



Guildford ARTS News & Views

January - April 2022

Registered Charity Number: 1089777

New Opening—New House

An exciting new arts venture has recently opened in the Guildford town centre providing artist studio and exhibition space.

"New House", situated behind Bridge Street and opposite the Guildford Odeon, opened in October this year after more than 5 years of discussion between Dominique Frazer (Dom), of the Boileroom in Guildford and Guildford Borough Council. The building, old offices owned by the Council, has initially been leased by the Boileroom for a 5 year period in the hope of it becoming a permanent feature within the Town.

New House provides a small coffee bar, 2 studios and a flexible space for exhibitions, workshops or meetings on the ground floor, with a further 18 studios on the 3 upper floors of the building. The top floor studios are glass boxes with roof lights, providing bright spaces with an open feel.

Ten of the 20 studios are already let to a range of artists, the aim is they will not only use the studio space for their own work but also use the ground floor space to give workshops, talks or stage exhibitions. This space is also available to outside artists to let for this purpose on an hourly/daily basis. New House is run for its tenants as a 24 hour building.



Dom is extremely pleased to have been able to acquire the [New House, Bedford Road](#) building for artist studios as she has known for a number of years of the need for this type of space in Guildford. The Boileroom already provides 5 studios as well as being a major music venue and Dom has had regular enquiries from artists for more space of this type.

Charlotte Elliott, New House COO said: *"New House offers a much needed creative and inclusive space for the community. We've got artists of diverse practices now calling New House their home and are looking forward to showcasing their work in our Davies Gilder Gallery (on site) in January 2022."*

Mike Beckwith - Guildford Arts

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

The Boilerroom - nurturing talent since 2006

The opening of "New House" and its link with the Boilerroom made us think it would be a good opportunity to reappraise everyone of this jewel that we have in our town.

The Boilerroom was opened in 2006 as a venue with a 275 person capacity for emerging, national and local music, plus community and creative arts events.



Since opening it has showcased a massive range of artists, including, Ed **Sheeran**, **The Bronx**, **Declan McKenna** and **Tony Christie**. The main aim being to create an inclusive space for all walks of life to enjoy the culture of live music. Nurturing future leaders of the music industry as well as promoting emerging artists.

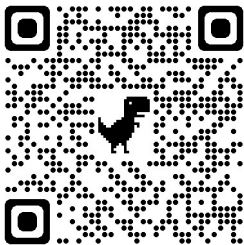
The venue has won a whole host of awards over the years, including, Music Week Spirit of the Scene award 2018, and The Best Bar None, Best Entertainment Venue award in both 2016 and 17.

It excelled by also hosting events such as the Steve Lamacq BBC6 Music show's live broadcast for Independent Venue Week 2018.

External events have also been part of the offering, including, Always the Sun Festival in Stoke Park, Vintage Guildford Markets at the Cathedral and Holy Trinity Church, plus many others.

Like others throughout the country, the venue suffered during the Covid lockdowns but has worked with the Music Venue Trust to establish and shape best practice when introducing policies to keep artists, crew and audiences safe on reopening the venue. Once again now offering a wide range of music to the public.

Alongside the music, the Boilerroom also offers a home to other artists providing such things as regular drawing classes in the main hall, also studios for a tattoo parlour and a organisation called Makerspace where artists share equipment and technology to create their own art as well as meet and socialise.



Guildford is very fortunate to have such a venue as the Boilerroom, well deserving our support. **Scan this QR code with your phone camera to go directly to the www.theboilerroom.net** for more information about their upcoming events and news.

News&Views Special —Thanks Roy!

After many years of successfully editing our regular arts magazine 'News&Views', our esteemed Editor Roy Hogben has decided it is time to move on. We would like to sincerely thank him for his years of service and significant efforts on behalf of Guildford Arts.

In his time as editor, Roy has developed 'News&Views' from a simple listings publication to a much more varied magazine covering the arts in a very wide-ranging and interesting way. Guildford Arts has a lot to thank him for his service to the arts locally, as a Borough Councillor, as a long-time campaigner for the place of 'Public Art' in any civilised town, as an active committee member of GA and especially as editor of 'News&Views'.

Roy & Anita enjoying a well-earned break in South Africa!



Could the new Editor be you?

Roy's departure leaves a big hole in the small group of arts-loving volunteers who deliver the services which GA provides to fulfil its mission of 'Championing the Arts'.

