

PROMOTING

THE ARTS

GUILDFORD
ARTS

News & Views

January - April 2019

Registered Charity Number: 1089777

'Art @ Work' Is Alive & Well...

Another very successful 'Art @ Work' exhibition was recently opened at Clyde & Co. 'Art @ Work' is another facet of Guildford Arts outreach programme to support and promote their continuing patronage of the arts in all its forms.

The idea of this programme is to work with interested companies and to stage four, three-month exhibitions a year at their premises. Each exhibition usually features some nine artists with each one showing at least six pieces of work. Ultimately, this means finding thirty-six artists to take part and a total of more than two hundred exhibits to show each year! We are constantly on the lookout for new talent, usually achieved by visiting exhibitions, networking via artists groups, receiving recommendations and hours trawling the Internet. The aim is to bring variety to each exhibition through a combination of styles, genres and disciplines.

Painters, printmakers, mixed media and fabric artists, sculptors, ceramicists, glassmakers, photographers are all regular participants. Decisions are not necessarily ruled by personal taste. The main intention is to make each selection interesting, thought provoking and, hopefully, stimulating. The aim is to attract Guildford Arts members and guests to each private view and keep them coming. Sales are welcome too!



A feature of each exhibition is the fifteen minute talk given by one of the participating artists. The last was by Marilyn Bailey, who studied the old masters in Florence and gave a very interesting insight into their very clever black box techniques.



All this would not be possible without the generous and appreciative sponsors of each exhibition led by Partner, Adam Taylor-Smith and the team at Clyde & Co. This was clearly demonstrated at the recent pre-Christmas Private View with its wonderful buffet of seasonal fayre. In exchange, 'Art @ Work' provides a rolling selection of art works for their client meeting rooms and reception areas. Their continued support ensures that we are able to plan exhibitions well into next year.

Hope to see you there!

Sue Dragon, 'Art @ Work' Co-ordinator

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

New Flowerings with GA's 'Small Grants'

Guildford can take pride in the rich diversity and depth of the arts opportunities and experiences which are available locally. There is a suspicion that this abundance compares favourably with many other communities where the enriching experience of the arts is much more truncated.

However, as always, the gap between justified pride and lazy smugness, or between vigour and complacency is always much narrower than we sometimes want to admit. This is why Guildford Arts, in addition to running its own arts exhibitions, is always looking for ways in which all the arts can be supported. This includes making specific interventions when a beneficial opportunity arises.

It is for that reason why, amongst other things, GA runs this magazine, provides the website **ArtsEgg.uk** as a unique local dedicated arts site to promote all that is available and why it also supports specific events which make a major contribution to the cultural life of the Borough and the surrounding areas.

Guildford Arts also wants to encourage new initiatives and new creative ideas because vibrancy also requires innovation and renewal. For this reason GA runs a small grants scheme where anyone with a viable new idea which needs some initial funding can apply for a contributory grant to help launch the initiative.

If you are planning a new arts venture, then please look at the guildfordarts.com website where the requirements for a grant can be found – click on the home page and then on **GAarts Small Grants** on the right. If it's a well thought out practical idea then there is every reason to expect it to be supported.



Bill Ward & Mike Beckwith

Your 2019 Committee's Faces to Names



From Left to Right: Roy Hogben - News & Views Editor, Mike Beckwith - Small Grants Scheme, Charlotte Beck - Committee Member, Jan Wilkinson - Membership, Bill Ward - Chairman, Pat Grayburn - Trustee, Richard Bowman - Hon. Treasurer, Sue Dragon - Art @ Work co-ordinator.

ArtsEGG.uk in your INBOX



Classical Music



Popular and Contemporary Music

The number and variety of Arts related events that are promoted via the Guildford Arts website service **ArtsEGG.uk** is quite extraordinary! So much so that it can be a significant commitment to visit the site regularly and search through its content to spot those productions that are of personal interest.

Now there is a better way to be sure that you don't miss your favourite events!

