



# BArts' Broadsheet



Keeping you in touch with BArts and the local Arts scene

No. 20. February 2022



Edited by Lee Rayner: leerayner\_arts@hotmail.com 01992 465383



## The Spotlight Re-opening...But Not Yet!

### Local Groups' Plans Suspended

Yet *another* delay in the re-opening of The Spotlight is creating problems for BArts and affiliated groups, just at the point when it looked as though a return to some sort of normality was imminent.

BArts' events, *pencilled* in from May 2022, still lack *confirmed* costs and conditions, including vital repairs to the piano, so our usual *printed* programme cannot be produced. Local branches of the U3A have had their March meetings cancelled and the Rotary Club, who normally use the Dinant Room on a regular basis, haven't yet been contacted to confirm availability.

The *reasons* for the delay in re-opening aren't clear. Appointing suitable new staff may be one ; shortages of labour and materials due to Covid another, so the vital repairs and refurbishment may be incomplete. Whatever the reasons, a two-year closure has been damaging to all concerned and will affect the planned re-launch programme of more 'commercial' events to attract more regular customers.

### What's On - Planned Events

Box Office 01992 441946



**The Magic of Motown - Reach Out** Thu 19th May 2022. *Concert*

**Peppa Pig - Peppa Pig's Best Day Ever** Fri 29th April 2022 to Sat 30th April 2022. *Kids show*

**Gyles Brandreth - Break a Leg!** Mon 30th May 2022. *One person show*

**Islands in the Stream - The Dolly Parton and Kenny Rogers Story** Fri 3rd June 2022. *Musical*

**Lost in Music - One Night In The Disco** 24th September 2022. *Concert*

**The Elvis Years - The Story of the King** Fri 21st October 2022. *Concert*

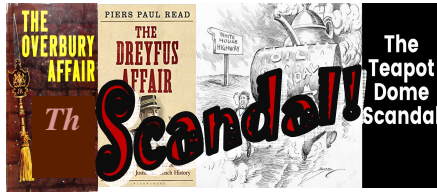
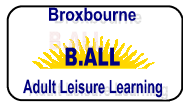
You may have noticed that the Spotlight logo has been modified. The original, multi-coloured image is now just one, pale colour—tasteful and in line with the fashionable, muted shades in minimalistic home décor, but not so 'eye-catching', so having less impact. At this particular time, after a traumatic couple of years, we need all the colour and positivity we can muster!

The expression 'Blue Monday' (or Grey Monday?) has become familiar, to describe the first Monday back at work after Christmas and the New Year, when energy and spirits are low, but we've been feeling this way throughout the pandemic, so

**Let's Go For Bold Colour!**



# Around BArts' Groups



**Spring Term**  
**Feb 3rd to**  
**March 31st**

Broxbourne Parish Centre

**Thursdays 10.30 am to 12.15 pm, £35 for 8 weeks**

*Scandals may be political, social, financial, sexual, or a combination of them all— often emerging when old values are threatened by new and usually including a botched 'cover-up', exposure and humiliation.*

Contact Linda Williams. 01992 306598  
linda.williamsecc@gmail.com

-always a topical subject!



Weekly meetings on  
**Fridays from 2pm to 5pm**  
at the Scout Hut in Wormley.

*New members welcome*

**Secretary: Liz Lower Tel. 07818 431062**

The group has a well-organised programme of weekly challenges and monthly projects.

**Monthly Project** February: Food and Drink

**Weekly Challenges:**

**Feb 4th** Still Life

**Feb 18th** Observation Art

**Feb 25th** Big Waves

**Monthly Project** March: Big Paint



## Monthly Meetings

3rd Thursday in the month  
Laura Trott / The Spotlight  
Speaker 2.15 pm

**Thur Feb 17th**

Story of WW2 Spy Nancy Wake  
(The White Mouse) at *Laura Trott*

**Thur Mar 24th**

Comedy & Magic at *The Spotlight*

**Thur Apr 21st**

Solo Singers of the Swinging Sixties



## Monthly Meetings

2nd Monday in the month  
Currently at Stanboroughs  
Speaker 2.00 pm

**Mon Feb 14th**

Great British Eccentrics

**Mon March 14th**

TBC. at Stanboroughs **not** the Spotlight



## Hoddesdon Players

**April 7th to 9th**  
at The Spotlight



A dark comedy by Alan Ayckbourn

Hoddesdon Players Box-Office:- 07747 034869  
or email us at: [tickets@hoddesdonplayers.org.uk](mailto:tickets@hoddesdonplayers.org.uk)

Rehearsals and set building have resumed  
and the Spotlight *should* have re-opened by April!



