

Is Public Art Really Necessary?

It is always difficult, both as an individual and as a society, particularly in straitened economic times, to hang on to the idea that the arts are not some sort of luxury, some add-on to the real necessities of life, but surely it is the very essence of what holds us as individuals and society together. This has probably been true ever since primitive man or woman first produced life-affirming paintings on the walls of their cave.



The role of public art is to foster that cultured sense of linkage between one another in the community whilst encouraging a love of the arts more extensively in all of us. We are fortunate in Guildford, both in the University and the town, to have a number of fine examples of public art which gently remind us of the value of beauty in our built environment and of the many wonderful artistic events which take place in our midst.



The scale of most of our public sculptures is for the most part fairly intimate, they are life-sized or somewhat larger. That human scale creates exactly the right engagement by all of us on a day-to-day basis - comfortable with the initial encounter and then the ability to take in the detail.



What is important is that public art must be seen and enjoyed by the community. By its presence alone public art has the power to energise our public spaces, heighten our awareness and perhaps even transform the places where we live, work and play into a more welcoming and beautiful environment that invites interaction.



[Continued on Page 2](#)

Continued from Page 1: **Is Public Art Necessary?**

What perhaps Guildford lacks, in addition to those existing riches, is a centrally placed large-scale 'sculpture' which we locals and visitors encounter on foot and which means 'Guildford' to the wider world. Like our neighbours in Westminster, we too have an iconic clock, but there certainly is room to add to that!



Many towns and cities have something which defines them. To take a couple of examples, in England there are many fine works of art in the North East and on



Tyneside, but what flickers constantly in the imagination of the visitor is of course 'The Angel of the North' or the 30 metre high 'Kelpies'.

Can we not find the resources, artistic and otherwise, to find Guildford's definitive expression?

Bill Ward, Chairman Guildford Arts

Harvey Gallery

Sophie's Arty Misfits Exhibition



Until 4 May!

A collective of seventeen local artists and illustrators, who, disheartened, gave up art at school, are now exhibiting for the first time at the Harvey Road Gallery in Guildford until 4 May 2017. The collective's name, **Sophie's Arty Misfits**, is inspired by artist and tutor, **Sophie Artemis Pitt** who teaches the group illustration and drawing at the Guildford Adult Education Learning Centre.

Come along and celebrate artwork from students that have been inspired by Sophie's tuition. From complete beginners they have grown in confidence and skills, published children's books, worked with agents, created their own web-sites and are producing beautiful works that are now on sale.



For further information: www.harveygallery.co.uk

Jo Foat: 07828 762045, jfoat0@gmail.com



www.guildfordarts.com

ArtsEGG.uk



The EGG is doing very Well!

“The Arts Egg website is great and we are really enjoying using it!”....this is the kind of feedback that we like to receive.

ArtsEGG.uk is currently responding to over 1200 hits per day from some 200 visitors. There are now 100 registered ‘Authors’ using the site and, at the time of writing, 160 arts events are being publicised.

The system automatically displays new event postings on the front page and removes events once they are out of date. The turnover rate can be quite breathtaking! Often 10 or more events are posted within a 24hr period. Only regular visits to the site ensure that one can be aware of the impressive scale of arts offerings in the Guildford area. (If you like Twitter, follow **@ArtsEGG** which is getting much busier thanks to enthusiastic contributions from some very ‘active’ arts providers!)

However, the job is not yet ‘done’. We continue to pursue two related objectives. Firstly, to create a genuine sense of shared ownership and promotion of the site across all of Guildford’s arts organisations. Secondly, by this and other means, to increase the number of regular site visitors to an average of 500 per day. By achieving these goals, **Guildford Arts** will have met its declared intention: to deliver ‘the’ comprehensive source of arts information for the benefit of the areas residents and its visitors.

Also, after some six months of ‘live’ performance, it is time to benefit from ‘experience in use’! The ‘Articles’ component of ArtsEGG has not flourished. It will shortly be realigned to focus exclusively on arts ‘Courses and Classes’ – a component that is well used. A comprehensive source for those looking for learning opportunities will be valued I am sure.

