



Keeping you in touch with BArts and the local Arts scene
Edited by Lee Rayner, leerayner_arts@hotmail.com 01992 465383
No 7. January 2021

Happy New Year!

Here's to a brighter future!



Waltham Cross Pavilions Shopping Centre

The Borough of Broxbourne has recently *purchased* the Waltham Cross shopping centre for £12.7 million and is now beginning to look at ways to ensure full occupancy of the shop units. They were particularly keen not to have any 'dead' spots in the run-up to Christmas so approached BArts to see whether we could offer an Art Exhibition at short notice.

Within a week, we had four artists—Bill Evans, Joan Facey, Ian Farmer and Chris Horder— and eleven paintings organised, bought some adjustable easels, devised some publicity with a seasonal flavour and set up the exhibition, 'Window on BArts', in a double-fronted unit quite close to the main entrance, opposite to Peacocks. Our activities soon attracted attention and it looks as though some sales will be forthcoming.



'Window on BArts'

Spotlight on the Spotlight!

A recent meeting of Broxbourne Borough Council *re-affirmed* that the Spotlight *will* re-open as soon as possible this year, once all vital maintenance work has been completed and Covid restrictions are lifted.

In the meantime, consultations with local arts groups and Spotlight users have been taking place, with the opportunity to identify unsatisfactory aspects of the venue and suggest improvements. BArts' Chairman, Malcolm Gordon, was interviewed before Christmas and offered a comprehensive list of key points, many of which were also raised by Broxbourne Theatre Company. Inadequate publicity seems to be a common theme, plus too few staff at busy times and limited Box Office opening.

There is also a general feeling that not enough use is made of the attractive outdoor space and various ideas were put forward that wouldn't be expensive to implement. What would *you* like to see?





Update on Lowewood Museum

The Charity Commission has accepted the Museum's application and the key elements are all in place. It's just a question now of sorting out one or two minor points, dotting the 'i's and crossing the 't's, then confirming a team of volunteers to help with some small-scale events planned for February / March, which will focus on local public houses, inns and breweries past and present. BArts already has some art work ready to contribute, but would welcome *more*.* **See page 6**

It is hoped that the museum will have new, permanent signage in the near future and possibly a new logo. A new digital catalogue is also being planned. The long-established Lowewood Pottery group will *remain* as tenants of the basement and continue to have use of the kiln for their products.

More Good News!



Hoddesdon

Congratulations and thanks to Tony Cox, Love Hoddesdon BID Manager, for his outstanding work in producing daily updates on the Covid situation in Hoddesdon and advising and supporting local businesses. He and his team have inspired a much greater sense of community in the town and have been responsible for numerous improvements in recent years.

Some of Love Hoddesdon's members were involved in reaching out to those in need over the Christmas period and recognising and rewarding many of the unsung heroes.

HB Accountants delivered 10 Christmas Hampers for local heroes

Hoddesdon Dentality and their clients made substantial donations to the local food bank. Over £250 was donated in their surgery which the dental staff spent on food and dropped it off on Christmas eve.



Hoddesdon Rotary Club arranged for Santa to visit Westfield School and deliver a computer to a severely challenged young lady.

Increased Take-Away Services Apart from the usual fish and chips, pizza, Chinese or Indian food, several other local restaurants are now catering for people to eat at home, including **Nonna's Kitchen, Sicilia Bella** and **The Highland Steakhouse**.

There are at least two companies offering a delivery service to the housebound. **Go Getters Delivery Service** <https://gogetters.co.uk/area/hoddesdon-broxbourne> or **Ubereats** www.ubereats.com/

Sky Arts on Freeview Channel 11

If you haven't already discovered this source of entertainment, it's worth checking. The programme for January includes: Hollywood Musicals, Tales of the Unexpected, Les Mis, Andre Rieu, Matthew Bourne's Romeo and Juliet, the History of Theatre, NT's Jane Eyre, Rembrandt, The Impressionists, a whole series on singers such as Julie Andrews, Dolly Parton, Neil Diamond... Generally speaking, 'pop' culture occupies prime time and the more serious / classical arts subjects are consigned to 'off-peak' times in the wee, small hours—presuming that we are all insomniacs!

