

PROMOTING  
THE ARTS

GUILDFORD  
ARTS

# News & Views

September - December 2018

Registered Charity Number: 1089777

## GA's 23rd Summer Exhibition at the Yvonne Arnaud Mill Studio



The exhibition was opened by Dr Perdita Hunt OBE who has an outstanding track record of senior positions in significant arts related organisations - not least being her recent, highly successful, position as Director of **Watts Gallery Trust**.

Taking time out from her holiday to come to the exhibition's launch, Perdita commented about the importance of organisations such as Guildford Arts in providing showcases for local and national artists and stimulating awareness of the significance of art for the well-being of community life.

Many visitors are established art lovers and remarked on how much they looked forward to the annual show. Each year their expectation is always that much greater and this year's Summer Exhibition proved no exception. Whether established or first time visitors, all were surprised at the high quality, the variety of the different genres and the professional manner of their presentation.

Equally pleasing was the feedback from participating artists who remarked on how well the exhibition was organised and how much they enjoyed meeting the public and each other; such an opportunity for the artists to network and talk about their work, in what is often a very solitary process, was much appreciated.



The **'Meet The Artists'** Saturdays were particularly busy, and visitors loved talking to the artists and finding out more about their techniques and the ways in which they work. Children were also able to participate by completing the **Children's Quiz**, choosing a prize and creating their own art works with the paper, pens and crayons provided.

We will be back next year!! The team is already researching some outstanding artists to delight visitors and buyers alike!

Pauline Johnson & Philippa Sampson-Bancroft

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

## AGM & Chairman's Report



On 18 July the **Annual General Meeting** of Guildford Arts was held in the Vanbrugh Room at the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre.

The Chairman, Bill Ward, reported that Guildford Arts has had another successful year. It both increased its revenue from its exhibitions and has also increased the support that it gives to the arts more generally in the local area.

The professional visual arts exhibitions, whether in association with **Clyde & Co** or at the annual **Summer Exhibition** at the **Yvonne Arnaud Theatre**, have been a huge success with highly varied exhibits but with a unifying characteristic of outstanding quality and diversity.

Support more generally for the arts locally has included grants to local flagship events, a more extensive arts coverage in this magazine, **News & Views**, and further developments in the first class on-line services which are available to both local arts organisations and individual artists to promote and advertise their activities.

Making its services better known was a continuing priority and much of the discussion at the AGM centred on ways in which this knowledge of what GA had to offer could be more widely known.

Bill Ward - Chairman

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## Why not become a Life Member?

You may remember on the front page of the last issue of **News & Views** the Chairman, Bill Ward, was extolling the virtues of membership of Guildford Arts, and that by joining members automatically, in effect, became '**Patrons of the Arts**'.

As you know, the annual subscription of Guildford Arts is kept at a very modest level to encourage new members, but when it comes to the annual renewal during this month, a good number may need reminding or chasing up, so from an administrative point-of-view this task is a somewhat daunting and a relatively expensive exercise. Therefore, we are constantly looking for ways to simplify payments for both members and the administration, initially by using annual standing orders, which will, hopefully, alleviate the need for reminders and further follow-ups.

Perhaps the ultimate way to ease this problem would be for regular supporters to become a **Life Member** with a one-off payment that would be equivalent to 10 years annual subscription, or **Joint Life Member** with the second member discounted by 50%! Make life easier for yourself and help Guildford Arts at the same time! Perhaps on-line with Pay-Pal?

Jan Wilkinson - Membership

## An Evening with Mary Branson...



Guildford Arts is looking forward to the evening with **Mary Branson on 3 October**, not only because Mary is an outstanding artist, but also because this has enabled **Guildford Arts** and the **Guildford Institute** to co-operate in running this event.

GA is dedicated to promoting the arts in Guildford and the surrounding areas. In addition to running its own visual arts exhibitions, GA has always aimed to support the arts more generally. It has also in a number of ways tried to encourage more co-operation amongst all local arts organisations both to increase their visibility and establish a more prominent place for the arts in the local population.

