

As summer draws to a close, we're already beginning to think about next year: 2020 is our 10th birthday! Over the years, we've put on over 70 talks and concerts, plus workshops, exhibitions, regular life and portrait drawing sessions and garden parties, together with book and play-reading groups. We're planning something really special for next year, so watch this space. In the mean time, don't miss the fabulously original Lodestar Trio - this may be your only chance to encounter a nyckelharpa in Crowborough! - and do book early for 'Tickled to Death', an evening with popular writer and TV and radio producer, Simon Brett.

## LODESTAR TRIO

Friday, 11th October, 7.30  
The Green Lane Music Room



£15 (members) | £20 (non-members) | £5 (accompanied students)

*Pre-booked and pre-paid seats only, please.*

Call 01892 664534 or email [angelavb@waitrose.com](mailto:angelavb@waitrose.com)

**DON'T MISS THIS AMAZING AND UNUSUAL CONCERT!**

### Get Fully Loded!

In another coup for Crowborough Arts, we host a concert featuring this brand new collaboration between violinist and viola player **Max Baillie**, of ZRI fame, and two stars of the Scandinavian folk scene, **Erik Rydvall** (Nyckelharpa) and **Olav Mjelva** (Hardanger fiddle). Together they explore the links between folk and baroque music.

They have already appeared live on BBC Radio, been featured on Classic FM, Norwegian Radio, and had a standing ovation at their launch concert in London. See and hear them on Youtube playing a joyous arrangement of the Bach Prelude from the 6th Cello Suite on Scandinavian folk instruments.

Max is a graduate of the Yehudi Menuhin School and has a degree in Political Philosophy from Christ's College, Cambridge.

Space is limited, and we always sell out, so don't miss the opportunity to witness this exciting concert! Book now to avoid disappointment!

### Sussex Salmagundi Success

In a departure from our usual small venue format, our June show, *A Sussex Salmagundi*, played to a packed house at the United Church in Crowborough. The evening showcased music, drama, poetry and images all relating to our county. Nearly twenty local performers took part to produce an entertaining and thought-provoking event. Well-known characters from Sussex were recreated, including Vanessa Bell, Arthur Conan Doyle, and Martha Gunn, the most famous of the Brighton 'dippers' in the 18th century. The evening also included dramatized extracts from *Mapp and Lucia*, *The Young Visitors* and *Cold Comfort Farm*, all of which provided much amusement to the audience. The story of St Dunstan and the Devil was given a tongue in cheek re-telling and we even formed our own band, "The Martlets", to perform songs from Sussex, including two with lyrics by Rudyard Kipling. Director Julia Ball brought her usual enthusiasm and creativity to the event and the performance was enjoyed by all.



The "Town Crier" makes his opening proclamation.

### Crowborough Arts' Summer Art Show

Just for this year, a summer art show replaced our usual Open Studios. It was a great success due in part to the beautiful venue at Maple Tree House Barn, where our hosts, Grant and Vanessa Bradford, looked after the artists by offering constant refreshments.

Seventeen artists took part with work that ranged from ceramics to embroidery and there was a constant flow of visitors over the weekend. As one exhibitor said; "It was a lovely weekend, we were lucky with the weather and our lovely hosts."



Artists and visitors mingle at Maple Tree House Barn

# 'Tickled to Death'

## An Evening with Simon Brett

FRIDAY, 18TH OCTOBER, 7.30  
THE GREEN LANE MUSIC ROOM, CROWBOROUGH

Simon is the author of over one hundred books, including several series of crime novels. He has also written radio and television series including *After Henry* and *No Commitments*. He is a Recipient of The Crime Writers' Association Diamond Dagger and an OBE for Services to Literature.



### Pre-booked Tickets Only:

£10 (members) | £12 (non-members)

£5 Accompanied students

Call 01892 853294/email gaye.jee@clara.co.uk

**Our congratulations** go to the Rotherfield and The Brook Surgeries who raised around £1300 at their annual coffee morning on 24th August. Crowborough Arts contributed to this total with two stalls selling artists' work and a bric-a-brac. Well done to all!

## An Evening to Die For!

On what was probably quite the worst day of this summer and certainly of August, our gloom was lifted by great entertainment in the form of "Hi-Di-Die", a murder-mystery presented by The Company Upfront and written by Steering Group member Gaye Jee who also played one of the characters.