## Hoddesdon Music Club

**Sat March 19th**

Trumpet and Organ Recital  
by Imogen Whitehead and her cousin,  
Oliver Hancock

**7:30pm, United Reformed Church,  
Broxbourne**

Tickets for non-members £14

01992 464000, [hoddesdonmusic@aol.com](mailto:hoddesdonmusic@aol.com)



Val Gudge,  
winner of the  
2021  
Golden Palette  
Award for her  
'Marine'  
pastel, with  
outgoing  
Chairman,  
Malcolm Norris



*The artist sees what others only  
catch a glimpse of.*  
**Leonardo da Vinci**

*Every artist was first an amateur*  
**Emerson**

*Artists are just children who refuse  
to put down their crayons.*  
— Al Hirschfeld



**BArts' Watercolour Classes**

**Tuesday mornings at Bollescroft**

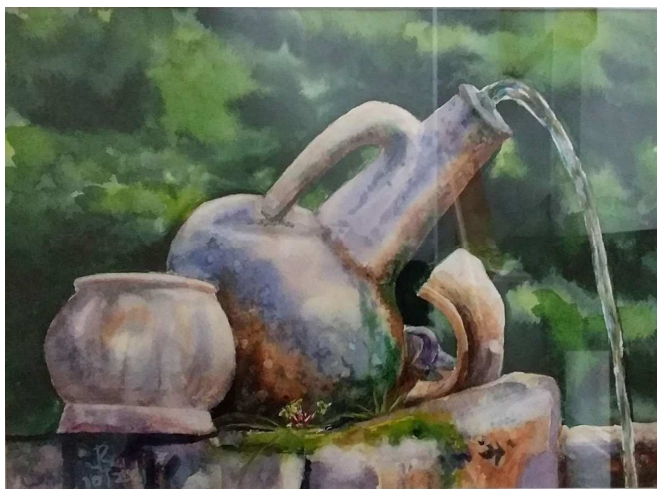
**01992 466627**



**Harbour by Val Gudge**



**Lighthouse by John Richards**



**Water Feature by John Richards**



**Eagle by Val Gudge**

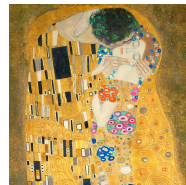


**The Arts Society East Herts  
Forthcoming Lectures**

**Feb 24th**

**Klimt and the Viennese Secession –**

*A Kiss For the Whole World*  
10.30 am at the Arched Barn,  
Westmill Farm.  
Coffee from 10.00 am



**March 31st**

**From Downton to Gatsby:**

*Jewellery and Fashion from 1890 to 1920*



10.30 am at The Spotlight

**April 28th**

**Augustus John and Gwen John**

10.30 am  
at The Spotlight



**Don't forget** that this Broadsheet is an opportunity for affiliated groups to publicise activities, perhaps recruit new members, raise an issue of concern, offer comments, suggestions, etc.....and is for BArts Sponsors, Patrons and Friends, too.

Under current, *unstable* circumstances, it is a limited *substitute* for BArts' usual 24- page printed programme until the Autumn...

**We threw away 2,500 copies in March 2020!**

**Deadline for the next issue, March 27th**

## **Broxbourne U3A Out and About With a Camera Group**

The group, set up by Peter MacArthur in late Spring 2021, meets once a month on a Friday. Beginners and experienced photographers are welcome.

It is a great mixture of photography and *sociability* and somewhere to stop for lunch is always included!

**Trips last year** The picturesque town of **Thaxted** on a hot and sunny day in June. Photography of the church and photogenic windmill

**Duxford.** to photograph the interior of St John's Church with its wall paintings and ancient graffiti.

**Hertford**, where we learnt a few facts about the history of some of the old buildings, and **Wandlebury Ring**, where there was some autumn colour to photograph.

This year, the idea is to use the expertise of the more experienced members and offer help or guidance to anyone who needs it, whether for understanding your camera controls, or improving your photography skills.

Whether you use a smart phone, a compact camera or a DSLR, all you need is an enjoyment of photography. It's a great opportunity to discover new places, too, so if you are interested in joining us please e-mail [p.macarthur@sky.com](mailto:p.macarthur@sky.com)  
Contributed by Christine Holt



**Great Chishill**



**Duxford Church**

**Hertford**



**Photographer  
at Work**

**Another selection of photographs in March**

*"Once the amateur's naive approach and humble willingness to learn fades away, the creative spirit of good photography dies with it. Every professional should remain always in his heart an amateur."*

**Alfred Eisenstaed**

*"A photographer went to a socialite party in New York. As he entered the front door, the host said 'I love your pictures - they're wonderful; you must have a fantastic camera.' He said nothing until dinner was finished, then: 'That was a wonderful dinner; you must have a terrific stove.'"*

