



# News & Views

January - April 2021

Registered Charity Number: 1089777

## A True Patron & Champion of the Arts! Patricia Grayburn MBE MA(Oxon) M.Uni (Surrey) FRSA DL

Guildford Arts is delighted to award this true patron and champion of the arts an **Honorary Life Membership** for an outstanding lifetime of services to the arts.

Pat has been a most remarkable and outstanding mentor, as well as an enthusiastic advisor to the arts and culture of Guildford for more than half a century!

Born in 1930 on the Isle of Wight, she was educated at Sherborne School for Girls and went on to graduate from St. Anne's College, Oxford with Honours.

Pat's first professional involvement with the arts was in 1953 when she was appointed Administrative Officer for London County Council's Architects Department where she was responsible, inter alia, for commissioning sculpture and murals for LCC Housing.

Her expansive career in the field of arts and culture ranged far and wide and in 1983 she was appointed as the Arts Administrator for the University of Surrey where she established The Lewis Elton Gallery and was instrumental in the selection and installation of the University's highly-rated sculpture collection! Leave alone Patricia's 100% professional work ethic, her insatiable appetite and ability to be involved in all things art related, have resulted in her being a very sought after community volunteer, both locally and nationally.

When she received the certificate, a delighted Pat responded: *"2020 has been a momentous year for me (and for everyone else!). I had the dreaded virus, mercifully lightly, in March; in May I retired from the University of Surrey after 36 years, which meant I had to stop representing it on the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre board, the Design and Heritage Panel of the Guildford Society and Guildford Arts. The University has awarded me a Fellowship and the Guildford Society is giving me its Crabtree Award. Now Guildford Arts has made me an Honorary Life Member – my cup runneth over! And I celebrated my 90th birthday in June in glorious weather. Thank you so very much Guildford Arts and for giving me so much."*

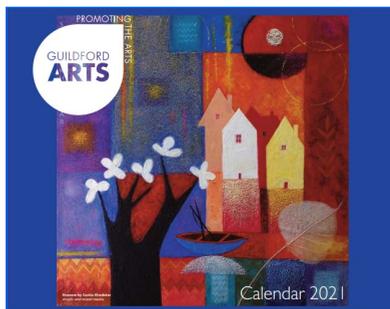


Editorial

Guildford Arts is a charitable organisation that supports and promotes the arts

# Guildford Arts 2021 Pictorial Calendar

In keeping with one of Guildford Arts' principal objectives of *promoting the arts*, this year's Pictorial Calendar is a year long constant reminder of the importance of the arts in our community. All of the members of Guildford Arts, together with a number of selected civic and commercial associates, will now have received their free copy and it is hoped that it will provide a source of pleasure throughout the coming year.



In putting together this latest Pictorial Calendar the organiser, **Sue Dragon**, comments: *"For me, putting together the Guildford Arts' 2021 Calendar was a real joy, lighting up the gloom and also, with the good news of more than one vaccine becoming available, at last there is some hope for a better year ahead.*

*"As before, I have tried to match the mood of each artwork with the time of year it represents, whether through the subject or colourway - sometimes both. I hope with the turning of each month the result brings as much pleasure to view as it was for me to assemble and that 2021 will be a much better year for us all."*

The selection process for the various images was taken from GA's artists database that has been established since 2016. From a total of 149 artists 14 were selected who have exhibited in the Art@work Programme at Clyde & Co.

It features Sunita Khedekar's bright and colourful image on the front cover, paintings by Evy Mehan, Rodney Kingston, Rosemary Gooding, Sue England and Ruth Cameron, a still-life in oils from Marilyn Bailey and works in watercolour by Sussex artist Nic Cowper, a glass sculpture from Lisa Pettibone, a mixed media painting by Zuju Shareefa, a collage by Caroline Calascione, a photograph from Andrew Webster and a sculpture by David Paynter. Finally, the back cover photo is of a woodcut by Susanna Harris-Hughes.



Copies may still be available. Contact: Jan Wilkinson at [gamembers@guildfordarts.com](mailto:gamembers@guildfordarts.com)



## Guildford Arts' Virtual AGM



Having put off the AGM from its normal time in July in the vain hope that the scourge of this plague would pass, Guildford Arts (GA), like so many other organisations, finally gave in and held its on-line AGM with a Zoom fraternity/sorority of some twenty souls, together with the eight members of the Executive Committee on 3 November 2020.



