

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

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No 4. October 2020



### Looking forward to.....perhaps a rather *different* Arts scene?!

Although we may be reluctant to acknowledge it, it looks very much as if *some* aspects of the Arts may have to make *drastic* changes in order to survive. With most performance venues still not open after 6 months, the prospects of returning to 'normal' aren't good, so we need to find ways of operating within the regulations.



This year's Prom Concerts from the Albert Hall were screened with the musicians socially distanced, but no live audience. Sadler's Wells theatre has been offering on-line dance workshops and screening innovative contemporary ballet....It's going to take a lot of getting used to, but it's surely better than *nothing*.

**Zoom!** must be the *buzz* word of the year (Ed. Sorry!) Don't knock it until you've tried it! It can really work quite well, as some of our BArts' groups are beginning to discover.

If you have the necessary equipment—**ie** "A laptop computer, desk top computer, smartphone, or tablet, an internet connection, speakers, a microphone, and a webcam, either built-in or attached to your computer or mobile device" - then all you need to do is click on a link. provided by the host and it's pretty much like watching TV.

Zooming at home can be very casual and, while you may take the trouble to ensure that your background is looking good, you don't have to worry too much about what you're wearing below the waist! There's the handy option of hitting the 'Leave Meeting' icon, too, if you get fed up...and you can always claim a tech. failure!



### A New Beginning

The Lowewood Museum steering group has agreed a draft constitution to form a charity and is in the process of canvassing views from local groups. *Your* group may have already received a letter inviting comments and suggestions, but *individuals* are also welcome to share their views via BArts, using the e-mail / telephone number above.

A small-scale meeting is planned for **October 8th in the Council chamber**, with presentations from a couple of museums that have achieved success as a CIO— a Charitable Incorporated Organisation— which offers flexibility and limited liability. **The meeting is subject to government regulations, which may change at short notice.**





It looks as though the **BArts' Exhibition** planned for Lowewood in October may now have to take place in *November* instead.

Preparing risk assessments, cleaning the building and devising appropriately spaced displays and routes to viewing is likely to take longer than anticipated and is still susceptible to changes in regulations.

There has been an encouraging response from local artists, however, with some entry forms already received and others promised within the next few days.



### Rethinking BArts' Regular Activities?

Although the *bulk* of BArts' usual programme is provided by the 31 affiliated groups, there are several types of *regular* events that the BArts' team organise that have proved popular over the years—Let's Do Lunch, My Kind of Music, Time For Tea, Behind the Scenes and the Arts Exhibitions that *were* in the Spotlight bar.

The exhibitions stopped this time last year, after the café-bar had been refurbished, because the Spotlight would no longer allow anything on the walls (!)

Trying to find ways of modifying the *other* events to make them viable again is proving very difficult. **Behind the Scenes** involves a back-stage tour, so that's out. **Let's Do Lunch** and **Time For Tea** would require serving food in a socially distanced environment, which would make them financially impossible. *Half* an audience for anything is creepy! (**Ed.** I've played matinées on a rainy afternoon!) and **My Kind of Music** relies on people having lunch in the Spotlight, or simply dropping in for a coffee.

The themes of the lunches *could* be transferred to Zoom, but all the 'social' aspect would be lost, as would the informal atmosphere and the vital rapport between performers and audience..... We're still working on the problem!

**Hertford Theatre** has produced a video with full details of the exciting plans for its £ multi-million re-development, which include an extended capacity auditorium from 400 to 550 seats, a balcony, a new 150 seat studio, triple screen cinema, exhibition space, riverside café-bar and links with the historic Hertford Castle.



