



Keeping you in touch with BArts
and the local Arts scene

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No.18.December 2021

Christmas Greetings!



Normal Service Resumed??

Over the last few weeks, some aspects of life seem to have returned *almost* to normal, with more people venturing out and resuming many of their usual activities 'live', rather than gazing at yet another Zoom presentation!

The general atmosphere has been very positive and 'buoyant' —so nice to have a *real* conversation without all the inevitable, irritating, technical hiccups of people being muted / unmuted when they shouldn't, or losing the link, or the picture....

We should still be on our guard, however, with local Covid rates apparently on the increase and some worrying news from the continent, where a steep rise in the number of cases has prompted drastic measures again and threatens to jeopardise Christmas plans.

Proceed With Caution!



News From the SpotlightThe E-Mail Hotline

Communications between BArts and the Spotlight have gone up a few notches in the last few weeks as BArts' Chairman, Malcolm Gordon, has endeavoured to extract *vital* information about terms and conditions when the Spotlight re-opens next year.



It looks as though BArts' popular 'Let's Do Lunch' series' *may* be able to resume under original conditions, albeit with an increase in hire charges. The idea that there would be a *new* charge for entries in *What's On* and posters in the Spotlight, now seems to apply only to *commercial* companies, or groups whose tickets *won't* be sold through the Spotlight box office.

Still no news on essential repairs to the piano chassis for *My Kind of Music*, however. This regular BArts'-sponsored event brought the Spotlight a substantial number of lunch customers every month, so it would seem to be worthwhile to fund the piano repairs.



Our pianist, Barbara Manning is well-known throughout East Herts as a rehearsal pianist as well as a popular, gifted soloist with a very wide repertoire.

At the Spotlight, her monthly concerts included a selection of light classical pieces, as well as evergreen melodies and music from stage and screen. We miss you, Barbara!

Here and There!

Snippets from BArts' Groups and the Local Scene.



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

is just coming to the end of a really enjoyable ten-week course on the River Lea and canals and waterways, presented by local expert, Richard Thomas. Richard's talks are full of detail and excellent illustrations, all delivered with clarity and humour... and not an 'erm' to be heard anywhere!



Broxbourne U3A's Shakespeare Group

has been somewhat depleted since Covid, in common with so many other organisations, but two new members appeared at the last meeting, so we may soon be able to discard our new, we hope *temporary* name - The Reduced Shakespeare.

At the beginning of this term, the group discussed the future programme and decided to read the 'history' plays in the right order, beginning with *King John*, which isn't very popular, not often performed for some very good reasons. It's very wordy, with some complex, unfathomable sentences, but there's consolation in the character of the Bastard, who has some great humorous lines and comments aside— a bit like Richard III.



An excellent production on DVD, starring Leonard Rossiter as King John and John Thaw and Claire Bloom in supporting roles, has proved enlightening and entertaining.

NB It's worth noting that Mayhem's Drama Studio has a large whiteboard, which makes an excellent screen for projected images. You do need your own equipment, however.



Lea Valley U3A also enjoyed an outstanding talk at their November meeting at Stanboroughs. The speaker was John Trevellian, who, over a period of twenty years, turned an ordinary, three-bedroom, council house in Dunmow, Essex into 'Britain's most extraordinary home' -

Talliston House, transforming each room into a perfect example of a particular environment, or period in history with its own unique story.



The Lea Valley branch of the U3A has recently acquired a new Chair, **Glynis Evans**, who replaces Mary Cole. Because of Covid, Mary served an additional year in office and ably steered the group through the trials and tribulations of lock-down etc. Her new, non-committee role is as Speaker Secretary.



The General History Group

has been discussing members' school days, which were in the era of very strict uniform and corporal punishment. Although few would describe their experiences as 'the happiest days of their lives', the topic has generated a lot of laughter.

Local Social History Project



Still on the subject of history, the



Community Voluntary Services of Broxbourne and East Herts are

nearing the end of their lottery-funded project to tell the story of the contribution the community and voluntary sector have made to local life over the past fifty years or so. Several BArts' affiliated groups and individuals have taken part in filmed interviews and provided significant artefacts, which, together with written material, will form a mobile exhibition that can be displayed in venues across the local area early in 2022. Staff and students of Herts Regional College, based at Turnford and Ware, have played an active part in the filming process.



