

Keeping you in touch with BArts and the local Arts scene
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No.15. September 2021



Looking Forward! *Lots of things to do in the weeks ahead....*

September

- Tankards, Tales and Taverns,
- Lowewood Museum Exhibition continues**
- 3rd** New Term, **Lea Valley Art Society**
- 4th** Food and Drink Fest, **Love Hoddesdon**
- 4th** Afternoon Tea, **Lowewood Museum**
- 6th** Unusual Names, **LVU3A Family History**
- 6th** Villains, **LVU3A Listening to Music**
- 7th** Group Leaders' Meeting, **LVU3A**
- 8th** Gently Zimmering, **BArts' Buffet**
- 10th** Shakespeare Group, **U3As**
- 12th** Heritage Day, **Hertford Castle**
- 12th—14th** Time For Artists Is Now!
High Leigh Conference Centre
- 13th** The Country Church, **LVU3A**
- 14th** Café Jazz, **Old Mill Retreat Café**
- 16th** When Policeman and Doctors Start
Looking Young **Broxbourne U3A**
- 18th** Piano Recital, Diana Brekalo, **HMC**
- 20th** Mental Health Services in Herts, **LVU3A**
- 21st** Watercolour Classes, New Term **BArts**
- 23rd** Humanimal, **Cheshunt U3A**
- 24th** Shakespeare Group **U3As**
- 30th** Waterways, **New Course, B.All**
- 30th** Mediterranean Tour, **Lecture, Arts Society**

October

- 11th** War Graves Commission, **LVU3A**
- 12th** Annual General Meeting **LVU3A**
- 14th** Group Leaders' Meeting, **Broxbourne U3A**
- 16th** Clarinet Recital, Emma Johnson, **HMC**
- 20th** Say It With Music, **BArts' Buffet**
- 21st** The Impressionists, Part 2. **Broxbourne U3A**
- 28th** A Female in Fleet St. **Cheshunt U3A**

November

- 10th** Pack Up Your Troubles **BArts' Buffet**
- 13th** What Did Your Ancestors Do in the War?
LVU3A Family History
- 13th** 60th Birthday Ball, **EHOS**
- 25th** German Occupation of the Channel Islands
Cheshunt U3A
- 27th** Erica Baikoff, Soprano, **HMC**
- 30th** Discover Talliston, **Lea Valley U3A**

Reprieve for the GO Hub, or 'Stay of Execution'?



It looks as though the borough-owned Goff's Oak venue, formerly known as the Village Hall, *will* have the vital building repairs to allow it to re-open.

Apart from the Covid situation, the premises were closed and declared 'unsafe', due to long-term problems with the roof.

It was just over two years ago that **Mayhem Theatre Arts** took over the management of the hall. They had plans to develop it into a thriving community asset, like their Hoddesdon base, with some additional facilities and a wider range of activities and events, but these were frustrated by the structural problems.



The Borough of Broxbourne had also considered eventually replacing the building and extending the site,

but it seems that this is now unlikely to happen in the near future, if at all.


There aren't many medium-size venues with theatre facilities left in the borough now, which is a real problem for small groups such as **Cheshunt Dramatic Society**, whose regular 'home' was Wolsey Hall.

Sadly, the Spotlight, with a capacity of 500 plus, is too big and too expensive, so it is vital to retain / provide some smaller alternatives to sustain successful community activities.



LOWWOOD MUSEUM **BARTS**
Broxbourne Arts Forum
Bringing the Arts to Life

Lowwood Museum and Broxbourne Arts Forum
present an Exhibition of



**Tinkards
Tales
and Taverns**

A fascinating collection of pictures and objects from the old pubs
and breweries in the Borough of Broxbourne, some of whose
buildings date back to the C15 and C16

September to November

**Love Your Local?
Don't miss this exhibition at
Lowwood Museum**

Open Fridays and Saturdays 10.00 am to 4.30 pm



**Lowwood
Museum**
TEA ROOM IS OPEN!

As part of the Love Hoddesdon Food and Drink Fest,
take a walk to the southern end of the town and visit
Lowwood Museum.

Explore the history of the Borough's pubs
and inns in our Tinkards, Tales and
Taverns exhibition and then enjoy
refreshments in our tea-room.