**Sam Haskins**

**Mayhem's 15th Birthday Celebrations**



**Nicole May, Director**



**Dinner for staff, family and friends at Nonna's Kitchen**



**Mayhem's next production**

**Page To Stage**

**March 20th**



**Proposed**  
**Sunset**  
WALTHAM CROSS STUDIOS

**FOR THE BOROUGH OF BROXBOURNE**

- Modern studio campus:
- 21 sound stages with ancillary workshops,
- Offices and amenities
- On junction 25 of the M25 by the A10 interchange.
- **Boosting the local economy and more money for local services**
- **A wide range of new jobs and apprenticeships for Broxbourne**
- **Reflecting Government strategy**
- **Site close to local Colleges and Universities, many of which already offer courses feeding directly to the Film Industry.**
- **Studios will create training and apprenticeship opportunities for local people.**

**Public exhibition of plans and proposals**  
**5th February 2022, Halsey Hall, Turners Hill, Cheshunt, EN8 8NJ. 10.30—16.30.**  
**Opportunity to ask questions.**

**Online exhibition : Webinar 6.00—7.30 pm**  
**8th February .**

**You will need to register on-line to attend the live exhibition or the webinar**

**[https:// www.sunsetwalthamcrossstudios.co.uk](https://www.sunsetwalthamcrossstudios.co.uk)**

The possible *commercial* advantages of Sunset Studios seem to be fairly obvious, but what about the *cultural* benefits? Other areas in Herts where there are film studios—Elstree, Boreham Wood, Leavesden—all have *Arts Centres*. Sadly, Broxbourne isn't usually ranked among the top boroughs for 'culture' and the Arts have never *quite* managed to achieve *equal* status with Sport, although various statistics will show that just as many, if not *more* people attend / take part in arts events as sport. It has been proved that the Arts can play a valuable part in regenerating deprived areas, fostering community spirit and teamwork and contributing to mental health.

Many years ago, BArts worked with borough officers to create an Arts *policy*, but it was never *implemented* because of cost implications and lack of an Arts Officer

**Now, in 2022, the Borough of Broxbourne has a population of approx. 100,000, 2 major Sports Centres— John Warner and Laura Trott—no Arts Centres, no Art Galleries** (the BArts'-established Spotlight gallery in the bar was *closed* in September 2019, because it spoiled the look of the walls for functions) no borough-sponsored *professional Classical Music* or *professional Drama*, although there are several amateur groups attempting to plug the gaps. Unlike Harlow Playhouse, the Spotlight's audience capacity falls short of the 1,000 seat minimum required by professional, touring theatre companies.

Both Hertford and Ware—populations approx. 1/3 of Broxbourne— have a *dedicated* Arts base. Hertford has a symphony orchestra that can tackle large scale works and will soon have a theatre with a range of new facilities.....

A new year is, traditionally, a time for looking *forward*, with hope for better things, so BArts, still flying the flag against the odds for the Arts in Broxbourne, has dusted off some cherished ambitions..... We have a dream....



## *BArts' Dream ... an Arts Centre... ... somewhere in the Borough of Broxbourne*

With Reception, Bookings, Box office / Tourist office.

- Close links with The Spotlight and Lowewood, the borough Museum
- Programme of events.
- **Designated areas:-** Art studio / Art Gallery, adaptable Dance, Drama, Music Studios, for rehearsals / small-scale performances
- Pottery with kiln, Dark room for Photography, Recording Facilities, Study Area with reference material.
- **Qualified Tutors for all key subjects. Workshops**
- **Changing Rooms** / Dressing Rooms and Showers
- **Arts Equipment** - Easels, Paints and Brushes, Clay, Potters Wheel, Pianos / Keyboards, Lighting and Sound Desks, Projectors and Screens etc
- **Hire of studios, equipment. Shop for Associated Merchandise**
- **Performances, Parties, Exhibitions**
- **Arts Bar / Cafeteria for Refreshments**

Outrageously extravagant and unrealistic? Just *swap* the specifications from Arts to Sport and many are *already in place* and taken for granted in sports centres. Think what has been achieved at the White-Water Centre!

Successful businesses, charities etc usually undertake a SWOT analysis from time to time (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) to check on the health of their organisation and identify areas for improvement and it *isn't always lack of finance* that is undermining progress, but wasted opportunities and excessive bureaucracy.

In ‘Creative People and Places, A Nation-wide Arts Council Survey 2015-2018’, the Borough of Broxbourne was identified as being in the *lowest* group for Arts provision and achievement....A working party, that included BArts, was set up by the borough and spent nearly 2 years discussing ways and means to improve the situation, mindful of all the appropriate aims and PC phrases that would tick Arts Council boxes—*outreach, engage, empower, enrich, empathy, inclusivity, sustainability*....and then the pandemic struck...

