BArts' Broadsheet No.76



Keeping *you* up-to-date with BArts and local Arts' news

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"… a corner of a foreign field that is forever England."

Hoddesdon

What's special about November?

It used to be the 9th month of the year. That's what the name means.
November 1st is All Saints Day
November 5th is Guy Fawkes Day
November 11th is Remembrance Day
November 22nd is St. Cecilia's Day—the patron saint of Music
November 30th is St. Andrew's Day



What You Can Do In November

All thanks to BArts! broxbournearts.org.uk

4th My Kind of Music *with Name That Tune Quiz*
7th Phoenix Saxophone Orchestra
8th The Speakeasy *Musical Theatre*
9th Lord Lt. of Hertfordshire *Talk*
10th Sense and Sensibilty *Film Classic*
11th Crossing the Pond *Lunch*
11th A French Affair *Floral Art*
17th10 Myths About the Great War *Talk*
19th Music and Memories *Talk*
19th –21st Quartet *play*
20th Behind the Scenes at Quartet *Back-stage tour with lighting display*
26th Harp and Holly *Talk*
26th Hitchcock, Man, Myth and Legend *Talk*
28th Clarinet and Piano *Concert*
28th, 29th Beauty and the Beast *Junior Musical Theatre*

Full details on our website or in the printed programme.
You can also follow us on Facebook

***Ten* of the above events take place *in* the Spotlight**

Take a look at the new Spotlight Community Board!

While most people turn **Left** on entering the Spotlight, please do turn **Right** to inspect the new noticeboard, which is intended for use by all community groups who have events at the Spotlight.

- It is not for *general* community events *outside* the Spotlight
- It is not a BArts' only board, although we have 9 groups who have events there and offer around 80 bookings a year.
- We have made some colourful headings to try to catch the eye **eg** for each group and each Month

Please use Blue Tack and help to keep the board looking tidy and attractive. There will usually be some free, spare copies of the current Broadsheet for anyone to pick up.

November Highlights at the Spotlight

spotlightvenue.com 01992 441946







HODDESDON PLAYERS
Amateur Dramatic Society



"Quartet" is a beautiful and delightful play that is both funny and touching. It is full of wicked and saucy humour about growing old and about art."

Ronald Harwood's play, '**Quartet'**, is one of several he wrote with a theatrical background reflecting his RA-DA training and experience as Shakespearean actor Sir Donald Wolfit's dresser in the 1950s.

Long established local company, Hoddesdon Players, are rather fond of Harwood's work since they have won *two* awards with his plays -**The Dresser** in 1991 and an earlier production of **Quartet** in 2002.

Current members of BArts' team were very much involved in those productions as they will be *again* in the latest version.

The play is set in a retirement home for opera singers where eccentricities and egos add poignancy to the memories of former glories and daily life.
A new arrival has unexpected repercussions ……

See you at the 3.0pm matinee!?



Behind the Scenes is an opportunity to get on-to the stage at the Spotlight, see the set at close quarters, learn a little more about theatre history, be dazzled by a lighting display and then go behind the scenes, back-stage, to the dressing rooms….

The afternoon with a *difference* finishes with a cream tea at *around* 3.30pm.

BArts' team members will be your guides…
Tickets £15



u3a Learn, Laugh, Live Broxbourne, Cheshunt and Lea Valley Learn, Laugh, Live u3a

Ancient History, Antiques, Archaeology, Art, Astronomy, Bird-watching, Book Club, Bridge, Country Dancing, Creative Writing, Cycling, Day Trips, Craft, Croquet, Eating Round the World, Exploring London, Family History, French, Gardens, Guitars, Heritage, History, Italian, Knit and Natter, Music, Netball, Padel, Play-reading, Pub Lunches, Reading For Pleasure, Science, Scrabble, Singing, Spanish, T'ai Chi, Theatre Visits, Walking, Weekends Away…….

Broxbourne u3a meets at the Spotlight on the third Thursday in the month at 9.00 am 07496 702998 broxbourneu3a.org.uk

Broxbourne u3a



Sing along to the tunes of the 50s, 60s and 70s!

