

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

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**No.3. September 2020**



.....And so we are tottering towards autumn already and the blighted summer has had little chance to re-vitalise us, in spite of some warm, sunny days..... BUT... “*Are we down-hearted? No!*” (title of an old 1st World War song) . There is still much to be thankful for and to *enjoy*, as I hope this issue will demonstrate. The old proverb “ *When the going gets tough, the tough get going*” says it all, really.

## The Local Scene



Although the Spotlight remains closed, its future is under discussion, so there may be some more

positive news to come.

## Hertford Theatre

‘*Nurturing creativity*’ - offered 8 films during the last week of August.



**This message was posted on Twitter**

“*We're getting ready for our next few days of films. Our auditorium and drinks are chilled, our ice-cream freezer is stocked up and our reduced capacity means a relaxed cinema experience for everyone. See you soon?*”

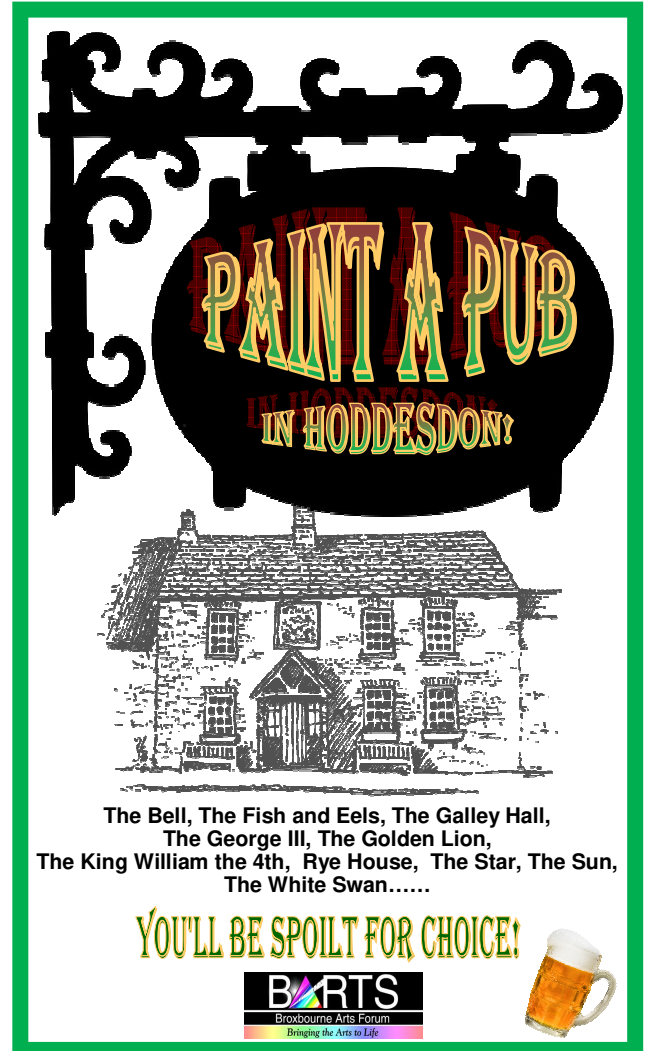


## Lowewood Museum

is hoping to be able to run one or two small scale events in October, probably on Saturdays, as a forerunner to a more substantial, revised programme in the new year.

The museum holds many records associated with Hoddesdon's pubs and breweries and these will be the focus in October, illustrated, it is hoped, by some contemporary art work by local artists.

**What would attract you to visit the museum?**




**PAINT A PUB**  
IN HODDESDON!

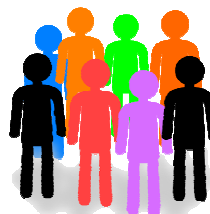
The Bell, The Fish and Eels, The Galley Hall, The George III, The Golden Lion, The King William the 4th, Rye House, The Star, The Sun, The White Swan.....

**YOU'LL BE SPOILT FOR CHOICE!**

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



**Entry form attached with this Broadsheet.**



## Around BArts' Groups

Although, in *theory*, the performing arts and entertainment venues are now permitted to resume their activities, the *practical* issues are overwhelmingly complex. Social distancing may be just *about* possible, but the cost and operation of cleaning before and after each event is enough to put off most organisations. If you *have* managed to overcome the problems, we'd be interested to hear *how* you did it!



## What the groups have been up to....

Sadly **Hoddesdon Music Club** has cancelled *all* the concerts for next term and

also the rearranged quiz on Oct 3rd.