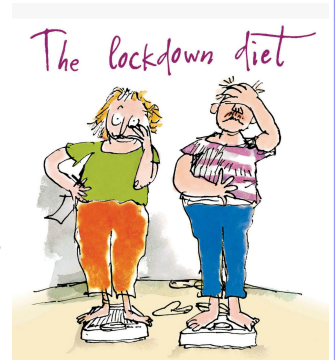


Try Something New in the New Year!

This is usually the time of year when spirit and energy may be a bit low and it's important to have something to look forward to. With the current pandemic and so much doom and gloom in the media, it's even *more* vital to find a *positive* focus to launch us into the new year

Exercise and dieting tend to be the most popular in January, part of those 'resolutions' to create a 'new you' that require an iron will, as well as time and energy. If you're not in that league, then lifting the spirits (instead of weights) could be a little easier.

BArts' thirty-one affiliated groups offer a huge range of opportunities and, if you are reading this newsletter, you are probably *already* a member of one of them. Sadly, the Performing Arts have been particularly hard hit by restrictions and their brave efforts to keep going *somehow* have been clobbered yet *again* by the Borough of Broxbourne being placed into Tier 4 and Covid cases still rising. But there are still events and activities that *are* able to go ahead, thanks to the wonders of modern technology and to Zoom in particular, which is one of the few booming enterprises of 2020. Facetime and Skype



have become popular devices in the domestic / family situation, too, which many people made use of during the Christmas holiday and last-minute, enforced separations, and joining a Zoom event is just as *easy*.

Ed's Note My extended family of 24 people scattered over Essex, Herts, Surrey and Sussex got together via Zoom for carols on Christmas Eve, some dressed like children for nativity plays, and attempted to sing the *Twelve Days of Christmas!* It was *chaos* due to a time lag making it *impossible* to synchronise the sound, but we all had a good *laugh!*

The following BArts' groups have On-line / Zoom events planned. You may be able to attend as a *guest* and / or consider becoming a *member*. You will need to contact the group in order to receive the link to join a meeting

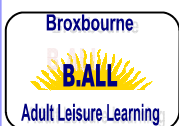


BArts' Watercolour Classes (See p. 6 for some examples of work)

Tues, Jan 12th to Tues March 23rd £35 for 10 weeks

Each art project is presented via e-mail, **not zoom**. Details of each assignment are mailed with step-by-step guidance, helpful illustrations and a link for further help. Finished pictures may be offered to an on-line private gallery.

a.gordon@dsl.pipex.com

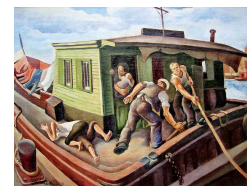


Broxbourne Adult Leisure Learning

Thursdays, Jan 21st to March 18th 10.30am to 12.30pm

American Art 1900-1930s

Fee: £32 Tutor: Rosanna Eckersley



An eight week course introducing the diverse and often beautiful art work of America, as the country became a world power and suffered the economic hardship of the Depression. Contact Linda Williams. 01992 306598. email: linda.williamsecc@gmail.com



Broxbourne U3A at 10.30 am

Jan 21st Lighting the Fuse by Lucy Lewis, *Britain's first female bomb disposal expert.*

Feb 18th 50 days in a Red T-shirt, *Jonathan Hill's 700km charity walk from Geneva to Menton*

March 18th Secret Listeners of Trent Park by Dr Helen Fry (History)

broxbourneu3a@outlook.com

Lea Valley U3A at 2.00 pm

Jan 11th The Art of Trickery by Ian Keable ...*how Magicians are seen in Paintings, Prints and Cartoons*

Feb 8th The Great American Songbook by Roger Browne

March 8th The Story of the River Lea from Luton to Leyton by Richard Thomas

April 12th Careless Talk Costs Lives—the Art of the poster in WWII by James Taylor

lvu3a@live.co.uk

The following LVU3A interest groups are also active via Zoom

Astronomy

Family History 10.00am **1st Monday in the month**

French **Wednesdays**

Music Appreciation 1950s-1980s **Usually one Weds in the month**

Reading For Pleasure

lvu3a@live.co.uk

U3A subscriptions are usually around £15 pa (ie, only just over £1 per month) so it's really worth becoming a member, to give you a wide range of options during the current crisis and many *more* when life gets back to normal.



Hazelwood Art Group

£35 per 10 week term and £17.50 for students

Enquiries: 07813 742 984 info@hazelwoodartgroup.co.uk

The Arts Society, East Herts

The Arts Society East Herts



All lectures 10.30 am via Zoom until restrictions are lifted.