It is planned to release the revised **guildfordarts.com** web-site within the next month, which will provide a platform for Press Releases and general articles as it did with considerable success in the past.

Please use **ArtsEGG.uk**. A visit a day could well add something unexpected yet most welcome to your life!

John O’Keefe, webdev@artsegg.uk

Hatching the EGG with Tweets

I have recently taken over the Twitter account for ArtsEGG in the hope of engaging more of the Guildford arts providers. The website is doing a great job but we need to be interacting with the ArtsEGG members on every platform possible to get the most from it and, of course, we need the arts providers to do the same.

To those of you that are using the ArtsEGG website already, why not copy the URL of your event page and tweet it out, copying in **@ArtsEgg** after uploading to the site? That way, you're not only getting the initial auto tweet of your event but also you're giving us more to share about you. *Social media is all about content*, so if you are supplying that for your events then it'll be easier for us to help promote it. The Twitter account, like the website, is for you so please use the service.

Also, see who else is using ArtsEGG and communicating via Twitter. Tag them in as well to your Tweets and have a chat via Twitter about each other's events. This all creates content and excitement about your events. As with all things, this site will only work if it's used and shared, and that's everyone's responsibility now that **Guildford Arts** has done the hard bit... paying for it. If you fancy writing a load of tweets for ArtsEGG then please send them over to me and I'll schedule them in to go out automatically in the lead up to your event.

The information I need from you: Write Tweets in the third person (not 'I' but 'they' please), dates of your production, good quality pictures to go with the Tweets, and no more than 140 characters per tweet.

Remember the important information: What it is - Where it is - How to book - How to find more information.

Please e-mail this to me at info@GuildfordFringe.com and have the information in a *word document* attached to the email.

Nick Wyschna - Managing Director, Guildford Fringe, 01483 361101

www.GuildfordFringeFestival.com

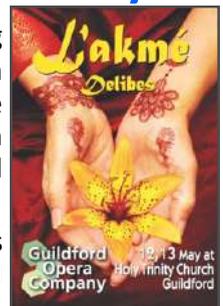
Guildford Opera Company 12 & 13 May

Featuring the famous 'Flower Duet', **L'akmé** is set in India during the 19th century and tells the story of forbidden love between a beautiful Brahmin priestess and an English army officer. The cultural clash of manners and customs underpins the action which moves between the colourful, cosmopolitan bazaar and the closed serenity of the sacred temple.

Guildford's **Holy Trinity Church** is the ideal setting for this exquisite opera which will be fully staged with singing and dialogue and a new English translation.

With just two performances this is a rare opportunity not to be missed!

Booking via Tourist Information 01483 444334 www.visitguildford.com Glenys Magill www.guildfordopera.com



www.guildfordarts.com

ArtsEGG.uk



Clyde & Co - Champions of the Arts!

For the past fifteen years Clyde & Co LLP have hosted and sponsored the “Art@Work” programme, with more than 50 successful exhibitions!

“Art@Work” is a clever idea that brings together the notions that artists frequently have a stock of pictures in their studios that don’t see the light of day and commercial premises often look quite sterile due to a lack of visual interest. Use those blank office walls to show a changing sequence of Art in the Workplace and the result is beneficial for all concerned - especially if some of those pictures get sold!

Adam Taylor-Smith, Partner in Clyde & Co (winner, Law Firm of the Year 2016) also believes that the scheme has a great deal of merit and says: *“Personally, I think that my firm has benefited hugely over the years through the association with Guildford Arts and exposure to artistic talent with the regularly changing art on our walls”*.

They also find a benefit having the art hanging in their conference rooms, where visiting clients can enjoy it as well as reflecting on the work during meetings. The staff are also very appreciative and often buy pieces of work from the exhibitions.

Clyde & Co have their own in-house catering and at the Private Views always provide Guildford Arts members and their guests with a wonderful selection of canapés, wine and juice, virtually competing with the colourful array of works of art on the walls!

