

Keeping you in touch with BArts and the local Arts scene

## No.37.August 2023



Edited by leerayner\_arts@hotmail.com 01992 467420 / 07426 447812

### “August—the summer's last stand.” Baume

Have you noticed that, within a week of children breaking up from school, the shops are full of new school uniform for *September*? It seems that unless you can bask in the sun *somewhere*, or are busy with the harvest, the month of August may be merely a stepping stone into Autumn... However.....


The new BArts programme for September to January is in the process of being printed, with copies promised before the end of the month. Meanwhile, some of BArts' groups are working extra hard with the theatre schools keeping local children happily occupied with workshops and summer 'camps'.

Way back, thirty or so years ago, before the birth of BArts, it was East Herts Operatic Society who ran the *only* four-day children's musical theatre workshop for the borough... Fifty assorted children turned up at Cheshunt School on a Tuesday morning and, by Friday evening, were performing a mini-musical for their parents! It was *such* hard work for the team of teachers and leaders (at least *three* of whom now lead BArts) but very rewarding, too, and, in so many cases, the workshops lit a little spark of enthusiasm for theatre and performance in the youngsters that was to become their lifelong interest.....At least *two* of those children became professional performers and now run their *own* local theatre schools!



Mary Poppins Workshop 1992 and, later, a typical group in rehearsal

	<b>The Stoller School of Dancing</b>
	Goffs Churchgate Academy 10:00am - 4:00pm 07930 667006

	<b>The Vallé Academy</b> 01992 622862 <a href="mailto:enquiries@valleacademy.co.uk">enquiries@valleacademy.co.uk</a>
<b>July 31st—Aug 4th</b> The Toys' Story for 5– 12 yrs.	
<b>Aug 2nd</b> Fun and Dance.	
<b>Aug 10th</b> Dance Workshop for age 12+ 4.00pm -8.00 pm	
<b>Aug 21st –25th</b> Peter Pan for 5-12 years. <b>Aug 23rd</b> Fun and Dance	

 We were delighted to welcome several *new* members recently, most of whom support our regular themed lunches

**Current Subscriptions 2023 /2024**  
**Sponsors: £100+ Patrons: £30 Joint Patrons £45**  
**Friends: £12 Groups: £18**  
**Arts Active Schools / Teachers £18**  
**Support the Arts for around 50p per week!**

# BArts' August Activities



'My Kind Of Music' **2ND** 'My Kind of Music' From Show and Film Music to Pop Songs and Classical - Something for every taste! Free lunchtime music sponsored by BArts, featuring pianist Barbara Manning. 12noon - 2pm, the Spotlight Café Bar, Hoddesdon. **To book a table for lunch ring 01992 441946 (at least 1 week ahead to order a hot meal)**



**9TH** 'No Foam' demonstration by Catherine Holness. Hoddesdon Floral Art Club. 2 - 4pm, Jackson Hall, Burford Street, Hoddesdon. **01992 442907.**



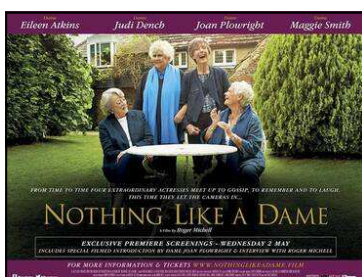
**14TH** 'Hearts of Oak: the VC Story Part 2' by Mark Smith of the Antiques Road Show. Monthly meeting of the **Lea Valley u3a** from 1pm, speaker at 2pm. New members and guests welcome. The Spotlight, Hoddesdon. **Contact Lee Rayner 01992 467420 email: lvu3a@live.co.uk**



**17TH** 'History of Spectacles' by Neil Handley. Monthly meeting of **Broxbourne u3a**. 10.00am, The Spotlight, Hoddesdon. **Enquiries: Judith Hutchings 07496 702998. email: broxbourneu3a@outlook.com**



**24TH** 'In the Footsteps of a Wedding Toastmaster' by James Higgs. Monthly meeting of **Cheshunt u3a** from 1.30pm at Laura Trott Leisure Centre, Cheshunt. Guest speaker at approx. 2.30 pm **Secretary Christine Luff 01992 621543. email: cheshuntu3asecretary@virginmedia.com**



