

Keeping you in touch with BArts and the local Arts scene

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By the time you get to read this, the second 'lock-down' may be over, or *extended*, with our traditional, family Christmas in jeopardy. 'Virtual' contact via Facetime, Zoom etc won't be the same, but we've had a bit of practice over the last few months and we've proved spirited and resourceful at coping with unprecedented circumstances. So, we'll '*drown our sorrows...eat, drink and be merry*'...yes, but this may be an opportunity to touch the 're-set' button and *ditch* some of the more extravagant, commercial aspects of Christmas....Food for *thought*, perhaps....



Update on The Spotlight Things are looking up!

Local organisations that are regular users of the Spotlight may already have been contacted and invited to discuss and submit their

views and suggestions for improvements at the Spotlight in 2021.* This is an opportunity to make a *real* difference!

The initiative is the first step by the appointed consultants, Fourth Street, who have been involved in numerous prestigious projects such as Shakespeare's Globe Theatre and the British Film Institute on the Thames South Bank, Alexandra Palace and Brighton's Royal Pavilion.

Together with recent details of works to be carried out at the Spotlight during the closure, this may be some re-assurance that the building is *not* in imminent danger of being sold off for other purposes and could soon be operating more efficiently to become a *real focus* for the arts and leisure in the community.



A budget has been agreed to cover the vital removal of asbestos in numerous areas of the building and the replacement of the old, inefficient boiler and heating system. This budget is quite separate from the recent award of £133k .

***Members of our *affiliated* groups should submit their suggestions to their group committee.**

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Hoddesdon



Christmas Plans

Lighting of the Clock Tower, Fawkon Walk, Jubilee Shelter and some High St. trees.

Nonna's Kitchen is sponsoring the 25ft Christmas Tree by the War Memorial.

Shops will decorate their windows to create a '**Window Wonderland**'

'Give a Christmas Smile' Project
B3 Living, local councillors and The Food Pantry will be delivering a bit of Christmas cheer, in the form of a food parcel and a gift, to isolated, elderly/vulnerable residents and families who cannot provide for their children,

Mark White of **Your Town** invites you to run or walk '**A Grateful Mile**' *every day* in December, improve your general well-being and finish 2020 on a *positive* note! Sign up at www.rungrateful.com It's free!

Please shop locally at Christmas!



Lowewood Museum All the necessary plans are now in place for the museum to become a **Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)** in April 2021, with five Trustees, an agreed budget for the first year, and a framework of initiatives and developments in three stages—Current, Short Term and Long Term—all dependent on the Covid 19 situation and prevailing regulations.

The museum already has a number of dedicated supporters, some of whom are volunteers in the regular ‘behind the scenes’ work, but would welcome more. If you are interested in becoming a Friend of Lowewood, you are invited to apply in good time for the launch and re-opening.

Friends of Lowewood

Membership Form

Annual membership is £8 single, £15 family
(Membership renewed in April each year)

To become a Friend of Lowewood Museum, please complete this form and send it to Lowewood Museum, High Street, Hoddesdon EN11 8BH, along with cash or a cheque for the amount above. Please make cheques payable to The Friends of Lowewood Museum

Title: Mr / Mrs / Miss / Other

First Name(s):

Surname:

Address:

Post Code:

Telephone no: (optional):

Email:

Gift Aid Please tick if you would like to gift aid your donation

Friends of
**Lowewood
Museum** 
Helping ensure the future of our museum



Around BArts' Groups

Herts Showtime Dancers
Jason Theatre School,
Mayhem Theatre Arts
Step 2 Step Dance Academy
The Stoller School of Dancing
The Valle Academy



This is a particularly tough time for our six affiliated dance and theatre schools , as it is for the whole entertainment industry. During the first lockdown there was quite a *positive* response to on-line / Zoom activities, but the novelty seems to have worn off a little. Youngsters, in particular, really don't enjoy dance / drama in this form as much as the usual live lessons and are beginning to drop out, which is bad news for businesses. Sadly, government and local authority financial support may prove to be inadequate in the long-term.

Love Hoddesdon has been absolutely brilliant for its business community, with E-mailed bulletins at 8.30 every morning and lots of detailed advice on regulations, safety etc .

The majority of our *other* groups are still obliged to be inactive, with numerous productions and events postponed and no real idea of *when* they might be possible.

However, individual pursuits like Art and photography, can, of course, continue *regardless* of lock-downs and can be an absorbing, fruitful distraction.