Just sign up for one or more email newsletters that focus on particular types of Arts Events. (For example: Classical Music, Theatre and Visual Art)

How? Visit **ArtsEGG.uk** – on the front-page click on the link 'Newsletters' to open the '**Choose Email Newsletter**' page.

Enter your email address, first and last names and then tick the individual newsletters you would like to receive.

Click '**Subscribe**' – job done!

These newsletters are distributed weekly and cover the next two weeks of events that have been added to the **ArtsEGG.uk** calendar.

If you have already registered for an email newsletter from **ArtsEGG.uk** and would like to change your choices, just go to the bottom of a newsletter you have received and click on 'unsubscribe'. You can then start over again as explained above.

BY THE WAY: If you are into Social Media you can also keep in touch via Twitter (@ArtsEGG), Instagram (ArtsEggUK) and Facebook (ArtsEGG).

ArtsEGG.uk automatically 'feeds' new event posts to these services. There is considerable interest in the material generated so that there is much else to find as well – Instagram is particularly busy! Guildford Arts has acquired some 'professional' help in raising the Social Media presence of **ArtsEGG.uk**. Many thanks to **Jo Kirkland** for her continuing efforts.

John O'Keefe - Guildford Arts Websites Admin.

Let's Get Serious About Public Art!

Public Art is a powerful tool in the planning, design and management of open spaces in both urban and rural environments. The right artwork in the right setting can contribute to a real sense of geographical identity and community, drawing people towards a place and creating a feeling of civic pride.

Innovative and dynamic art in the public realm that has residents and artists at its core is vital to the well-being of any community. It is the opportunity to enhance and celebrate the rich heritage and culture of any society. Public sculpture memorializes what we think is important, it lifts our spirits, it centres our civic life and it makes our world more beautiful!



By its presence alone public art has the power to energise our public spaces, heighten our awareness and transform a town or city's image. It can make strangers talk, children ask questions and calm a hurried life.

Beyond its enriching personal benefits, public art is a true measure of the town's maturity. It increases the community's assets and expresses its positive sense of identity and values, clearly demonstrating civic and corporate pride.

Guildford has a few good sculptural pieces of public art, but there is nothing of real inspirational significance. Present day decisions for placing art in the public realm are still based on planning gain which can only be restrictive rather than aspirational. This cannot be the right way forward. If we continue to rely on the Borough Council for funding of public art, then the status of the town will always be set on a path of mediocrity.



Good quality and iconic Public Art can only be achieved by close co-operation with Borough Planners and a mix of outside funding! It will also offer the opportunity for commercial, corporate, patrons of the arts and philanthropic funding, providing that the financial governance is under the control of a worthy



Arts Trust. Perhaps the ideal vehicle for this type of charitable partnership could be: the **'Guildford Arts Trust' !?**

Editorial Comment

Guildford's Theatre Critic Extraordinaire

JEFF THOMSON has been in and around the local arts scene for fifteen or more years and, although he has been heard regularly on BBC radio, his weekly Theatre Column in the Surrey Advertiser 'From the Stage' is a relatively new departure for him. His column is syndicated by Trinity Mirror newspapers.

Thomson has dabbled in the creative arts for most of his life, *"so it's not an overnight thing, it's been a life-long thing encouraged by my parents"* but, he admits, it was supporting Sam Wanamaker in the 1990s in his struggle to establish Shakespeare's Globe that he determined to pursue both Theatre and Literature more seriously. With degrees already in Business and an Advanced Diploma in Journalism he read for an Honours degree in English and Literature, fitting in a History minor too. *"I kept the job going and happily three years later my dissertation on Alan Ayckbourn scraped a First - it had been a wild ride!"*



For BBC Radio he has met or 'spoken-down-the line' to many UK luminaries, *"Obviously Ayckbourn but also Bennett, a warm Michael Frayn, a delightful Richard Eyre, a busy Trevor Nunn and in passing Nicholas Hytner and by now several hundred actors, directors and authors!"*

He remembers with affection interviewing Alan Wicker at Gatwick Airport, chatting on the stage of the Old Vic and a Christmas greeting from Ken Dodd left on my voice mail.

