

## Promoting the Arts with [ArtsEGG.uk](http://ArtsEGG.uk)

Our proudest boast in Guildford Arts is that we use all of our income as effectively as possible to promote the arts locally - whether that is in our own exhibitions, in publishing *News & Views*, in sponsoring some of the more important arts events in the town, in making grants to new initiatives across the whole field of the arts, in providing the flyer distribution service at modest rates, or organising workshops on topics of interest to arts providers - quite a list for a modest sized local charity.

Thanks to the continuing support of our individual and organisation members, our patronage has now extended to a new and exciting development. Over the last year or so, a number of arts organisations have asked for a dedicated web-site to publicise all the arts activities and events that are available in Guildford and the surrounding areas.

John O'Keefe has worked tirelessly to deliver this new web-site [ArtsEGG.uk](http://ArtsEGG.uk) with highlights of its

achievements so far elsewhere in this edition. The Mayor, Cllr Gordon Jackson, officially launched and welcomed the web-site at G Live recently.



Official launch by Mayor Gordon Jackson of 'ArtsEGG.uk' web-site at G Live  
*Photo: Steve Porter, courtesy of the Surrey Advertiser*

Success depends on two key actions by local arts organisations; first, regularly to post their events on the web-site so it sustains its claim to be a one-stop information point; second, to promote its use whenever they can.

Together, we can create more support for our rich local arts scene - let us develop the arts habit in more people, more of the time!

Bill Ward, Chairman Guildford Arts



## ArtsEGG.uk has been launched... and is looking good!

Responses from both sides of the 'user' equation - arts providers and arts supporters - have been very positive.

Of course, it has taken a little while to get to this point! We needed some time to establish how such a site should look and work in a way that would be acceptable to Guildford's arts community. We pursued this issue over a number of well attended and productive 'arts organisation' workshops.

We had to grapple with the technology. *WordPress* and its associated themes and thousands of 'plugins', offers many different solutions that we needed to select, test, evaluate and eventually consolidate into a reliable framework that performs well, and performs well on all platforms (not the railway kind...cell phones, tablets, laptops and the like).

Having established such a framework, with the valuable assistance of a number of arts organisations that posted events over the summer, we have assembled and refined the [ArtsEGG.uk](http://ArtsEGG.uk) that you see today. This, of course, is only the beginning! The success of the project will be established over the next few months, when the information on the site is, in effect, a complete representation of what the arts has to offer in and around Guildford, together with a high level of usage by the public and arts participants.

At the moment there are some 70 'authors' providing material for the site and more than 130 current events and articles have been posted. The number of 'hits' increases daily which demonstrates that visitors are searching the site as intended.

Keep a regular eye on the site. If not you might miss something really good! If you use *Twitter*, then follow [@ArtsEGG](https://twitter.com/ArtsEGG). Everything on the site generates a Tweet!

Your feedback is invaluable!

John O'Keefe, [webdev@artsegg.uk](mailto:webdev@artsegg.uk)

## Changeover at Clyde & Co.

Since 2007 John O'Keefe has been organising more than thirty successful 'Art @ Work' exhibitions at their sponsors Clyde & Co. but now feels the time has come, with his *webmaster* hat on, to commit himself fully to [ArtsEGG.uk](http://ArtsEGG.uk).

Sue Dragon has stepped into the vacancy and will now be sourcing artists and taking on the responsibility of putting on future exhibitions. Her first took place last month and was a great success. She received many compliments for a great exhibition and a very convivial evening. Of course, Sue would like to see many more members and their guests come along and enjoy great art and great refreshments!



Editorial



## G.A.'s Small Grants Scheme

Guildford Arts has for many years provided small grants for arts projects and initiatives held within the Guildford Borough. The grants are usually for up to £250, exceptionally up to £500, and have been given for a whole range of initiatives, from the *Big Draw*, arts workshops to murals, opera to dance. Priority is given to projects for the young and disadvantaged.

We are happy to discuss your proposals at any time but formal applications must be received by April or October each year, with grants being awarded in May and November.