GA now needs a new N&V editor. Someone to carry the torch into a new phase. We need someone who sees this as a worthwhile creative outlet for their service to the arts and our community.

The job involves, three times a year, sourcing articles from both GA and the wider arts community for our magazine. With a little prompting, most people can see the interest and value in producing background articles to their arts endeavours so that the magazine provides a forum for setting the local cultural scene and broadening interest in all the arts.

If you feel that you could spare a limited amount of time three times a year to give back to the arts and create this unique magazine, then please come forward. Some literary and computer skills are a prerequisite but nothing out of the ordinary.

If this sounds like an opportunity you would enjoy please get in touch (GAChairman@guildfordarts.org)

Bill Ward—Chair

Words from the Chair - *Déjà vu*



As I write this in late December, the full and lasting effects of the Omicron virus on public life is unclear – just how infectious, how protective are the vaccines and how long lasting will be this phase of the pandemic. What we have seen already is that the natural and very human desire to be safe and restrict exposure to risky environments will once again kick in - either through legislation or voluntary action - just at the time when most arts organisations were experiencing a burgeoning renaissance in their activities and their support.

All the arts require enthusiastic producers and equally enthusiastic supporters. Exhibitions online are more difficult than real ‘smell the paint’ live exhibitions. Half empty or socially distant theatrical productions or concerts will weaken the essential link between performers and audience. Such situations, as we have already seen in the first phase of the virus, truncates activities, drastically reduces revenue and creates feelings to rival those of Sisyphus as all activity requires twice as much work to achieve anything - all accompanied by a constant fear of set-back haunting everyone’s efforts.

Such a background affects Guildford Arts as with everyone else. Elsewhere I have praised the working volunteer team at GA for their determination and morale during the last couple of years – hopefully this can continue as we face this new assault on ‘normal’ life. Keeping going is so important for all arts organisations because the vital psychological and spiritual needs which the arts satisfy in us all will be even more acutely necessary as the immediate restrictions fall away.

Currently, having to do more to achieve less, in order to sustain what we do and safeguard our usual contribution to the arts does need a bigger team to carry us through the difficulties. Our most urgent need is for a new editor (see separate article) but we need more people to contribute to the promotion of the arts on GA’s website, in social media, to help curate exhibitions and to lead more of our activities. We would love to hear from you about your artistic endeavours - get in touch directly (contacts on the back page) or visit www.guildfordarts.org to list your event.

The Chinese curse ‘*May you live in interesting times*’ is apparently apocryphal but it nevertheless resonates at the moment!

Bill Ward—Chair Guildford Arts



The Lockwood Centre

For most Guildfordians and visitors to the town, an industrial estate on the outskirts of the Borough would not be the first a place to seek professional artists, yet but in the gap between car dealers and storage yards, sits 'The Lockwood Centre'.

Built many years ago as a day care centre, The Lockwood Centre has more recently been a place where creative industries work with community groups and people with mixed abilities and disabilities; also professionals and people who are just starting out.



The story started in 2002 when a small group of artists were invited into the Lockwood building with an aim to inhabit empty spaces in return for running creative workshops for Adult Social Care – they formed Lockwood Arts.

Lockwood Arts has continued working in partnership with Surrey Choices, who currently run the building and Adult Social Care services on behalf of the County Council, and has three permanent residencies along with associated artists and groups who work in partnership, including community events such as the 'Light Our Sky' Lantern procession, which took place in Guildford Town centre in 2019.

Ochre Print Studio is the largest residency within the group, and probably the most well-known within the creative community, delivering regular workshops, exhibitions and open access fine art printmaking. The studio also hosts Ochre PrintAble, a group of artists with learning disabilities who are enabled to produce their own work using the high quality facilities.

La Luna Ceramics is an internationally recognised ceramics studio based at Lockwood for the last 15 years. They are known locally for their very successful and inclusive community arts work with schools and local organisations. Their latest collaboration is four celebratory ceramic tile panels for Abbot's Hospital in Guildford due to be unveiled in the new year.

Jellytree Productions works in both video art and stopframe animation, as well as providing support for many creative and community events across the County.

Continued overleaf



Lockwood Arts in action!