Clyde & Co are true Champions and Patrons of the Arts!

Sue Dragon, Guildford Arts

Invitation

“Art@Work”

Summer Exhibition at Clyde & Co

Guildford Arts cordially invites you and your guests to the

Private View

Thursday 8 June 2017 at 6.00pm in the offices of
Clyde & Co. 1 Stoke Road, Guildford, GU1 4HW

Wine & Canapés

‘Art Unplugged’ Talk 6.45pm.

The Clyde & Co Summer Exhibition

Come along and feast your senses on a collection of varied works of art from soft pastels to colourful abstract paintings, intricate botanicals to metal sculptures. There will be something for everyone's taste.

The Private View is on Thursday 8 June from 6.00 - 8.00pm with the ever popular 'Art Unplugged' talk at 6.45 by Fay Dodd on her life as a Textile Artist.

Come along to a relaxed convivial evening, and meet new friends. Wine and canapés will be served with Clyde & Co's usual flourish!

All works will be for sale at competitively modest prices.

[Sue Dragon, Guildford Arts, 01483 573538](http://www.guildfordarts.com)



**GUILDFORD
SHAKESPEARE
COMPANY**

15 June - 29 July

2017 Summer Open-Air Season

A Midsummer Night's Dream & The Two Gentlemen of Verona

The thrill and pandemonium of being young and in love take centre stage this summer as GSC presents an open-air double bill of Shakespeare's most colourful and anarchic comedies.

First up is **A Midsummer Night's Dream** where two young lovers seeking to escape the harsh laws of the city find themselves lost in a mystical wood, in the heart of historic Guildford. Racks Close - the wooded wilderness located behind the Castle with its multi-level grass banks and meandering paths is perfect for this magical night to remember.



The season continues in July with **The Two Gentlemen of Verona**. Proteus loves Julia and Valentine loves Sylvia...but when Proteus also falls in love with Sylvia, it all begins to go horribly wrong! 'Two Gents' combines banishment, betrayal, girls disguised as boys, outrageous comic set-pieces, the politest band of outlaws you could find and even a scene-stealing dog! The setting for this joyous comedy is in the beautiful gardens of The University of Law on Portsmouth Road.

(Booking opens 2 May)

www.guildford-shakespeare-company.co.uk

Matt Pinches, GSC



www.guildfordarts.com

ArtsEGG.uk



Celebrating 125 Years of the Guildford Institute

The Guildford Institute has proudly stood on Ward Street, above a former temperance hotel, in the heart of the town centre for 125 years. A programme of events throughout 2017 will celebrate this important anniversary.

The Guildford Institute was founded by local tradesmen who were keen to improve themselves and to promote learning for others also wishing to learn new skills. It provides a full range of adult education courses including art history, drawing and painting, creative writing, photography and languages. The Guildford Institute continues to grow and diversify its course programme with yoga, family history, astronomy, drama, furniture painting and sushi making recently added to the list. The Institute is also home to The Beano, Guildford's only vegetarian restaurant.



Home of the Guildford Institute, Ward Street 1892

A celebratory afternoon tea party was attended by Nigel Manning, Deputy Mayor of Guildford, Trish Noakes, Manager of the Guildford Institute, said "We really enjoyed an afternoon of celebration and fun. It's not every day that you celebrate your 125th! Since 1892 the Institute has been at the heart of the Guildford community."



Guildford Institute Today

The Guildford Institute is also proud to house a 125 year-old Bechstein Grand Piano, and local schools will be working with the Institute on a special celebratory concert to be performed by young pianists on 12th May. Other events aimed at local people with an interest in Guildford will include a talk on Thursday 2nd November, delivered by Terence Patrick (former Mayor of Guildford) and Matthew Alexander (local historian and former curator of Guildford Museum).



On Saturday 11th November a time capsule will be sealed and placed within the Guildford Institute's historic archive. Items aimed to capture the spirit of our current time including copies of the day's newspapers and other contemporary items.