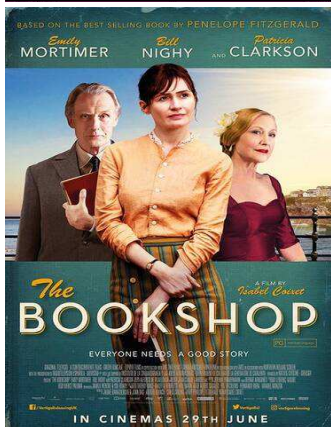
**August 3rd**  
**1.00pm and 3.30 pm**  
**Tickets from £7**

Eileen Atkins, Judi Dench, Joan Plowright and Maggie Smith in their seventh decade of epoch-defining performances on stage and on screen. Special friends and special dames: a chance to hang out with them all!

and some tempting films at the Spotlight  
**Dinant Room Cinema**

**A cashless venue**  
**01992 441946**

**thespotlightvenue.com**



**August 9th**  
**1.00pm and 3.30 pm**  
**Tickets from £7**

Florence Green, a free-spirited widow, risks everything to open up a bookshop -- the first such shop in the sleepy seaside town of Hardborough, but this soon brings her fierce enemies: including the town's less prosperous shopkeepers and Mrs. Gamart, Hardborough's doyenne of the local arts scene.



**August 16th and 24th**  
**1.00 pm and 3.30pm**  
**Tickets from £7**

Four best friends take their book club to Italy for the fun girls trip they never had. When things go off the rails and secrets are revealed, their relaxing vacation turns into a once-in-a-lifetime cross-country adventure.



# Museum Matters

Lowewood  
**MUSEUM**  
Your Heritage, Your Museum

Lowewood MUSEUM  **FREE** JUST POP-IN

## Lowewood Woolly Crafters

An informal group of knitters who meet to create projects in the Lowewood Museum cafe. Come to learn and share!

**Upcoming dates 2023:**  
 Tuesday 8th August 2-4pm  
 Tuesday 22th August 2-4pm  
 Tuesday 5th September 2-4pm  
 Tuesday 19th September 2-4pm

## Still time to see the Windrush Exhibition



**JOURNEY THROUGH LIFE**

**23RD JUNE to 16TH SEPTEMBER**

Open Fridays and Saturdays  
 10.00 am to 4.30 pm.  
**FREE ENTRY**

**High Street,  
 Hoddesdon,  
 EN11 8BH.**



**Georgian listed building.**  
**A treasure house of local history**  
 Café  
 Garden

## The u3a Page....Three Local Branches

### Broxbourne

### Cheshunt

### Lea Valley

**Thurs, Aug 17th**

**The History of Spectacles**  
 Speaker: Neil Handley  
**The Spotlight 10.00 am**



**Thurs, Aug 24th**

**In the Steps of a Wedding Toastmaster**  
 Speaker: James Higg



**The Laura Trott Centre from 1.00 pm**

**Mon, Aug 14th**

**'Hearts of Oak: the VC Story Part 2'**  
 Speaker: Mark Smith of the Antiques Road Show.  
**The Spotlight 2.00pm**



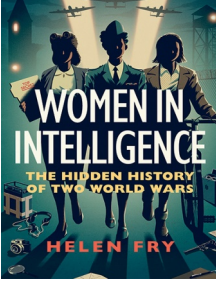
**Thurs, Sept 21st**

**Music of the 1950s**  
 Speaker: Geoff Bowden  
**The Spotlight 10.00 am**



**Thurs, Sept 28th**

**'Women in Intelligence WW1 and WW2'**  
 Speaker: Dr. Helen Fry.  
**The Laura Trott Centre, from 1.00 pm**



**Mon, Sept 11th**

**'Inn and Out at the Top'**  
 The highs and lows of running Britain's highest inn.  
 Speaker: Neil Hanson.  
**The Spotlight, 2.00 pm**

See branch websites for contact and membership details



# Looking Ahead To September



**September 21st—23rd**  
**Evenings at 7.30, Saturday Matinee 2.30 pm**  
**Tickets from £17**

Although BArts' affiliated group EHOS is a long established musical theatre company in the Borough of Broxbourne and one of the first to achieve a 'full house' when the Spotlight first opened in the mid 1970s, it will be performing its latest production at Harlow Playhouse, which has a much larger seating capacity.

*The Addams Family musical is based on the whacky cartoon characters and features the dilemma of Wednesday Addams when she wants to introduce her 'normal' boyfriend into the decidedly abnormal Addams household.*

**Phone: 01279-431945**

[Playhouse.Boxoffice@Harlow.Gov.Uk](mailto:Playhouse.Boxoffice@Harlow.Gov.Uk)

## Hoddesdon Music Club

**Saturday 23rd September 2023**

7:30pm at United Reformed Church, Broxbourne

**Piano recital by Yoon Seok Shin**

Korean-born British pianist Yoon Seok Shin made his U.K. debut at St. John's Smiths Square in 2008, and performs some 50 recitals a year in Europe and Asia. He is also in much demand as an accompanist.