"I have to admit, over time, exposure to each person does have an effect - it's a transfusion of influences, but so too is travel." Thomson has worked in Africa, India and all over Europe.

"The passion for dance in African Villages, the vibrant intensity of India and the astonishments that are Greece, Italy and Turkey have each impacted!"

His sustained friendship with writer and broadcaster Louise Rennison illustrated for him that fame is mostly graft, disappointment, frustration and then 'surprise'; her sudden death shook him. This was followed a matter of months later by the death of James Barber, the long term director of the Yvonne Arnaud. *"I got to know him over a protracted period of years. It was a slow burn but his intellect, wit and business acumen made him a fascinating fusion of influences."*

Both deaths, he admitted, have meant a jarring re-adjustment, ***"but Guildford is vibrant and a local arts scene renews and refreshes and, most importantly, local does not mean second best! The local scene is strong!! And I hope to report, contribute and review for the foreseeable future...well, as far as I know!"***

Follow Jeff Thomson's regular weekly articles in the Surrey Advertiser.

Sculptor & Chair of Surrey Sculpture Society

Henriette van der Does *Art psychotherapist, MA* took up art around 17 years ago, in a complete turn around from her original degree course in French language and literature. She was born in Holland and has lived in France, Colombia and Brazil where she was taught art by local artists. She came to the UK 25 years ago and has now settled here with her two children.



Her art is about emotion, movement and lines. The human figure especially holds an everlasting fascination for her. *“Never the same: we are always in motion both physically, emotionally and spiritually”*. Her sculptures are often without a title, inviting the viewer to enjoy the piece in their own unique manner.

In 2013 she qualified as an art psychotherapist and has started her own private practice, working with children and adults – both lines of work are continuously diverging from and complementing each other through an endless stream of human and emotional interaction and inspiration. This has resulted in her current portfolio of new sculpture as well as abstract paintings.



As an emerging artist she became a member of the Surrey Sculpture Society in 2002. The camaraderie, mutual support, workshops and the exhibition opportunities have been pivotal to her growth as an artist. The Society has grown outward and upward since and currently Henriette is proud to be involved with the running of the Society. *“Chairing the committee is a hugely rewarding task. We have brought a fresh look to the SSS with a new website and new corporate image, we are streamlining the internal communication lines and stepping up our media presence, external communications and educational programmes. Of course, I am very grateful to my fellow committee members for their relentless help and support”*.

Surrey Sculpture Society was formed by 14 visionary sculptors in 1994. Today the Society is 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 SSS exists to provide exhibition opportunities for their members, to encourage interaction and exchange of ideas and to promote a greater appreciation of sculpture within society. The consistent quality of our artists is reflected in the prestigious venues that host our exhibitions, year on year. This year marks their 25 years of success with a number of Sculpture trails and a series of public events.

For any further SSS information: www.surreysculpture.org.uk

Henriette accepts commission work and also teaches art to both children and adults: hvddoesart@gmail.com



The Play's The Thing...

Rehearsals are now virtually complete for Guildford Shakespeare Company's first tour to secondary school students in Surrey. The tour will deliver the two most popular Shakespeare plays studied at GCSE, *Macbeth* and *Romeo & Juliet*, to twelve disadvantaged schools. Each school will receive a free professional performance with follow-up workshops on the school's chosen GCSE Shakespeare text, thus providing students with an in-depth professional insight at a crucial point in their academic life.

The Play's The Thing is part of GSC's year-long programme of outreach projects, which seek to reduce social isolation and assist disadvantaged schools and individuals across Surrey. Many of the projects are free-to-access pilot programmes and GSC will be able to share their experiences with local authorities and charities to encourage further projects and continued provision in Surrey and across the UK.