There is an introduction by theatre manager, Rhys Thomas, and the project's architect and a 'virtual' tour of how the new building will look and fit into the town setting. While you may not be a *fan* of modern architecture, the key principles are artistic vision, flexibility of use and a business plan to ensure viability and self-sufficiency. The video can be accessed via [Growth and Legacy Project | Hertford Theatre](https://www.hertfordtheatre.com/growth-and-legacy-project)



Meanwhile, there are socially-distanced films showing. October's programme includes: **David Attenborough, Hope Gap, Tenet, The Roads Not Taken, The Man in the Hat**, an encore screening of **Michael Ball and Alfie Boe** and an updated version of **The Secret Garden starring Julie Walters and Colin Firth.**  
**ON-LINE BOOKINGS ONLY**  
<https://www.hertfordtheatre.com/events/whats-on>



There's a local humorist at work... A BArts' supporter telephoned to say that he had seen a pile of local estate agent '**SOLD**' signs stacked up near the entrance to the Spotlight...



**Covid Theatre— another mask and extra leg-room!**





## Around BArts' Groups

This is clearly still a very difficult time for most of BArts' groups, who are struggling to retain members and activities within the constraints of Covid regulations.

September, as the start of the 'academic' year, is often a time for announcing plans for the next twelve months and recruiting *new* members, but, as the pandemic situation can change rapidly from one day to the next, this is proving virtually impossible. Just *how* can you present an attractive website and maintain a vibrant, positive attitude when there are so many *limitations* on what can be offered?

Of our 31 affiliated groups, 6 are *businesses*, not just leisure groups, so the pressure is even greater to sustain a *living*. Three of the theatre schools have produced some very positive images and ideas on-line to keep going....

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Jason Theatre School and The Daniela Ruggiero Scholarship Fund present...

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The Daniela Ruggiero Scholarship Fund



**The Stoller School of Dancing** has routine temperature checking before students can take part in a live class.

Trawling through other groups' websites, most have announcements of activities postponed or re-scheduled, some sites are actually declared 'non-active', or their 'news' is several months out of date, but some of the Art groups and **Hoddesdon Camera Club** have lovely, cheerful displays of work produced by individuals, who can, of course, still pursue their interests at home.



Of our three U3As, **Broxbourne U3A** currently has **Chair Yoga** and **Sunday Pub Lunches** on offer, but the rest of their activities are suspended.

**Cheshunt U3A** lists updates on their website and quite a few of their *outdoor* activities have resumed *plus Canasta, Cribbage, Chess, Rummikub, Card Making, Photography* and **Tap Dancing** under appropriate conditions.

**Lea Valley U3A** has extended its current membership subscription for an extra 4 months. They have held some main meetings via Zoom, with originally booked speakers also delivering their talks with appropriate illustrations. **Astronomy, Family History, French** and **Line Dancing** are among groups managing to maintain on-line meetings.

One problem that all U3As have had to deal with is claiming *refunds* for trips, days out, theatre visits etc. involving maybe as many as 50 people, with entry ticket, coach and meal out. Most coach companies have been very co-operative and the London theatres have organised full refunds, but the whole process has taken nearly *6 months* to complete!

**The Arts Society East Herts**, has, like **Broxbourne Theatre Company**, now booked **Hertford Theatre** until the summer of 2021, for when live meetings become possible again. In the meantime, their programme of lectures will be continuing on line.

This highlights the very real danger that the long-term closure of the Spotlight will force groups to seek *other* venues, even *outside* the Borough, and possibly not *want* to return to the Spotlight. Depleted regular business at our local venue might then provide further justification for *permanent* closure, because of reduced income.

## Reminder!

**Joint statement from Jim McManus, Director of Public Health at Herts County Council, and Lewis Cocking, Leader of Broxbourne Council**

*"We can confirm that COVID-19 infection rates in the Borough of Broxbourne have been rising, with all age groups affected, so we need all residents to carefully follow the government's guidance to minimise the risks of spreading the virus any further."*





Dune Sunrise Chris Holt



Gone To Lunch Allan Reece



Only 9 Euros Peter Fennell



The West Pier Rana Williams

Have you missed out on your summer holiday this year? Feeling low with all the depressing news? These stunning pictures may help to lift your spirits!

