement*, and a huge disappointment to some of the hall's regular hirers, who used to use Wolsey Hall in Cheshunt until it closed in 2017, prior to demolition.

De-mountable staging and temporary imported sound and lighting in a sports hall atmosphere would be a poor substitute. Currently, at least *one* of BArts' groups uses a venue in *Harlow* for small theatre facilities.

**GO Hub Closure?** Worse news was to follow for Mayhem. The roof is now considered *unsafe*, but money will *not* be allocated for the work, in view of the proposed re-building, so the GO Hub is unlikely to re-open when the Covid restrictions are lifted. This will result in a considerable loss of income for Mayhem and the loss of a job for the hall manager.

With the recommendations of the Spotlight's consultation report still not published and the re-opening date still vague because of asbestos removal and other repairs, the rest of this year doesn't look too bright for local performing arts. Hertford Theatre is scheduled to close for major refurbishment and *improved* facilities in the summer, so *two* vital venues will be out of action.

## Sports provision in Broxbourne is far greater than for the Arts .

Data from the Arts Council 'Active Lives' Survey 2015-2017 suggested that 52.2% of adults (16+) in England attended an event, performance or festival involving creative, artistic, dance, theatrical or music activity in the twelve months prior to interview.

**Broxbourne was subsequently listed** among the areas where involvement in the Arts is significantly *below* the national average. We have the John Warner Sports Centre, the Laura Trott Sports Centre and the Lea Valley White Water Centre, but not *one* building is dedicated to the Arts

Nationally, Arts and Culture contribute billions to the economy and have been highly successful in regenerating areas of deprivation.

**Ed.** There have been *four* local campaigns in the last thirty years, but there has been little improvement in the provision for arts. It is mainly the strong *voluntary* arts sector that has kept culture alive in the borough.

**Where would we be without you?**





Current Logo

## A New Logo for Lowewood Museum?

The new trustees of Lowewood Museum are considering the *possibility* of a new logo, now that Lowewood is no longer in partnership with Epping Museum.

This could be a challenging project for local artists! The general specification is for a simple design that prints well and can be used in various sizes and situations, including T-shirts etc. It should still feature a swan and the blue colour, since both are relevant to the local river Lea.

**Deadline for designs May 1st.**  
Mail to [leerayner\\_arts@hotmail.com](mailto:leerayner_arts@hotmail.com)  
67 Riversmead, Hoddesdon EN11 8DP

Proposed re-opening date for the museum is the weekend of **June 4th / 5th** *subject to government regulations.*



**Reminder** The first exhibition will focus on Hoddesdon pubs and breweries, past / present, with some pictures painted by local artists and members of BArts. There's still time to **Paint A Pub**, which must be a pub in Hoddesdon. **Entry forms from Lee Rayner**



We're students and we don't like this sculpture. Have it removed by tomorrow.

There has been a good response to the request for additional **Trustees and Volunteers.**

Full details are expected to be confirmed during April.



## Small Pleasures

**BArts's Buffets** BArts has now presented *two* titles in its new series of lunchtime screen events, attracting approximately *half* the number of people who usually attended the live, themed Let's Do Lunch talks at the Spotlight. It has been a bit of a learning curve for all concerned, but we are getting there, thanks to the tech. skills of Chairman, Malcolm Gordon.

'*A Word in Your Ear*' looked at the origins and oddities of the English language, while '*Cheers*', the history of booze, was an excuse for the BArts' team to sip red wine for an hour or so!

There are two more 'Buffets' planned—*Cockney Capers* on **April 28th** and *Enchanted Evenings* on **June 9th**. With tickets at just £5pp, it won't break the bank and is helping to cover BArts' on-going, unavoidable expenses. In common with many other organisations, we may offer a 'hybrid' programme in future, a mixture of live *and* Zoom events.



**Zooming Into Shakespeare**, a ten week course that has attracted members of BArts and several affiliated groups, also seems to be coping with the new medium, this time with the technical expertise of Lea Valley U3A's, Laurence Cole.

Laurence is much in demand at the moment, pushing the right buttons for the Lea Valley's regular talks and for their Astronomy, French, Family History and Music Groups..





