

Newsletter Summer 2022



From the Danube to the Dolydd



Eva Safrany



Csaba Szöke



Mark Jenkins



Charlotte Derry

Two singers from Hungary will be among those performing in 'A Night at the Opera' at Y Dolydd on Saturday, 16 July.

Csaba Szöke is a baritone who founded the Opera Mobile Graz in Austria's second city and was a finalist in this year's Boris Martinovich International Voice Competition. Eva Safrany is a mezzo-soprano whose repertoire includes the biggest Verdi mezzo roles: she studies in Graz. And Hollie-Anne Clark is a lyrical soprano and MT singer from Cardiff who'll be visiting Hungary this summer to play Judith in Bartok's 'Bluebeard's Castle', singing for the first time in Hungarian.

They'll be joined among others by Welsh spinto tenor Mark Jenkins from Bridgend, who was a rugby player before he started on a quest to become a classical Tenor and still coaches kids' rugby; Soprano Zena O'May from Flintshire who has sung with English National Opera and D'Oyle Carte Opera and recently performed the title role in Puccini's opera 'Tosca'; Rosie Braddy, a mezzo from Nottingham who's reigniting her operatic career after bringing up a family, and soprano Charlotte Derry from Lichfield, who first performed with NWOS at Llangollen's International Eisteddfod in 2019.

North Wales Opera Studio are returning to the Workhouse for the first time since 2017. They'll treat us to an evening of popular favourites from opera, operetta and music theatre. The programme comprises the best known arias and duets from La Traviata, Tosca, Madam Butterfly, die Fledermaus, The Magic Flute, Macbeth, Carmen and Il Trovatore as well as a medley of numbers from West Side Story. Musical Director is Andrew Charity, a conductor, pianist and composer with a long-standing association with RADA, for whom he's written and directed music for over 150 plays.

This will be a courtyard performance for a summer evening, starting at 7.00. The audience are invited to bring a garden chair, a rug and, if they like, a picnic. The bar will be open. If the weather lets us down the performance will transfer to the Venue.

Tickets are available now through Eventbrite:
www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-night-at-the-opera-tickets-292361098917.
The cost is £17, or £15 for the first fifty Early Birds.

Annual General Meeting

This year our AGM will be at 7.00 p.m. on Monday, 27 June, at Y Dolydd. Members should receive the agenda with this Newsletter, along with the Report of the Trustees and Accounts for 2021. The public are welcome to attend the AGM, though only Trust Members may vote: please check that your subs are up to date. Nominations (by Members) for Trusteeship must be received by the Chair seven days prior, and nominees must be Members too.

News from our tenants

Jo Heard



Hi, I'm Jo and I run J.H.Leather at Llanfyllin Workhouse. Since moving here in 2014 my leathercraft business has grown and evolved, from being focused on offering bespoke dog collars and leads over to high end leather goods as well as training in leathercraft through 1:1 in person workshops and online tutorials, via my YouTube channel - where I have almost 90, 000 subscribers.

The 1:1 workshops have grown in popularity since 2020 with more people looking to invest time in crafts and hobbies. The workshops are a great way for individuals to learn new skills or expand on existing skills by undertaking more advanced training. Each workshop is tailored to the individual and a range of skills can be covered making them suitable for complete beginners as well as those already crafting.

For some of my YouTube tutorials I offer printable PDF pattern packs: however this year I was able to invest in a laser printer where I can expand on my training services by offering precision cut acrylic templates to create a range of leathercraft items including keyrings, wallets and bags. I am also able to create a range of premium DIY leathercraft kits, which include everything that you need to create your own leathercraft items at home without having to purchase any expensive tools. These are available in a range of colours and designs from card holders to notebook covers, and I am looking to expand on this range in the future.

I am looking forward to seeing how my business grows with this new technology.

You can find out more about 1:1 workshops on my website as well as watch my tutorials on the links below.

