

Review leisure

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YOUR LOCAL ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND LIFESTYLE GUIDE

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College wins architecture award

The Discovery Centre, at Oaklands College, impressed the judges with its design, writes Nick Elvin

ARCHITECTURE

A COLLEGE in St Albans has won a prestigious architecture award for its new facility. The Discovery Centre, at Oaklands College, was one of seven buildings to pick up a Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) East Regional Award, given in recognition of architectural excellence.

The Discovery Centre, which was designed by Allford Hall Monaghan Morris, was completed in January. Covering 5,868 square metres, it comprises two connected buildings: a two-storey teaching block providing accommodation for the teaching of art, fashion and design,

as well as programmes for students with learning difficulties, and a triple-height sports hall complex. The centre features local materials

An unpretentious and appropriate workshop-like feel to the teaching and social spaces

common in agricultural buildings, such as blackened timber and brickwork, which the judges said created an "identifiable, modern face to the college while at the same time not embarrassing some of the new building's more humble campus neighbours". They added: "Internally, simple materials and straightforward detailing give an unpretentious and appropriate workshop-like feel to the teaching and social spaces."

The awards were presented along with those for the East Midlands and West Midlands at a gala dinner, held in Birmingham, last week. The Discovery Centre missed out on one of the RIBA national awards, from which the shortlist for the

coveted RIBA Stirling prize, for the best building of the year, will be drawn.

If you're interested in architecture, look out for a special series of events taking place this week. Running until June 30, *The Love Architecture Festival*, organised by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), offers a host of activities, with several taking place in the Hertfordshire area. You can, for example, watch a dance performance in a straw bale studio, try your hand at glass fusion, or take a tour of the University of Hertfordshire's Architectural campus.

● Details: lovearchitecture.org



The Discovery Centre at Oaklands College PICTURES: ROB PARISH



Thea Gilmore has Bruce Springsteen as a fan

FEW singer-songwriters can claim the honour of having Bruce Springsteen as a fan of their music.

But Thea Gilmore, who is set to perform at The Forum next week, is in that prestigious bracket.

The 33-year-old, from Oxfordshire, first captured critics' attention in 1999 with her debut album *Burning Dorothy*.

Fast forward to 2013 and the songstress, who has toured extensively all over the world, has 14 folk rock albums under her belt, the latter of which, *Regardless*, was made Radio 2's Album of the Week. Her music was also repeatedly featured during coverage of the 2012 Olympic Games.

She will be performing tracks from her extensive back catalogue, supporting Thea on the night is soulful singer Sam Semple.

He will showcase tracks from his debut album *Mystery Songs*, which echoes the work of Paul Simon and James Taylor, and is described as an autobiography of sorts.

● **Thea Gilmore will be at The Forum Hertfordshire, University of Hertfordshire, College Lane, Hatfield, on July 4 at 7pm. Details: forumhertfordshire.co.uk**

Singer Thea Gilmore



Chill out at the fest

WELLY boots at the ready, it's that time of year again, *Chilfest* is coming to Tring. With a host of different live music acts performing in Pendley Meadow, a pop line-up will feature on Friday, July 5 with a 1980s evening of fun and funky music and haircuts on Saturday, July 6.

So, you can get 'rickrolling' with Rick Astley, move on up with Heather Small and spread those wings with Little Mix. Further acts set to take to the stage over the two-day event include Loveable Rogues, Tony Hadley, Howard Jones, Midge Ure, Carol Decker and Hazel O'Connor.

The event, staged by local production company Universal Event Production to celebrate 15 years in the industry, will support two community charities – Iain Rennie Grove House Hospice Care and Aylesbury Women's Aid.

● **Chilfest will be held on Friday, July 5 and Saturday, July 6, at Pendley Activity Meadow, Cow Lane, Tring. Details: 01296 660006, chilfest.co.uk**



Little Mix will be performing

Coronation concert

TO CELEBRATE the Queen's Coronation, Adoramus Choir and Orchestra will take to the stage of the Alban Arena with its Coronation Jubilee concert – *The Crown and the Glory*.

Marking the Queen's 60 years of service to the country, some of the music featured, from Handel's *Zadok the Priest* and Walton's *Coronation Te Deum*, is taken from the coronation service itself and recalls the dedication of the Queen to God and her anointing for her task as monarch.

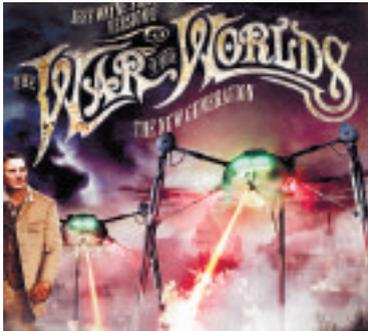
The concert programme is packed with favourites from a range of musical genres recalling other key nostalgic events from 1953 such as the conquest of Mount Everest, humorously recalled in *Climb Every Mountain* from *The Sound of Music*, the launch of the Royal Yacht Britannia (*HMS Pinafore*) and the first airing of the BBC's current affairs programme, *Panorama* (*Francis Lai's Aujourdhui C'est Toi*).