Tributes were paid by the Chairman to the curators of the successful on-line exhibitions, the continued remarkable regular appearance of this arts magazine 'News & Views' edited from the other side of the world and the exclusive GA 'Arts Calendar' for 2021 featuring local artists (distributed free to members but available to buy for £10 each).



The finances were still strong despite the fact that, with the Stock Market reductions earlier in the year, GA's finances had taken a £7000 hit but had fortunately recovered by about 75% in the meantime.



Nevertheless, with its commitment to providing support for all the arts locally, GA has continued to make grants to a number of organisations locally including The Book Festival, the Performing Arts Library, The Big Draw, The Watts Gallery to help with the siting of the famous sculpture 'Physical Energy' on the A3, the Guildford Fringe who help with our Summer Exhibition publicity and a nascent organisation 'Pirbright Arts' that was hit so soon after its creation by the lockdown.



In addition, our regular 'The Arts What's On' website 'ArtsEGG.uk' has had a somewhat limited task because of so little arts activity but new and better services are being planned as hopefully every arts organisation fully launches its offerings to the public during 2021.



The Chairman announced that, on retirement as the Surrey University representative on the GA Committee and in recognition of her service not only to Guildford Arts but also to the arts in any number of ways in Guildford and more widely, Mrs Patricia Grayburn was made an Honorary Life Member of Guildford Arts.



In GA, thanks to the continuing encouragement of our members, we continue to keep our trust in a bright future for the arts, look for where we can do something, publicise something, support something to keep the arts alive and look forward to better times ahead in the not too distant future.



Floreat Artium

Bill Ward - Chairman, Guildford Arts



ArtsEGG.uk

www.guildfordarts.com



# Renaissance?



Now is the summer, autumn and winter of our discontent made glorious spring. Well maybe, and we can all help.

Along with everyone else, Guildford Arts has been valiantly trying to do what it can to keep the torch of culture alight but inevitably 2020 was a bleak year for everyone. GA's final offering of the year was to produce a very fine 2021 Calendar featuring a professional artist's exclusive work each month.

At the time of writing, the prospects for mass vaccination seem rosy but the exact efficacy of each is only partially established. What is unclear is quite how long the roll-out will take to achieve the hideously expressed 'herd immunity'.

Being optimistic, by the spring all the restrictions on contact and gathering will be gone, everyone will feel safe and be confident in their support for the arts as events and performances flourish with a glorious new birth!

Inevitably, everybody is now out of the habit of supporting arts events and, without a conscious effort, it may take time to re-energise full support for all that is on offer. However, with all the deprivation that all arts organisations have gone through, my plea to those of us who can, is to re-engage fully as soon as it is safe to do so. Rebuilding the now fragile local arts scene is so important.

Bill Ward

## Focus on that Patch of Blue...

It is the best of times - it is the worst of times.

Though we cannot touch - we are touched

By other's kindness and thoughtfulness.

Keeping up our morale to inspire confidence

In those who need to lean on our shoulder.

But cannot do so. Yet.

Hold your nerve, the sunny uplands are in sight.

Focus on that patch of blue - see it grow

And grow with it.

Brian Alexander

# What is Social Media & How Can it Help?



We all remember the encyclopaedia and the insurance salesman, who would start off with selling to friends and family and thereafter using their contacts to expand the numbers. Virtually all direct sales operations are based on this simple principal. This basic philosophy leads directly to the more modern buzz-word of 'Networking' and its underlying importance to the business world.

Social Media works along similar lines and is also like Pyramid selling without the eventual collapse because it only uses ideas and conversation with no financial investment. Apparently, **Facebook now has more than two billion followers** – just one of a number of parallel social media sites. Therefore, using social media it is possible to talk directly to this huge and diverse audience! Of course, it is the younger generation that now treats social media as a basic source of all information and is part of their everyday life!

Over this lockdown period, working virtually has been the only way forward, and social media has become increasingly more important and obviously almost indispensable.

Through committee member **Philippa Sampson-Bancroft**, Guildford Arts is now starting to embrace the digital age! For the last few months she has developed a strong interface with both **Facebook** and **Instagram**.

