

Keeping you in touch with BArts and the local Arts scene

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No.2. August 2020



Response to July's new BArts'

Broadsheet No.1. was *overwhelming*.

Thank you to all who offered very positive feedback and special thanks to those who have also sent copy / pictures. If your contribution *doesn't* appear in this edition, it *will* in September.

From all the material offered, it's really interesting to get little glimpses of some of the personalities within our very broad membership and to hear more about some of our groups' activities.



The Spotlight Petition

now has nearly 6,000 signatures, but needs *more* to get to the next stage.

If you *haven't* done so already, please add your name. <https://www.change.org/p/broxbourne-council-reopen-the-spotlight-theatre-asap/signatures/confirm?token=a260e4ec-b5f7-4bc1-a542-7746e43c85d1>.

Government Grant? Broxbourne Borough Council has applied for one of the Government Grants for Leisure Facilities, which could enable the Spotlight to offer a very *limited* programme, compliant with all regulations, and possibly *earlier* than Autumn 2021.

However... Way back in March, all key Spotlight staff were 'furloughed' under the government scheme. By the time you read this, they will have been made *redundant*, which makes hopes of an earlier re-opening seem so much less likely.

There is the possibility that regular, long-term users of the Spotlight, such as local U3As and established theatre companies, who have provided most of the *live* theatre there for many years, will seek alternative venues *outside* the borough.



Hertford Theatre has *already* re-opened for some pre-booked cinema, with their coffee shop and art gallery also open.

Although, to quote a C16th writer, comparisons may be '*odious*' and Hertford Theatre's location and circumstances may be very different from the Spotlight, there does seem to be a much more *positive* outlook and some encouragement for local arts endeavours. Their **Hatch** scheme invites new ideas and works from individual artists, writers and theatre groups etc and seeks to *build* new, under-represented audiences.

For more information see their website www.hertfordtheatre.com

Lowewood Museum

may not be in the news at the moment, but work is still going on behind the scenes, especially in relation to appointing trustees for a viable re-organised management structure. Contact has already been made with BArts, and some preliminary discussions will take place during August.



What Future For The Arts? The entire Arts and Culture industry has been particularly hard hit by the pandemic. If / when theatres and concert halls are able to re-open under new conditions, the change in *atmosphere* and loss of income in playing, maybe, to 1/3 capacity could be very difficult. In the meantime, new *ideas* have been flourishing and creative artists and performers have found new ways to earn money.

On TV for example, actors Kym Marsh and Michael Ball have turned up as hosts on the BBC's One Show and Michael Sheen and David Tennant have been appearing in a 'whacky' sit-com, 'Staged', with a theme related to the current crisis.



Around BArts' Groups

Broxbourne Theatre Company's production of **The Sound of Music**, originally planned for May this year at the

Spotlight, has been re-scheduled for Summer 2021 at a *different* venue.

Cheshunt Dramatic Society has taken a break from all rehearsals and postponed productions until next year. Members are keeping in touch with each other via What's App and a monthly newsletter. .

EHOS—East Herts Players

The postponed production of **Kinky Boots** has been re-booked for September 2021 and, as a special thanks for their pandemic work, all NHS staff will be offered tickets at half price. In the meantime, some musical theatre activities have been available on-line including a dance/fitness routine to the title song from 'Fame'.

Hoddesdon Players recently held a play rehearsal via Zoom *and* their AGM and some committee meetings to try to plan for the future.

Jason Theatre School has had more than 100 pupils participate in an **On-line Trial** session and held a **Virtual Awards Day** in July.

Mayhem Theatre Arts has been offering 'Blast' - 30 minute on-line work outs and 'Ballerina' classes.

The Stoller School of Dancing has conducted various on-line tutorials in **Ballet, Hip-Hop, Singing, Drama and Poetry** and is planning **Live Summer Workshops**.



Three Valleys Male Voice Choir has also had some Zoom rehearsals, a quiz and a 'virtual' end-of-term party!

The Valle Academy has offered more than thirty **Free Master classes** on-line each week, thanks to the team of dedicated teachers, and will be running **Live 5-day Performing Arts** activities this month.