Project ideas must not be for profit, and our grants are usually of a one-off nature. Gaining grant funding from us can usually be helpful when applying to larger and national organisations for additional funding towards your project.

For more general information regarding our grants see our web-site or send an outline of your project to: [gagrants@guildfordarts.com](mailto:gagrants@guildfordarts.com) for further discussion.

Mike Beckwith, G.A. Grants



## Farewell to RSM

'Art @ Work' is one of Guildford Arts core objectives, and after more than fifty exhibitions with **RSM** (previously known as **Baker Tilly**), our excellent association has now, unfortunately, come to an end.

When they moved from their building at the Clockhouse (AA) roundabout to their new offices in London Square, limited space, and particularly security, became insurmountable problems.

On behalf of all that have enjoyed the kind hospitality of RSM with attending our exhibitions over the years, I would like to publicly record our thanks for our long association, and wish RSM continued success in the future.

Bill Ward, Chairman Guildford Arts

## Life Members Success

The idea of creating *Life Members* is not merely to give Guildford Arts extra revenue. It is designed primarily to cut down the time consuming problems of the administration that's needed. Sending out annual reminders and invoices, with the usual follow-up statements when many members have overlooked paying, is extremely inefficient and at the end of the day almost more costly than the very modest £10 annual membership fee that is currently levied.

To help us streamline our administration **Life Membership** at £100.00 and **Joint Life Membership** at £150.00 will certainly go a long way to keeping our costs on track.

***Please give it your due consideration!***

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

Editorial



## 'Silver Shoon' - New Public Art for Guildford

A new, iconic piece of artwork designed specifically for the riverside location of Woodbridge Meadows has been created for Guildford by leading artist Charles Normandale. The new sculpture, **'Silver Shoon'**, reflects the nature of the area in an eye-catching representation of fish swimming amongst tall, curved reeds.



The Mayor of Guildford, Cllr Gordon Jackson, recently unveiled **'Silver Shoon'**. He was joined by Cllr Nikki Nelson Smith, Lead Councillor for Heritage and the

Arts, members of the project board, the artist Charles Normandale, members of the Guildford Public Art Advisory Group, and pupils from Northmead Junior School.

Cllr Nikki Nelson Smith says: "I'm delighted that this striking, original piece of public art has been created for everyone to enjoy - it has the potential to become a real local landmark. The artwork complements existing environmental improvements, and adds interest and character to the area."



The sculpture was inspired by the poem *'Silver'* by Walter de la Mare. The artist, Charles Normandale, intended to create the feeling of walking on the river bed, amongst the reeds, with the fish swimming above you.

The robust and hand-forged steel artwork is able to withstand flooding. The fish are made from stainless steel and the reeds are made of Corten steel, which will gradually weather and become darker over time due to the natural oxidisation process.

### Key Facts:

The £70,000 project has been commissioned by Guildford Borough Council and is fully funded from Section 106 developer contributions for art.

Project community engagement has been delivered through two workshops - the first was at Northmead Junior School, and the second was a public workshop. Participants at both events worked with Charles Normandale and his team of artists to create drawings and sketches of fish native to the River Wey. At Northmead they then made these sketches into a large frieze for their school hall.

## Inspiring Views - in the Surrey Hills AONB

You may have noticed some rather striking looking sculptures popping up along the Greensand Way. These distinct pieces of art are part of the **Inspiring Views Project** delivered by Surrey Hills Arts. Funded through the **Mittal Foundation**, this project has worked with landowners to open up hidden views along the Greensand Way, improve access and commission artists to interpret the views through art, poetry and sound.



Five sculptors and designers were commissioned to create sculptural benches at viewpoints along the Greensand Way at Gibbet Hill, Reynards Hill, Holmbury Hill, Winterfold and Hascombe Hill. The **Inspiring Views Project** not only produced artworks but also poetry and sound pieces. Poet John Wedgwood Clarke has captured their unique identities through words, creating poems for each of the five inspiring views; whilst established musician, sound artist and composer Graham Dowdall has created sound pictures for each hill to represent and to reflect each unique landscape sonically.