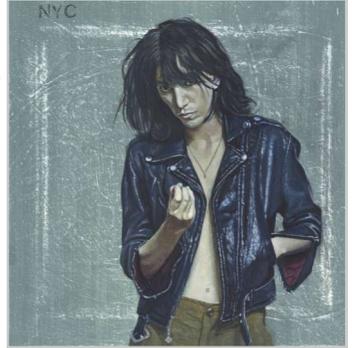
For further information please contact: Vicky Pursey:
01483 562142 vicky@guildford-institute.org.uk

GA's Summer Exhibition @ Yvonne Arnaud

Once again, the historic Mill Studio will be home to the **22nd Yvonne Arnaud Art Summer Exhibition**. Running from Wednesday 5 July to Thursday 20 July (Monday - Saturday) this Victorian building will be transformed into a colourful array of a large collection of professional works of art.

Artists have been drawn from near and far and have produced a completely varied selection of many different styles and genres. From thoughtful still-life paintings and quiet atmospheric images to bold and colourful abstracts, landscapes, engaging sculptures, three dimensional works and decorative glass and ceramic pieces.

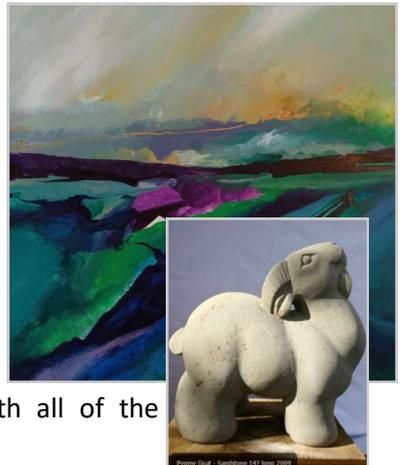
Many of the artists have won prestigious awards and exhibited in major exhibitions and galleries such as the RA Summer Exhibition, Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolours, the Sunday Times Watercolour Competition, and the National Portrait Gallery. In addition, several artists have had their artwork used in book illustrations.



On Saturday 8 and 15 July the popular **'Meet The Artist'** days are planned. This will be the opportunity to actually meet some of the artists. It is also a

chance for the artists to explain their inspiration and techniques. Several will also be actually demonstrating their work and will usually have additional unframed work to buy.

Once again, to encourage young budding artists, the very successful **Children's Quiz** will be operational over the run of the exhibition, with all of the necessary drawing materials supplied.



Additional information on each artist will be available in the Exhibition Guide and on www.guildfordarts.com and, of course, on ArtsEGG.uk

An annual feast for the senses....an exhibition NOT to be missed!

Diane Marshall, YAA Publicity

saos

surrey artists' open studios

Over 300 Surrey Artists to search, visit and inspire...

Enjoy a wonderful two weeks of open studios with workshops, demonstrations and talks, Saturday 3 June - Sunday 18 June.

Surrey Artists' Open Studios takes place each summer as an opportunity for the public to visit studios, meet artists and makers, view demonstrations, buy artwork, enter our free prize draw, view taster exhibitions and take part in creative workshops. Studio locations are throughout Surrey and around its borders.

There is a fantastic array of different things to see and do. We also feature all of our open studios artists on our online resource '**Find a Surrey Artist**', available throughout the year. Here you can search for Surrey Artists, each of whom has an individual web page showcasing up to 12 images of their artwork; listings of their exhibitions and workshops, and many indicate that their studio is open by appointment throughout the year. We also offer training for artists and opportunities for exhibiting and sharing work.

For the Surrey Artist of the Year competition we are delighted to be working with 'Surrey Life' as a media partner.