GA therefore very much welcomes this opportunity to join forces with The Guildford Institute, which is one of the most admired cultural institutions in the Borough and has been serving Guildford for 170 years. The Institute's listed building in Ward Street has been its base since 1890 and provides a perfect location for Mary Branson's lecture and the reception, refreshments and, most importantly, the conversation with Mary that the evening will allow.



Mary Branson is a Surrey resident who has been educated here and works locally (at times in co-operation with the Lockwood-based Ochre Print Studios). As the artist in residence at the Houses of Parliament, Mary was responsible for producing **'New Dawn'**, an acclaimed light sculpture to commemorate 100 years of Women's suffrage.

We are privileged, together with the Institute, to host this exceptional evening. Tickets have been selling fast but, as **News & Views** goes to press, some tickets are still available.

Please contact the **Guildford Institute** for tickets - 01483 562142

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

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

## Ferguson's Gang...

### The remarkable story of the National Trust Gangsters

**1927**...Britain's heritage is vanishing. Beautiful landscapes are being bulldozed. Historic buildings are being blown up. Stonehenge is collapsing.

Enter **Ferguson's Gang**, a mysterious and eccentric group of young women who helped the **National Trust** to fight back. The Gang raised huge sums of money, which they delivered in delightfully strange ways: Victorian coins inside a fake pineapple, a one-hundred pound note stuffed inside a cigar, five hundred pounds with a bottle of homemade sloe gin. Their stunts were avidly reported in the press, and when they made a national appeal for the National Trust, the response was overwhelming....



Ferguson's Gang was instrumental in saving places from Cornwall to the Lake District, a legacy of incalculable value. Yet somehow these women remained anonymous, secretly



meeting at the **Shalford Mill**, hiding behind masks and bizarre pseudonyms such as Bill Stickers, Red Biddy, the Bloody Beershop, Shot Biddy and Sister Agatha. Huge sums were raised that enabled the Trust to



impede the tentacles of creeping urban development.

We finally get to know the women who combined a serious mission with such a sense of mischief. This rather bizarre tale is now being told through a brand new musical that is based on this true local story from the National Trust book by Sally Beck and Polly Bagnall:

previewing at  
**The Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, Guildford**

13 - 15 September

Music and Lyrics by Martin Coslett

Directed by Andrew Miller

Musical Direction by Matt Abrams

[www.yvonne-arnaud.co.uk/whats-on](http://www.yvonne-arnaud.co.uk/whats-on) Box Office 01483 440000



## New Director for Yvonne Arnaud



Joanna Read has just been appointed as the Chief Executive and Theatre Director for the Yvonne Arnaud. She will take up her role in a full-time capacity from January 2019.

Joanna is currently Principal and Chief Executive of LAMDA, the London Academy of Dramatic Arts. A theatre director by profession, she took up the position at LAMDA in 2010 with a brief to raise the international artistic and education profile of the Academy. Under her leadership the organisation increased the touring of the

school, forging relationships with City College New York, Harlem School of Arts, UCLA and the Moscow Arts Theatre, and was instrumental in shaping and launching the Virtual Conservatoire - a cross arts collaborative digital workspace.

Before LAMDA, Joanna was Chief Executive and Artistic Director of Salisbury Playhouse. With her guidance the Playhouse became one of the leading regional producing theatres of the last decade.

Joanna is currently a board member of the Regional Theatre of Young Directors, Honorary President of Guildford Shakespeare Company and external examiner for the LIR Theatre Academy, Trinity College Dublin. Previous roles also include Associate Director of the Octagon Theatre Bolton and Head of Education & Participation for Birmingham Rep.

