



Keeping you in touch with BArts and the local Arts scene  
 Edited by Lee Rayner: leerayner\_arts@hotmail.com 01992 465383



## No.16.October 2021

### Correction and Apologies

Re new hiring conditions at the Spotlight, mentioned in Broadsheet No. 15 The maximum permitted advance booking period is now **12 months, instead of 24 months**, *not* 6 months instead of 12 as incorrectly stated previously.

If you're a fan of tribute bands, you're in for a treat...if you're *not*, then you may have to look beyond Broxbourne for your entertainment, or continue to sit in your armchair at home and watch more rubbish, on the box, as you have done for the last eighteen months!

**Pantomime Cancelled** The Spotlight was originally scheduled to re-open with a professional pantomime in December 2021, but the vital building repair work hasn't yet been completed, due, in part, to the fact that Council meetings have been held in the auditorium, instead of in the Council Chamber at Bishop's College.

**Spotlight Logo** It looks as though the Spotlight logo will need to be modified, since it claims to have a 'gallery' for art exhibitions. The facility was withdrawn from September 2019, after the re-furbishment of the café / bar.

**BArts' Programme** The fate of BArts' programme still hangs in the balance at the moment, as hire conditions are still incomplete and for popular events, such as the **Let's Do Lunch** series, the most recent 22% price increase in the Dinant hire rates (£28.60 to £35.00), and box office charges, will make a viable event quite difficult. There is, as yet, no news on the resumption of **My Kind of Music** either, which brought the Spotlight café / bar around 60+ people for lunch on the first Wednesday in the month.

### Meanwhile, in the West End—all desperately trying to attract customers

**Musicals:** Anything Goes, Back To the Future, Book of Mormon, Come From Away, Frozen, Jersey Boys, Les Miserables, Mamma Mia, Mary Poppins, Moulin Rouge, Only Fools and Horses, Phantom of the Opera, Tina, Wicked.

**Shakespeare:** Hamlet, Measure For Measure, Merchant of Venice, Romeo and Juliet.

**Coming Soon :** Cabaret—the musical, David Suchet as Poirot, Pride and Prejudice (a spoof version) Sunset Boulevard.



Re-Opening Programme Announced  
 From March 2022

<b>March 3rd</b>	Tony Stockwell Psychic Medium	<b>April 12th</b>	The Wizard of Oz Bobby Davro
<b>4th</b>	The Real Thing, Afro-British Band	<b>13th</b>	Pop Divas Live, Little Mix
<b>5th</b>	The Best of Queen	<b>14th</b>	Evening with Whirlwind Jimmy White
<b>6th, 7th</b>	The Smartest Giant in Town	<b>16th</b>	The Drifters
<b>17th</b>	That'll Be The Day	<b>29th, 30th</b>	Peppa Pig
<b>19th</b>	Ronnie Scott's All Stars	<b>May 8th</b>	The Very Best of Burt Bacharach
<b>24th</b>	Evening With Glen Hoddle	<b>12th</b>	Walk Right Back, Everly Brothers' Story
<b>Ticket Prices will range from around £22-£29 and £16 for children at children's events, with a family 4 for £64</b>		<b>13th</b>	Big Girls Don't Cry, Frankie Valli Tribute
		<b>19th</b>	Reach Out, The Magic of Motown



Hoddesdon Music Club  
presents



**EMMA JOHNSON**

Internationally Acclaimed Clarinettist

**October 16th**

5.00pm and 7.30 pm,  
United Reformed Church, Broxbourne.

Tickets £14, 01992 464000  
hoddesdonmusic@aol.com

**BArts' Buffets**

**Say It With Music**



*"Music is the universal  
language of mankind;  
it expresses that which  
cannot be said and on which  
it is impossible to be silent"*

£5 pp

**Zoom at 12.00 noon**

01992 465383.

leerayner\_arts@hotmail.com

Quote Ref: SIW20

## Hybrid Cars— Now Hybrid *Events!*

BArts affiliated groups have had to be even more creative and adaptable than usual over the past eighteen months or so and have explored different ways of maintaining contact with their members, offering morale boosters and a little light-hearted distraction in newsletters, bulletins, quizzes, cartoons and 'phone a friend' campaigns.