More Group News.....

Some courses, talks and lectures presented by the recently formed **BALL - (Broxbourne Adult Leisure Learning) The Arts Society East Herts** and local **U3As** have also managed to go ahead by adapting to 'virtual' mode.

Many self-employed lecturers have tried to sustain their income by diversifying to run on-line events for groups of individuals from almost *anywhere* in the world!

Ed's Note *I have just completed a six week poetry course that included an American from the mid-west, one from New York and one from Seattle, as well as other Herts residents!*

BALL's course on **Film Music and Special Effects** has attracted around 20+ regular participants on Thursday mornings, who've enjoyed discovering the secrets of using miniature models, painted backgrounds and live 'takes' in films like 'King Kong'



Cheshunt U3A has *three* events scheduled for Zoom during December - **December 2nd 2.00 to 4.00 pm**

Learn, laugh, live 'Shakespeare; the Man' talk by *Emma Butcher, Actor*



'Writing a play, from Story to Stage' talk by *Kate Miller, playwright*

December 9th 2.00-4.00pm 'Fools Gold'

Musical Act of Festive entertainment

December 16th 2.00 to 4.00 pm Dave Willis - Herts and Middlesex Trust

'The Meads project'

Lea Valley U3A will be hosting a **Group Leaders Meeting** on **December 7th**. This is usually a rather jolly affair with *lunch*, but this year people have been invited to *zoom* in and maybe have their own glass of wine and a mince pie instead! Retention of membership and new year prospects will be among the subjects to be discussed.



The Family History Group will hold their final *virtual* meeting of the year wearing Christmas jumpers and offering items about family Christmas in the past, or the origins of some of the old traditions.

The last *main* meeting of the year for the Lea Valley U3A on **December 14th** will include a talk on 'Mad Musicians and Crazy Dancers' ... via Zoom, of course.

Answers to the Art and Literature Quiz in Broadsheet No. 5.

- 1.London and Paris
- 2.Louvre
- 3.Monet
- 4.Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire
- 5.Sistine Chapel
- 6.Midsummer Night's Dream
- 7.Mark Haddon
8. C15
9. Liverpool and St. Ives
- 10.Wendy, Michael, John
11. Rodin
- 12.Wuthering Heights



"It's my support group for Zoom Fatigue Syndrome."

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Are you into Retail Therapy? Some of us tend to get carried away at Christmas and shop until we drop; now there's on-line...but shopping isn't *quite* the same...



A Modern Christmas (Bah! Humbug!)

1. At Christmas time,
The church bells chime
(And how the tills all ring)
In honour of 'a god on high'
The carol singers sing.



2. In the bleak mid-winter,
The supermarkets play
The sentimental Christmas hits
To tempt us all to pay
For gifts that no-one needs (or wants) —
Let nothing you dismay!

3. Tho' times are hard, the credit card
We flash instead of cash
And deeper into debt we get
To buy a load of trash.



4. What can I get *him*, poor as I am?
Perhaps some socks or after-shave
(Have you seen the price of lamb?!)



5. Perhaps for *her* some perfume?
(Not myrrh or frankincense!)
But 'heavenly' scent from Paris...
Don't think of the expense!

6. At nearly £60 a drop,
This sort of Christmas cheer
Is blatant profiteering...
In other words, *too* dear!

7. Caught in the commerce of Christmas,
We've lost sight of the simple joy;
And sadly, instead, greed and gluttony rule
In the name of a baby boy.

8. Could this year, perhaps, be *different*—
Offer *one* gift..., who really *needs* more?
Then maybe support the homeless,
Or a food bank in your local store?

9. Do you shop *on line* for convenience?
Then, of course, you won't need a *mask*.
A couple of clicks, the delivery's quick—
And you'll get virtually all that you ask.

10. But you could 'bring a smile',
(via Amazon!)
Help BArts, or *your* charity choice,
Make the *best* of this difficult Christmas,
Be thankful and *hopeful*! Rejoice!

Ellar

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

to BArts

Do You Speak the Lingo? Language is always developing and changing, but the pace has speeded up over the last decade or so, particularly in relation to technology and Internet use, with nouns becoming verbs and adjectives becoming adverbs and completely new words being invented.....A small selection to make you think!