Philippa is excited with her success and comments: *"The number of 'followers' is increasing measurably. Not only that, but as a bonus, a couple of new members have signed up! We now have more than 1,000 followers on **Instagram**, and 400 on **Facebook**! This certainly reflects the fact that people think it is worth seeing what **Guildford Arts** is sharing. It's a bit labour intensive but hopefully will make sure that people are seeing Guildford Arts' content consistently so we remain in their mind's eye - which is basically the crux of doing social media!*

*"Social media is very easy to access, it's like us giving a Member of Guildford Arts a flyer and them in turn handing out copies to all their friends, and in turn them telling their friends who haven't heard about Guildford Arts yet!*

*"There's lots to enjoy, so please open up a **Facebook** and **Instagram** account and come and join us and let us know what you'd like to see more of!"*

Find us on Twitter, Facebook & Instagram@Guildford Arts

[www.guildfordarts.com](http://www.guildfordarts.com)

ArtsEGG.uk



A day at the beach!



A visit to the Art Gallery!



Dinner with Friends!

# Pirbright Arts - Delivering Now!

Pirbright Arts.

Live arts curated for you and the community.



Delivering Now!

This January sees the re-launch of the **Pirbright Arts'** programme of a year round series of events featuring internationally acclaimed artists curated for you and the community from the worlds of music, theatre and art.

Part aided by a set-up grant from *Guildford Arts*, 2021 will see a series of fabulous live performances, roughly one every month,

in and around Pirbright; the stellar line-up includes broadcasting legend John Suchet, international opera singers Anna Patalong and Ben Nelson, virtuoso jazz trumpeter Enrico Tommaso, a world debut by Pirbright Arts Chamber Ensemble and a Rock 'n' Roll extravaganza featuring drumming hero Steve White, and much more!

In addition to fabulous live performances, there will be strong collaborations with local schools and community groups, including a children's concert celebrating Beethoven, a drumming workshop for all ages, an introduction to ballet, a Broadway-style dance routine session for all ages and schools and a community art project with Turner prize winner Mark Wallinger.



The driving force behind Pirbright Arts is local resident and professional musician **Mick Doran**, who is passionate about his initiative and says: *"I am very conscious that people NEED cultural and artistic engagement now more than ever. Many people are feeling lonely, isolated, neglected and disengaged and the possibility of bringing a small amount of enjoyment and respite to local people is, I believe, a duty, not only for a feeling of well-being and connectivity, but also as a contribution to improved mental health."*

*"Bearing in mind the present regulations, the two January events will be brought into people's homes via streaming. Firstly, there is an exclusive evening with multi Olivier award winner Maria Friedman and Adrian der Gregorian, celebrating Broadway and West End musical theatre. Later in January we will celebrate Burns night with the brilliant Nicky Spence, the Royal Philharmonic Society award-winning opera singer and thoroughbred Scot!"*



To learn more about **Pirbright Arts** please explore the website at [www.pirbrightarts.com](http://www.pirbrightarts.com)



[www.guildfordarts.com](http://www.guildfordarts.com)

[ArtsEGG.uk](http://ArtsEGG.uk)



# Mick Doran - Performing Arts Champion



**Mick Doran** is a professional musician specialising in percussion with over 30 years at the top level of London's orchestral music scene, particularly in opera, ballet, symphony and film.

Born into a musical family, his destiny was set at a very early age. He studied at the *Royal Academy of Music* and afterwards was appointed Principal Percussionist for *Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet* before finally moving to the *English National Opera Orchestra*, where today he presently resides as their Principal Percussionist.

Mick also enjoys a busy freelance career with the UK's premier orchestras, opera and ballet companies, as well as working on many top film scores, West End musicals and playing contemporary music and jazz. As a Professor at *Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music* he enjoys passing on his experiences to a new generation of players. Also, as an engaging communicator, he appears regularly on radio and TV.

Mick is a relaxed and comfortable presenter and has performed with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, London Concert and Royal Philharmonic Orchestras as presenter and soloist. Mick premiered his one-man show '*An A to Z of Orchestral Triangle Playing*' at the Leicester Square Theatre and has since performed to sell-out audiences nationally.

Apart from playing for all ENO's forthcoming productions, future plans include a new children's show about opera and a new one-man show based on his experiences touring the world.

Finally, Mick is honoured to be an *Associate of the Royal Academy of Music*.

Along with his spectacular professional career he retains a firm commitment of using his many and varied musical contacts to help the wellbeing of the community where he lives. Mick has recently established his own arts festival in Pirbright, with an aim to provide world class music, art and theatre to this beautiful part of England.