The Lea Valley Family History Group scored a huge success with its one-day exhibition at **Lowewood Museum**, timed to coincide with Remembrance week and to incorporate members' own family memories of the two World Wars. The 'help-desk' was particularly busy all day, with computer and screen on site to allow on-the-spot research and answer visitors' specific queries.

Around one hundred people attended; there was a similar number for the Model Railway Day at the museum during half-term.

So far, attendance at the recently re-opened museum has *exceeded* expectations, as have sales in the café and gift shop. On-site donations have also been encouraging.

So many people in the borough are still unaware of the museum's *existence*, however. A local taxi company, long-established in Hoddesdon, actually asked a client to name the road where the museum was situated! The same sort of ignorance has been apparent when museum volunteers have manned market stalls in Hoddesdon and Waltham Cross to distribute publicity.

A stalwart band of volunteers is currently undertaking numerous, vital, behind-the-scenes jobs at Lowewood, transferring the inventory of artefacts to digital format and photographing and restoring some items. A member of the prestigious V and A museum team was recently on-site one weekend to offer expert advice on the care of the collection of costumes at the museum.

New Life for Hoddesdon's Old, Long-Abandoned 'Nick'!

One of the unattractive buildings next door to Lowewood Museum, the Hoddesdon Police Station, has been closed for many years, presumably waiting for some local developer to take the initiative and turn it into flats. (**Ed's note** I thought that the ground floor might make an extension for the museum, with flats above!)



Now, however, the building has been acquired by Teens Unite, the local cancer charity, thanks to the generosity of a long-

standing supporter.

Since November 8th, the premises have been the base for the charity's



office, plus a shop and aptly named **Jailbreak Café**, where customers can enjoy the unique experience of sipping their coffee in the original jail cells!

The shop will stock only *brand new* items of clothing and accessories from high street retailers, as well as a selection of books, rather than the more usual second-hand goods.

Proceeds from the venture will help to fund Teens Unite's long-term plans to build the first retreat in England for young people fighting cancer, at a site in Goff's Oak.

Local businesses / organisations will be able to hold meetings, activities and events within the building.

For further information on Teens Unite and the charity's plans to build the retreat, please visit: www.teensunite.org.



Have *you* heard of the Broxbourne Museum?
 It's in *Hoddesdon*, on the main road.
 Yes! Lowewood— a fine, listed building,
 Once a John Warner family abode.
 Double-fronted, it's classical Georgian,
 With elegant, high-ceilinged rooms,
 But, flanked by two 'blank', modern buildings,
 Its existence too often seemed doomed.

It once served as the Hoddesdon Library,
 Then a tiny Arts Centre became,
 With just *one* floor for a museum ,
 Until the rest of the floors were so claimed.
 Lowewood Museum *has* flourished,
 For seven years, it was run by a team—
 Epping Forest Museum and our Borough,
 And it seemed quite a workable scheme.

But the partnership foundered on finance.
 Broxbourne Council withdrew its support
 For a lottery-funded project
 And alternative measures were sought.
 A lively campaign then developed,
 People-powered petition was strong,
 And, at length, Broxbourne Borough relented.
Maybe its decision was wrong?

Meetings and proposals then followed
 To form Lowewood Museum Trust
 And with the help of a museum expert
 Legal issues were fully discussed.
 After various delays due to Covid,
 July 17th the re-opening day
 And since then the museum's been busy
 With exhibits, the gift shop and café.

The keen volunteer staff are so friendly
 And admission is totally free,
 There's a 'Borough at Christmas' nostalgic display
 And five other galleries to see.
 Lowewood's Broxbourne's past *and* its present
 With an eye on the future, too,
 It's *your* heritage and *your* museum.
 And with *your* support, plans *should* come true.



**A display of nostalgic images
 reflecting Broxbourne's traditional
 festivities and memories
 of 'Christmas Past'.**

Café and Gift Shop

*Christmas items and tempting
 festive refreshments during
 November / December*

**Museum open Fridays and
 Saturdays 10.00 am to 4.30 pm**

Lowewood Museum,
 High St, Hoddesdon. EN11 8BH
 Telephone:01992 445596
 info@lowewood museum.org.uk

**NB. The Museum closes for the
 Christmas holiday on December 18th
 and re-opens on January 7th**





Exciting New Opportunities at Mayhem

Mayhem Theatre Arts will be celebrating its 15th birthday in January and, in characteristic fashion, has been planning some exciting, new, creative opportunities for 2022 that tie in very neatly with the recent arrival, and possible extension, of the film-making industry in the Borough of Broxbourne.