The tour is scheduled for the beginning of the academic year, so teachers can integrate the programme into their year's work. Over 1,500 children will benefit from the project, granting the opportunity to access over three hours of additional education sessions before their mock-exams begin.

Ant Stones, GSC's Head of Education says: *"The Play's The Thing is inspired by our primary schools tour, which we've successfully run for the past three years. We've got a wonderful cast who are not just talented actors but also enthusiastic about the chance to help and encourage students who wouldn't normally be able to access our work otherwise"*.



Each school will enjoy GSC's performance on-site for an entire year group. The script will be abridged using the original text and conclude with a Q&A session. After the performance the cast will remain at the school to run workshops in smaller groups. Through practical exercises the students will gain first-hand knowledge of the themes, language, character-relationships and scene interpretation. Teachers will also gain new skills, which they can take forward into the classroom.

(This outreach programme has been made possible with the partnership with *The Geoff Herrington Foundation* and *The Guildford Community Grants Scheme*).



Contact Ant Stones on 01483 301590 or GSC's web-site



www.guildfordarts.com

ArtsEGG.uk



100 Years of Music Making...

This year the *Guildford Symphony Orchestra* celebrates their Centenary!

Since 1919, Guildford has produced a continuum of amateur musicians playing to a high standard, generation after generation. This is a really stunning achievement for an organisation that is made up of local musicians from every walk of life.



The GSO was created just after the end of the First World War by Claud Powell, a musician of inexhaustible drive and enthusiasm with an enviable network of musical friends. Vaughan Williams, Elgar, Dame Ethel Smyth, Leon Goossens, John Ireland, Myra Hess, Roger Quilter, Arthur Bliss, Charles Groves and Adrian Boult all worked with him.

In 1946 local councils were encouraged to provide music for the public. Powell understandably refused the summons to hand over his orchestra with no role for himself. Suddenly there were two orchestras in Guildford - the borough had created the rival Guildford Philharmonic!

Powell soldiered on...after his death in 1959, the orchestra continued under Ralph Nicholson, but its fortunes dipped in the 1980s until Darrell Davison took up the baton in 1990.

Under Davison, the GSO developed a new profile: to perform good music, encourage young talent and support local charities. The orchestra took on a new zest for life. The standard rapidly rose again and Davison set about tackling a wide range of music with vigour and excitement, performing five concerts a year. And with the demise of the Philharmonic in 2013, it is once again Guildford's premier orchestra!



New members are always welcome. The orchestra practises on Tuesday nights. Information about concerts and membership can be found on www.g-s-o.org.uk.

Jane Garrett

Inspiring Young Music Lovers

Guildford Symphony Orchestra under Darrell Davison has a broader remit than just performing great symphonic concerts. It also focuses on the next generation of concert performers, and on future generations of concert-goers.

Davison inaugurated a popular biennial carol competition for local schools, involving them in the performance of the winning carols at a Christmas concert in Guildford Cathedral. This engaged young composers, giving them a rare opportunity to hear their creations professionally orchestrated and performed in public by an orchestra and choir.



And where would orchestras be without an audience to appreciate the music? Every year, GSO performs a family concert especially aimed at young children, introducing them to the huge soundscape of a full symphony orchestra: brass, woodwind, timpani, percussion and strings, in a relaxed, fun atmosphere. These concerts are themed and our last October family concert was *Animal Magic*, featuring the iconic children's classic *Peter and the Wolf* and a host of other animal related works. Davison has a whole chest full of props to help children understand the music and they absolutely love it.



Davison has also organised an amazing concert platform for young soloists, selected by a very competitive audition. For many GSO fans this concert is the highlight of the season. These young musicians, ranging in age from eleven to mid-twenties, are eager for the chance to shine and several of our Guildford winners have gone on to make a name for themselves in the BBC Young Musician of the Year Awards.