Undaunted 'Ancient Brits', many of them in the 'vulnerable' category have been thinking creatively, too, to adapt their regular activities to the current situation.



Around 2/3 of the three U3A's membership—**Broxbourne, Cheshunt and Lea Valley U3A**— do have *some* access to e-mail and on-line facilities, although not all individuals would claim competence and confidence in *using* them, and each branch has made quite an amazing selection of activities on offer, via the internet, including Quizzes, Puzzles and, Competitions in their newsletters, *plus* group sessions such as Astronomy, French or Line Dancing, lectures via Zoom etc (more of that later). A few outdoor activities such as walking, croquet, cycling and netball have been resumed.

Most U3A Newsletters have increased their light-hearted element with some humorous verses on Covid 19 and its associated problems and some 'borrowed' cartoons. (Ed's note.. **I think that the newsletters are all the better for it. Let's keep them that way!**)

Recently, BArts' own committee meetings have been via Zoom and the attendance at our virtual AGM was one of the best ever!

zoo...oo...oom!

The word 'zoom' is an example of *echoism* (or *onomatopoeia*), meaning words that sound like some *action*. It has been around since the late C19th and usage increased when the aeroplane was invented, to describe the buzzing noise of an aircraft climbing or diving at speed. Later, it also came to mean a big increase of *view* and applicable in photography cinema and TV etc.

There have been various commercial / personal applications available for visual links via computers and mobile phones since the new millennium— Skype 2003, Facetime 2010, Zoom 2012 and Team 2017. Zoom and Team are particularly good for group meetings, where multi-images and inter-action between participants are possible.

ZOO...OO...OOM!

Such technical wizardry has clearly been of huge advantage during the unprecedented, current world crisis and being in 'lockdown' for four months would have been so much more difficult and *depressing* without it.



With so many professional people working from home and using one of the applications, it has been quite interesting, sometimes *revealing*, to get a little glimpse of someone's domestic setting, or perhaps a celebrity's carefully *chosen* background (to create a suitable *impression*!)

Some have appeared in a huge, gleaming kitchen, while others have been in front of their study / office bookshelves, but even these can be a bit of a 'giveaway'. What do horizontal piles of books suggest to *you*?



(Ed's note I've been quite relieved to see that even prestigious people have shelves that look like *mine*!)

Hertfordshire Herts' Year of Culture 2020

2020 has, inevitably, been affected by the lockdown and social distancing **Year of Culture** measures, so many planned events have proved impossible, but open-air cinema, art, fitness and wildlife activities in several areas have been attracting some support.

The University of Hertfordshire has put on-line a substantial **Open Exhibition**, displaying the work of some 50 artists, mainly in experimental, unconventional mode and has offered numerous **Create it, Share it!** opportunities, covering subjects such as: Characters, Hanging Garden, 3D Collage, Stamp Making, Portraiture etc

UH also has an impressive number of interesting on-line subjects and special events including :Lectures, Dramas, Short Films, Poetry and Music, with global and social issues of climate, economics, ethnicity, prejudice, gender and equality very much in focus

It is now possible to have **Music Lessons** on-line in **Hertfordshire!**

Love Hoddesdon has continued its valuable work in co-ordinating and advising on local business issues in relation to latest government directives. Help has been offered on health and safety, employees, furloughing, applying for licences to have outdoor tables and chairs to extend trading possibilities and the **Eat Out to Help Out** scheme, with £10 discounts per customer



A new, on-demand delivery service -GoGetters (<https://gogetters.co.uk>) has just joined Love Hoddesdon and offers to deliver *anything* needed within the hour! Whether it's a take-away, flowers or even a new outfit from a local clothes shop, they have them covered!



Super -safe!



Stylish !

Masks Are In The News!

The word *mask* first appeared in English around 1530, from the French *masque*—a covering to hide / guard the face— which itself derived from Italian *maschera* and Latin *masca*, and could also mean, *spectre* or *nightmare*! In other languages the word is associated with *buffoon* and *ridicule*.

(Ed. Yep! I go along with that!)

A BArts' member sent the above photos.

As masks now *must* be worn by *shoppers*, could someone please explain why shop *staff* are *exempt*?!