Jane McGibbon, Co-ordinator, Surrey Arts: 01483 519285



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www.guildfordarts.com

ArtsEGG.uk



Prestigious Venues for SSS in 2017



The Surrey Sculpture Society members are looking forward to another busy year of major exhibitions in prestigious venues, with the society's first event of the year to be held at the **Surrey Hills Sculpture Garden at the Birtley Estate in Bramley near Guildford, Surrey** from **30th April until 4th June**. The sculpture trail will weave its way through the 48 acres of manicured grounds with breathtaking views from this Surrey Hills venue, which will also host an indoor exhibition of sculptures and demonstrations.

Henriette Van der Does, SSS Chair, commented: *"We are excited about our newest event at Birtley House - where we will be designing and managing the Sculpture Garden and indoor sculpture exhibition, working with the event owners, Surrey Hills Enterprises"*.

The next major event for Surrey will be a return to **RHS Garden Wisley** for their **19th Annual Sculpture Trail** from 19 August to 24 September. This year's outdoor trail is expected to break all records for visitor attendance.



The final event for 2017 is at the **Landmark Art Centre, Teddington** from 3-6 November, with their multi-media interactive indoor arts event, complete with a full programme of work-shops, talks, demonstrations, video footage, 2D sketches and paintings all set in a dramatic cathedral like building. The event is designed to encourage the public to come and experience sculpture in many dynamic ways and show works in progress, as well as a diverse range of completed sculpture for sale. www.surreysculpture.org.uk, [Lynda Lawrence 01420 87489](mailto:Lynda.Lawrence@landmarkartcentre.co.uk)



Born Free Actress coming to Cranleigh Arts Centre

Virginia McKenna, one of Britain's most celebrated screen actresses, spends an evening with **Paul Jones**, popular singer and Honorary Patron of the Arts Centre.

The event is to help raise funds to sustain the Cranleigh Arts Centre, a Charitable Trust which is largely run by a dedicated team of volunteers and which receives very little public money. Virginia and Paul have kindly agreed to give this evening to local people, to hear, enjoy and ask questions about her remarkable career.

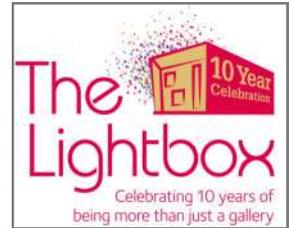
Monday 12 June is the 'not to be missed' date. www.cranleighartscentre.org Jane Bowden 01483 278001



The Lightbox Photographic Competition

As part of their Tenth Anniversary programme, Woking's **Lightbox** is running an open photographic competition with the theme of *'Celebration and Anniversary'*.

This will offer photographers of all levels the unique opportunity to have their work exhibited at an award winning gallery and museum. The competition has a £550 prize for the entry selected as 'Best in Show', the Young Photographer's prize of £100 for the best entry by a 13-17 year old, and The People's Prize of £250.



Last Year's Winner

Applicants are encouraged to submit up to two digital photographs by the 4th September and an independent judging panel will select the best entries to be shown in an exhibition in the Upper Gallery from Saturday 14 October 2017 until Sunday 7 January 2018.

At the Private View on Thursday 19 October the Judges will announce the winners for Best in Show and the Young Photographer's Prize.

Throughout the exhibition visitors will be given the opportunity to vote for their favourite entry, and the winning artist will be awarded The People's Prize. The prize will be announced on the Lightbox web-site and the winner contacted when the exhibition closes.

Application forms with full terms & conditions can be downloaded from The Lightbox web-site at www.thelightbox.org.uk

Bethany Hopper 01483 737819

Henry Moore: Sculpting from Nature

A new and unique exhibition that features over 50 artworks by Henry Moore (1898-1986), perceived by many as the greatest British sculptor of the 20th century includes drawings, maquettes, working models and monumental sculptures, plus prints and studio materials lent by the Henry Moore Foundation, the charitable trust set up by Moore and his family in 1977.



The Henry Moore Exhibition at the Lightbox continues until 7 May

www.thelightbox.org.uk

Editorial

News and Views Next Edition September 2017

G.A. members and other arts organisations may send notice of events or articles at any time before **20 July** for publication on or about **15 August 2017**.

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

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**.

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

Guildford Arts Contacts - 2017

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