The cast, just moments away from the denouement!

This was the third occasion on which Crowborough Arts have hosted a murder mystery and the audience keep wanting more! The format of the entertainment is a winner with, alongside the 'drama' and the audience involvement in guessing 'who dunnit', a glass of prosecco, a plate of barbecued food, and on this occasion, in keeping with the holiday camp theme, an ice cream. What could be better on an evening when strong winds saw us leaving the garden and marquee at the King's Arms and moving into the intimacy of the pub interior? Congratulations to the cast for coping with this transition and making the best of a considerably reduced performing space!

But back to the show itself: set in 1965 at Bertie Bantam's Holiday Camp the mystery centred on the murder of the eponymous impresario found dead in the pool house. The motives of the characters including the cleaner, the caretaker, a superannuated comedian, a 'Green Coat' and two embittered female guests and their grandson, all made them potential murderers. During the interval we, the audience, in teams, had to question each of them to gather the evidence that would guide our eventual choice of murderer and put us in line for a winners' certificate.

Each suspect had plausible excuses for their dubious background histories in relation to the victim. I have to say that our team went off on a wild goose chase, ignoring some of the obvious clues and sure that we had a convincing argument for the person we felt had 'dunnit'. Wrong, of course, and irritatingly so. But that's not the only point of a murder mystery. The excellent performances, our engagement with the story and the excellent food and drink all combined to make a great evening. We're already looking forward to next year's offering!

**Christine Roberts**

## An Illuminating Concert from The Aurora Trio

The return of the Aurora Trio was a great success - the unusual combination of instruments - harp, viola and flute - could have been restricting, but the programme was both exciting and balanced, and included several works by modern composers. The Trio for Flute, Harp and Viola was written by composer Malcom Lipkin who lived in Crowborough until his death in 2017. It was exciting that his son Jonathan (pictured below with Aurora) was able to come to this concert and hear his father's work. The programme finished with "Submerged," a fantastic piece by Miguel del Aguila, which gave all the players the opportunity to use a huge variety of sound effects and unusual techniques which were soundly applauded. To bring us all down to earth the encore was a beautiful and poignant arrangement of "Down by the Sally Gardens".

A comment from a member of the audience sums up the evening: *"Brilliantly fresh moving fun and fascinating, my most enjoyed concert for ages! We both thought so. I'll definitely look out for more Aurora concerts"*

**Angela Vernon Bates**



### Dates for Your Diary:

#### **Monday, 2nd September, 10.00 - 12.00: Portrait Drawing**

The United Church, Croft Road, Crowborough, TN6 1HA  
Contact Mike on hrmr@tiscali.co.uk

#### **Thursday 12th September, 9.30 - 12.30: Life Drawing**

The United Church, Croft Road, Crowborough, TN6 1HA  
Contact Richard on 01892 852681 or  
email richard.nottingham@btinternet.com

#### **Monday 23rd September, 9.30 - 12.30: Life Drawing**

The United Church, Croft Road, Crowborough, TN6 1HA  
Contact Richard on 01892 852681 or  
email richard.nottingham@btinternet.com

#### **Monday, 7th October, 10.00 - 12.00: Portrait drawing**

The United Church, Croft Road, Crowborough, TN6 1HA  
Contact Mike on hrmr@tiscali.co.uk

#### **Thursday, 10th October, 9.30 - 12.30: Life Drawing**

The United Church, Croft Road, Crowborough, TN6 1HA  
Contact Richard on 01892 852681 or  
email richard.nottingham@btinternet.com

#### **Thursday, 10th October, 7.30: Playreaders**

Call Julia Ball on 01892 655505 or email julia.ball@live.co.uk

#### **Friday, 11th October, 7.30: The Lodestar Trio**

The Green Lane Music Room. £15 (members), £20 (non-members), £5 accompanied students. Call 01892 664534 or  
email angelavb@waitrose.com

#### **Friday, October 18th, 7.30: 'Tickled to Death' - An Evening with Simon Brett.**

The Green Lane Music Room  
Tickets £10 members, £12 non-members, £5 accompanied students. Call 01892 853294 or email gaye.jee@clara.co.uk

#### **Monday 28th October, 9.30 - 12.30, Life Drawing**

The United Church, Croft Road, Crowborough, TN6 1HA  
Contact Richard on 01892 852681 or  
email richard.nottingham@btinternet.com