Some groups have, perhaps reluctantly, ventured into the world of 'virtual' presentations and learned how to Zoom.

Now, it seems that we are in a 'hybrid' situation, with a gradual resumption of a few live activities happening alongside Zoom, or giving people a *choice*.

Perhaps this is what people will want in the future? Only time will tell, but it's certainly an attractive idea not to have to *travel* to attend a vital meeting on a miserable wet afternoon and, for those with transport or mobility issues, it could be a simple solution to a problem!

**The events listed on this page  
are a mixture of live  
and virtual**



**BArts' Buffets**

**Pack Up Your Troubles**



*Songs and Memories  
of Two World Wars*

**November 10th**

£5 pp Zoom at 12.00 noon

01992 465383.

Quote Ref:PU10

**What Did Your Ancestors Do in the War?**



Discover Your Family History  
with Lea Valley U3A

**November 13th**

10.00 am to 4.00 pm

part of Remembrance Week

at Lowwood  
Museum



## October

1st—3rd Hoddesdon Charter Fair  
11th War Graves Commission, LVU3A  
12th Annual General Meeting LVU3A  
14th Group Leaders' Meeting, BU3A  
16th Clarinet Recital, Emma Johnson, HMC  
20th Say It With Music, BArts' Buffet  
21st The Impressionists, Part 2. BU3A  
28th A Female in Fleet St. C U3A  
28th Raphael of Urbino: Artist and Architect  
Arts Soc. East Herts

## November

10th Pack Up Your Troubles BArt's Buffet  
13th What Did Your Ancestors Do in the War? Lowwood  
Museum and LVU3A Family History  
13th 60th Birthday Ball, EHOS  
20th 180 Years of John Warner School, Lowwood Museum  
Exhibition  
25th German Occupation of the Channel Islands C U3A  
25th Pantomime: A Very British Feast, Arts Soc. East Herts  
27th Erica Baikoff, Soprano, HMC  
30th Discover Talliston, LV U3A

Note the Abbreviations B = Broxbourne, C = Cheshunt, LV= Lea Valley, HMC = Hoddesdon Music Club,  
EHOS= East Herts Players (originally Operatic Society)



**u3a**

**Broxbourne U3A** will be holding its **October 21st meeting on The Impressionists** live at the **Laura Trott Centre in Cheshunt**.

The Shakespeare group has just resumed live meetings at Mayhem, after a very successful series of zoom courses during the lock-down, **but** the group's membership is about half what it was, now dubbed 'The Reduced Shakespeare'!

**Cheshunt U3A** Around 16 of Cheshunt's groups are now active again. Their main meeting on **October 28th—A Female in Fleet St**—will also be held at the Laura Trott Centre.

**Lea Valley U3A** Nearly half of the interest groups have resumed live activities. The September main meeting was also held live at Stanboroughs, the Conservative Club in Hoddesdon, which will be the venue until the Spotlight reopens next year.

Trawling through the performing arts schools' websites, it looks as though most classes are up and running again and one or two schools have announced productions booked for next year. The theatre groups— Broxbourne Theatre Company, Cheshunt Dramatic Society and Hoddesdon Players, however, are still in suspension, awaiting more information about the Spotlight.

In general, many local websites seem to have been almost abandoned since the pandemic and the chatty, social media sites are a bit like a club notice board, aimed at those already 'in the know', but no substitute for the easy-to-find, basic information that a stranger, or potential new customer might expect.

**Quote** " *You only have once chance to make a first impression.* ". This was the quote of the week heard at a business development meeting recently— (attended at 6.30 am on behalf of Lowewood Museum Trust by your Broadsheet Ed!)