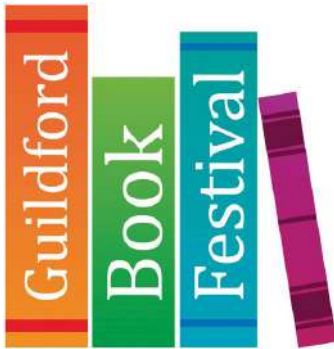
Yvonne Arnaud Theatre Chairman, Julian Bird, said: *"From a list of outstanding applicants, Joanna shone through with her experience, her knowledge of the sector, her passion for regional theatre and her vision for Guildford's historic theatre. We are thrilled she is joining the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre to take it forward into the future"*

In response Joanna Read said: *"I am excited to be returning full time to theatre again and to leading the Yvonne Arnaud. I look forward to working with the staff and audiences there, ensuring that tremendous theatre continues to thrive and to developing an engaging and exciting programme of work for its audience"*.



Photo: David Wickham





**Alex Andrews** and **Jane Beaton** were appointed Co-Directors of the **Guildford Book Festival** in April 2016, just six months before the start of that year's Festival.

Alex joined the Festival from The Book People, where she managed Puffin Post and Puffin Book Club Magazines under licence from Penguin Books. After the return of the Puffin brand to Penguin in 2013, Alex worked on the Imagine Festival



at Southbank and on the Red House Children's Book Award. Prior to this she worked at children's publisher Templar, where she was head of publicity, and also at Scholastic and Puffin Books. Alex lives locally with her husband and two sons.

Jane has spent her entire career in publishing, including 15 years with publishers Harper Collins where she was head of non-fiction publicity. She has worked with many authors from Stephen Fry to Gene Wilder, David Beckham to Olivia Newton-John, but says her favourite was probably the late Alan Whicker. 'I helped him publicise Whicker's War, an extraordinary book about his experiences in the film unit during World War II. He was fascinating to listen to, and had that magical voice that was instantly recognisable.' Jane now runs her own publicity company alongside planning the Festival.



This year's line-up includes household names such as Jo Brand, Max Hastings, Supervet Noel Fitzpatrick, Jenni Murray, Bernard Cornwell, Kate Mosse, Joanna



Trollope and Martin Bell, as well as current bestselling fiction and non-fiction number one authors Matt Haig and Gill Sims.



**Guildford Arts** is supporting the Book Festival by sponsoring a **Leonard Bernstein Evening** which is split into two parts...firstly the book event with **Humphrey Burton** and then Bernstein's music to follow.

Saturday 6 October - Holy Trinity Church



This year's **Guildford Book Festival**, the third directed by Alex and Jane, will run from 6 - 14 October . Tickets now on sale from [www.guildfordbookfestival.co.uk](http://www.guildfordbookfestival.co.uk)

# Shakespeare's Passion - Twelve Years On

**G**uildford Shakespeare Company was founded 12 years ago by two actors, **Sarah Gobran** and **Matt Pinches**. What began as a simple idea to stage a professionally made open-air play in Guildford Castle Gardens, has grown into one of the largest producing theatre companies in Surrey. Aside from the six full-time members of staff, the theatre company last year created over 110 jobs for artists, engaging with over 17,000 people through performances and educational programmes, all made in Guildford.



From the word go, Matt and Sarah were adamant to prove that theatre is not an exclusive pastime, but accessible to all. Through their site-responsive approach to staging, audiences are invited to experience theatre-going in a completely new way, whilst at the same time encouraging local pride in our shared society and cultural heritage.



Close to the founders' hearts is the nurturing of the audiences and artists of tomorrow. Throughout the year, their dedicated Education Department delivers bespoke workshops, talks and performances in schools and colleges across the South East, from primary age right up to university, supporting teachers and the curriculum.

GSC's experiences of working with special needs schools have led them to develop projects that use theatre to challenge key issues such as social exclusion and mental health. They are committed to furthering social change within communities and their outreach programmes engage with some of the most deprived corners of our society. For example, for the last three years their partnership with **Delight Charity** has given children in ten of Surrey's most disadvantaged primary schools first-hand experience of live Shakespeare - for free.