Concert producer and promoter; orchestra contractor and manager; outreach project creator and participant; educator at conservatoire level; private teacher and orchestra coach...is there no end to this man's talent?

Editorial

## Striking new artwork installed in the Surrey Hills



This striking new artwork '*Optohedron*' has been installed along the *North Downs Way National Trail*, a short walk from *Newlands Corner* in the Surrey Hills. Created by artist **Will Nash**, this distinct sculptural seat is the latest addition to the '*Inspiring Views*' project, which opens up hidden views, undertakes conservation work, improves access and commissions artists to interpret the views through art.

This installation is a result of a good deal of local collaboration and has only been made possible by the generous donations received through a crowd-funding campaign and support from Surrey Arts and the North Downs Way National Trail. The crowd-funding campaign launched in the summer of 2019 received a huge amount of local and regional support and the target of £8000 was achieved in only 12 weeks!



**Ali Clarke**, Surrey Hills Arts Programme Manager, says: *"We are so touched that many people were inspired by this project enough to donate and make it happen. Thanks so much to everyone who has contributed."*



Artist **Will Nash** was commissioned to create this striking sculptural seat, developed from his fascination for geometry and patterns in nature. Created from weathering steel and packed with timber from the surrounding woodland the seat blends into the landscape sympathetically. Concealed within the timber are three spherical kaleidoscopes, one looking up at the branches against the sky, one capturing the tree foliage and one down towards the earth. The artwork has been named '*Optohedron*' derived from the ancient Greek: *optikós* "of seeing" and *hédra* "raised seat." He comments: *"The idea of putting sculptures out in remote places does have the effect of attracting people to a place they wouldn't necessarily have gone and to linger for a while. They provide a space for contemplation."*

This sculptural seat compliments the other five seats that are to be seen in various locations in the Surrey Hills AONB.

[www.surreyhills.org/discover/arts-culture-views/](http://www.surreyhills.org/discover/arts-culture-views/)

Editorial

Since the early twentieth century the world's first underground public railway has been a design-conscious brand, and the catalyst for this focus on design was initially down to the efforts of **Frank Pick**, who joined the London Underground in 1906. Despite not having a background in art and design, he saw the opportunity to use pictorial posters as an important means of expanding the number of passengers. He was able to identify posters as a really good way of both advertising the system, and also achieving the lofty ambition of making sure that the network was decorated and supplemented with the best of art and design of the time.

In order to increase travel during off-peak hours, Pick commissioned posters to promote the green areas surrounding London that could be reached by Tube and bus. The first poster he commissioned was a promotion for

*Golders Green* station, which had been added to the network the year before. Rather than emphasising the service and trains, artists developed posters that tempted travellers with interesting attractions and locations worth visiting. They give the impression of a bustling city with everything to offer, from the green spaces at Kew Gardens to the shows and shopping in the West End.

Posters in the London Transport Museum span over 100 years and represent artists employing a variety of different styles and techniques. In addition to their collection of original artworks, the museum holds around 30,000 posters representing over 5,000 designs.



Today, this legacy and fine tradition continues with new innovative graphic arts and designs constantly being added by the enlightened management to brighten up travellers experience.

Listen to an excellent **Art Matters Podcast** about *'Art on the Underground'*. (Art Matters is an arm of [artuk.org](http://artuk.org))



Art Matters Podcast hosted by Ferren Gipson

<https://artuk.org/discover/stories/art-matters-podcast-poster-designs-for-the-london-underground>

# The Importance of Art in Our Lives

The digital world has seemingly decreased the importance of art and culture in people's lives. However, despite all the tech trends, both culture and art still have a great impact on the country's economy, education and society overall. Besides enriching and nourishing your inner world, art and culture illuminate your inner life and boost your creativity and imagination.



With better tolerance, enhanced health and learning, and opportunities to unite with each other, art and culture improve the quality of life and boost well-being for communities and individuals alike. It brings communities together. They're an excellent source of wonder, delight, and wisdom, and offer intellectual and emotional experiences, which promote either contemplation or celebration.



Both culture and art are two wonderful ways of preserving or strengthening a strong community's sense of place, forging a personal identity, and showing your creativity. Art and culture boast multiple opportunities for learning, entertainment, leisure, personal growth, and improving communication with others. From theatres and museums to public libraries and art studios, art and culture unite people regardless of their age, nationality or religion.