**Programme to include:** Schubert: Allegretto in C minor, D.915, Chopin: Nocturnes  
Mozart: Piano Sonata in C major, K330.



Email: [hoddesdonmusic@aol.com](mailto:hoddesdonmusic@aol.com)

Telephone: 01992 464000 (Kathleen Lord - Chairman)



## The Arts Society East Herts

**September 28th. 10.30 am at the Spotlight**  
**Albrecht Durer: Life, Ego and Afterlife**

Albrecht Dürer crafted a lasting legacy for his art through his prints, paintings, and copious writing. This lecture will trace Albrecht Durer's origins in his goldsmith father's workshop in Nuremberg, his ambitious travels in Italy and subsequent patronage by the Habsburgs.

The lecture will be given by Albert Godetzky who is currently Associate Lecturer at the Courtauld Institute. Albert also works as a cultural advisor to several international corporate institutions and private individuals, widening understanding of and participation in the study of art history.



# Listening To Music

Orchestral Instrumental

Vocal



Something for every taste!  
Guests welcome!

Group meets at Mayhem Theatre Arts,  
Brewery Road, Hoddesdon at 1.15 pm  
on the first Monday in the month

£2.50 per session includes tea / coffee  
and biscuits

**September 4th** National Music

Call 01992 467420 for full details



Autumn Term 2023

## Politics Cannot Be Kept Out of Music!



**Sept 21st to Nov 30th**

Half Term Oct 26th

10.30 am to 12.30pm

Tutor John Winter. Course Fee £50

*Both Mozart's 'The Marriage of Figaro' and Beethoven's 'Fidelio' struggled to satisfy the censor; 'Music while you work' was written to Government instructions and the BBC temporarily banned Vera Lynn.....  
Why? Because of politics.*

*A wide range of music from the C16 to the present day, with recorded extracts and an opportunity for questions and discussion.*

Broxbourne Parish Centre, St. Augustine's Church.  
01992 306598 E-Mail linda.williamsecc@gmail.com



Broxbourne, Cheshunt and Lea Valley



# Shakespeare

An informal group looking at  
Shakespeare's life and works within the  
setting of the C16th /C17th and the Tudor  
and Stuart monarchy.

### FRIDAY MEETINGS

throughout the academic year

**11.00 am to 12.30 pm,**

**From September 8th**

Mayhem Theatre Arts, Brewery Road,  
Hoddesdon. 01992 465100

£2.50 per session, incl tea, coffee and biscuits

Bus stop adjacent.

Some free on-site parking for disabled.

3 hours free in Sainsbury's car park 2 mins walk.

We will be reading the History plays this  
term and starting with Henry VI

Lee Rayner 01992 467420

E-Mail leerayner\_arts@hotmail.com

## Try Something New!



### LET'S DO LUNCH!

12.00 noon, Dinant Room at the Spotlight  
£16 inc. lunch and a drink



Food for thought, a dash of humour  
and musical illustrations

**What our audiences say.....**

*"Something just a little different....*

*A lovely way to spend a couple of hours...*

*Most enjoyable, as usual!"*

**Sept 15th** By Royal Appointment

**Nov 29th** Feet of Clay

**Jan 19th** Art and Audacity

**March 13th** Health, Wealth and Happiness

**May 17th** Let's Hear It For the Girls

**June 12th** Playing For Laughs

**July 19th** Masters of Music

**BOX OFFICE 01992 441946**

## 'My Kind Of Music'

### Free Piano Concerts!

From easy listening standards to show and film  
music and popular classics

**12.00—2.00 pm, Bar Lounge at the Spotlight**  
*with Barbara Manning*

*On the first Weds in the month*

**Aug 2nd, Sept 6th, Oct 4th, Nov 1st**

*BOOK A TABLE. PRE-ORDER A HOT MEAL*

**01992 441946**

**Reminder for all BArts' Members** If you are a tax payer, you can sign up to Gift Aid and BArts will receive an extra 25p on every £ that you pay in subscriptions. Can't remember if you've already signed? Check with our chairman, Malcolm Gordon, 01992 466627

You May Be Interested in ....