BArts' Gallery There is so much *talent* in the borough and within BArts' groups, yet what was the *only* proper borough gallery space at The Spotlight has been *closed* since the refurbishment in September 2019, to keep the area more suitable for wedding receptions etc. So far, we have failed to find a suitable alternative space.

Lea Valley Art Society Not being able to meet during the last few months hasn't stopped them from being creative. They set up a Self Isolation Gallery on their website and each week members have been set a subject to paint or a medium to use. The diverse challenges have included: *Roof-tops, White on Black, Illustrate a Book Title, Reflections, Old Doors, Bottles* and many more. The annual Golden Palette Award's subject this year was *Animals*, won by Charmaine Gudge with her stunning portrait of a horse. (see below) **If you haven't tried any art in lockdown why not give it a go? You only need a pencil and paper, or, if you have art materials at home that you have always meant to use, now is the time! All these pictures and more are on the website, which is updated each week, so why not take a look. You'll be impressed.**

<https://leavalleyartsociety.webs.com/self-isolation-art-gallery>



by Barbara Francis



by Charmaine Gudge

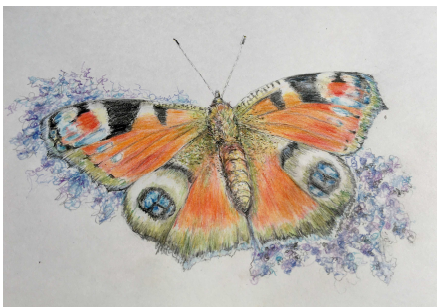
On R. Ten portraits and some designs done by **Barbara Angel**. Eight of these were for *Sky Arts Portrait of the week*. Barbara has also just completed an eight week course with the OU on Creative Writing.



BArts' Watercolour Classes have continued on-line with tutor, Alison Showell, sending instructions and illustrations for projects, *plus* links to her live demonstrations on YouTube, filmed by her husband. Subjects covered have included various flowers and animals in specified media, such as pen and wash, coloured pencil and works including drawing and painting.



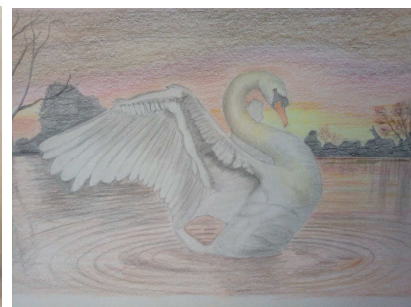
Alison



Carol



Joan



Geoff

....And for something completely *different*, three examples of **Jeff Dagers'** quirky sense of humour. Jeff is a member of the **Lea Valley Discussion Group**, a local jazz musician and keen chess player.



Preparing For Holiday



The Outdoor Caterers



Tartan Jam Sandwich

Poetry

(“You know—that stuff that doesn’t quite reach the end of the line”)

Poems (or Verse, there is a *difference!*)

have been featuring in a lot of magazines and newsletters just recently, expressing people’s feelings about the current predicament.



Trees

We are very fortunate to live in such a beautiful part of the country, surrounded by parkland, fields and open spaces. I believe that many in our community have found peace and solace outside with nature during this lockdown. Every day, I walk our rescue dog through much of the countryside surrounding Broxbourne and Hoddesdon. I have met and spoken to many people on the way, all absorbing the beauty, variety and freedom of being in the open air. Trees are an integral part of the scenery, and their value is incalculable. I am reminded of a lovely short poem about Trees which I’m sure you are all familiar with, and would like to share it here

TREES by Joyce Kilmer 1913

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth’s sweet-flowing breast;
A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;
A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.
Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

Barbara Cordina – Friend of BArts



*Compare me to
a summer’s day?
In this country?!*

One of BArts’ Patrons, **Dr. Peter Garside**, a local historian, has offered some information and examples of a particular type of humorous verse known as a **Clerihew**, after C19th **Edmund Clerihew Bentley**, who apparently started writing them while at St. Paul’s school.

The format is :-

**Four lines, Rhyming couplets of AA, BB
A person’s name as its first line
Something to say about that person**

.....and it should make you *smile*

Two Clerihews— from the originator

Sir Humphrey Davy
Abominated gravy.
He lived in the odium
Of having discovered Sodium.