With today's pace of life one can become stressed out, chronically fatigued, anxious, and lethargic. If art and culture are not a part of your life, you risk experiencing an emotional burnout, which might result in depression and low productivity levels. Encouraging healthy populations is one of the biggest roles of art and culture in our life. Numerous studies have shown that culture and creativity help to enhance physical and mental health alike.



Art and cultural events and activities like fairs, festivals, or sports competitions form social cohesion and solidarity, encouraging community closeness, empowerment, social tolerance, and civic pride. Participation in the arts has also been shown to boost the well-being and overall health of older adults as it prevents social isolation and stimulates intercultural understanding and identity development.



Including art and culture in your life aids in boosting self-esteem, developing thinking skills, improving resilience, and enhancing confidence.

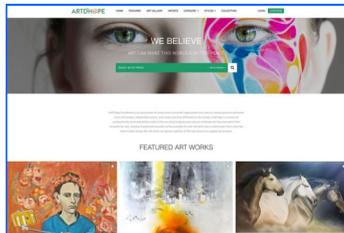
This article has been extracted from some very interesting ideas from: [www.theideatradier.com](http://www.theideatradier.com)



# How to Build Artistic Credibility...

Everyone trying to make a living creating art wants to be thought of as professional. It's no secret that people want to buy from credible artists. When someone appreciates your creation, is clearly interested in your work, and they have discreetly accepted your price, the final link in the chain of a sale is information about the artist - who they are and what is their driving passion - in other words their credibility! While these credibility building thoughts are perhaps obvious, they can really make a difference to your art business.

**Professional looking website:** This is your 'shop window'. Make it easy to navigate so that viewers focus on your art, fill your site with high resolution photos and descriptions, double check that all your links are working, proof-read everything, and keep your site regularly updated.



**Strong social media:** You probably know that Instagram can become a huge asset to your art business, but when you only have a few hundred followers (mostly family and friends), it can feel like an eternity waiting for that coveted notification to pop up - the one announcing you have got another follower! Building up your Instagram followers takes a good amount of effort and strategy.

**Compelling Writing:** Letting your art speak for itself doesn't quite work that way. Your unique story and background help to give art collectors a confidence of credibility. That is why it is essential to write the best possible 'Artist Statement'. These writings are introductions to your art business, so why not try to impress buyers from the start?



**Professional looking paperwork:** Make sure all of your paperwork of letterheads, business cards, consignment notes, reports and invoices (complete with a small photo of the work) are clearly branded with your well-designed logo.

**Photographic Inventory:** It is extremely important to have a full photographic inventory of all of your work, whether sold or un-sold, together with its location.

**Meet deadlines:** There's nothing more satisfying, and credible, than delivering finished work on time, together with the appropriate paperwork!



A few thoughts and ideas - I hope it helps.

Editorial

## News & Views

### Next Edition May 2021

GA members and other arts organisations may send interesting articles, together with high res. photos by **31 March 2021** for publication on or about **25 April 2021**.

Please send your contributions to the editor by e-mail:

[gaeditor@guildfordarts.com](mailto:gaeditor@guildfordarts.com)

## Become a Member

- *Are you interested in or involved in the literary, visual or performing arts?*
- *Would you like to know more about what arts events and activities are available?*
- *Perhaps you would like to promote your own artistic activities to a wide Guildford based audience?*

If your answer to any of the above is 'yes' then **Guildford Arts** should be of interest.

- We are an organisation dedicated to the nurture and promotion of the arts in the Guildford area.
- We are a registered charity that draws its membership from both the providers of artistic experiences and those who delight in and support those offerings.
- We run exhibitions, talks and events organised by ourselves, or in association with others.
- We provide financial support for arts initiatives of all kinds.
- We provide featured promotion of arts endeavours in **News & Views** and events

## Members' Flyers in our Mailbag

**This is an exclusive service for GA Members to advertise their arts events in our regular mail-outs.**

E-mail below for the mailing schedule and confirmation of available space. Flyers should be A5 size or folded A4. We send out 450 copies, dependent on weight at a nominal cost of £45.

[gaflyers@guildfordarts.com](mailto:gaflyers@guildfordarts.com)

## Guildford Arts Contacts - 2021

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