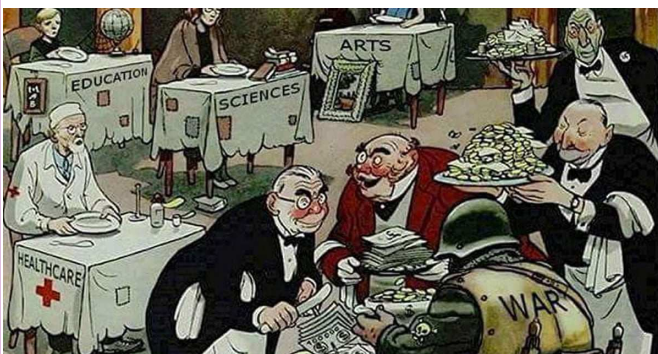
Over the past 30 years, members of BArts have been involved in *several* initiatives to improve Arts in Broxbourne. There was once a small Arts Centre attached to Lowewood Museum, which was displaced when the whole building was taken over by the museum. A 5-year campaign was fought to raise £10,000, which, with matched funding by the borough, enabled the creation of The Badger Centre for the Arts, at Cheshunt School and financed improved theatre facilities there. After several successful years, however, the school needed to reclaim space for additional pupils and the ‘centre’ ceased to exist.



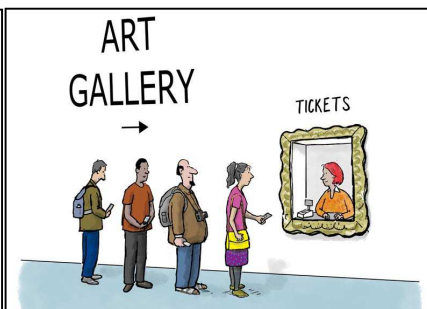
The Artful Badger

BArts have looked at various *other* buildings in the borough, that might make an alternative arts base—The Spinning Wheel, Hoddesdon, the empty Police Station, the empty building next to Asda’s, but they were all being retained for commercial re-development, which took many years to be realised.

The Spotlight is one of the borough’s greatest assets for the community, about to be re-launched after two years closure. Could the building be extended into the under-used gardens to create an Arts Centre? Could Lowewood Museum be extended into the ground floor of the Police Station, with flats above? (It has happened in other areas!) Is there a building ripe for conversion? Could an Arts Centre be included in the Brookfield plan? Could BArts’ groups raise money towards one...and seek Arts Council funding..? Is there a multi-millionaire looking for a project?! Is there an s106 agreement for the film studio planning permission?.....We have a dream.....



Good For A Laugh!



Your Heritage, Your Museum

## February 25th to Mid April, Exhibition: Fifty Years of Volunteering, *Voices from the Voluntary*

*Sector*, the culmination of a year-long project, undertaken by Broxbourne and East Herts CVS (Community Voluntary Services) and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The *social* history of an area, how voluntary groups and individuals interact and contribute to the *quality* of life, tends to be overlooked in major historical records. Since the Borough of Broxbourne has expanded and changed considerably over the last fifty years, absorbing a range of ethnic minorities and developing facilities and opportunities to sustain a healthy, rewarding life, it was a valid and worthwhile focus for the project.



From interviews with local residents and representatives of community groups, Soundbites Oral Histories and Visual records have been combined to produce an exhibition which can be on view in a semi-permanent form at Lowewood, the borough's museum, or *mobile* for display in other venues around the borough.



**Hoddesdon**

**April 23rd St. George's Day Celebrations, in conjunction with Love Hoddesdon.** St. George is claimed as the patron saint of England, although a *Greek* serving in the *Roman* army. He was sentenced to death for refusing to recant his Christian faith and particularly venerated in England since the time of the Crusades in the C13.

**April 23rd** is *also* celebrated as Shakespeare's birthday, but the evidence isn't conclusive. He *was* born during April 1564 and baptised very quickly, since plague was rife in Stratford-on-Avon at the time, but it was 'appropriate' for national pride to identify with April 23rd and St George.



**June 2nd to 5th, Coronations and Jubilees. Celebrating Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee.** Memorabilia and pictorial records from Lowewood's substantial collection, covering Queen Victoria, Edward VII, George V, George VI and Queen Elizabeth II. .

**2022 Lowewood Museum's 40th Birthday** The celebrations will take various forms during the year. Details tbc.



**Autumn 2022 Exhibition to Celebrate John Warner School's 180th Birthday** The student's work and plans for this exhibition have been affected and delayed by the pandemic restrictions, but encompass the original founding of the school, the life and work of local resident, John Warner, and the subsequent development of the school and move to its current site, with its prestigious, special Sports Centre attachment.

**2022** also marks 400 years since the completion of the substantial **Rawdon House** off the main road in Hoddesdon. Originally the property of Sir Marmaduke Rawdon, it is now, sadly, occupied by offices and not open to the public, so its historic features cannot be fully appreciated.