## Great Amwell Car Boot Sale



**Sunday 6th August**

Completely flat, picturesque grassy field. Suitable for mobility scooters, wheelchairs and buggies. Fun for the kids with slides, bouncy castles and miniature rides every week. Huge variety of first-class hot food catering, all with large comfortable seating areas.

**from 9am at Hillside Farm,  
Pepper Hill, Great Amwell,  
Ware, SG12 9RZ.**



## BArts' Watercolour Classes

**Tuesday mornings at Bollescroft**  
(next to the Spotlight car park)  
*with Alison Showell*

**Autumn Term Sept 19th  
to November 28th**


**Full details 01992 466627**

**HP** HODDESDON PLAYERS  
Amateur Dramatic Society presents  
Registered Charity No. 149056

**A BUNCH OF  
AMATEURS**

by  
**IAN HISLOP &  
NICK NEWMAN**

16th - 17th Nov. 7.30pm, 18th Nov. 3.00pm 2023  
the Spotlight Theatre, Hoddesdon  
tickets@hoddesdonplayers.org.uk



This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd.



## Victorian Plum's Old Time Music Hall

**November 28th,  
2.30 pm at the Spotlight  
Tickets £18**

The Victorian Plums present a fast moving, light hearted entertainment that transports you back to the Good Old Days.

The repartee, the jokes, songs and the traditions of British Music Hall are perfectly upheld and guaranteed to put a smile on your face and a song in your heart. Join them for an afternoon of fun and jollity in a beautifully costumed show.

**Box Office 01992 441946**

**Something just a little *different* from the  
Spotlight's regular programme**





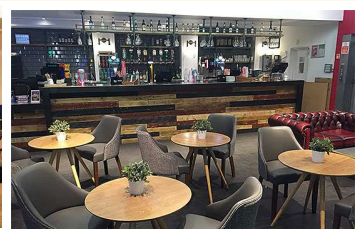
Abbey Theatre, St. Albans



Campus West, Welwyn Garden



Gordon Craig, Stevenage



Harlow Playhouse

## Venues and Vision! ...Food for Thought

Since the establishment of 24/7 television, personal computers, the Internet and mobile phones, the number of theatre buildings in this country has steadily declined. Some have been demolished, some converted to other usage, only a few have been lovingly preserved or restored for continuing use—mostly in provincial towns with a strong sense of community.

Each county, or major borough, however, may have a more modern structure that serves as a multi-purpose venue for a modest programme of professional entertainment, films and a few community events, but there tends to be a lot of ‘dark’ nights when the place is *closed*. A tight budget is usually blamed for this and limited resources do, clearly, play a major part, but there is a little more to it than that, for it involves the decision making of key staff with their own personal experience and taste and the rare quality of ‘vision’... the ability to *imagine* potential and be willing and able to experiment and *deliver*.

The *atmosphere* of a place is difficult to pin down precisely, but, structure, equipment, facilities such as bar and restaurant, colour scheme, lighting, pictures and plants, a warm, welcoming main entrance, plus the *staff* etc, all contribute to the whole, as do the events that happen there. A place *without* atmosphere has limited appeal and may struggle to succeed.

If multi-purpose buildings can manage to be fully occupied most of the week, by providing what the community *needs*, then their chances of success are usually much greater. Regular activities and events such as Jazz / Folk Nights, Easel Art, Exhibitions, Fashion Shows, Flower Shows, Taster Classes, Quiz Nights, Sunday Brunch, Cabaret Evenings, Afternoon Tea with Music, Tea Dances, Picnics etc—can all help to establish a sense of community. Facilities for local theatre groups to rehearse and perform, or photographers / film-makers to meet, could add an Arts *Centre* dimension to an under-used building. Co-operation with the local museum could allow larger-scale, special exhibitions for mutual benefit.

Looking at venues in Hertfordshire and adjacent areas, *maximising* the use of a building in imaginative and diverse ways seems to increase the chances of success and sustainability. Areas doubling as an art gallery is one obvious, winning idea, with few financial implications. At a venue with gardens, such as Hoddesdon’s Spotlight, using the gardens for a Summer Craft Fair, Jousting, Archery/ Fencing Display, Folk Dancing, Nature Discovery, Teddy Bears’ Picnic etc could all help to attract new customers without *huge* peripheral costs.



Hertford New Theatre



Millfield Theatre, Edmonton



Wyllyotts, Potters Bar



Rhodes Centre, Bishop Stortford



The Spotlight, Hoddesdon