**Hoddesdon Music Club's** first live concert of the new season, a piano recital by Diana Brekalo, was absolutely stunning. Apart from brilliant playing, the soloist gained great rapport with the audience by *speaking* what would have been *printed* programme notes about the composers and their works. **Next Concert, World Famous Clarinettist, Emma Johnson, Oct 16th.hoddesdonmusic@aol.com**



**Mayhem Theatre Arts** In the interests of a safe, healthy environment, Mayhem has 'gone minimalist'. A one-way entry and exit system, bare walls, no shop counter, no leather sofas, but bright, new tables and chairs in the studios... and a small increase in hire fees. **Be aware of their new parking regulations in their now gated car park. Spaces for group leaders or disabled only.**

**Three Valleys Male Voice Choir**, who usually give several concerts a year in aid of charity, are now rehearsing back at their usual venue (with Covid precautions) in Waltham Abbey Baptist Church Hall every Tuesday evening from 7.30 to 9.30pm. **New members will be particularly welcome . 01992 630981**







## Belated 60th Birthday Celebrations for EHOS



Originally East Herts Operatic Society, now EHOS Players  
1960—2020

The society was formed in 1960, after the demise of the Hoddesdon Choral Society and the Hoddedon Orchestra left “*a complete vacuum in this district as far as musical ‘activity’ is concerned...*”. Mrs. Winifred Walshe and Mrs. Sybil Abrahams proposed the formation of an Operatic society in Hoddesdon, to stage light opera performances, principally Gilbert & Sullivan.



The first President and Chairman of the Company was Olympic Champion, Harold Abrahams, and his wife, Sybil, former member of the D’Oyly Carte Opera became the company Producer. The first membership fee was ‘one guinea’ (£1 1s. = £16.07 today) and **The Mikado** was the first production, in April 1961 at Baas Hill Secondary Modern School, which was well received by audiences and press and managed to make a modest profit.

Sadly, in 1963, Sybil Abrahams died suddenly and new producers had to be found. The company’s increasing success led to a change of venue for performances and from 1964—1976, the hall and stage at East Herts College were used.

In 1976, EHOS became the first group to achieve a sell-out performance at the newly built Broxbourne Civic Hall, (now The Spotlight) with Edward German’s operetta ‘**Tom Jones** (**Ed’s Note** BArts’ Chairman was Tom and I was in the chorus!) Apparently there was a little bit of confusion for one or two audience members, who *thought* they were seeing the Welsh singer!

The company soon gained an enviable reputation for the quality of its large chorus, but eventually public taste demanded modern, American musicals with smaller, but more *active* choruses who could sing, act *and* dance. Over subsequent years, EHOS tackled most of the hit shows from **Oklahoma** to **Guys and Dolls** and **Cabaret**, while slotting in the odd G and S, such as **Iolanthe**, **The Pirates of Penzance**, **The Gondoliers** and **Yeomen of the Guard**

Since Spring 2008, the smaller of the two annual shows has been performed at Victoria Hall Theatre, Old Harlow – which has become a much loved venue— and recently, EHOS has tackled some controversial pieces such as **Rent** and **Avenue Q**.

All the problems of Am.Dram musicals have remained pretty much the same—shortage of men, retaining the leading singers (who go anywhere to play a particular part) production costs, getting bums on seats—but enthusiasm and the buzz of getting on stage usually make up for all this and the company *survives*.



Children's rides £2



**Hoddesdon town centre Charter Fair**

MAYNE FUNFAIRS IN ASSOCIATION WITH BROXBOURNE COUNCIL



**FRIDAY 1 - SUNDAY 3 OCTOBER**

Visit the website for further details  
[www.broxbourne.gov.uk](http://www.broxbourne.gov.uk)  
 @BroxbourneBC #BroxbourneBC BroxbourneBC

Love Hoddesdon BID

BOROUGH OF BROXBOURNE  
[www.broxbourne.gov.uk](http://www.broxbourne.gov.uk)

---

Love Hoddesdon

**OPENING HOURS**

**Friday 1 October 2021**  
 1-9.30pm  
 Official opening by the Mayor of Broxbourne and Showman's Guild at the Clock Tower, 3.45pm.