Date: Saturday 4 September
Time: 10am-4.30pm

The tea room and exhibition is on the ground floor
(wheelchair accessible)

ADMISSION: FREE



Lowwood Museum
High Street (1st Floor) BN11 8BB
01992 465383 | www.lowwoodmuseum.com
Twitter: @lowwood Facebook: @lowwoodmuseum



**FOOD &
DRINK
FEST**




SATURDAY 4 SEPTEMBER
10AM - 6PM

HODDESDON TOWN CENTRE

Interested traders - please contact lovehoddesdon@outlook.com

www.lovehoddesdon.co.uk @lovehoddesdon

BArts' Buffets



Gently Zimmering!

Every age and stage in life has its
pleasures and pitfalls,
but a sense of humour is *vital*
when you begin to experience the
limitations of old age!

Sept 8th


£5 pp Zoom at 12.00 noon

01992 465383. REF:GZ8

Broxbourne, Cheshunt
and Lea Valley **u3a**

Discovering Shakespeare

The man,
his life and
works



Mayhem
Theatre Arts
11.00 am to
12.30 pm

**Alternate Fridays
From September 10th**

10 sessions £25
*A mixture of reading,
discussion, presentations
and DVDs*

Lee Rayner 01992 465383



CAFÉ JAZZ

The Old Mill Retreat Café,
Broxbourne

September 14th

11.00 am—1.00 pm



Hoddesdon Music Club



Piano recital by Diana Brekalo

September 18th
5:00pm, 7:30pm
at United Reformed
Church, Broxbourne

BARTS
Broxbourne Arts Forum
Bringing the Arts to Life



Watercolour Classes

Autumn Term begins
September 21st
at Bollescrot
01992 466627

Waterways



Tutor: **Richard Thomas**

Sept 30th to Nov 25th

Broxbourne Parish Centre
or Zoom
10.00 am to 12.00 noon

01992 306598



So much to do, you'll be spoiled for choice!
For BArts events e-mail: leerayner_arts@hotmail.com
or call 01992 465383 for more details, booking / payment etc

New Terms and Conditions at the Spotlight



Around the Groups Having now received outline details of some significant changes in the terms and conditions of hiring the Spotlight when it re-opens in **February 2022**, regular users, such as the **Broxbourne and Lea Valley U3As**, are beginning to make bookings for their main monthly meetings in 2022, but *price* increases aren't yet known. U3A groups' memberships are currently considerably depleted, with nearly a third of previous members not yet renewing their subscriptions because of Covid fears and vulnerability, but average attendance at monthly meetings in the past has usually been in excess of 150 and there are no *alternative* venues with a similar capacity within the borough, so there is some concern about what the changing conditions will mean for them.



Impact on Theatre Groups. **BArts** and the affiliated performing arts groups, such as **Broxbourne Theatre Company**, **Hoddesdon Players** and the theatre schools, are in a different position, since their events will be affected by: *reduced*, crucial rehearsal times, (get-in, dress

and technical) increased *commission* on ticket sales, a *charge* to advertise their event in **What's On** and the need for their publicity material to be *approved*, before being accepted for publication. In future, the Spotlight won't be taking venue bookings more than *six months* in advance and will have the right to *cancel* them with a shorter period of notice.

Several of **BArts'** regular events—**Let's Do Lunch**, **Behind the Scenes**, **Time For Tea** and **BArts in the Bar**, usually involve the serving of food supplied and prepared by them and sometimes a glass of wine in the ticket price, but it isn't yet known if / how these might be affected by changing terms, so booking dates ahead for 2022 hasn't yet been possible.

The fate of the popular, free **My Kind of Music** piano concerts isn't yet known either. The grand piano in the bar has had limited mobility due to long-term damage and reluctance to have it repaired and, since the bar was refurbished with new flooring, had been placed at the garden end of the area, not permitted to be moved and, sadly, completely changing the lively atmosphere of the concerts.



Art Exhibitions The bar acted as an art gallery for local artists for 20 years until September 2019, when it was decided that the walls should be left bare for the sake of potential wedding bookings. There is no comparable space for exhibitions in the borough and portable boards aren't the answer to accommodate sometimes as many as 50 framed pictures. Empty shops may be a short-term, temporary solution, but not really adequate for the *potential* in a borough of nearly 100,000 residents.

End of the Box Office? It has been suggested that the physical box office in the Spotlight foyer might be done away with in the future and bookings and ticket-purchasing facilities focused mainly on-line, with the Spotlight bar also selling tickets for *on-the-spot* (**sorry!**) customers. We know that many people are *resistant* to change, but do hope that these new measures are for the *better*, and enable the Spotlight to realise, at last, its full potential as a vibrant community *asset*.