Peter Langton



Peter Langton



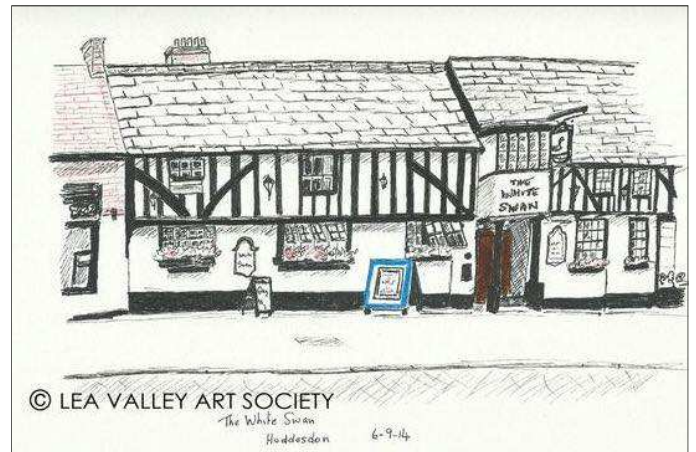
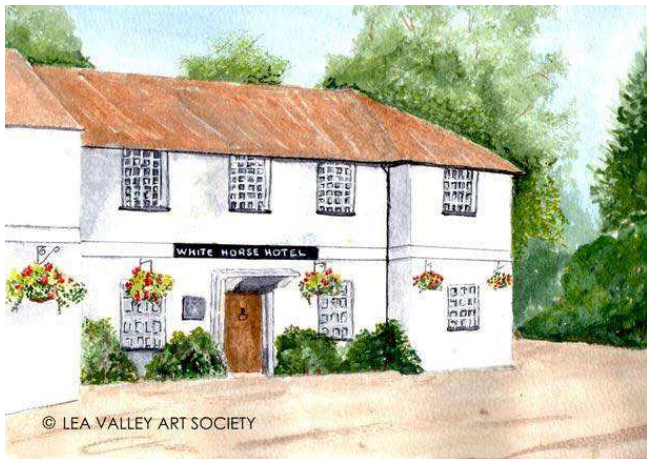
Peter Langton



Rana Williams



**Hoddesdon  
Camera  
Club**



**Lea Valley Art Society**

**BArts' other Art and Crafts Groups**

Burford Art Group, Hazelwood Art Group,  
Hoddesdon Floral Art Society, Lowewood Art Group,  
Mannamead Art Group, Watercolour Painting

*Plus* groups within the U3AS



## BROXBOURNE CHORUS Plans for September 2021

Broxbourne Chorus began in January 2012 as a new community SATB choir for adults and students age 16+.

It will resume in September in the Music Centre at the new Broxbourne School.

The choir has worked under several names over the past 40 years and we are looking forward to September 12 when we can begin our Monday evening rehearsals 7.30-9.30.

The choir has a repertoire which includes many of the great and best-known part-songs, madrigals and motets from the 16th and 17th centuries, to choruses and complete works from the 18th to 20th centuries and to more or less anything which has become available to choirs in the last 30 years. A selection from our repertoire is on our website [www.broxbournechous.com](http://www.broxbournechous.com)

At this time last year, we were preparing for a concert at Watham Abbey church which was to include John Rutter's timeless Requiem with choir, soloists and orchestra and Bach 'Double' Violin Concerto played by the A10 Strings, one of our 'partner' groups. Due to Covid, we had to postpone this concert until it becomes safe to rehearse and perform for an audience again. A new date for the concert will be published later in the year.

Pre-Covid the choir had a loyal membership of 24 singers. All indications are that they will return in September and we hope to attract some new singers to bring our number to 40 or more. There is no audition. It is not *essential* that you can read music, but you do need to sing in-tune and make a clear 'straight' sound.

If you think you might like to join the choir you are very welcome to come to a rehearsal to see how you get on. The second rehearsal of the term is always an *open* rehearsal – you can sing with us for the evening without any further commitment. If you would like more details please email

**boarderd48@gmail.com or phone/text  
07876 444701**



## Daffodils



I struggled slowly with a crowd  
Of Ramblers over vales and hills  
Across the fields, all newly ploughed  
And looked in vain for daffodils;  
Beside the lake, beneath the trees  
Insecticides have killed the bees.

Continuous as the stars that shine  
And twinkle on the Milky Way  
It stretched in never-ending line:  
Bright oil-seed rape instead of hay.  
Ten thousand saw I at a glance.  
The footpath cleared? No, not a chance.

The birds that used to fly and sing  
Are banished from these barren fields  
And all the insects in the Spring  
Are gone; they say it boosts the yields.  
I gazed – and gazed – and sadly thought  
What poverty this crop had brought.

For oft when in the pub I drink  
In vacant or in pensive mood  
I reminisce and start to think  
Of all the wildlife, now subdued.  
And then my heart with sadness fills,  
And mourns the loss of daffodils.


© Peter Garside, 2002  
(With apologies to William Wordsworth)





  
**Welcome back to  
Hoddesdon**  
**SHOPPING SMALL  
CAN BENEFIT ALL**

**SHOP SAFE**  
  
**SHOP LOCAL**



  
**Welcome back to  
Hoddesdon**  
**HELP BUSINESSES TO  
SURVIVE AND THRIVE**

**SHOP SAFE**  
  
**SHOP LOCAL**





BARTS  
BROXBOURNE ARTS FORUM  
Basing & Arts 117

# Cockney Capers!



## April 28th

BARTS  
BROXBOURNE ARTS FORUM  
Basing & Arts 117

# Enchanted Evenings

Rodgers and Hammerstein  
Musicals

## June 9th

## Zooming Into Shakespeare!

- April 9th Major Themes
- April 16th Heroes and Heroines
- April 23rd Villains and Clowns
- April 30th The Histories
- May 7th The Comedies
- May 14th The Tragedies



£1 per session!  
or book 6 in advance



Fridays  
11.00 am

Please make cheques to  
L.J.Rayner,  
67, Riversmead, EN11 8DP

or for more details, please E-mail:  
leeryner\_arts@hotmail.com  
or Call: 01992 465383

