

Keeping you in touch with BArts and the local Arts scene

No.31. February 2023

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CHILLY?



Apologies! The Move That Went Wrong!

You may have been too busy to notice that there wasn't a Broadsheet for January, as your editor was in the throes of moving house. What *should* have been a smooth operation accomplished in November, suddenly became a nightmare in January, with last minute information relating to the proposed new abode that made the whole thing undesirable and risky.

Temporary accommodation with family, while most of my possessions are in store, means that I don't have access to my usual resources and I have to pick my moment for using the Internet, otherwise the various pieces of equipment in the house don't work at the same time! !!



Consultation on Broxbourne Arts, Heritage and Culture



**BOROUGH OF
BROXBOURNE**

Consultations have been taking place since just before Christmas to assess the current provision and position of Arts, Heritage and Culture in the Borough of Broxbourne. BArts and many of our affiliated groups have attended Zoom meetings to be interviewed by an appointed consultant and other local organisations and individuals have been encouraged to register their observations and opinions in an on-line form. The closing date for this was January 12th.

The consultation seems to have inspired one or two local councillors to find out a bit more about BArts and its activities and even to consider dropping in on one of our popular Let's Do Lunch events!

We have been involved in several similar initiatives over the past twenty years or so, but, since recommendations usually involve a higher level of funding, none has led to the sort of improvements we would hope for. Without a proper, experienced Arts Officer, who understands the needs and potential opportunities for Art and Crafts, Dance, Literature, Music and Theatre in the borough and has a bit of essential 'vision', the current situation is unlikely to change much. Regular borough officers, possibly responsible for several different areas of administration, and with little or no experience of the arts in particular, are really not the best people, however willing they might be.

There is, in fact, a huge amount of artistic endeavour and activity within the Borough of Broxbourne, and, apart from the popular culture offered at the Spotlight, many voluntary groups who struggle to get adequate funding and publicity. Sadly, some tend to work within their own small corners, without being aware of each other, or possible opportunities for co-operation.

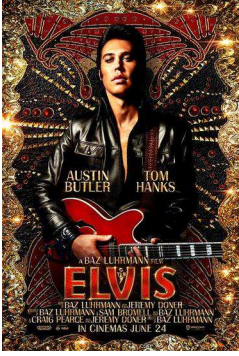
At one time, Broxbourne wasn't a regular subscriber to the Arts Council so its reputation outside the borough wasn't good. Attending conferences etc. wearing a little Borough of Broxbourne name tag, and people peering to see where you were from were likely to remark "*Oh, Broxbourne! The cultural desert!*"



the Spotlight Dinant Room Cinema



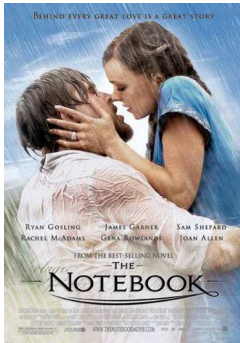
February



February 7th, 8th and 9th

Elvis

The life and music of Elvis Presley



February 14th

The Notebook

A poor young man falls in love with a rich young woman.



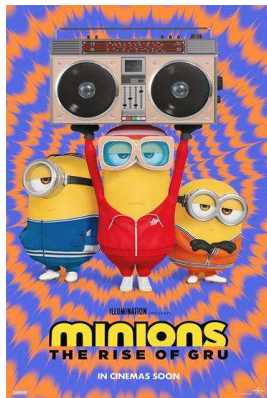
February 15th and 16th

The Phantom of the Open

Not the musical, but a comedy about pursuing your dreams and shooting for the stars, no matter what hand you're dealt.

For times, prices and booking, see thespotlightvenue.com

Or call 01992 441946 between 10.00 am & 2.00 pm



February 17th and 18th

Minions 2: The Rise of Gru

A 12 year old's dream to become the world's greatest super-villain



February 20th, 21st and 22nd

Based on a true story about Fisherman's Friends, a group of Cornish fishermen from Port Isaac who were signed by Universal Records and achieved a top 10 hit with their debut album of traditional sea shanties.

Support your local mini-cinema, or it may disappear!

Don't forget BArts' regular events—light lunches with entertainment to cheer you through the dreary days of winter!