Visit the **GSC website** for more details on the company's social change projects, education work and upcoming public performances, and how you can help support them continue playing, creating and transforming people's lives through exceptional theatre experiences.







Surrey  
Sculpture  
Society

## 21st Sculpture Trail at RHS Wisley

18 August - 23 September

From small beginnings of fourteen visionary sculptors getting their heads together in 1994, **Surrey Sculpture Society** is now a self-funding group around 250 strong, from emerging artists to well-known professionals, with a diverse range of styles and skills demonstrated regularly by members from all over the South of England and a number from much further afield.

The Society exists to provide exhibition opportunities for members, to encourage interaction, the exchange of ideas, and to promote a greater appreciation of sculpture within society. The consistent quality of artists is reflected in the prestigious venues that host exhibitions year on year.

To celebrate the **21st sculpture trail at RHS Garden**



**Wisley**, Surrey Sculpture Society has invited renowned sculptor **Michael Speller**, official artist for the London Olympics, as a special guest exhibitor. His beautifully balanced



slender sculptural figures are often impressed with emotive words. Michael's work has also formed the centre-piece of a gold medal winning show garden at RHS Chelsea.

## Inspirational Early Autumn Exhibition at the Savill Garden

25 September - 5 November

The natural haven of beautifully designed gardens and woodland at The Savill Garden, located within Windsor Great Park, will be the setting for one of the country's most diverse exhibitions of sculpture.



Henriette van der Does, Surrey Sculpture Society Chair, commented: *"We are proud to announce our renewed involvement with the management and design of the sculpture exhibition at The Savill Garden this autumn. It is one of the most prestigious locations to show the work created by our members. This garden offers us the perfect backdrop, combining the magic of nature and its textures and colours with hand-crafted and soul searching works of art."*



[www.surreysculpture.org.uk](http://www.surreysculpture.org.uk)



## Two Unique Concurrent Exhibitions!

### “The Art of Life” Impressionist Paintings and Sculptures 29 September 2018 - 13 January 2019

Share the Impressionists depiction of their everyday world in this extraordinary exhibition showcasing a rare combination of French Impressionist paintings and sculpture, spanning from the early 1860s to the beginning of the First World War. Explore the Impressionist era from all angles in the exceptionally unique mixture of 2D and 3D elements at The Lightbox.



Included will be works by world-renowned artists such as Paul Cezanne, Edgar Degas and Pierre-Auguste Renoir, who all exhibited artwork in the very first Impressionist exhibition in Paris. The idyllic French landscape made for a fitting subject for the spontaneous method of working embraced by these artists.



Paintings and sculptures spanning four key themes related to everyday occurrences: maternity, leisure, work and the home will be shown. Visitors to the exhibition will see examples of works that reflect each theme, arranged in the gallery into four easily-distinguishable sections.

### Elisabeth Frink: A Collector's Passion from The Ingram Collection 13 October 2018 - 6 January 2019

Commemorating 25 years since Elisabeth Frink's death in 1993, the exhibition includes personal responses to the artworks from Chris Ingram, owner of The Ingram Collection. Frink's art is a personal passion of Chris's, with many of her paintings, sculptures and drawings being prevalent within the collection, one of the largest publicly accessible collections of Modern British Art in the UK.



Shedding light on the key themes Frink (1930-1993) explored throughout her career, the exhibition will explore representations of animals, man, and their relationship to each other. From early on, Frink regularly returned to motifs of standing men, men on horseback, men's heads, horses, warriors and birds falling, flying, attacking. These often violent and vulnerable depictions are vehicles for expressions of pain, aggression and predatory feelings.



For further information please visit: [www.thelightbox.org.uk](http://www.thelightbox.org.uk)

# The Battle of Britain

## British War Artists of the Second World War

On Monday 29 October at 2.00 pm **U3A** have organised a presentation about the British War Artists of the Second World War. It is being held at St. Catherine's Village Hall, Chestnut Avenue - admission is free.