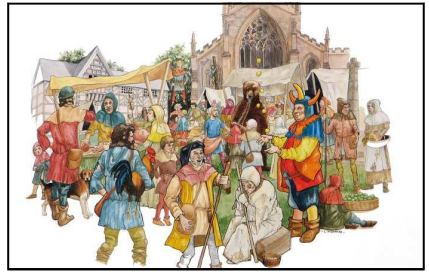
**Saturday 2 October 2021**  
**Funfair 11am-9.30pm**  
**Community Day 11am-5pm**

- ★ Craft and charity stalls
- ★ Face painting
- ★ Punch and Judy stall
- ★ Stilt walkers
- ★ Street entertainers
- ★ Fairground organs
- ★ Steam engines, vintage funfair vehicles and traditional funfair

**Sunday 3 October 2021**  
**Funfair 11am-7.30pm**  
 with FREE showtime stage 11am-5.30pm

B.&T. HIRE MOTOR RENTALS

BOROUGH OF BROXBOURNE  
[www.broxbourne.gov.uk](http://www.broxbourne.gov.uk)



**Did You Know That.....?**

Most buying and selling was done at markets and fairs, not shops, back in the C13.

Hoddesdon, originally a small Anglo-Saxon settlement, was, by the time of the Norman conqueror's Domesday Book in 1086, a village of some 300 people.

In 1253, King Henry III granted a charter to Robert Boxe, Lord of the Manor, for an annual market and fair to be held in Hoddesdon at Martinmas, November 11th, traditionally a day to celebrate the end of the autumn seed sowing, winter preparations and the butchering and salting of meat.

On the busy route between London and the north, Hoddesdon became a convenient stopping place for travellers and a number of inns soon developed along the main road

Markets and fairs were also traditional occasions for hiring labourers—a sort of forerunner of the Labour Exchange / Employment Office.

Hoddesdon's weekly market has survived many changes over centuries—at one time it was almost entirely a meat market. Now it has stalls on Wednesdays and Fridays, offering a variety of goods, from plants and food to clothing and the occasional, special, continental market.



Since 2017, Hoddesdon has been a Business Improvement District (BID) uniting local businesses and organisations under the **Love Hoddesdon** title and re-vitalising the atmosphere of the town centre with a busy programme of events and entertainment, attracting hundreds of visitors.



**Hoddesdon Market around 1900 and as it is today.**

**Barts' Patrons, Sue and Peter Garside, have published several interesting books about local history and the Friends of Lowewood have also produced a series of booklets on subjects such as local schools, the Rawdon family, inns and pubs and John Warner... See article on p 6**



**Museum**—An institution that takes care of objects of Artistic, Cultural, Historical and Scientific importance.

The Borough of Broxbourne has a population of just under 100,000 people. Lowewood, the borough's recently re-opened museum, has around 50,000 significant items that tell the story of the area from pre-history to the present day, yet the majority of residents aren't *aware* of the museum's existence, or don't *know* where it is. We may think that a museum is irrelevant to *us*, but what it contains of the past has helped to shape our *present*, just as *our* present will help to shape the future.

There are currently six different display areas at Lowewood. One room on the ground floor, to the left of the main entrance, is dedicated to short term exhibitions. The beautiful, Georgian **Taylor** room on the right overlooks the garden and picnic area, has the café and shop and is used for activities and additional small displays. On the upper floors, the **Atkinson Gallery** features Costume, the **Braham Gallery** has items from pre-history to 1600, the **Petter Gallery** focuses on the post 1600 period and the **James Ward Gallery** is devoted to the works of the prestigious C18 / C19 local artist, who specialised in painting animals in landscape settings.



**Time Team Season 9, Episode 6  
An Ermine St Pub, Cheshunt, Herts**

Within the borough, lies part of the old Roman road known as **Ermine Street**, which has yielded some interesting 'finds' from the period of the Roman occupation and featured in an episode of Tony Robinson's 'Time Team'. Cedars Park was once the site of **Theobalds Palace**, residence of Lord Burghley, Elizabeth I's chief minister and subsequently much favoured by James I. **Rye House** also has royal connections—once the home of Catherine Parr's family when she was a child and, later, connected with the

plot to murder Charles II.