Nov 19th 10.30 am

Broxbourne u3a



Dec17th 10.30 am

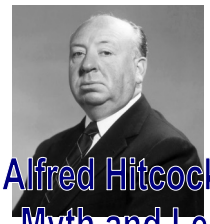
Broxbourne u3a



January 21st 10.30am

Cheshunt u3a meets at the Laura Trott Centre on the fourth Thursday in the month at 1.30 pm 07984 791184 cheshunt.u3asite.uk

Cheshunt u3a



Man, Myth and Legend

Nov 26th 2.30 pm

Cheshunt u3a



Music and Singing with Tony Tutton

Dec 10th 2.30 pm

2027

Join your local u3a!

Cheshunt has more than 800 members and a wide range of interest groups.

Lea Valley u3a meets at the Spotlight on the second Monday in the month at 1.00 pm 01992 916485 lvu3a@live.co.uk

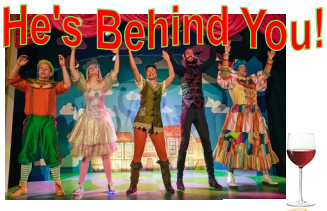
Lea Valley u3a



Lord Lt. of Hertfordshire

November 9th 2.00pm

Lea Valley u3a



The history of pantomime



December 14th 2.00pm

Lea Valley u3a



The Freedom of the City

January 11th 2027

The Arts Café *Local Artists and Creative Crafts*

Returning *again* to some important issues…...

After a whole year of the experimental Arts Café and now nearing the end of 2026, the BArts' team has been weighing the pros and cons of trying to *continue* with the venture into 2027.Presumably, after seven years since the loss of the Spotlight exhibition space, it's better than *nothing,* but not all conditions have been *ideal* and since *Broxbourne* artists have had to seek outlets *elsewhere* since 2019, they may well have been reluctant to try again.

Understandably, also, our current, nation-wide economic circumstances make it more important to *sell* work if possible, so standing around for hours in a bit of a hit and miss situation isn't that appealing.

On the *positive* side, the atmosphere has been good most of the time, like-minded people have extended their contacts and explored new avenues, the *standard* and range of work has been excellent and our 'sign-in' visitors' book has usually registered many more people than we realised on each occasion.

Live music has been such a pleasure, with guitar, violin, saxophone and piano soloists and some local jazz / guitar groups.

We have been lucky to have a bit of private sponsorship to help with the high costs of each session (approx £380 incl live music) but extensive publicity, within current boundaries, isn't succeeding as well as we had hoped… So the decision has been made… next year there will be just ***four*** **Arts Cafés**

April 20th, June 16th, September 21st and December 21st 2027

We have just *one* session left for this year, a **Christmas** edition on **December 15th,** which should be a good opportunity for sales! To inspire some ideas for possible Christmas 'gift' art, we have our **Favourite Places in Broxbourne** challenge, which could also offer some exhibition opportunities in Lowewood Museum.

We welcome artists from anywhere. No entry or commission fees.

Christmas Arts Cafe

December 15th



11.00 am-2.00pm. Spotlight
Free entry
Paintings, Photographs, Cards, Ceramics, Crafts, Jewellery, Wood Turning, Demonstrations, On the Spot Art, Poets' Corner, Board Games
Live Music 12.00-2.00pm
with Paul Arnold, Piano

Favourite Places!

Broxbourne's Best?