**Pictures by Hoddesdon Camera Club**



The Rialto Bridge Joan Facey

# BArts' Gallery

**Two paintings of Venice  
by members of the  
Lea Valley Art Society**



The Grand Canal Maggie Gibbs



Painting the Sea by Numbers

**Another  
example  
of  
Jeff Dagers'  
surrealist  
humour**

**Lowewood Art Group  
Secretary, Joan Styles'  
paintings**

**Some of these pictures may  
be for sale.**

**If you're interested, call  
01992 465383  
for details and price.**







After nearly six months of disaster, doom and gloom, you've probably realised that the Pandemic of 2020 will be recorded in history as a significant, major event, rather like the Plague and Fire of 1665 / 1666, or the Two World Wars and children of the future may well ask "What did you do during Covid 19? Well.... What have you been doing?

## What Have You Done?

So what have *you* done during Covid  
Have you tidied the garden shed,  
Sorted out the mess in the garage,  
Or slumped in an armchair instead?

Rediscovered some neglected hobbies,  
Got rid of those out of date clothes,  
Spent a little more 'quality' time with the kids,  
Organised the drawer full of photos?



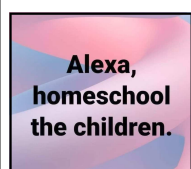
Is your lawn now weed free and immaculate,  
Your freezer stocked up with home-mades?  
Did you get round to shredding bank statements  
Or revelled in money you've saved?!

Is your re-cycling box full of cardboard  
From Amaz..*ing* shopping on line?  
But your gin's now depleted, your tonic is flat  
And you keep running out of red wine?!

Have you started that novel you promised,  
Caught up with the books still unread,  
*Finally* painted the downstairs loo—  
Or just spent extra time in your bed?

Have you written the family history,  
Dealt with Power of Attorney and Will,  
Watched endless repeats on each channel  
And of Poirot had more than your fill?

Maybe reminisced over holidays  
When, free as a bird, *you* could fly,  
Or remembered a night of theatre?  
Oh, for pleasures that money *could* buy!

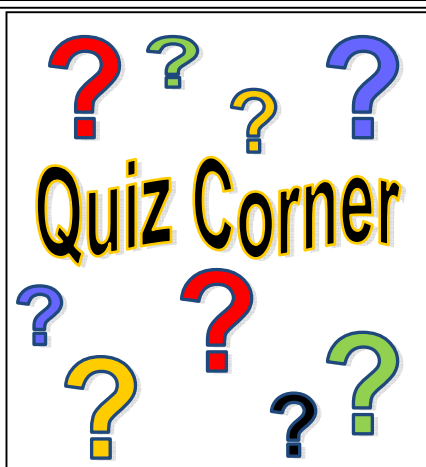


Though you've coped with not seeing the in-laws  
And working from home's not been bad  
Did spending *all day* with your partner  
And home-schooling kids drive you mad?

Now the autumn and winter are looming  
It's colder, with nights drawing in,  
The virus, it seems, is *re-peaking*  
But your patience is now a bit *thin*.

You're fed up with the masks and the mantras  
The limited life is a *pain*,  
But you'd better start making 'to do' lists  
'Cos it's likely to happen again! *Ellar*





## Literature Quiz Answers

1. Scrooge
2. John Wyndham
3. Mycroft
4. Blake
5. Minerva
6. Agathe Christie
7. John le Carré.
8. Catcher in the Rye
9. Miss. Marple
10. Roald Dahl

## Art Quiz Answers

1. Louvre
2. Cézanne
3. Christopher Wren
4. Sistine Chapel
5. Van Gogh
6. Pearl Earring
7. Apple
8. Rodin
9. Monet
10. Pitchfork