January 28th Beethoven at 250

Feb 25th Peggy Guggenheim

March 25th Art & Architecture-Estranged Bedfellows

April 22nd When Britain Clicked: Photography of the 60s

May 27th Chopin and the Polish Soul

The Society is a charity which donates to several worthy local causes and the membership fee is £45 per individual and £85 per couple.

<https://www.theartsocietyeastherts.org.uk/>

Poetry Enthusiast? An opportunity to read and discuss poetry with like-minded people and, perhaps, even offer some of your *own* work.



There are usually two different sessions on a **Tuesday**

4.15-5.15 pm Themed week by week, 7.30—8.45pm A Whole Term Course

Fees by arrangement . leerayner_arts@hotmail.com

info@broxbournearts.org.uk

Screen Test!

There's a new dimension to life now
Back in Spring, how could I foresee
That the world-wide pandemic of Covid 19
Would launch me on a *screen*—like TV!

At least once a week, I now need to prepare
To look wide-awake, 'with it' and smart,
Take a little more time when I'm brushing my hair
So I'm ready to 'play my part' ...
Zooming into the homes of people I know
(Or sometimes a few I've *not* met)
To share an interest for an hour or so
And this troubled world help me forget.

But facing a camera does need some thought
What's *behind* you will also be seen—
A blank wall, or maybe rows of neat books?
...(Not ironing or piled magazines!)

Sometimes there are photographs, family shots,
High-tech kitchen, or conservatory,
With some beautiful plants in some elegant pots
Well-placed to *impress*, seems to me!

So... let's see who's *also* turned up today,
As you switch to the multi-screen view,
Then the close-ups, you realise to your dismay,
Show an unflattering image of *you!*
Those bags under your eyes, are they really that bad?
OMG look at that double chin!
And you can't help but feel just a *teeny* bit sad
At the state of decay that you're in!

What about all the others?...
Wow! *He* looks a scruff!
Don't remember that beard from before....
And the smug woman's looking decidedly rough....
Not so self-satisfied any more!

You're very exposed in this virtual mode—
Any lapse of attention will *show*—
Better not close your eyes, all will soon realise
That you'd really quite like to go!

And the speaker? Well, clearly, they're doing their best,
Though some may perhaps over-act
But *fidget*, 'um' and 'er' and *they've* failed the screen test
And they won't get *another* contract!