Pre-booking is *essential* for Let's Do Lunch, as we plan menus and seating in advance. We can't cater for specific dietary requirements, but there is usually cheese, several salad items and fresh crusty bread. Please advise if you are a wheelchair user, so that we can pre-arrange space. We have a choice of a glass of red or white wine, or fruit juice, included in the ticket price. Additional servings available for £2.00



Our talk is in two sections either side of lunch. We usually finish by around 2.45 pm

12.00 noon. Dinant Room, The Spotlight

Tickets £16.00 01992 441946

EARLY PRE-BOOKING ADVISED FOR BARTS' REGULAR EVENTS

March 15th The Mists of Time *Nostalgia for the way England used to be*

May 19th Celebrity Cause *Too many young people want to be famous above anything else.....*

June 14th Town and Country *Contrasting life styles in modern Britain*

July 21st 'Movers and Shakers' *People who've made their mark on the world*

Broxbourne Arts Forum's talks on a wide variety of subjects are illustrated with music and served with a dash of humour, a 2-course lunch and a glass of wine!

'My Kind Of Music'

Free piano concert

Feb 1st, March 1st, April 5th, May 3rd

The best of all kinds of music played for you by Barbara Manning

12.00—2.00 pm, The Spotlight Café Bar

Call 01992 441946 to book a table for lunch



Around BArts' Groups in February



Feb 8th Floral Art. 'Books and Me', demonstration by Peter Bodnar.
Hoddesdon Floral Art Society. 2 - 4pm, Jackson Hall, Burford Street,
 Hoddesdon. 01992 442907.



Feb 13th Lea Valley u3a. Walking the Beat to Nirvana. From bus driver in
 Banbury to a firearms officer charged with protecting Margaret Thatcher
Speaker: Mervyn Edwards. **2.00 pm at the Spotlight** lvu3a.org.uk



Feb 16th Broxbourne u3a. History of the Imperial War Museum Duxford
Speaker: David Allars. **10.00 am at the Spotlight** broxbourneu3a.org.uk



Feb 19th Music Opening Concert by the new 'It's Good to Sing'
 Ladies Choir. 3.15pm, Place House, Ware.



Feb 23rd The Arts Society East Herts Dazzling Dufy:
 Invitation to a Luminous Feast with Raoul Dufy. **10.30 am at the**
Spotlight info@theartsocietyeastherts.org.uk



Feb 23rd 'Reliving Our Own Story' by Andrew Baker. Monthly meeting
 of **Cheshunt u3a** from 1.30pm at Laura Trott Leisure Centre, Cheshunt. Guest
 speaker at approx 2.30pm. **Secretary Christine Luff 01992 621543.**
 email: cheshuntu3a@gmail.co.uk



At the Spotlight Last week's **Question Time** programme was screened
 from the Spotlight, with a carefully selected live audience, apparently to
 represent a balance of different views. Interested people had to apply and fill
 out a questionnaire with details of age, political preference, past and future
 voting etc. presumably to exclude potentially violent extremists. BArts'
 Treasurer attended and found it an interesting experience, although the
 programme was devoted exclusively to the NHS.



"The absolute first building block keystone of the BBC is delivering impartial, unbiased news." **Mark Thompson, BBC Director General 2009**

Panto Performers!



Jason Theatre School in Broxbourne Theatre Company's 'Sleeping Beauty'



The Stoller School of Dancing in The Spotlight's professional pantomime "Beauty and the Beast"

Three of BArts' affiliated theatre groups took part in pantomimes at Christmas—Jason Theatre School, Mayhem Theatre Arts and the Stoller School of Dancing—an exciting and valuable experience for the young students and an exhausting commitment for the parents, who had to get them to each performance on time and chaperone for the whole evening.



SIENNA C



DAISY-MAE F



SCARLETT-ROSE F



MEGAN V.



Congratulations to the theatre schools and their talented students!



Lowewood MUSEUM

For the Borough of Broxbourne

Lowewood Museum, in Hoddesdon, has been closed since just before Christmas to enable some vital in-depth cleaning, painting and reorganisation to take place. A team of valiant volunteers has been hard at work to give the museum a new look for the new year and it re-opened on Saturday, January 28th. There is a very full programme of new exhibitions and events planned, with something of interest for every age group.

FREE
JUST POP-IN

LOWEWOOD WOOLLY CRAFTERS

Upcoming dates 2023:

Tuesday 10th January 2-4pm
Tuesday 24th January 2-4pm
Tuesday 7th February 2-4pm
Tuesday 21st February 2-4pm

A new informal group of knitters who meet to create projects. In the Lowewood cafe.