**Lea Valley Art Society** is one group whose members can still participate in isolation. Visit their website and spend an uplifting few minutes looking at the amazing paintings being produced.

Equally impressive is the **Hoddesdon Camera Club's** website gallery, but meetings are still suspended.

Although *most* of the up to date information appears on their social media sites, the theatre schools **Jason, Mayhem, Step 2 Step, Stoller** and **Vallé** have managed to offer some 'virtual' opportunities and experiences on-line.

One or two of BArts' performing arts groups have lively social media sites, too, with links to other groups, but their *main* websites have very little *positive* information to offer to the general public while so much uncertainty remains over all performances and venues.

**Professional companies and performers** are trying hard to remain positive and active, adapting their plans where possible, but if you saw the **First Night of the Proms** on TV last week, with socially distanced musicians and an empty auditorium, the bold endeavour was still rather *depressing* to watch—an unfortunate reminder of what has been *lost*.

## Broxbourne, Cheshunt and Lea Valley Branches of the U3A



Although there are some *branch* variations, details of which may be checked via websites, the three local U3As *have* used Zoom to operate some *main* meetings with a speaker and some *group* activities. Speakers for the meetings have specially adapted their material and also made it available on-line for a short period *after* the meeting.



Several *outdoor* groups have resumed operations within government regulations. Groups that had trips and theatre visits booked, however, have been struggling to get *refunds*, since some organisations are trying to find loopholes in the small print to justify their refusal. *Performance* events still can't be envisaged as *viable* within the current restrictions, so credit notes for an indefinite period are really not acceptable.

Each of the branches' Newsletters, which are available to read on their websites, continue to offer puzzles, quizzes, cartoons and irreverent verses as well as vital news. Additional Chairman's Bulletins or Zoom chats have proved useful in the Lea Valley U3A

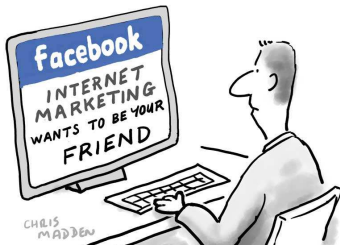
With numerous AGMs looming, nominations and voting procedures have been adapted to allow postal / on-line versions and, in some cases, the *current* annual membership period has been extended to credit for the inactive months from March.

Lea Valley members *without* e-mail have been specially targeted by telephone calls, to check that they are not suffering in isolation and have all the practical support needed.

Several of BArts' groups have tried to find alternative venues to the Spotlight. For the U3As, this is easier said than done, since main meetings may attract as many as 200 of their members. Lea Valley made a tentative booking for a *live* meeting at the Hoddesdon Conservative Club in September, but with social distancing and restricted numbers still crucial, this has now been cancelled. If their *committee* attended, only 19 other ordinary members could! Tricky, with a membership of round 700.



**Finally Covid 19 is Gone  
Now How Do We Get Out?**



## Websites v Social Media

Maintaining websites seems to be a time-consuming, universal

problem, which has become even worse since the pandemic. So many groups now channel all their news via Facebook, Twitter or Instagram etc, which is great for the *members*, or *already* initiated, (*preaching to the converted!*) but it doesn't necessarily work so well for some-one *new* looking for easily accessible, up-to-date details about activities and events and people who *don't* subscribe to social media are *excluded*.

Some websites seem to have been abandoned, as if *nothing at all* has been happening since March, when the social media sites clearly indicate otherwise. Perhaps some material could appear on the *main* website as well?

**Ed's Note** Doing on-line research recently, it's been really frustrating to find a website that offers very limited information before directing you to Facebook and more of a scattergun gossipy approach!



Subway Art Gallery in Hertford

**Herts Open Studios**  
30 days, 30 themes, 30 years  
**Sept 1st to 30th**

Please check websites for updates

**Royston Arts Festival**  
**Sept 18th to 27th**



BEFORE FACEBOOK

## Events of Interest

*but they may have been modified to comply with regulations!*

**Hertfordshire**  
**2020**  
**Year of Culture**

## Love Hoddesdon

Do you...



**Hoddesdon**

Then make sure you...

- ♥ SHOP LOCAL ♥
- ♥ EAT LOCAL ♥
- ♥ SPEND LOCAL ♥

♥ [www.lovehoddesdon.co.uk](http://www.lovehoddesdon.co.uk) ♥

Shopping locally is one of the best ways to show pride in the place you live and to help protect the businesses that make your town unique.