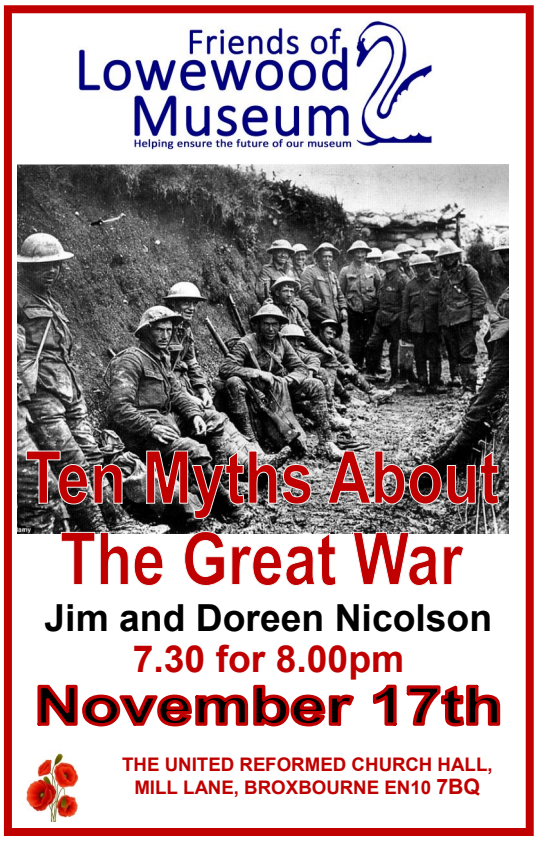
Bustling Market, Café, Church, Historic Building, Pub, River View, Sunday in the Park…..

Exhibition and Sales Opportunities at the Arts Café December 15th 2026

Paintings, Photographs, Craft, Cards….. of favourite locations within the Borough of Broxboune

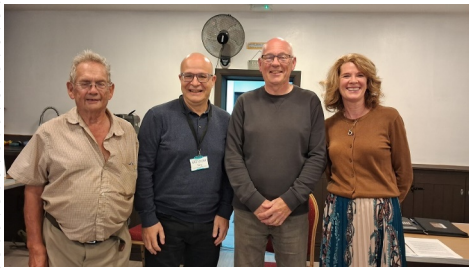


HISTORY IS WHO WE ARE



Members of Lea Valley u3a have been involved with the museum over many years, as supporters and volunteers and, occasionally, working on specific community projects, such as Memory Boxes. Lea Valley's new secretary, Jill Davies is a typical example, as is Joan Underwood, leader of the Heritage Group and Paul-John Martin, Chair of the Friends of Lowewood and leader of the LV u3a History group, which meets in Mayhem Studio B and is currently investigating Poverty.

At the recent Lea Valley U3a General History Group meeting, discussions began on the subject of *Poverty in Britain* and the meeting was joined by Tony Catarinicchia, the Community Engagement Officer from Lowewood Museum, who had kindly provided images and information relating to Poorhouses and Workhouses within the local area.Tony was delighted to attend the meeting as part of the museum's community engagement and outreach work. He stated that the visit provided a valuable opportunity to raise awareness among members about Lowewood Museum, its collections and the local heritage it preserves for the Borough of Broxbourne, as well as the range of volunteering opportunities available



L to R David Pracy, Historian, Tony Catarinicchia, Lowewood Museum, Paul John Martin and Jill Davies



Mayhem's Studio B has a convenient white wall that can act as a screen for Power Point

Trustees Needed at Lowewood Museum





Get on Board at Lowewood Museum

Do you want to use your skills and experience to make a meaningful difference in your community?

Lowewood Museum Trust CIO (Charity Number: 1192966) is a community-focused Hertfordshire heritage charity preserving local stories through collections, exhibitions and outreach, while driving growth, innovation and engagement through major heritage projects.

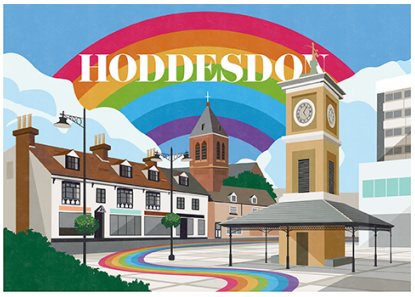
We are seeking to strengthen the Board through four new appointments:

- A confident, results-driven Vice Chair to support effective governance and prepare to succeed the current Chair.
- A Fundraising Lead Trustee with the experience and energy to help the charity grow.
- Two further Board members to contribute strategic thinking and networks to support effective governance and long-term sustainability.