A fully comprehensive round-up of this exceptional project can be seen at: [www.inspiringviews.org](http://www.inspiringviews.org)



Surrey Hills Arts is a partnership between Surrey Arts, Surrey County Council and the Surrey Hills. It aims to engage and inspire people with the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and its unique natural, cultural and industrial heritage through the arts.

Ali Clarke, Programme Manager - [surreyhillsarts@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:surreyhillsarts@surreycc.gov.uk)

## The last Noos about the Moos!

The finale of the Cow Parade took place late November in the spectacular location of Hampton Court Palace. This magical setting steeped in history provided a fitting end for the top



twenty moos who raised over £130,000 on the night!

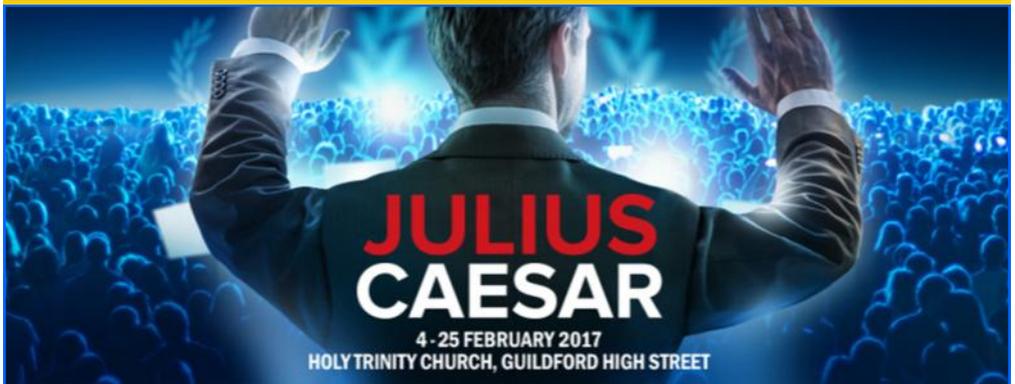


Twenty bovine beauties were auctioned off by Ewbank's Auctioneers who did a fantastic job of animating the audience and ensuring the cash started flowing!

Money raised will be distributed between 52 charities and the *Surrey Hills Trust Fund*. The fund in partnership with the Community Foundation for Surrey will help to safeguard and protect the Surrey Hills for future generations.

Bon Fairbanks, Surrey Hills AONB Director





## “Friends, Romans, Countrymen lend me your ears....”



For the first time in their ten year history, the award-winning Guildford-based theatre company will be using a present-day context to stage Shakespeare’s Roman thriller.

This is a Caesar of suits and PR campaigns, of violence and fear, caught in a high octane whirl of sound bites and camera flashes. Even though it was written over 400 years ago, Caesar contains echoes of the political world that we live in today. It’s easy to see parallels with the recent Presidential Election, Brexit, Syria and European migration issues, as well as the obvious connotations of party delegates wanting to oust their leaders.

Focusing on the cult of personality in politics, a government founded on propaganda and the most famous case of political backstabbing, GSC promises a compelling tense thriller which has relevance today. The setting may be modern, but the words and their intentions are timeless. Shakespeare’s play written in 1599 was incredibly contemporary with its political and religious themes. Using their inimitable immersive style in the evocative setting of Holy Trinity Church on Guildford High Street, this production will place the audience at the heart of the action!

**A production not to be missed!**

[www.guildford-shakespeare-company.co.uk](http://www.guildford-shakespeare-company.co.uk)

## Special Reader Offer!

Two pairs of tickets for Monday 6 February

To be entered into the prize draw, answer the simple question and send your response to: [gseditor@guildfordarts.com](mailto:gseditor@guildfordarts.com) by 20 January. The two winners will be informed by 27 January.

Question: When was Shakespeare’s ‘Julius Caesar’ written?