In collaboration with **SparksArts**, there will be classes in media and film-making for ages 5-18, covering every aspect, from directing scenes and sequences, camera operation, moving images, sound, lighting and special FX, to producing, scriptwriting, editing in different styles, acting and crewing. Each term, students will work on their own productions, growing in confidence and creativity.

Music-making at Mayhem will also be enhanced in 2022 to offer lessons in guitar, drums, bass and piano and audio recording and music production through the services of **Atlantic Audio**, who will be based at Mayhem. The well-established singing lessons and musical theatre classes, from age 4, will continue.

Enquiries / Bookings: contact Mayhem Theatre Arts 01992 465100
e-mail: info@mayhemtheatrearts.co.uk



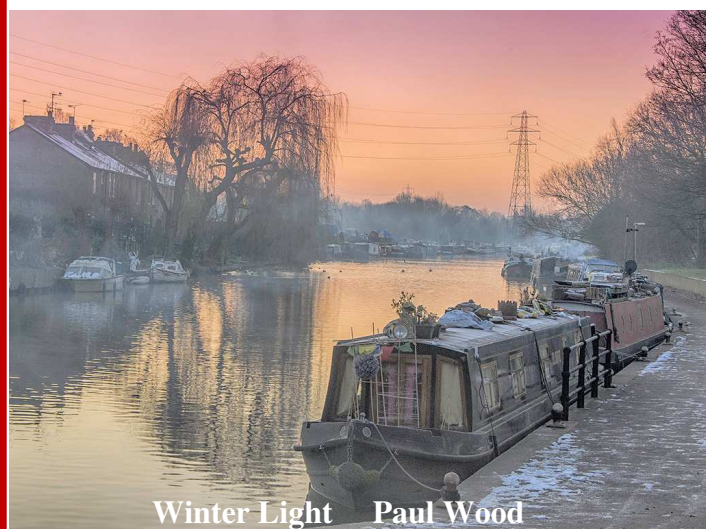
Did you know that Lowewood Museum has a Pottery Club in the basement, complete with kiln? The piece pictured left is based on the museum's logo, which represents the River Lea and all the areas of water in the Lea Valley. Now on display in the museum gift shop.



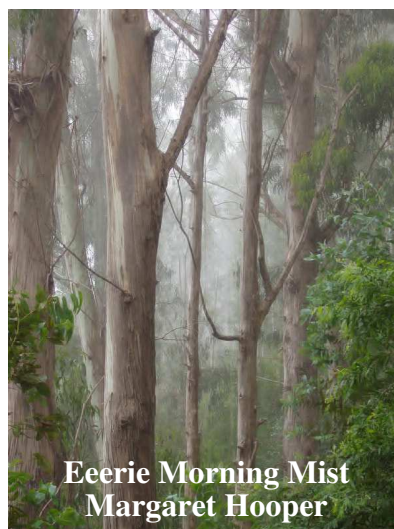
Walking the Dog Tony Barrell

Hoddesdon Camera Club **Seasonal Images**

*November's sky is chill and drear
November's leaf is red and sear.*



Winter Light Paul Wood



Eerie Morning Mist Margaret Hooper

The club meets on alternate Monday evenings at Broxbourne Parish Centre

hodcamclub@aol.com

Don't believe all those outdated websites that say 'No events'

Wow!!

There's a fantastic selection of Festive Events - all for your delight!



Erika Baikoff, *Soprano*,
with Gary Beecher, *Piano*
Music by Purcell, Schubert, Poulenc,
Strauss, Rachmaninov

Hoddesdon Music Club—
Flying the Flag for Classical Music..
Where else can you find any in the borough?