Jason theatre school
present
**SINGING & ACTING
CLASSES**

PLACES NOW
AVAILABLE
FOR SEPTEMBER

info@jasontheatreschool.co.uk

LEA VALLEY
**ART
SOCIETY** Autumn Term 2021

A different theme each week to
inspire and challenge members

Sept 3rd Together
10th Family
17th Nature
24th Allotment
Oct 1st Dreams and
Nightmares
8th Things in Your Shed
15th Thunderstorms
22nd Autumn Leaves

New Members Welcome
07818 431062
leavalleyartsociety.co.uk

BArts' Buffets
Pack Up Your Troubles




Songs and Memories
of Two World Wars
1914-1918 and 1939-1945

November 10th
£5 pp Zoom at 12.00 noon

01992 465383. REF:PU10




What Did Your Ancestors Do in the War?



Discover Your Family History with Lea Valley U3A

November 13th
10.am to 4.00 pm
part of Remembrance Week
at Lowewood Museum



More Group News!

Lea Valley U3A held its first *live*. large group meeting on August 16th—a ‘Welcome Back’ social at Stanboroughs, the Conservative Club in Conduit Lane, Hoddesdon.

The venue has a capacity of around 130 on the first floor, accessed by

a small lift, is complete with bar / refreshment facilities, and has a very pleasant atmosphere. Socialising was the *main* feature of the afternoon, but entertainment was provided by Café Jazz, there was a short promotional DVD made by member John Astin, who died during the year, and the presentation of some long-service certificates and awards for outstanding contribution to the LVU3A.

With some recent examples of statues being pulled down, the names of buildings being changed (eg The Rhodes Centre in Bishop Stortford) and attempts to re-write history, the subject of ‘Slavery’ promoted some lively discussion at the **U3A History** group’s meeting on August 23rd. Several past residents of Nazeing and Hoddesdon had links with the slave trade and made enough money to build substantial houses—Rawdon House in Hoddesdon being one example.

The **Family History Group** is hoping to resume live meetings on **September 6th**, with some discussion on unusual first names and surnames found in members’ research. In the afternoon of the 6th, the **Listening to Music Group** will be meeting live at Mayhem for a programme devoted to musical ‘Villains’ from Scarpia in **Tosca** to Jud Fry in **Oklahoma**.



**Hertford Castle
Heritage Day**

Archery Workshop
Falconry Display
Mediaeval
Encampment
Story-telling
Viking Battles

September 12th
12.00 to 4.00pm



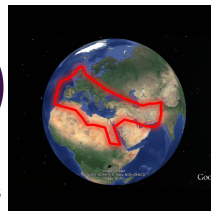
You are invited to
Afternoon Tea at Lowewood
Saturday, September 4th,
which is part of
Love Hoddesdon's
Food and Drink Fest



Cheshunt U3A visited Lowewood in August



Lowewood will be hosting a **Family History Day on November 13th**, in conjunction with **Lea Valley U3A**. There will be a display of the sort of family history information that can be achieved through the Internet and a focus on ancestors' participation in the two World Wars to tie in with Remembrance Week and **BArts' Buffet 'Pack Up Your Troubles'** on **November 10th**. (details on p 4) Help will be available for people who want to start researching their own families



The Arts Society, East Herts
'Mediterranean Tour. –
Not just a load of old bones.
September 30th



Giant of the Deep, Christine Holt



Sunset at Kimmeridge, Paul Wood

**Prize-Winners
of the
July Competition**



Cromer Pier at Sunset, Stan Benton



Shame About Shakespeare!

The following extract from The Telegraph review by Allison Pearson was contributed by a BArts' Patron.....

“ Romeo, Romeo, wherefore hast thou not read the trigger warning before thou leap’ t upon mine balcony in manner both hasty and potentially a bit rapey and problematic for a modern audience?

A scene from ‘Love Island’ or a bedroom make-over in oh-so-fashionable grey? No! This is the latest Globe Theatre version of Shakespeare’s ‘Romeo and Juliet’, which comes complete with a warning for hyper-sensitive souls. Shame about the socks!

The Globe Theatre has caused a stir by alerting audiences before performances of Romeo and Juliet to things which might upset them. Surely, it’s only a matter of time before Shakespeare’s characters are allocated new lines to show that, although they were created in times less enlightened than our own, they have finally got with the programme?