There are several published, illustrated local history books about Broxbourne, Cheshunt, Hoddesdon and Waltham Cross,, produced by current residents and local historians David Dent, Sue and Peter Garside and Bryan Hewitt, available to buy at the museum ( hardback prices around £15) *plus* a series of small booklets by the Friends of Lowewood Museum that focus on the specific subjects of important buildings, local schools, inns and pubs, famous families etc .Most of these sell at around just £2 - £2.50. A book sale is planned for November / December.



**Volunteer Val Vellani, L,  
with Helen Giles, Lowewood  
Museum's guest Curator**



**A 'Confab' of Councillors  
taking afternoon tea  
at Lowewood Museum**

**Lyn White, Siobhan Monaghan,  
Ken Ayling and Lewis Cocking.  
Lyn and Ken are also Patrons of BArts**

Lowewood Museum may be of a modest size, but it has enormous scope and big ambitions, which its team of enthusiastic, dedicated volunteers are *determined* to realise. One small, but important, step was the recent achievement of the top rating for food hygiene (see picture on L) There have also been some modest funding awards which will go towards vital improvements in publicity.

**Current Exhibition: Tankards Tales & Taverns  
Special Event: November 13th.**

**Family History Day  
Next Exhibition, November to Jan 2022  
Celebrating 180 years  
of the John Warner School**



## Grrreat Britain??!



There's a gridlocked petrol queue around the corner  
 And supermarket shelves are somewhat bare.  
 A motorway is blocked again by protests  
 And there's too much CO<sub>2</sub> polluted air.

But it's CO<sub>2</sub> we *lack* in vital processing,  
 So our food supplies are threatened once again.  
 Too few Brits are prepared to drive a lorry,  
 And picking crops there aren't *enough* who'll deign.

Power companies are, overnight, collapsing.  
 Remaining energy supply costs now sky high.  
 We are in the grip, it seems, of market forces,  
 But few of us can claim to know just why.

There are key staff lacking in our restaurants,  
 Since both Brexit and Pandemic hit our shores.  
 The NHS is short of *British* Doctors  
 And *British* nurses are quitting even more.

You can't get to see your GP at his surgery,  
 Now he prefers to diagnose by phone,  
 But some serious conditions haven't been picked up  
 And the mortality statistics aren't yet known

Some State benefits are *better* than low wages.  
 The 'dignity of labour?' Too few *care!*  
 Our education's set at 'mediocre'  
 And massaging exam grades *isn't* fair.

'Mickey mouse' degrees don't *really* make folk equal,  
 Nor fit them for essential roles in life.  
 'Rights' now rank *above* 'Responsibilities'  
 And PC and being 'woke' create *new* strife.

Destroying statues, re-writing bits of history,  
 Listing taboo subjects, banning some free speech  
 Just impose *another* form of tyranny,  
 Not the 'brave new world' that people say they seek.

Approaching now the autumn/ winter seasons  
 The prospect is really not too bright  
 Great Britain has somehow simply lost its way  
 And it seems that there is no relief in sight!

Ellar

## Art? Morals? Ethnicity? Diversity ? We're doomed.. all doomed!

In 2018, Penguin Random House adopted a new commissioning policy to fall into line with diversity targets, defined by sexual identity, skin colour and whether one was able-bodied or not. Penguin's future contribution to literature would be selected not on the *excellent quality* of a book, but on the need to match the demographic make-up of British society.

Now, the English Touring Opera (ETO) has just dropped 14 white musicians in order to increase the 'diversity' of the company and a Labour MP has described the merits of issuing "*mandatory diversity quotas*" for artists that appear in publicly funded galleries like Tate Britain.

Television companies show very clearly how they are applying 'positive discrimination' in their commercials and the BBC prioritises ethnic minorities in its selection of individuals for 'on the spot' street opinions'.

The 'Me Too' campaign recently rooted out men with a 'polluted past' from ballet companies, the film industry and the world of comedy.

Few artistic geniuses of the past would survive the current 'moral criteria' for acceptability... Da Vinci, Michelangelo, Shakespeare, Wordsworth, Shelley, Byron, Dickens, Mozart, Chopin, Tchaikovsky... Olivier. Nureyev.....all would have been cast aside for their erratic life choices.

Art shouldn't be judged by the ethnicity or biography of the artist

*"It's a death knell for the very notion of artistic quality."*