Ellar

ZOOM MEETING

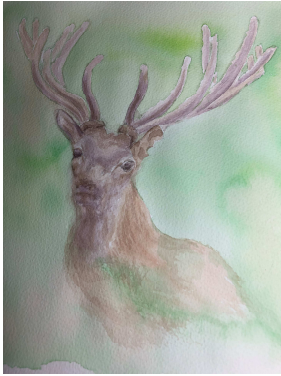
HERE'S WHAT YOU SEE



HERE'S WHAT YOU DON'T SEE



BArts' Watercolour Gallery



Stag by Joan

Horse by John

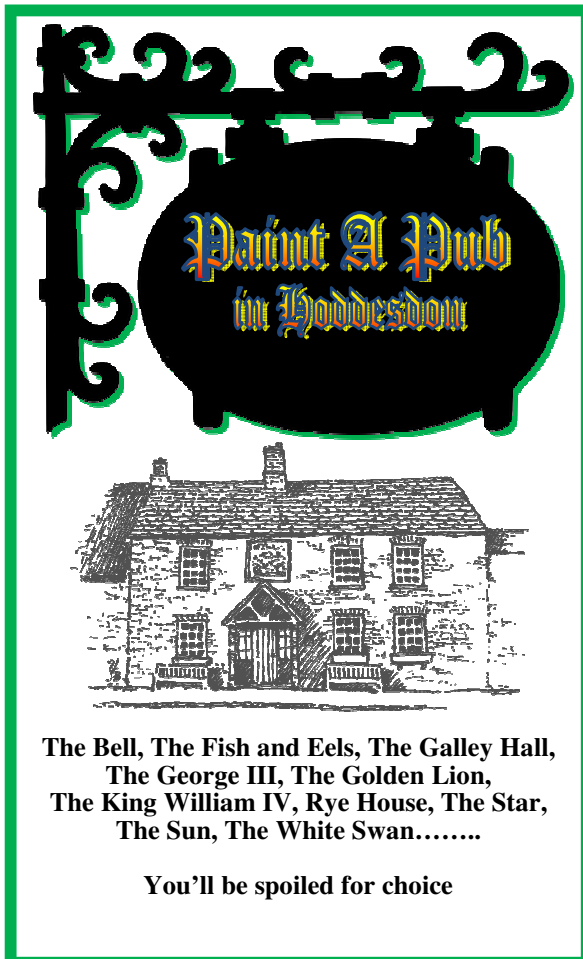
The Thames by Pam

Fanhams Hall by Sue


All members of
BArts' Watercolour Class



Love Your Local? A Lowewood / BArts Exhibition



**Paint A Pub
in Hoddesdon**



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

You'll be spoiled for choice

Lowewood Museum has a fascinating collection of information and pictures of Hoddesdon's old pubs and breweries, some of whose buildings date back to the C15 and C16 and the days when the town was a vital coaching stop on the way out of London.....

An Exhibition is being planned, with additional contemporary paintings, as part of the re-launching of Lowewood as a Trust in 2021.

The date will be confirmed as soon as regulations permit

Local artists are invited to submit paintings in any medium, and send the following vital details to BArts....

Title, Size, Medium, Price

Artist's Name, Address, E-Mail, Telephone

NB The pub should be within the Hoddesdon postal district, not elsewhere in the borough.

**Please send to leerayner_arts@hotmail.com
or BArts at
67, Riversmead, Hoddedon, Herts. EN11 8DP**

Late Extra!

The Three Valleys Male Voice Choir has managed to remain active by conducting their regular Tuesday evening rehearsals from 7.15-8.30 pm, via Zoom.



They resume on January 5th. New members, or interested parties, are welcome to join in and the first month is free: **01992 630981**, E-mail nigel.thomas430@ntlworld.com for an invitation and link to the meeting. Their recently recorded version of 'What shall we do with the Drunken Sailor' was 'stitched together' by a professional, from individual members' recordings made at home. Youtube link https://youtu.be/Ot_RoB9z-Aw

Theatre Quiz—Answers in next BArts' Broadsheet

- 1) It is supposed to be unlucky to wish someone 'good luck' before they go on stage, so which phrase is used instead?
- 2) Name the famous theatrical club founded in 1883 at Cambridge University, whose former members include David Baddiel, Olivia Colman and John Cleese?
- 3) Which reconstructed theatre opened in 1997, approximately 750 feet from the site of the original theatre which was demolished in 1644?
- 4) Which Andrew Lloyd Webber theatre company did Prince Edward work for in the 1980s?
- 5) Which musical does the song Big Spender come from?
- 6) What name is given to the out of view areas on the sides of a stage?
- 7) Which is the oldest West End theatre?
- 8) How many West End theatres are there?
- 9) What was the Criterion Theatre used for during World War II?
- 10) What was the Harold Pinter Theatre previously known as?
- 11) What sporting event does The Sheffield Crucible host every year?
- 12) Name the shortest running show in West End history? (**Bonus:** How long was it on for?)
- 13) Which 1700s Shakespearean actor has a theatre named after him, at which Sir Kenneth Branagh's theatre company performed a season of plays in 2015?
- 14) Phillip Schofield, Jason Donovan and Donny Osmond all played the title role in which stage musical?
- 15) Which Agatha Christie murder-mystery play opened at the Ambassadors Theatre in 1952 and is now the longest-running play in the UK?

Answers to December Quiz on Arts in the Borough of Broxbourne

1. Broxbourne Civic Hall
2. 550
3. Hugh Hughes, the Whitelock family, John Warner, Douglas Taylor.
4. Library and Arts Centre
5. The Beaufort Suite at Bishops College, Cheshunt
6. Hoddesdon Players, founded in 1898.
7. Henry VIII's minister, Cardinal Wolsey.
8. Broxbourne Theatre Company, Cheshunt Dramatic Society
9. Lowewood and Cheshunt School.
10. Lowewood.
11. The Dinant Room
12. Brewing
13. Cliff Richard
- 14 a) Flash Dance or Mayhem b) Mayhem c) Broxbourne Parish Centre
15. Bollescroft, Goff's Oak Village Hall, Wormley Community Centre
16. University of the Third Age
17. The Spotlight, usually Weds or Thurs.
18. 10% daytime discount in bar, some discounted ticket prices.
19. BArts
20. The Spotlight