**Supporting local businesses is vital in keeping the community thriving.**

*Source: Gov.uk*

In the last week of August, which was the final week of the government's 'Eat Out To Help Out' scheme, sixteen local restaurants took part, offering a 50% discount to their customers.

If you *do* decide to venture out to eat, it's worth bearing in mind that there are likely to be many more windows and doors open, to allow the circulation of fresh air and minimise the risks, and you may need an extra layer of clothing handy, just in case you find yourself in a stream of cold air. (**Ed. like I did last week!**)

With exercise and the open-air very much in focus at the moment, Love Hoddesdon's website has highlighted some of the excellent local places to visit and still maintain 'social distancing' - Barclay Park, Danemead Nature Reserve, Dobb's Weir, Glen Faba and Rye House Gatehouse.

### Glen Faba is just north of Dobb's Weir



**Many thanks to all who have contributed to this issue.**  
**Deadline for copy, pictures etc for Broadsheet No. 4 is October 1st**

# BArts' Gallery

Another batch of pictures from BArts' Watercolour class, which has managed to remain active during the pandemic. Tutor, Alison Showell, sets the group a challenging subject each week and each artist can still produce something that has their own individual touch.



Geoff



Joan



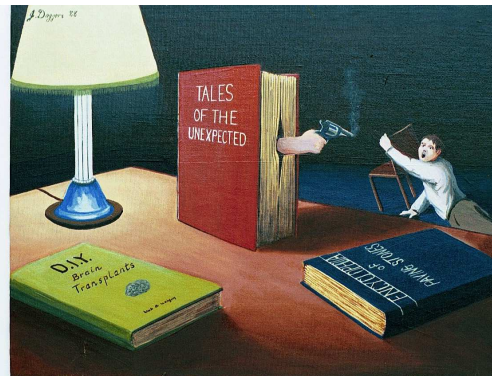
Colin



Val



Pam



Jeff

Surreal artist, Jeff Dagers, when asked what inspired him to paint particular subjects, said that he didn't really know, they just happened!

Famous artists have been asked about their inspiration and views on art.....



## Art Quotes

*"A picture is a poem without words."* **Horace**

*"Painting is poetry that is seen rather than felt."* **Da Vinci**

*"I am still learning."* **Michelangelo**

*"I dream my painting and I paint my dream."* **Van Gogh**

*"I shut my eyes in order to see."* **Gauguin**

*"I have always been a pencil."* **Lautrec**

*"Art is harmony."* **Seurat**

*"Painting is just another way of keeping a diary"* **Picasso**

*"Art should comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable."*  
**Banksy**




## Virtual Watercolour Workshops

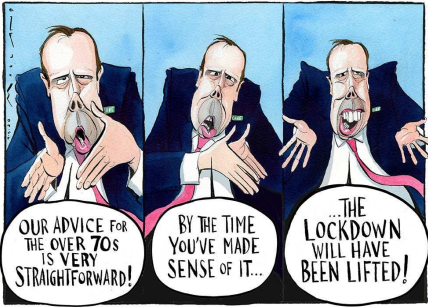
with Alison Showell

10 weeks from  
**15th Sept - 24th Nov**  
excl. 27th Oct

further details from  
Alison Gordon  
01992 466627

# Poetry

More Clerihews  
from  
Peter Garside



Matt Hancock  
Spouted poppycock.  
His 'Test, Track and Trace'  
Is a national disgrace.

Hancock (Matt)  
Said "Avoid getting fat."  
"Don't look at me."  
Said Johnson (B).

... and a couple about two long gone old timers

Sir Thomas Beecham  
Said I'll teach 'em  
To play in tune  
By this afternoon.

Walter de la Mare  
Wrote "Is anybody there?"  
The only answer to the Traveller's call  
Was an echo from the empty hall.

**The following is not a Clerihew, but  
'Doggerel' from an anonymous sceptic....**

You *must* wear a mask,  
Well, it's not much to ask,  
When you enter a shop, bus or train  
But in cafés, or pubs ....  
It's OK if you *don't*  
Could someone please try to *explain*.

What about the shop staff?  
(Someone's having a laugh)  
For it seems it's an *optional* case,  
Most employees are exempt  
So they needn't attempt  
To stock up on masks for the face!



**Ed ...The anomalies and  
inconsistencies of regulations  
continue to baffle!**

Also available in white!