This annual auditioned showcase for young talent - the concert stars of tomorrow - is being held on Saturday 26 January at 12.30pm at St. Catherine's School Concert Hall in Bramley. This year there is a strong field to choose from. As illustrated, the top five are: Elisaveta Saul - violin, Laura McDonald - cello, Zacharias Brandman - piano, Francesca Cox - oboe and Toby Cook - viola, playing works ranging from Schumann to Walton, Strauss, Prokofiev and Dvořák.



These young soloists are all hungry for success and make the absolute most of this wonderful opportunity to perform as a soloist with a full symphony orchestra accompaniment. The talent on show at this concert, with their fearless flair and technical virtuosity, will be breathtaking!

For more information: www.g-s-o.org.uk.

Jane Garrett

Contemporary Music Champions!

The **Boilerroom** is today one of the country's leading exponents of contemporary music and nurtures the future leaders of the music industry as well as emerging artists. However, it is a rather curious venue - a creative community hub that is set within a residential area of Guildford and operates seven days a week. The energetic and spontaneous team are, in effect, the curators of emerging, national and local music, community and creative arts events since 2006.



Lydia Stockbridge, a member of the Boilerroom Team, commented: *"We have always maintained good relations and keep an open dialogue with our local residents through local liaison; we are at the venue seven days a week and our neighbours know that they can pop in at anytime, email or call us directly if they have anything they would like to talk about or raise our awareness of."*

"Our ethos is that music should be for everyone - especially our local community. We organise two or three community events each week: yoga classes, drink & draw events, showcases for local young emerging artists, talks, meditation workshops, retro gamers lounge, fundraisers for local charities like the Halow project, and so much more".



When the venue was first founded the team were committed to bringing some of the most diverse and talented artists across all genres of contemporary music, and twelve years on, the venue has won numerous accolades, thanks to the hard work of the management team. They have had 10 Mercury Music nominated artists, BBC 2 Folk Award

Winners, MOBO Award Winners, Ivor Novello Award Winners. Most recently they were the proud winners of the Music Week 'Spirit of the Scene Award 2018', 'Best Entertainment Venue' and 'Best Bar None Awards 2016 & 2017', and 'Best Entertainment Venue Surrey Life Awards 2016', to name but a few!

www.theboilerroom.net

BOILERROOM

CREATIVE • ARTS • COMMUNITY HUB • MUSIC • EVENTS



www.guildfordarts.com

ArtsEGG.uk



The Clandon Dragon!

The Clandon Dragon, on the south side of the A246 between Clandon and the 'Park & Ride', has recently been restored to its former glory by a dedicated group of enthusiastic volunteers under the direction of Dominic Crolla.

The original Dragon was first carved out of the hillside in 1977 and depicted a mythical dragon that once terrorised the local villagers. According to the legend, the dragon was killed by a soldier and his dog and this association has long been celebrated in the village. The dragon is depicted on the village sign and in the carvings on one of the doors of St. Peter & Paul's church.



This piece of spontaneous public art ticks all of the right boxes as a community led event. It is site specific, artistic, dynamic, innovative and clearly demonstrates a heritage pride and close affiliation to the Parish.

This type of fairly primitive art follows a long historic tradition of images being carved out of prominent hillsides which can really be considered as some of the original pieces of public art.

Spinning off from the idea of the Clandon Dragon, perhaps **Surrey Hills AONB** should look at the possibility of highlighting their status with a lofted-up version of their logo which could be sited on the open meadows of the southern flank of Newlands Corner.

This sort of dramatic artistic statement should be relatively low cost but may be of considerable use for their on-going public relations.

Certainly, a low level art work of this nature would have very little detrimental affect on the local environment and habitat of the flora and fauna of this meadow. It would also tick many of the right boxes of site specific public art and such an artistic statement of this kind would help define the good work of the Surrey Hills AONB .



Editorial Comment

News & Views Next Edition May 2019

GA members and other arts organisations may send suitable copy or articles at any time before **31 March** for publication on or about **24 April 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

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