Interested? Download the recruitment pack from the Museum website: www.lowewoodmuseum.com

Deadline for applications: 9 am on Tuesday 17 November 2026.

Lowewood MUSEUM



Remembrance Sunday
Sunday, November 8th
10.45am at the War Memorial.

Church Service continues at 11.15am at St. Catherine and St. Paul.

Hoddesdon Loves Christmas
Sunday Nov 29th,10.00 am—6.30 pm

The Christmas event will see craft and charity stalls selling unusual gifts and produce for the Christmas season alongside a full day's entertainment, which will include a Brass Band, local Choirs and Dance Groups with Fire Dancers, a Father Christmas Parade and Fireworks.

Love Hoddesdon

The Love Hoddesdon Website is being re-designed

Future Plans for Love Hoddesdon:

"An Eat out to Help Out scheme supporting our local restaurants; a new promotional tie-up between The Spotlight and local restaurants; a printed Food & Drink guide to Hoddesdon; and some exciting new events being planned for next year".





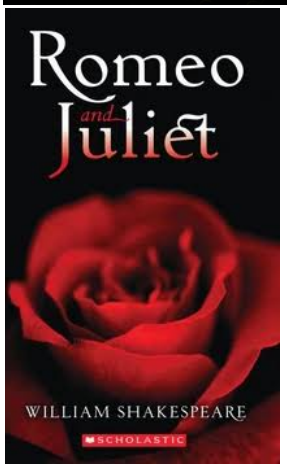
BArts' Christmas Concerts

BArts' Recent Quiz October10th managed to make a profit, which will support the Christmas Arts Café. Thanks to John Mills, Quizmaster, and his team—all from Lea Valley u3a. An excellent evening, with a fish and chip supper—all for £20! Most evenings out these days are *more* than that *without* food!

Plans for 2027 ....Not all signed sealed and settled yet, but some interesting possibilities



for more quality music in different venues all over the Borough, including a Music Festival with an orchestral concert; and an opera, a choral workshop for Fauré's Requiem, Candlelight concerts, more Café Concerts at the Spotlight and an unusual blend of Let's Do Lunch and My Kind of Music.



Lunch titles for next year include Jan 22nd Rebels & Reform March 17th Down Memory Lane May 14th Crime Fiction Does Pay June 9th Like Father, Like Son July 7th *Our* Kind of Music July16th Royal Rogues and Pesky Politicians.

Film Classics Jan 12th Fiddler on the Roof March 9th The Pianist May 11th The Importance of Being Earnest June 8th Oh What A Lovely War July 13th Much Ado About Nothing Aug 10th Richard III Sept 14th Singing in the Rain Nov 9th An American in Paris

The open-air Shakespeare, already booked, will be **Romeo and Juliet on June 23rd,** with a return of the Festival Players, who scored a hit this year with The Comedy of Errors.

Retirement of Broxbourne Theatre Company's Chairman

Members of BArts' team recently attended a special evening to mark the retirement of the long-serving Chairman of Broxbourne Theatre Company, Ian Stretch, whose father, Alec Stretch, was one of the founder members of the group, initially in Enfield, way back in 1943. Alec had been Chief Electrician at the Intimate Theatre Palmers Green before the war, and was then working at Enfield Technical College, when staff and students enlisted his help to put on a morale-boosting revue in the grim days of the war.



This was such a huge success that an Entertainment Association was formed at the college, which went on to become an Evening Class and produce an annual panto-mime and, eventually, musicals and straight plays.
In 1977, the group was invited by Broxbourne Borough Council to provide the annual pantomime at the newly opened Broxbourne Civic Hall. In 1993, the 50th Anniversary year, Broxbourne Theatre Company (BTC) took over Bollescroft, next to the Civic Hall (now the Spotlight) as a permanent base for rehearsals, spending £60,000 on vital renovation and adaptation. Thirty-three years later they are still going strong!

This season's panto will be Cinderella.