Lockwood Arts aims to:

- ◆ Sustain a community of inclusive artists working collaboratively within Lockwood Centre;
- ◆ Aid professional development through skill sharing and general good practice;
- ◆ Promote and deliver inclusive contemporary art practices & events that are accessible by to people with learning disabilities, mental health issues and other additional needs, in Guildford and the surrounding areas;
- ◆ Support Local Community Arts projects that deliver benefits to Lockwood Artists: members, creative partners, people with learning disabilities, mental health issues and other additional needs, in Guildford and the surrounding areas;
- ◆ Support members and associated artists and groups in their creative development and delivery in the local area; and
- ◆ Assist in the development of local creative networks

Craig Hills - Jellytree Productions Ltd/Lockwood Arts

Help develop The Lockwood Centre

Inclusive arts in Guildford are under threat with the proposed withdrawal of Adult Social Care from the Lockwood Centre. Lockwood Artists have unrivalled experience in the field of disability arts, and have established Lockwood as a centre of excellence for the development and delivery of fully inclusive, art-based, creative services and projects. Successful partnerships with both local authorities and third sector bodies, and a strong presence in the arts community, have enabled members of *Lockwood Arts* to take the lead in launching a number of innovative and successful projects, achieving local and national recognition.

Lockwood Arts are proposing that the Lockwood Centre be repurposed to provide a base for the Arts and Wellbeing, as well as a sustainable location for creative enterprise and innovative start-ups to develop within a buzzing community.

It is well recognised that involvement in the creative arts is beneficial to health and mental wellbeing and *Lockwood Arts* would now like to make use of its professional expertise and open the Lockwood Centre to a more diverse engagement of activities and opportunities, while promoting the centre as a Cultural Hub that Guildford and the wider area deserves.

The project being proposed by *Lockwood Arts* would invite public engagement and social investment and, through skills sharing and development, would enable the Lockwood Centre to continue to offer a platform to promote and celebrate the work of disabled artists and disability art organisations in Surrey. The Centre would continue to be a welcoming, inclusive and accessible place for artists of all abilities to practise and would offer practical and affordable spaces to artists and the creative community in the Guildford area. The centre would be run on a not-for-profit basis.

Under the 'Your Fund Surrey' scheme, Surrey County Council has plans to give local communities up to £100m in funding over the next five years to spend on projects to improve their local area. We need your support to apply to this fund and make our proposal a reality! We have put a 'pin' outlining our proposals on the *Your Fund Surrey* map. **Please visit our pin and like and share our proposal.**



Scan this QR code with your phone camera to go directly to the Yourfundsurrey link

Lockwood Arts

Art@GI –enjoy art at the Institute

Are you familiar with the gem that is the **Guildford Institute** on Ward Street at the heart of Guildford?

If not, you should look them up, and now more than ever because they are playing host to an upcoming programme of art exhibitions!



Guildford Arts was very keen to find somewhere else to show artists' work and keep Guildford Arts in the public eye. Our friends at Guildford Institute warmly welcomed the opportunity to work in partnership and we are delighted that they will now be showcasing the work of Guildford Arts' members on a regular basis.

Guildford Arts put on a trial exhibition through November and December and hosted a Private View on Wednesday 1 December with a convivial group turning out despite the rain! They were rewarded with an amusing and enlightening talk from Jim Tucker and the opportunity to make purchases, of which some took full advantage.

As from 2022 Guildford Arts will take over hanging nine exhibitions throughout the year and holding three Private Views each year. Each exhibition will host two artists and last for a period of six to seven weeks. These exhibitions will run alongside the Guildford Institute term times of Spring, Summer and Autumn and all work will be for sale.



The exhibitions will be hung in the Assembly Room, where the V Café is situated, open from Tuesday – Friday 10am – 3pm, serving coffee and homemade cakes and beautiful homemade vegetarian/vegan food every day.

It is a wonderful well-kept secret but do take the chance to pop in to Ward Street if you are in Guildford and have a coffee or lunch and view the wonderful art works on the walls and possibly make a purchase...

Enjoy art & lunch at the Guildford Institute

Sue Dragon—Art@Work, Guildford Arts

Ten Great Reasons to Support Public Art

1. Public art is firstly and most importantly...**public!** It is freely available to everyone and not confined to galleries, museums or in private developments.
2. Public art enriches our built environment, it brings streetscapes, public buildings and the town's architecture to life!
3. Public art enhances our personal well-being, it instils a feeling of comfort and pride that the town council care about art and culture.
4. Public art can capture the eye and mind of someone passing through our public spaces. It can make us pay attention to our civic environment and encourage questions of what is around us.
5. Public art prompts vital and primary questions about our environment and ourselves, therefore promoting learning.
6. Public art puts a heart and soul into much of our newly built developments that lack the resonance of history or the reflection of civic ownership.
7. Public art helps to break the blandness of towns and cities. Iconic public art will give communities a much stronger sense of place and identity.
8. Public art is a blue chip investment into boosting the social and commercial economy of the community.
9. Public art provides professional opportunities for artists and cultivates an environment in which creativity can thrive through all aspects of the economy.
10. Public art, carefully conceived, is a creative collaboration between artists, architects, planners, civic leaders, elected councillors, funding resources, construction teams and the local residents that should be involved early in the process!