Website: www.jhleather.co.uk

YouTube: www.youtube.com/jhleather

Liz Neal

Cain Valley Printworks

Six people attended this two-day event on the 21st and 22nd of May 2022. We were running workshops in four mediums - screening, wood engraving, lino printing and etching. The instructors were Bob Guy, Brian Jones, and Liz Neal. The quality of work produced was fantastic. These are some of the comments written by the students.

I had so much fun. They were friendly and knowledgeable. I learnt so much and am inspired to do more, experiment and play.

Had a great time on Bob's woodblock printing course. Learned loads and enjoyed every aspect of the process, Inspired to do more now!

The etching process is really cool - as it reveals itself. Brilliant outcomes on paper for all! - thank you all for such a great experience!

I hope Cain Valley Printworks goes forward for more funding, such an accessible, collaborative learning - it looks to offer fun to all ages and abilities ...

...and finally thank you so much for lunches and copious brews .



We were grateful for a 'Magic Little Grant' of £500 from Localgiving and Postcode Community Trust (a grant-giving charity funded by players of People's Postcode Lottery) which has paid for materials and marketing.



Photos: Cordelia Weedon

We had two days of fun and creativity and are planning it again later in the year. If you would like to join in the fun drop me a message on our Facebook page: Cain Valley Printworks.



Photo: Liz Neal

Dome Credu



Llanfyllin-based youth leader Dux has a long association with the Workhouse and also with Credu: the branch of Carers UK that caters for young and adult carers in Powys. He's developed a scheme which will see groups of carers brought to Y Dolydd during the summer for a broad mix of social and respite activities centred round an impressive dome that's arisen in the hedged enclosure behind our 'village green'.

The Trust already owned the framework of the dome, but its cover had disintegrated long ago. Dux sourced a new one and is putting together a funding package to cover its use. He calls it:

A space for whatever comes next
in a rolling open programme of art encounters thru play
and solid connections to nature
found in each moment shared with others
feeling safe to explore and find respite in credu company.



Dux says: 'Credu supports families with sometimes complex needs and seeks to build a more connected community where difference

and divergent needs are considered and met.' He imagines 'picnic camps and playovers; cultured times of fireside company and magic moments of summertime wonders; yoga perhaps... singing and maybe talking to each other about important things; laughter and tears; bumps and maybe bruises too; waterfights and colourful kites; balls and frisbees flying; huge white balloons and projections; a book reading or two; maybe a singalong session and a folk diddle dee...'

When not in use by Credu the dome will be available to local organisations and families, subject to simple rules to avoid disturbance. Arts Connection are already using it for children's activities over half term. And the programme will be crowned by a summer residency of international students from the Necessary Teacher Training College, based at Tvind in Denmark, who will come to share their ideas and endeavours, to study us and to help us study ourselves.

Sun shines on Crefft Cymru

The third Crefft Cymru Arts and Crafts Fair was held at Y Dolydd over the sunny weekend of 7-8 May with a wide range of local food and drink producers, artists and



craftspeople represented. Most of the stalls were outdoors and Trustees and volunteers had put in long hours to ensure the grounds and gardens looked their best. The crowds were smaller than last year when Covid rules were being relaxed, but over £1,000 was raised for the Preservation Trust through parking and stall charges and sale of refreshments. People's comments as they left were warmly appreciative.



Besides the chance to shop and consume a pork bap from Izzy's Butchers', washed down by Old Monty Cider, Tri Dyffryn apple juice or the beers of Bragdy Tanat, there was

entertainment on offer. Café Lola performed on the Saturday and Vivace choir on the Sunday, while Nula Irwin - Nula Hula - amazed the crowd with her hoop performance and got some of them gyrating as never before. On the Saturday night people could stay on for a jazz café. We're grateful for the support of all the performers and stallholders. Dan Llywelyn Hall organised the event, with other Trustees in support.