Matt Pinches, Guildford Shakespeare Company



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

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





## Alive and well, and living in Guildford!

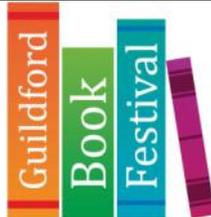
Ochre Print Studio is based in Guildford and is the largest open-access fine art print studio in south east England. Ochre Print Studio supports artists of all abilities and the local community through the provision of specialist printmaking facilities and a highly valued programme of related courses, talks and exhibitions. Ochre is an artist-led organisation managed by professional artists and provides a significant art and education resource for Surrey and the bordering counties.



Website: [www.ochreprintstudio.co.uk](http://www.ochreprintstudio.co.uk)  
E-Mail: [info@ochreprintstudio.co.uk](mailto:info@ochreprintstudio.co.uk)

Telephone: 07930 384753  
Annee Robson, Ochre Print Studios

## Another Successful Year!



The 27th Guildford Book Festival took place over eight days last October with a record number of people attending more than fifty exciting events at venues across the town and beyond.

A whole host of writers and celebrities entertained and captivated audiences to produce another very successful Festival.

Plans for next year are already under way with a determination to produce an even more exciting array of inspirational writers.



Jane Beaton, Guildford Book Festival

## Guildhall Art Lectures

The *Friends of Guildford House* have organised a series of seven fascinating art lectures at Guildford's atmospheric Guildhall. They also arrange visits to the major art exhibitions in London and other places of interest in southern England throughout the year.

Their first on 17 January is an enthralling lecture on *Picasso's Portraits* by Frank Woodgate, a well respected NADFAS accredited lecturer.



Coupled with this event is a visit to the National Portrait Gallery on 20 January.



The second lecture on 15 February is a detailed insight into the character of *Paul Nash*. This lecture

will be presented by the very talented Peter Scott.

[www.surreycommunity.info/frog](http://www.surreycommunity.info/frog)  
Pauline Surrey, Friends of Guildford House



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

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



# A New Opera House, in a Magical Setting

On 8 June the curtain will rise on a brand new horseshoe-shaped opera house, the first in the UK in decades! **Grange Park Opera**, one of Europe's leading opera festivals, will open '**The Theatre in the Woods**' - and their 2017 season - at West Horsley Place.



West Horsley Place is a 15th Century manor house set in 300 acres of rolling farmland and woods near Guildford, Surrey. The Grade 1 listed building was the home of Mary, Duchess of Roxburghe, but when she died in 2014 at the age of 99, it passed - to his surprise - to her great-nephew, the author/broadcaster **Bamber Gascoigne**.

In search of ideas of what to do with a 50-room house and estate, he made the property over to the **Mary Roxburghe Trust** for use as a performance centre and a place for studying arts and crafts.

At the same time, it was fortuitous that Grange Park Opera was looking for a new home, and with Bamber and his wife Christina's love for opera, an easy decision "*to have an opera house in the garden*" was made!

In June 2016 Guildford Planners made the courageous decision to allow this dynamic development in the Green Belt to go ahead.

**Wasfi Kani** OBE is the dynamic founder and CEO of Grange Park Opera and the prime-mover for making sure that the emerging building will be up and running in time for the grand opening in June.



Wasfi Kani and Bamber Gascoigne

Her fund raising abilities are formidable; over this last year Wasfi has convinced benefactors to donate more than £6.8 million, as well as winning planning permission after promising to re-home any bats, badgers or bees that may feel put-out by their arrival!

Besides tapping into her personal connections, she is offering naming rights for every conceivable architectural aspect of the theatre.



Planning model for the new Opera House

The creation of a four-tier opera house, principally modelled on La Scala in Milan, is probably the most thrilling happening in UK opera today. There is a miraculous pace to the building work with all of the foundations, orchestra pit and steel work virtually complete, and now that the roof is on there is a lively anticipation that the reality is here.

The theatre is located in woodland close to, but concealed from, the historic house behind the majestic 'crinkle-crankle' wall and nestling in dappled woodland. It is glimpsed amongst the trees, its cladding echoing the splendid ancient walls of the house and gardens.

The brief was simple: seating for 650, four tiers in a 'U' form, with a volume and surfaces designed to target an optimum reverberation time of 1.4 seconds, with a generous pit to enable the orchestral sound to develop but retain an intimacy between performers and audience. As they enter the auditorium guests will encounter the full spatial volume of the building.