Roy Hogben FRSA

New website—but why?

As we reported in the last edition of News&Views, Guildford Arts has unveiled a new website. The result is a period of reflection on the question “*What is our website supposed to do?*”

We are proud that Guildford Arts is a bit unusual, whilst we try to promote ourselves, we really are in the business of promoting others – and there are rather a lot of ‘others’ to promote!

Essentially, we market the products and services of arts providers that operate in or around Guildford. True, we do offer some art services of our own – our regular exhibitions and magazine – but, fundamentally, we exist to make local arts endeavours more visible and more accessible to everyone, whatever their taste.

Why? Because we are driven by the notion that the arts in Guildford are of great cultural and economic significance but do not get the public attention or political support they deserve.

So, back to the question: *How can our website best support our aim?*

Here are my thoughts:

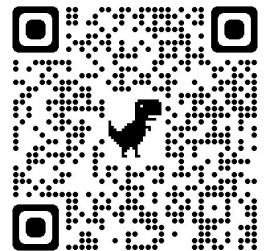
Firstly, it should represent the wide range of arts that are available to Guildford – a kind of arts catalogue that offers an immediate awareness of the variety and extent of what is on offer. Events, organisations, venues, individual contributors, educational provision and everything else in between. This showcase should strongly communicate the breadth and depth of the art scene in Guildford, bringing the arts into greater prominence in the minds of our local decision makers.

Secondly, it should place this information in context by referencing relevant contributions of other significant Guildford organisations with the ability to have an impact on Guildford’s arts capabilities – such as the Borough Council, The Guildford Society and The University of Surrey.

Thirdly, but potentially most importantly it should provide a straightforward means for arts providers to add their contributions and benefit from the free publicity.

Do you agree? Does our GuildfordArts.org achieve these aims? Your thoughts would be most welcome – please email gapublicity@guildfordarts.com

Scan this QR code with your phone camera to go directly to the Guildford Arts website.



John O’Keefe—Website Administrator



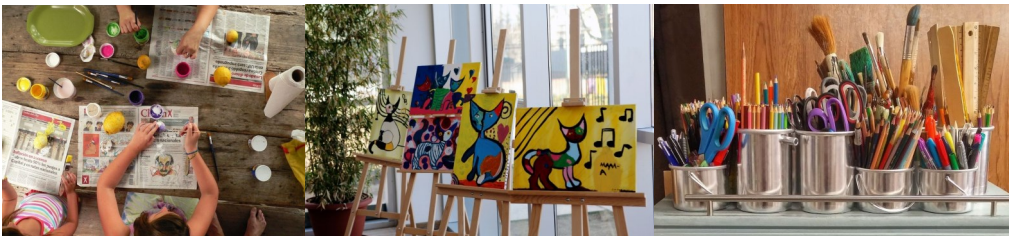
Calling teaching artists!

If you are a practitioner of the arts who also teaches others do you know there is a dedicated space on Guildford Arts' website for you to list your Courses + Classes for free? Free and publicly available!

At the start of the year lots of people are looking around to pick up a new skill or reacquaint themselves with an old pastime, so why not capitalise on it and let people visiting the Guildford Arts website know what you have on offer and how to get in touch to find out more.

It's really simple to access, you just need to sign up for a free **Arts Events Marketing Subscription** via the link on the "Join ga" page (guildfordarts.org/subscriptions). Then you can list your courses or classes and highlight the opportunities available.

We exist to "Champion the Arts", let us champion you!



News & Views

Next Edition May 2022

GA members and other arts organisations may send suitable copy or articles for our next edition at any time before **31 March** for publication on or about **25 April 2022**.

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

gaeditor@guildfordarts.org

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** will 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 website.

Contact the Membership Secretary below.

Members' Flyers in our Mailbag

This is an exclusive service for GA Members to advertise their 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, dependent on weight at a nominal cost of £45.

gaflyers@guildfordarts.org

Guildford Arts Contacts - 2022

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