## Two New Quizzes Answers in next BArts' Broadsheet

### Classical Music

1. Which composer was able to write in spite of becoming almost totally deaf in later life?
2. About which composer was the 1984 film Amadeus?
3. Which one of the following composers wrote the six Brandenburg Concertos?
  - a: Johann Sebastian Bach
  - b: Fryderyk Franciszek Chopin
  - c: Franz Liszt
4. Pomp & Circumstance March No 1 by Sir Edward William Elgar is better known as what?
5. With which musical instrument do we associate Sir Yehudi Menuhin?
6. Which of the following is the location of the annual Promenade Concerts, or "Proms", held in London?
  - a: Royal Festival Hall
  - b: Royal Albert Hall
  - c: The Barbican Centre
7. To which family of musical instruments does the bassoon belong?
8. The Hallelujah Chorus comes from which work, often performed at Christmas?
9. La Boheme, The Marriage of Figaro, Rigoletto and Aida are all examples of what?
10. What term is used to describe a composition in which one or more solo instruments are assigned leading roles, often with orchestral accompaniment?

### Dance

1. What nationality was ballet star Rudolf Nureyev?
2. Who was Ginger Roger's most famous dancing partner?
3. Which dancer 'sang in the rain'?
4. How many dancers feature in a pas de deux?
5. What kind of dances are Hamilton House and Petronella?
6. What ballet company is resident at London's Royal opera House?
7. What colour of ballet shoes did Hans Christian Anderson write about?
8. What was Margot Fonteyn's real name?
9. Who wrote the music for The Nutcracker?
10. Of which ballet is Prince Siegfried the hero?



## SMILE PLEASE !!!



There is a story of two dogs.... Both at separate times walk into the same room. One comes out wagging his tail, while the other comes out growling. A woman watching this goes into the room to see what could possibly make one dog so happy and the other so mad. To her surprise she finds a room full of mirrors. The happy dog found a thousand happy dogs looking back at him while the angry dog saw only angry dogs growling back at him.

**WHAT YOU SEE IN THE WORLD AROUND YOU IS A REFLECTION OF WHO YOU ARE!**

*Barbara Cordina – Friend of BArts*

*giftaid it*



### Your BArts' Subscription

**£1 + 25% = £1.25**

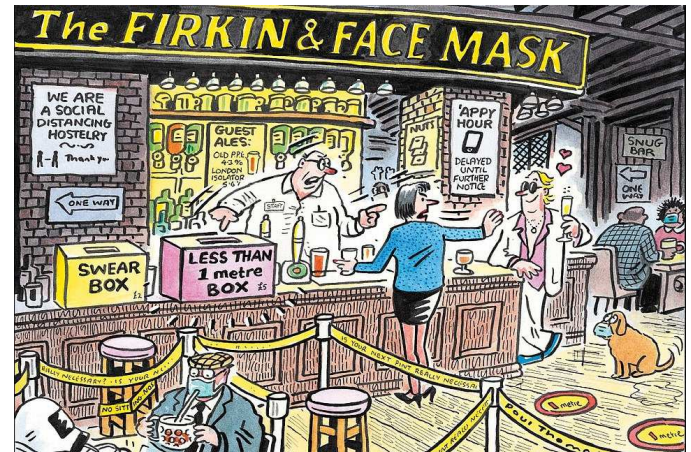
Members will know that BArts became a Registered Charity (No. 1188425) in March. I am pleased to tell you that we have just been recognised as a charity by HMRC, which means that we can reclaim Gift Aid on members' subscriptions, adding another 25% to their value. So far, a good proportion of our members have completed declarations. If you are a taxpayer and are happy to do so, we would love to hear from you as well. The form was sent out with the renewal documents in March, but we would be pleased to send another.

Call Malcolm on 01992 466627 or e-mail [info@broxbournearts.org.uk](mailto:info@broxbournearts.org.uk).



"It's just that I find that having two glasses of wine at once stops me touching my face..."

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As a registered charity, BArts has been invited to participate in the scheme, which currently has 24,000 charities of all sizes signed up. The benefits may be modest, *i.e.* it would take £31,200 of allocated sales to reach our current Broxbourne Lottery income. (**Ed.** Another 6 months of Lockdown should do it!). We'll confirm when all the formalities have been completed.

**All information in this edition of BArts' Broadsheet was believed to be accurate at the time of going to press.**

**Copy deadline for the November edition will be **October 25th.****