## BArts' Buffet!

12.00 noon £5 per person

Cheques payable to Broxbourne Arts Forum  
67, Riversmead, Hoddesdon. EN11 8DP

## Something To Look Forward To?



The Theatre Café is a multi-award winning stagey coffee shop! Situated right in the heart of London's Theatreland, it is the ideal place to see what's on in the West End, while relaxing with your cuppa. **Re-opening soon!**

99, St. Martin's Lane, London  
<https://www.thetheatrecafe.co.uk>

### It hasn't been all doom and gloom in the theatre world!

Over the past year, The Theatre Café has been providing up-to-date information about initiatives during lock-down, offering an on-line Theatre Channel and streamed events and an assortment of theatre merchandise.

Their latest bulletin highlights all the shows that will be returning to the West End from June, several new musicals, including Lloyd Webber's 'Cinderella', and several new plays. The National Youth Theatre has a new initiative, too, to create 60 new jobs and offer new opportunities in schools, particularly for the disabled

See the Globe and National Theatre's websites for more positive news.

#HappyBirthdayShakespeare



"And what's going on here? Looks like you've arranged to meet someone from another household"



Broxbourne  
B.A.L.L.  
Adult Leisure Learning

Broxbourne Adult  
Leisure Learning

## Farms, Forks and Flummery

Tutor: Adam Smith

A 10 week course £40

Thursdays, April 29th to July 8th

10.00 to 12.00

exploring Food production from field to fork, looking at how farming methods, products and imports have changed and influenced cooking and dining rituals.

Contact Linda Williams.  
01992 306598.

email:  
linda.williamsecc@gmail.com



## Cafe Jazz

April 12th

10.30am to 12.30 pm  
Old Mill Retreat Café, Broxbourne.



The Arts Society  
East Herts

### On-Line Lectures

29 April When Britain Clicked:  
Photography of the 60s

27 May Chopin  
and the Polish Soul

01 July Undressing Antiques

[info@theartsocietyeastherts.org.uk](mailto:info@theartsocietyeastherts.org.uk)







## Around the rest of BArts' Groups

**Hoddesdon Music Club** has had to cancel the April and May concerts, but fingers are crossed for September.

**Lea Valley Discussion Group** intends to meet outside again, as soon as the weather permits, but are looking forward to 'normal' meetings *sometime* this year.

Performing Arts Schools and groups can't wait to get back into action again and rescue planned productions—assuming that there's a venue open for performance...!

**Broxbourne Theatre Company** has **The Sound of Music** waiting to be heard, **Cheshunt Dramatic Society** has a play and a panto on hold, **EHOS** was looking forward to playing in **Avenue Q** and **Hoddesdon Players** were planning **Life of Riley**.

## Summer is a- Cumin In!

**OK! Hands up if you've been slouching around in pull-on trousers, bulky sweaters to cover the expanding waistline and trainers or slippers?! Well, you weren't going anywhere special, were you? ... But you might be able to soo-oo-oon, so get into fashion mode with our Quiz..... and then sort out your wardrobe!!**



## Fashion through History Questions

1. Which French term meaning 'high fashion' or 'high sewing' is the creation of exclusive custom-fitted clothing?
2. Common name for women's knee-length trousers, cut with full legs to resemble a skirt?
3. Tough, tightly woven fabric invented and patented in 1888 by Thomas Burberry?
4. Designer famous for launching the mini skirt?
5. Fashion designer recognized by his starched white collars, white hair and trademark black glasses?
6. Co-founder of the fashion chain Warehouse who also presented the TV Clothes Show?
7. Norman Hartnell's biggest claim to fame?
8. Which forty-year-old fashion designer committed suicide in 2010?
9. Founder of an international clothing chain who also invented gabardine?
10. Gibraltar-born fashion guru who was head designer of Givenchy and Christian Dior?
11. French fashion house founded by Gaby Aghion in 1952?
12. Who designed the apparel for the United Kingdom's 2012 Olympic teams?
13. What nationality is model Gisele Bundchen?
14. Manufacturer of French luxury goods and perfume who has a logo of a Duc carriage with horse?
15. Four fashion capitals of the C20th were Paris, London, New York and— ?

## Broadsheet No. 9 Quiz Answers

1. Schumann. 2. Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy 3. Campbell 4. Three and Seventeen 5. Night 6. Pointillism 7. Pearl earring 8. Shelley 9. Pitchfork 10. Flamingos used as mallets, hedgehogs as balls 11. Amsterdam 12. Delius 13. Frankenstein 14. Picasso 15. Chiaroscuro 16. Stravinsky 17. Pegasus 18. Winston Churchill 19. Degas 20. Johann Strauss 21. Uncle Tom's Cabin 22. Yorkshire 23. Palindrome 24. Dorset 25. Aaron Copeland 26. Wordsworth 27. Seven Brides for Seven Brothers 28. Mars 29. Tchaikovsky 30. Ada Lovelace.

**Copy for Broadsheet No. 11 for May, by April 24th, please.**