Bling	E-moji	Hoodie	Logjam	Selfie	Twoc
Blog	Face-time	Hotdesk	Mega	Slum-dog	Uber
Brexit	Firewall	I-Pad	Newby	Snackable	Unfriend
Broadband	Flash-mob	I-Phone	Phishing	Snailmail	Upcycle
Bubble	Glamping	ISA	Podcast	Spam	Virtual
Buzzword	Google	Jeggings	Quorn	Spin Doctor	Wag
Crowd-fund	Grunge	Ladette	Rave	Text	Woke
Cybercrime	Gym-bunny	Lock-down	Sat-nav	Troll	Youtube
Digital	Hashtag	Log in / on	Scam	Tweet, Twitter	Zoom

**He's been at it again!... Peter Garside's latest political comment
(with apologies to A.A. Milne)**



Donald was the President, the 45th one,
Mike was his side-kick, ready to attack.
Joe was the challenger, maybe not the best one,
And Kamala was his running mate, female and black.

Trump is a narcissist whose hair is yellow.
Pence is a hawk with piercing eyes.
Biden's an elderly grey-haired fellow

While Harris looks at all of them and simply sighs.

Donald went campaigning and told a lot of lies.
Mike did likewise from Florida to Maine.
Joe can't tell fibs like Trump, and never even tries.
In contrast to the President, Kamala sounded sane.

Donald didn't wear a mask and caught the virus.
Mike kept his distance and didn't fall ill.
Joe wore a mask in the hope he would inspire us
While Kamala stayed clear of Capitol Hill.

Trump – a bad loser – threatened litigation.
Pence gave in quietly and went out of the door.
Biden wondered how he could heal the nation
And Harris started looking at 2024.

© Peter Garside, November 2020



Red Admiral on Fatsia by Chris Horder - Gouache



Autumn Garden by Maureen Emerton - Acrylic



Allotment Autumn Harvest, Barbara Francis- Watercolour

LEA VALLEY
ART
SOCIETY

Three Seasonal Pictures

If you haven't done so before, take a look at the LVAS website, which is guaranteed to lift your spirits. **Hazelwood Art Group** is also impressive and has a fascinating video of one of their artists at work. **Hoddesdon Camera Club** offers a wonderful selection of photographs of home and abroad.

Herts' Year of Culture

The theme for the final month of Herts' Year of Culture is 'Celebrate and Illuminate', which was obviously intended

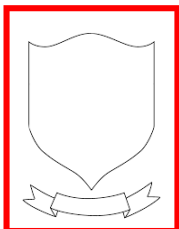
to relate to the usual seasonal festivities, most of which have been sadly affected by the restrictions of the corona virus.

Throughout the year, there seems to have been a strong emphasis on ethnic minorities, mental health and the disabled and disadvantaged in the activities promoted by various Herts' boroughs (couldn't see *Broxbourne* anywhere!), but information about their outcomes seems to be fragmented into Facebook and Twitter postings, so no clear picture of achievement emerges.



Suggestions for creative activities that families might enjoy could occupy some of the dark days ahead.

There's a family pack that can be downloaded, or families might like to design their own, individual Family Coat of Arms and motto...



We could feature some in the January Broadsheet!



Deadline for the first edition of 2021 is

December 28th.

News, views, verse, pictures welcome!

Happy (Happier!) New Year!

? ? Local Arts Quiz ? ?

1. What was the *original* name of The Spotlight?
2. What is the usual seating capacity of the Auditorium—250, 400, 550?
3. Who originally owned Lowewood?
4. What other uses has the house had before becoming a museum?
5. Where were the Beaufort concerts held?
6. Which is the *oldest* established theatre group in the borough?
7. Who was Wolsey Hall named after?
8. Which BArts' groups present an annual pantomime?
9. There have been 2 designated Arts Centres in the borough, now long gone. Where were they?
10. Where in the borough could you go to do pottery?
11. What is the name of the room on the right of the Spotlight's main entrance?
12. The buildings that now house Mayhem Theatre Arts in Hoddesdon were once part of *what* local industry?
13. One time local resident, singer Harry Webb, is better known as ...?
14. Where could you a) buy ballet shoes b) do quilting, c) do hand-bell ringing in the borough?
15. Which borough-owned venues are now leased and managed by *other* organisations?
16. What does U3A stand for?
17. When and where could you see performances relayed live from the National Theatre / Royal Shakespeare / West End?
18. What benefits are enjoyed by Friends of The Spotlight?
19. Who sponsors the free, monthly lunchtime piano concerts at the Spotlight?
20. Where in the borough could you see professional open-air Shakespeare?

ANSWERS IN THE NEXT BROADSHEET