“I quite realised” said Columbus,
“That the Earth was not a rhombus
But I am a little annoyed
To find it an oblate spheroid”

a couple by Peter Garside

Lucian Freud
Was quite overjoyed
When his model posed nude
... but the rest is too rude.

Geoffrey Chaucer
Wrote tales that got coarser
The further he went
On his way into Kent.

... and Anon

Chancellor Rishi Sunak
Will come under attack
If the billions he’s allocated
Can’t be precisely located.

Bojo, Boris, PM,
May have a problem.
If Brexit plans don’t complete,
He may lose his seat.

**Tempted to have a go?
Write a Clerihew for the next newsletter,
perhaps on a politician or celebrity?**

It's Quiz Time!!

General Knowledge, compiled by
BArts' committee members Kathi Broad
and Rita Hutchinson

- 1 Which two English Counties border The Wash.
- 2 In France, what item of stationery is known as a trombone.
- 3 Which plant has flowers but no leaves.
- 4 What does MASH stand for.
- 5 On a Dart Board which number is opposite 20
- 6 What is a Persian Apple.
- 7 In which year did the Pilgrim Fathers sail to America in the Mayflower.
- 8 Who died on December 14 1980.
- 9 What do the letters XO stand for on a bottle of Brandy.
- 10 Which two cities feature in "A Tale Of Two Cities".
- 11 Which small creature has 25,000 teeth.
- 12 Which month is named after a Roman Emperor.
- 13 In which city is the World Bank based.
- 14 Which Greek God holds the world on his shoulders.
- 15 Which tennis player acquired the nickname "Superbrat" due to his tantrums on court
- 16 What is a group of Jelly fish called.
- 17 How many of each animal did Moses take into the Ark.
- 18 Name the actor who has portrayed James Bond the most times.
- 19 What does the word "Zodiac" mean.
- 20 Which American city is named the "Windy City".

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S GK QUIZ

- 1.Douglas Adams. 2.Green 3.Sweden 4.Ammunition
- 5.Verso.6.Venus.7.George Washington.8.Dover
- 9.Palace of Versailles.10.Princess Charlotte
- 11.Diners Club.12.Mexico.13.Barry Humphries.
- 14.Neoptolemus.15.Goodwood.16.Meryl Streep
- 17.The Communist Manifesto.18.Ketchup
- 19.Alaska.20.African Elephant

All information in this issue is believed to be correct at the time of publication.

Feedback welcome

**Deadline for all contributions to
Broadsheet No. 3 will be September 1st**

Original 1960s Pop Group Trivia Quiz
Devised by John Henderson
*All answers are in alphabetical order and
you can use any reference sources
available. The first definite article is
removed. If you can remember the 60s –
you probably weren't there!*

- 1.This group never found paradise around these three holes in Augusta. (4, 6)
2. Did this Tyneside group stay in a home in Japan or Louisiana? (7)
3. Tell me when this Brum group had a second hit record. (10)
4. Irish group of three single men. (9)
- 5.Glen Campbell played in this group for short time. (5, 4)
6. Things might have been different as the Quarrymen (7)
7. These three emigrants originally came from Manchester. (3, 4)
8. "Adolf Hitler on vibes" (5, 3, 3, 3, 4)
9. Almost an Alfred Hitchcock film. (5)
10. U.S. surf band with only one hit in the pipeline. (8)
- 11.Distribution of this on a food cause heated debate in Devon and Cornwall (5)
- 12.When Buddy was out they carried on batting (8)
13. BJK's backing group found instrumental fame (7)
14. Royal group produced what was called the Tottenham Sound (4, 5, 4)
15. Former cop lead singer attended fatal crash that killed Eddie Cochran (4,3,4, 5, 4, 3, 4)
16. "I only told you to blow the bloody" (5)
17. Was it Cathy, Claudette, Lucille, or Susie for these Tennessee lads (6, 8)
18. Ben Fogle's Mum was first married to the lead singer. (4,7)
19. Vivaldi didn't make pizzas for this group (4,7)
- 20.Left Renee for Bernadette? (4,4)

**Answers and *more* questions in the next
Broadsheet.**