The walled gardens and the historic buildings provide the bars, restaurants and meeting places normally located inside a theatre.



The theatre will be kept cool by air passing through, and being cooled by, a subterranean labyrinth set beneath the seats of the stalls. In the winter, heater batteries will be installed and the warm air exhausted and re-circulated with fresh air drawn from outside.



The roof goes on! December 2016. Photo: Richard Lewishohn



High on the outside wall above the main door and set within the diamond patterned brickwork is a balcony from which trumpeters will summon the audience to the performance - an idea inspired by Wagner's Bayreuth.

*If you go down to the woods next year, you may indeed be sure of a big surprise!*

## Special Reader Offer!

**Two vouchers for two pairs of tickets** for a weekday or Sunday performance of Tosca, Die Walkure or Jenufa (subject to availability).

To be entered into the prize draw, answer the simple question and send your response to: [gaeditor@guildfordarts.com](mailto:gaeditor@guildfordarts.com) by 24 February.

The two winners will be drawn at the Art @ Work Private View, Clyde & Co on 1 March.

Question: What is the optimum reverberation time of The Theatre in the Woods?



The National Youth Jazz Orchestra (NYJO) is a band in blistering form. Fresh from its annual residency at *Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club* it will be showcasing at **G Live** for the **Guildford International Music Festival 24 February - 5 March 2017**. From the treasures of the Baroque to contemporary experimental music, and from classical to jazz, dance, film and the visual arts, this year's festival promises to inspire and engage all the family. Innovation will be at the heart of the 2017 Festival, with premières of new work, new arrangements of classic works, and events exploring the relationship between music and science.

Amongst some of the artists taking part we welcome internationally renowned violinist Tasmin Little, John Williams with his Six Hand Guitar Trio, Apollo 5, the National Youth Jazz Orchestra and the New London Chamber Ensemble with Simon Callow. Events take place in some of our most beautiful venues from St Martha-on-the-Hill, St Mary's Church, St Nicolas Church, Holy Trinity Church, G Live, Loseley Park, Hatchlands, as well as on the campus at the University of Surrey. Dance and Theatre is presented by StopGap and Chimera, local young musicians feature with the GSA Singers, Surrey Youth Choir and the University Chamber Choir amongst others. We are working closely with creative partners to present a number of events throughout the week including films at the Electric Theatre and folk singing at the Guildford Institute.



Website for more info: [www.surrey.ac.uk/arts](http://www.surrey.ac.uk/arts)

Pippa Cleary, Festival Director

## Guildford Harmony



We are a ladies choral group who sing A Capella and Barbershop in close harmony. Our new Musical Director is attentive, motivational, makes learning fun and gives individual help to ensure our performances are highly polished. Rehearsals start with a fun warm-up which helps to focus the mind, relax the body and develop the ear. At the end of an evening there is always time for a cuppa and a chat! If you love to sing and would like more information, contact Sue Lampard, our Musical Director, on 01252 725685.

E-mail: [contact@guildfordharmony.org.uk](mailto:contact@guildfordharmony.org.uk) Visit our website: [www.guildfordharmony.org.uk](http://www.guildfordharmony.org.uk)



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

ArtsEGG.uk



## Diary of Events for your delectation!

*News and Views* totally concedes that there is no other **Diary of Events** that can possibly be better than the [ArtsEGG.uk](http://ArtsEGG.uk) - therefore please log onto:



## News and Views Next Edition May 2017

G.A. members and other arts organisations may send notice of events or articles at any time before **15 April** for publication on or about **26 April 2017**.

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

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

## Members' Flyers in our Mailbag

### MEMBERS: advertise your arts event 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 500 copies and are able to include flyers from other groups, dependent on weight at a nominal cost of £45

[gaflyers@guildfordarts.com](mailto:gaflyers@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 promotion of arts endeavours through our regular **News & Views** and our two **web-sites**.

**Contact the Membership Secretary below.**

## Guildford Arts Contacts - 2017

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