Lowewood MUSEUM Heritage Fund

FREE

HALF-TERM EGYPTOLOGY DAYS

Wednesday 15 February 2023
10.30am-3pm
Quiet hour 3-4pm (by reservation only)*

Thursday 16 February 2023
10.30am-4pm

DO YOU KNOW?
IT IS ALMOST 100 YEARS SINCE THE TOMB OF TUTANKHAMUN WAS DISCOVERED! THE MUMMY OF THE PHARAOH AND OTHER TREASURES FROM OVER 3,000 YEARS AGO WERE FINALLY FOUND.

Come and celebrate the amazing culture of ancient Egypt:

- Craft activities
- Bring your favourite soft toy and have it mummified!
- Discover more about Hieroglyphics

Feb 7th and 21st
Woolly Crafters

Feb 15th and 16th
Egyptology

Your Heritage, Your Museum!

FOOD AT THE MUSEUM

Fundraising lunch with

Khaya Kitchen

Join us for hot, freshly served African Caribbean cuisine at the museum!

From £7.50 per meal

Saturday 18 February 2023
11am-4pm

Feb 18th

Khaya Kitchen

Feb 25th and last Saturday of every month

Story Time

STORIES @ THE MUSEUM

Bring your little ones along for Storytime at the museum. What is your favourite story? Bring your own story books to share with others.

$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$

Last Saturday of every month (beginning 25 Feb 2023)
@ The Lowewood museum café, 2-3pm

Admission is free but donations are welcome.

LOWEWOOD MUSEUM IS LOOKING FOR NEW PROJECT IDEAS AND YOU ARE INVITED!

Your Heritage, Your Museum.

Help ensure our museum reflects the heritage of those living in Broxbourne today.

Are you passionate to...

- Share unheard local stories?
- Research hidden gems in Broxbourne's history?



The tag line 'Your Heritage, Your Museum.' will become very much a guiding principle during the coming year, as Lowewood Museum invites Borough of Broxbourne residents to suggest new projects for the museum to undertake and, ideally, for members of the public to become involved in.

A drop-in day will be organised very soon, so that interested people can share ideas.

Hoddesdon Library

Hoddesdon Library acquired a new manager last September, Caroline Wild, whose past experience includes entertainment and events. At her invitation, a member of BArts' team went to meet her to discuss the possibility of co-operative community projects.



The library will be designating May 2023 as 'History Month' and it was agreed that there could be a focus on Tudor Hoddesdon, since there are several Tudor buildings in the High St and various public houses that go back to the C16, or even earlier.

Mayhem Theatre and Creative Arts will be one of the participating groups, with young students performing a drama and dance piece about Henry VIII's six wives.

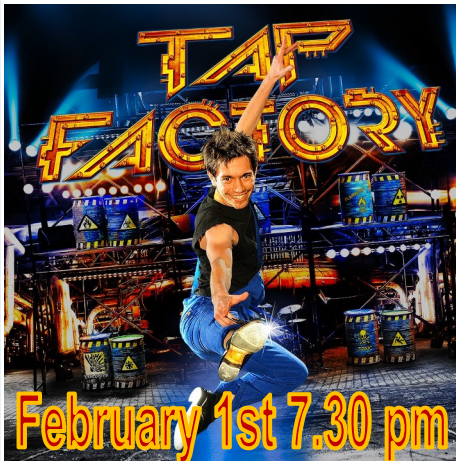
The White Swan



Congratulations to Mayhem, who have just won a Love Hoddesdon business award in the category Community/ Charity Business of the Year .



what's On Elsewhere?



Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage,

February 1st, 7.30 pm. Tickets £28

Box Office: 01438 363 200

Email: enquiries.gordoncraig@sll.co.uk

Take 12 oil barrels, one step-ladder, four bins and a bucket. Blend with the breath-taking tap dancing of eight male performers. The result is Tap Factory, a potent cocktail of dance, acrobatics, music and comedy that is a must-see show for all the family.

Harlow Playhouse,

February 10th, 8.00 pm. Pay What You Can

01279 431945 harlowplayhouse.co.uk

Shakespeare hasn't written anything new for an age, so we thought we would give him a hand... Using his language, your audience suggestions, and our overactive imaginations, we create a brand-new Shakespeare play live on stage, complete with live music, songs and plenty of laughs.

Join ShakeItUp for an evening of Bard-Based Bedlam!



Southern Maltings Ware.

February 26th, 3.00—5.00 pm, Tickets £12

07864 941546 info@southernmaltings.co.uk



HAMLET'S FOUR SEASONS OF THEATRE GOING

SUMMER It's too hot to sit in a stuffy theatre.	AUTUMN It's too windy to sit in a drafty theatre.	WINTER It's too cold to sit in a gloomy theatre.	SPRING It's too nice to sit in any theatre.
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