The presentation is under the guidance of **Neville Lyons**, a long-term member of **Guildford Arts**. From 1998 to 2005 he headed the team organising the Summer Exhibition at the Yvonne Arnaud. His interest in 20th Century art, coupled with a military background, has led to the extensive research and talks on British War Artists of the Second World War.



The early days of the Second World War saw the setting up of a scheme for selecting the many British artists who were to undertake the recording of various aspects of the war between 1939 and 1945.

Neville will be dipping into the coverage of the war by a wide selection of these War Artists, who became involved on the Home Front and Overseas theatres, as well as at sea and in the air. There will be copious illustrations of their work, accompanied by information about the artists and the organisation of the whole project under the guiding eye of the great Sir Kenneth Clark.



Battle of Britain  
by Paul Nash



HMS Ark Royal in Action  
by Eric Ravilious



Monte Cassino  
by Terence Cuneo

## Community Arts Events at the **BOILERROOM**

Wednesday 5 September: 'Drink & Draw' 18+ 6.30-Late. Free event.

Drink & Draw is the perfect place to enjoy drawing and getting to know the Guildford creative community. Bring your sketchbooks, pens, pencils, and if you're feeling generous, some of your favourite equipment to share.

Thursday 27 September: 'The Art Parlour' 16+ 6.30-10.00pm £10 Advance booking

A thrilling life drawing experience - join the **Hundred Watt Club** for a multi-sensory life drawing session, served up with their usual curious sense of fun! Basic materials (paper, pens, pencils) will be provided but feel free to bring along your own. This is an artistic experience rather than a lesson - come along and be inspired!

[www.theboilerroom.net](http://www.theboilerroom.net)

## Frank Taylor's Story...



*"I sat in my office, looked out at the scaffolding enclosing the spire of Salisbury Cathedral and wondered if an art school head was really what I wanted to be. I had liked teaching students, but I never really wanted to be a manager, an administrator, to be in charge. So I managed to organise an unpaid sabbatical with the powers that be, and with Christine and pre-school son Oscar, set off to travel and paint. When the year was up, I didn't go back to the college, but instead travelled for a further two years. Friends said we were "brave" to abandon careers. They actually meant "stupid"...but the paintings were exhibited, they sold, and print companies liked and published them. I never taught again, and I was never in charge of anyone but myself. We survived, and have no regrets."*

After giving up a successful career in art education and travelling for three years, Frank Taylor and his family moved from his home in the village adjacent to Cookham Church and Stanley Spencer's grave, to his current home on **Albury Heath** in the **Surrey Hills**. Soon after they moved into **Fircroft** they decided to hold a small exhibition of paintings, sculpture and ceramics by Frank and other artist friends. What was originally planned as a one-off has now become an annual event where Frank and Christine show work by more than 50 artists from all over this country and overseas whose work they admire and, in several cases, collect themselves.



Frank has had more than forty solo shows in galleries in London and the South of England and has been regularly represented at Art Fairs in this country and the USA. He has exhibited with the NEAC, ROI, RBA, RI, RSMA, RWS & GA's Summer Exhibition and was a finalist in the Sunday Times Watercolour Competition, the Hunting Prizes and the Laing Landscape Painting Competition. His works are in a number of Public Collections including those of the University of Surrey and the Houses of Parliament.

His paintings have become well-known through the many limited edition prints of his work that have been published by CCA Galleries and Castlebar Graphics and the many more open editions published by the Art Group and IKEA.



The next Fircroft Exhibition is from the 15 until 30 September - [www.fircroft.info](http://www.fircroft.info)

## News & Views Next Edition January 2019

GA members and other arts organisations may send suitable copy or articles at any time before **10 December** for publication on or about **2 January 2019**. 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 featured promotion of arts endeavours in **News & Views** and events promotion on 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 450 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)

## Guildford Arts Contacts - 2018

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