

# Show civic pride by supporting arts in our splendid venues



foyer.

It boasts a stunning art deco theatre with an excellent sound system which is ideal for live entertainment, and two very comfortable cinemas with excellent sight lines and impressive sound.

The annual pantomime is a very popular tradition and last Christmas' Beauty and the Beast beat all box office records, receiving rave reviews including four stars from The Stage. Many delighted audience members came away having booked their seats for Aladdin in December 2016.

If you pick up a brochure, or go online at [thecapitolhorsham.com](http://thecapitolhorsham.com), you will find a range of first run films and live entertainment to satisfy the most demanding and eclectic tastes. Take for example three remarkable live shows coming in early March: Miloš Karadaglić, the young Montenegrin classical



Horsham's Capitol

guitarist who has won an international reputation; the popular group Skerryvore who have been described as 'the sound of young Scots power folk'; and the high energy Finnish group Frigg.

Then there are the ever popular live transmissions from the National Theatre and Metropolitan Opera

which offer a wonderful new form of entertainment that mixes live theatre with cinema.

But there is more. The Capitol holds regular art exhibitions in the first floor gallery, featuring local artists and schools; and in conjunction with Chichester Theatre runs a Youth Theatre

Group. So, why travel to London or elsewhere when there is so much to offer on our doorstep? If you haven't visited recently it's not too late to make it a new year resolution.

Our second gem is Horsham Museum and Art Gallery. Like many museums it has its roots in the Victorian passion for collecting and was for many years run by the Horsham Museum Society.

At the end of the war it moved to its present home in Causeway and in 1966 Horsham council took responsibility for the collection and appointed professional curators.

Today it is one of the best local museums in the country with a substantial collection of local material and an ever-changing series of special exhibitions featuring many aspects of local and wider social history. There are also regular art exhibitions covering a variety of styles.

Exhibitions are generally

small so can be viewed in a short visit, and accessible to all ages; but if you have more time there is enough to keep you enthralled for hours.

Current exhibitions include Boutique Chic exploring the fashion of the 1960s and Capability Brown's Lost Sussex Garden which tells the story of his garden at Hill's Place in Horsham.

It's very important that we show our civic pride in these first class local amenities by making as much use of them as we can, and encourage friends and visitors to do the same.

*The Horsham Society is concerned about the past, present and future of the town. It seeks to promote good planning and design for the built environment and open spaces. Membership of the Horsham Society is open to anyone who shares these concerns. For more information, visit the website [www.horshamsociety.org](http://www.horshamsociety.org) or phone 01403 272814.*

**T**his week we ask if we make enough use of the splendid arts facilities the town has to offer.

Let's start with The Capitol. Originally the Ritz and then the ABC cinema, it was bought by Horsham District Council and re-opened in 1984 as Horsham Arts Centre. It closed again in 2002, re-opening in 2003 as The Capitol after a £6m refurbishment which included the iconic glass