Adoramus has been giving concerts in St Albans, Watford and North London for ten years. "We are delighted to be returning to St Albans to celebrate the Jubilee of the Coronation with this special anniversary concert and look forward to providing a great celebration that all can enjoy," says David Hooke, music director.

● **The Crown and the Glory is on Saturday, June 29 from 7.30pm at the Alban Arena, St Albans. Details: albanarena.co.uk**

ENTERTAINMENT

The invasion of War of the Worlds comes to the city



PANIC is in the air. Buildings are falling to rubble. Spaceships are invading the skies. But do not fear, this is not the end of the world as we know it, rather it's *The War of the Worlds*, a multimedia musical extravaganza, coming to The Alban Arena.

Jeff Wayne's musical version of HG Wells' classic Victorian tale of a Martian invasion of England is brought to life using CGI, 3D holography and footage from the live show in *The War of the Worlds - Alive on Stage! The New Generation*.

Featuring hit singles *The Eve of the War* and *Forever Autumn*, this star-

studded cast includes actors Liam Neeson, Jason Donovan and Kaiser Chief' Ricky Wilson.

"The largest part of this production is the CGI artwork", says Radlett-based Jeff. "Liam appears as a 3D hologram and there are scenes where his 3D image sits, stands and interacts with the characters and props on the stage. We also used a 100ft wide animation wall."

● **The War of the Worlds - Alive on Stage! The New Generation will be at The Alban Arena, Civic Centre, St Albans, on July 2 and 4 at 7.30pm. Details: alban-arena.co.uk**

Antipoets perform at Glastonbury

WHEN thinking of poetry, Wordsworth's *Daffodils* or Blake's *The Lamb* may spring to mind. What may not, however, are the rants of two leather-clad, tattooed, eyeliner-wearing men from St Albans and Croxley Green.

The Antipoets are not your stereotypical lyricists. Instead, this self-described 'beat-poetry act', made up of Ian Newman and Paul Eccentric, come together to create unique and witty performances which have left audiences both in awe and in stitches.

And now, the talented duo have garnered such a following, they are set to take to the stage for the Glastonbury

Festival 2013. "There is a common perception that poetry is boring, but we're trying to change that", says Ian.

"We're different in that we put on more of a performance, we aren't what people are expecting. We found it difficult at first as we didn't fit into standard poetry or music, but now we are playing in comedy clubs and at music gigs as well as poetry nights.

"But being booked to play at Glastonbury really is a dream come true."

Described as being at the forefront of a new movement, the duo claim to take poetry to a new level, with

performances 'as memorable as they are hilarious', featuring verse, backed by rhythmic double-bass and flamboyant outfits.

Previous gigs include the Rickmansworth Canal Festival, where they entertained crowds, as well as the Ledbury Poetry festival and Edinburgh and Brighton Fringe Festivals.

The pair also run regular poetry nights in support of Bardaid, which raises funds for children's literature and donates poetry books to schools in a bid to inspire a new generation of readers and writers.

● **The Antipoets will be at Glastonbury Festival June 28-30. Details: www.glastonburyfestivals.co.uk**

Lisa Wall

Poetry revival thanks to Mary

POETRY is experiencing a revival in St Albans thanks to the success of a collection of poems written by a local retired teacher and discovered after her death at the age of 88 last year.

Waterstones hosted an open evening last night where members of local group Vers Poets read from their late friend Mary Skinner's book, *Rocky Places*.

Events coordinator, Gemma Sealey, says: "It went really well. There was about 35 people, a mixture of poets and people new to poetry."

Rocky Places has sold so well the shop has had to order more and a second edition is now on the shelves.

"This is the first poetry reading that Waterstones St Albans has had," Gemma added.

"We are really trying to keep this going and maybe do open mic evenings in the future. The problem is poetry is always a bit hidden away. People don't realise it's very diverse - it can be humorous and philosophical and political. It's not just sentimental. People often don't admit they like it. Men don't admit they write poetry unless they want a date!"

Mary Skinner was little known outside of her circle of friends in Harpenden, but since her death she has received considerable attention from a number of highly-acclaimed writers who have praised her work as 'witty, soulful and honest'.



The late Mary Skinner

Laura Smith

The 19th ART IN CLAY

HATFIELD HOUSE

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5th 6th & 7th July 2013

10 am - 5.30 pm Friday, Saturday
10 am - 5.00 pm Sunday





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What's On

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11.00 am to 4.00 pm

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- Collectables & Craft Stalls ● Craft demonstrations
- Mill Tours ● Boat Trips ● Café and BBQ

Entry - adults £1, children 50p
(please park in the public pay & display car park on Dumars Hill Road)

Further details 01442 234600
or www.thepapertrail.org.uk

Fairs & Fetes

REDBOURN STAMP FAIR

Saturday 29th June 2013

Buying & Selling
World stamps,
Classics/Modern Postal History
and Modern Covers
Postcards, Cigarette trade Cards
Stamp Catalogues &
Philatelic Accessories

10am-4pm
Redbourn Village Hall
63 High Street, Herts. AL3 7LW Junction 9 (M1)
Next Event Saturday 27th July 2013

Fairs & Fetes

Antiques & Collectors Fair

Berkhamsted Sports Centre
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