Saturday, 27th November
5.00 pm and 7.30 pm
United Reformed Church, Broxbourne

Email: hoddesdonmusic@aol.com

Telephone: 01992 464000 (Kathleen Lord - Chairman)

HODDESDON CHRISTMAS FAYRE
Light Up
SATURDAY 27 NOVEMBER

Children's rides throughout the day

Christmas stalls and catering 10am-6pm
Entertainment in the arena from 11am
Christmas tree switch on and laser light show 5.30pm - 6pm

Any interested stall holders should contact 01992 785655 for details

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BOROUGH OF BROXBORNE
www.broxbourne.gov.uk

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FESTIVAL OF CAROLS

Hoddesdon
Schedule of local school choirs performing:

Friday 3 December, 9.30-10.am
Wednesday 8 December, 9.30-3.pm
Friday 10 December, 9.30-3 pm

Performances at the Jubilee Shelter by local school choirs

Performances are taking place at the Jubilee Shelter

BOROUGH OF BROXBORNE
www.broxbourne.gov.uk

HERTFORD CHRISTMAS GALA
26th November, from 4pm

HERTFORD CASTLE CHRISTMAS MARKET
27th & 28th November, from 11am
Hertford Castle Gardens

Find out more at www.hertford.gov.uk

CHRISTMAS FARMERS' AND CRAFT MARKET
SUN 5 DEC | 10AM - 3PM

SOUTHERN MALTINGS

Lea Valley
u3a

Christmas Meeting
December 13th

Bell Ringing, Carols, Mince Pies, Picture Quiz, Seasonal Readings... and all things Christmassy!

1.30 pm at Stanboroughs
Conduit Lane, Hoddesdon

Renew 'Auld Acquaintances'

BArts' Buffet presents

Christmas Crackers!
December 15th
12.00 noon

The Spirit of Christmas Past and Present

Tickets £5 per person

Bookings: 01992 465383,
leerayner_arts@hotmail.com

Cheques Payable to: Broxbourne Arts Forum
67, Riversmead, EN11 8DP

Bank Transfer: Sort Code 40-24-21
A/c No . 21377337

Christmas Show 2021
The Stoller School of Dancing

Sunday, December 19th
Goff's Churchgate Academy.
Christmas Show and Awards Ceremony

HARLOW PLAYHOUSE & KD THEATRE PRODUCTIONS PRESENT...

JIMMY BURTON ILES AS DAME DOLLY

BEN PARSLEY AS SILLY WILLY SCARLETT



Robin Hood
THE GREATEST PANTO ADVENTURE

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3RD DECEMBER 2021 – 2ND JANUARY 2022

WWW.HARLOWPLAYHOUSE.CO.UK • PLAYHOUSE.BOXOFFICE@HARLOW.GOV.UK
01279-431945

Harlow Playhouse, KD Theatre, Harlow

BRITISH PANTOMIME ACADEMY PRESENTS



Aladdin

Saturday 18 December Queen Eleanor Square, Waltham Cross

Sunday 19 December High Street, Hoddesdon (adjacent to Fawkon Walk)

Performance times: 11am, 1pm and 3pm
Bring your own chairs/blankets

Love, HM Government, European Union, Borough of Broxbourne

The Panto Page

No pantomime at the Spotlight this year, but there are numerous productions within easy reach—a mixture of professional and good standard amateur.

December 14th to January 3rd



Under the Frozen Moon

IN THEATRE AT SOUTHERN MALTINGS

Aladdin is an Anti-Covid, Outdoor Panto!
3 performances on each date in Waltham Cross and Hoddesdon

CINEMA GALLERY EVENTS STUDIO CAFE

hertford THEATRE

Hertford Theatre's *Immersive Production* at Southern Maltings, Ware

Tickets £15
box.office@hertfordtheatre.com
or call 01992 531500 at least 72hrs before your desired event

PLATINUM PRESENTS MILLFIELD THEATRE



Cinderella
AND HER LOST PRINCE

A FAMILY PANTOMIME WITH A MODERN TWIST

Millfield Theatre
Silver St. Edmonton

December 11th to 31st

BOX OFFICE
020 8807 6680

Hertford Dramatic and Operatic Society at Bentley House



Jack and the Ice Queen

December 18th to January 3rd, Ticketsource

Cheshunt Dramatic Society Presents



Dick Whittington
A family pantomime

Cuffley Hall Theatre

Friday 7th Jan 2022 – 7:30pm
Saturday 8th Jan 2022 – 2.30pm & 7:30pm

Box Office
07473 467827
chesdramsoc@hotmail.co.uk
www.cheshunt-dramatic-society.co.uk