Open Doors and Food Fair

Zarena writes:

This will be the fifth Food Fair at The Workhouse. The first one I organised back in 2017 seems an awful long time ago now! I organise The Food Fair independently, on a voluntary basis, for the Trust, who own and look after this unique historical building. The aim is to raise funds for the trust and bring different people in, to introduce them to the amazing building and grounds.

Despite a year off due to covid, last year when we returned with a slightly reduced offering of activities, due to restrictions, the attendance was excellent at around 1,000 people. It is great to see so many people from far and wide enjoying all the fabulous stalls and Cadw Open Doors activities.

Preparations are being made now for a full day of activities and stalls on Sunday 11 September, 10.00 - 5.00. If you would like to join us as a stall holder please get in touch with zarenaallan@btinternet.com

Car boots

Our fortnightly car boot sales are getting into their stride. The weather inevitably affects attendance, but the growing number of stalls makes a visit well worth while and we're grateful to our regulars who aren't put off by a discouraging forecast. The appetising burgers and bacon rolls served up by Dan are appreciated by stallholders and customers.

This year's dates are: June 12, 26; July 10, 24; Aug 7, 21; Sept 4, 18; Oct 2, 16, 30: open 9.00 – 1.00. Free entry and parking.

Horse and pony shows are scheduled for 25 June; 23 July; 20 August and 17 September. Visitors are welcome: please take great care if you drive onto the site.

Riding on ...

One of the biggest challenges facing our small team of volunteers is maintenance of the six acres of



ground around the building. A ride-on mower is vital. The machine we bought second-hand ten years ago gave good service, but gave up the ghost in 2020. Since then we've had to improvise, using equipment kindly loaned by trustees and their families.

Now a community association near Wrexham has kindly donated a mower they no longer need. Trebor Jones has inspected and serviced it and it's already in use. There's also the prospect of acquiring a field cutter, already on loan. A chainsaw would be useful too. Some of the costs will be covered by a grant of £2,400, over two years, from the Montgomeryshire District Trust Fund through Community Foundation Wales: we're very grateful. Offers of volunteer help with grass cutting, hedge trimming and weed clearance would be very welcome.

Looking ahead, there's the prospect of collaborating with the Town Council, Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust and others to create an improved wildlife corridor



along the Cain Valley. And there's a long-standing scheme to create a bridleway leading into town along the track of the old railway line, which passes close to our field. We'll need to ensure that any planting or development takes account of the different uses our land has to serve, and the demands

of future maintenance. But the Dolydd site has much to offer and we want to play our part.

Masters and Matrons

Reviewing our publication in The Montgomeryshire Collections, Vol. 110, Dr Roger Brown has written: 'This is a splendid book, well-illustrated and in an attractive format, and to be commended as a work of outstanding research which offers a new perspective on the history of the workhouse nationally and contributes significantly to the history of Montgomeryshire.' Quite an accolade!

Copies are on sale in local bookshops, or the Workhouse History Centre at £9.50, or by post from Frances Ward, Peniarth Uchaf, Meifod SY22 6DS: add £2.00 for postage (£3.00 for two copies.)

Bird life

The swifts are back! We look forward every year to the return of these amazing birds, who spend months on the wing and only touch down to nest. They're becoming increasingly rare. We're proud of our colony and make sure their nesting sites are respected when building works take place.



rspb

Our jackdaws are engaging too, but all too common! They find their way into walls, chimneys and roof spaces, importing vast quantities of twigs that have actually caused ceilings to collapse. We try to discourage them where we can. But they've long been a feature of Y Dolydd. The following report appeared in the Southern Reporter of 25 March, 1915:



rspb

At Llanfyllin Workhouse there is a pet jack-daw. It accompanies the children to and from school regularly, perching on a tree within sight of the door when they are at lessons, and immediately they are out again flies over them on the return journey. On Sundays he accompanies the children to Sunday school in quite another direction.