The Globe warns: “This production contains depictions of suicide, moments of violence and references to drug use. It contains gunshot sound effects and the use of stage blood. If you have been affected by any of the issues raised in this production of Romeo and Juliet, please find details below of organisations offering advice and support.”

....The point of *Romeo and Juliet* was that it was *supposed* to be distressing. The original idea was that, as you watched the harrowing love story you would experience pity and fear, but the redeeming and shaping power of Shakespeare’s art would deal with those strong emotions. No counsellor necessary!. If characters in every Shakespeare play are going to deliver their own trigger warnings, where will it all end?”

The article concluded with these parodies of well-known lines.....

Henry V

Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more,
Or close the wall up with our English dead;
Though be advis’d, the wall has yet to pass
Such health and safety checks as it doth need,
And you could crock yourself quite nastily
In climbing through to massacre the French.

Hamlet

O that this too, too solid flesh would melt,
Thaw, and resolve itself into a dew!
(Pause) Not that there is anything amiss
In being solid. Fie, to those who cry
“Porky Hamlet” down at Wittenberg,
I say: I OWN this flesh, and shame on YOU.

Macbeth

Double, double toil and trouble;
Fire burn, and cauldron bubble.
Fillet of a fenny snake,
In the cauldron boil and bake;
Eye of newt and toe of frog,
Wool of bat and tongue of dog,
All of which are soon replaced
For anyone of vegan taste:
Wobbly tofu, milk-free cheese,
Skin of spud and pod of peas,
Smear of hummus, husk of nut,
Save the planet, love your gut.



Warning! The opinion expressed here may cause indignation, palpitations or a strong desire to answer back.....

Theatre is not merely a pleasant, diversionary entertainment. It can have a serious purpose. It is often described as a reflection on real life, human interaction and society and can make a valuable contribution to people’s experience and understanding of the world, human nature and individual emotions and maturity.

Audiences may sometimes be *shocked* into contemplating the unthinkable, dealing with it vicariously, empathising with the characters and undergoing a kind of catharsis before emerging *unscathed*, but *wiser*; from the auditorium. The old cliché ‘ *If you can’t stand the heat, get out of the kitchen*’ could be applied here. Don’t *go* to the theatre *at all* if you can’t *cope* with a couple of hours of drama! There’s far worse on TV!

Focus on Venues

owned or administered by a BArts Affiliated Group

Prices on Application

Bollescroft, next to the Spotlight, Broxbourne Theatre Company



**Bollescroft Hire
Administrator:
Ian Stretch
01992 449176 /
07704 1985 85**

ian@stretch.org.uk

Main Hall and Meeting Room

**Mayhem Theatre Arts,
Brewery Road, Hoddesdon.**

01992 465100

info@mayhemtheatrearts.co.uk



Two Dance / Drama Studios, plus two smaller studios



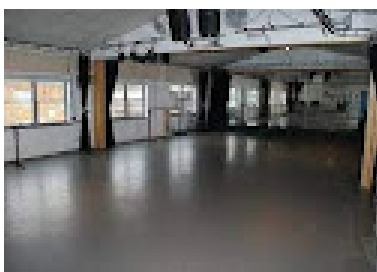
The GO Hub, Goff's Oak

07747 824388

hello@thegohub.co.uk

Hall, Small Stage, Dressing Rooms and Kitchen

Vallé Studios, Delamere Road, Cheshunt



Term time Weekdays available between: 10am to 3pm

Holiday time Weekdays 10am to 6 pm

Saturdays and Holidays: 10am to 8pm

Sundays and Holidays: 10am to 8pm

Minimum hire of 2 hours at weekends

01992 622862

enquiries@valleacademy.co.uk

THE TIME FOR ARTISTS IS **NOW**

Join 50 people who make their living in the creative arts world
(or who are trying to) for

**2 nights away from the hustle, bustle and confusing noises
of all that's going on.**

Coinciding with and celebrating
Arts Centre Group's 50th Anniversary
and organised in association with it.

*"To support and challenge artists at a moment when many
need encouragement to survive, and help consider
and develop gifts and insights"*

Venue: the beautiful, recently refreshed, covid-compliant,
upgraded

HIGH LEIGH CONFERENCE CENTRE Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire



Picture cct.org.uk

Cost: £120, including all meals and en-suite facilities

from an evening meal on **Sunday, 12 September**
to breakfast on **Tuesday, 14 September 2021**

**Booking Form: Contact leerayner_arts@hotmail.com
01992 465383**