## How About the Muffler?!

Partial covering of the face  
was a familiar sight in  
Mediaeval and Tudor,  
England when a *muffler*,  
a thick, woollen scarf, was  
worn by country folk, to  
protect their faces from the  
wind and the sun, but the nose  
was left free.



642.—Country Women with Mufflers. (Speed's Map of England.)

## Discrimination!

In 1571, parliament passed legislation that required all males over the age of six, except noblemen, to wear a *woollen cap* on Sundays and holidays, on pain of a fine. This was to promote the woollen trade. Other regulations came under the Sumptuary Laws, which, to maintain a distinctive social *hierarchy*, prohibited the wearing of certain fabrics and colours by the lower classes!



**French Philosopher, Author,  
Journalist and Nobel Prize  
Winner 1957,  
Albert Camus 1913-1960  
had a way of dealing with  
the 'slings and arrows of  
outrageous fortune',**

as **Barbara Cordina— Friend of BArts—**  
reminds us.....

A favourite author since my school days and my French studies, I found the following amongst my papers recently. Its relevance for our world today is striking.

*"In the midst of hate, I found there was, within me, an invincible love. In the midst of tears, I found there was, within me, an invincible smile. In the midst of chaos, I found there was, within me, an invincible calm. I realised, through it all, that in the midst of winter, I found there was, within me, an invincible summer. And that makes me happy. For it says that no matter how hard the world pushes against me, within me, there's something stronger – something better, pushing right back."*

## Are You All 'Quizzed Out'? Here are the answers to last month's and some new challenges below, if you have nothing *better* to do.

### August's General Knowledge Quiz

#### Answers

- 1 Lincolnshire & Norfolk.
- 2 Paper Clip.
- 3 Cactus.
- 4 Mobile Army Surgical Hospital.
- 5 3.
- 6 Peach.
- 7 1620.
- 8 John Lennon.
- 9 Extra Old.
- 10 London and Paris.
- 11 Snail.
- 12 August.
- 13 Washington DC.
- 14 Atlas.
- 15 John McEnroe.
- 16 A cloud.
- 17 None, Noah was in the Ark.
18. Roger Moore.
19. Circle of Animals.
20. Chicago.

### Pop Group Quiz

#### Answers

- 1 . Amen Corner
- 2 Animals
- 3 Applejacks
- 4 Bachelors
- 5 Beach Boys
- 6 Beatles
- 7 . Bee Gees
- 8 Bonzo Dog Doo Dah Band
- 9 Byrds
- 10 Chantays
- 11 Cream
12. .Crickets
13. Dakotas
- 14 Dave Clark Five
15. Dave Dee, Dozy, Beaky, Mick and Tich
- 16 Doors
- 17 Everly Brothers
- 18 Four Pennies
- 19 Four Seasons
- 20 Four Tops

## Two more to keep you going. Answers in Broadsheet No. 4

### Literature Quiz

1. Which Dickens character has been portrayed by Roger Daltrey, Michael Caine, Kelsey Grammer, Albert Finney, and Patrick Stewart?
2. Who wrote *The Day of the Triffids*, *The Chrysalids* and *The Kraken Wakes*?
3. What is Sherlock Holmes' older brother called?
4. The first line of whose poem reads 'Tyger Tyger, burning bright'?
5. Professor McGonagall is the head of Harry Potter's house, Gryffindor. What is her first name?
6. Which author also wrote the extraordinarily long running play *The Mousetrap*?
7. Who created the intelligence officer character George Smiley?
8. Which book by J.D. Salinger includes the character Holden Caulfield?
9. Which Agatha Christie character resided at St Mary Mead?
10. Which author spelt 'Tortoise' backwards?

### Art Quiz

1. Which Parisian museum shows off the *Mona Lisa*?
2. *The Card Players* is a series of paintings by which French post-impressionist?
3. Which polymath designed St Paul's Cathedral?
4. *The Creation of Eve* and *The Great Flood* are two of nine scenes on the ceiling of which Rome landmark?
5. Which artist cut off much of his own ear and later killed himself?
6. Complete the name of Johannes Vermeer 17th century painting: *The Girl With a...?*
7. Rene Magritte's *The Son of Man* portrays a man in a suit and bowler hat with what fruit covering much of his face?
8. Who sculpted *The Thinker*?
9. Which artist was particularly fond of a water lily pond?
10. *American Gothic* is a Greg Wood painting of a woman and a man standing in front of a house. What is the man holding?

