

the centre

Quarterly Journal of

The Riverside Arts Centre and Sunbury & Shepperton Arts Association

www.riversidearts.co.uk

Volume 41 Number 3

June 2021



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service



Welcome Back to RAC

Please check the RAC website for current conditions before you arrive.

Queens Award for Voluntary Service

On Wednesday July 14th at 2.30pm Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey Michael More-Molyneux will be presenting our award at RAC.

Members are welcome to attend

Re-Opening Showcase Events

23rd to 26th September

See the back page and www.riversidearts.co.uk for more detail and booking info

RIVERSIDE ARTS CENTRE

Notice & Agenda of the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 14th July 2021 at 8pm

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting.
3. Matters arising from the minutes.
4. Director's Report.
5. Treasurer's Report and adoption of accounts for year ending 31.3.21.
6. Chairman's Report.
7. Technical Director's Report.
8. SSAA Chairman's Report.
9. Election of Trustees.

In accordance with the **Memorandum of Association**, Mr E.J. Champion, Hon Technical Director and Mrs P. Petch, Hon Arts Director retire. Mr E.J. Champion is willing to stand for re-election. Any other nominations for this position should reach the Chairman by 1st July 2021.

The position of Hon Arts Director is nominated by Sunbury & Shepperton Arts Association.

10. Presentation of the Basil Miles Award.
11. Appointment of Honorary Independent Examiner.
12. AOB: Members wishing to raise matters must notify the Chairman by 1st July 2021.

Members please note : Only Guarantors are entitled to vote. To become a guarantor it is necessary to sign form guaranteeing to pay £10 in the event of the winding up of the company and there being a deficiency.

This meeting will be followed by the AGM of the RIVERSIDE ARTS CENTRE CLUB



*The Riverside Arts Centre is a Company limited by Guarantee,
a Registered Charity (No 272929) and is sponsored by
The Borough of Spelthorne*

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

It's been a while since I've been able to write one of these, so I guess it's "Welcome back!". The past year has been hard on the RAC as I'm sure it's been hard for all our members, regulars, and guests. We really look forward to slowly returning to normal, welcoming back some familiar faces (and some new ones), and refilling our coffers so we can continue to provide the community arts hub that you've all come to know and love.

As things start back up, the vast majority of activities will be classes and fitness-based activities as the rule of six (or two households) prevents larger drama or musical rehearsals except for the under 18s. However, this does not mean there's nothing to see. We'll be welcoming back Riverside Arts Jazz as our first public events, which we hope will be followed by more of regular events calendar. Our adult amateur organised events, such as the in-house performance groups, are likely to return after the summer. This will be launched by what is turning out to be a fabulous

re-opening celebration featuring a little bit of everything from our regulars.

Cast your mind back to pre-COVID and you may remember that we were very honoured to win the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS). The actual reception of the award had to be put on hold and I'm glad to say that we will be receiving our award at a ceremony (here at Riverside) on the 14th July - the same day as our AGM.

The COVID rules will continue to change as we recover from the pandemic and, perhaps, are hit by new variants. The management team will continue to do our best to keep you informed and provide the best possible community arts facilities that we're permitted to offer.

I wish you all a safe and happy summer and look forward to seeing many of you over the next few months - instead of the same four walls of my home office.

James Ford-Bannister

Chairman

From our Technical Director

As promised in our last newsletter, the Redecoration of "The Studio" was completed by the end of January. We have returned to the original colour with walls in "Gentle Fawn", but a darker colour for the doors and skirtings, "Coffee Liqueur".

With the prospect of a continued state of "Lockdown" for some months ahead, our thoughts turned to the associated rooms in "The Studio" complex and The Bank Strong Room, which now accommodates four small rooms. With a serious need to limit expenditure, I raided our paint store in the cellar and managed to find sufficient paint to do the whole complex. As a result we now have a cascade of colourful rooms to rival any Dulux Showroom for very little cost. The little Foyer has "Gentle Fawn" walls, whereas the Disabled Toilet is finished in "Magnolia". The small Dressing Room is finished in "Apricot Crush" with the toilet

in "Wild Primrose" Woodwork throughout is finished in "Antique Satin" with the Doors in "Taupe". I think it looks splendid!

During March and April I joined our new Bar Chairman, Chris Dunne, to redesign and repaint The Bar. The original Bar was built in 1980 and has served us well. The new layout brings the Chiller Display Cabinets forward. With much lighter decor and new card handling facilities we should now have a very smart 21st Century model. I hope you like it, the new Bar will be operational in June.

Elsewhere in our Arts Centre, we have now completed the promised modifications to the Racked Seating System. We must thank Pat Langley who played a major part in this project. Let us hope it won't be too long before we can stage another Theatre Production week with Raked Seating at RAC

Eric Champion

Editor's notes

June 2021

While some activities are starting up few events are taking place until the grand reopening in September. Hence no **What's On** this time. The next Centre should appear in September 2021. Time to announce then your future plans. I will remind my usual contributors in August.



Riverside Players of Sunbury

We at Riverside Players of Sunbury haven't been idle for the first 5 months of 2021. Although performing in our beloved Riverside Arts Centre has been impossible, we have been opening dramatic avenues on Zoom. We have produced serious, rehearsed plays and not-so-serious plays for fun- keeping our community connected and our dramatic juices flowing.

February saw us launch a 'Play-Writing Competition'; open to all and with cash prizes. The competition closed in May, and has given the RPoS a great deal of joy, and some potential new quality drama for the coming months! With the competition in mind, Geoff Buckingham held a practical 'zoominar' on the art of writing a play. We also had our first 'Gloom Lifting Play Reading'; an opportunity for our members to come together virtually and have some fun reading a light hearted play. We had huge fun with Not a Penny More by Geoff Buckingham, and a good time was had by all!

In March, we performed local playwright Richard Black's masterful, thought provoking plays *Passing Over* and *The Millstone* to large Zoom audiences. These rehearsed Zoom plays were directed by Vicki Prince, and, over the two plays, involved a large number of our community who gave some outstanding performances.

April saw Olwen take on an Improvisation Workshop, which was both fun and useful! We were also involved in a Zoom reading of *More Tea Vicar* by Geoff Buckingham in support of the Heart Beat Charity. Marion Millinger also organised a fun play reading of *Funny Turns* by David Hampshire, and more are in the pipeline!

We have so many plans for the future, and are chomping at the bit to get back on stage. *Old King Cole* will be our Panto in January 2022, and work on that has already started. *Amy's View*, which was postponed from 2020, will be back with the date TBA. We are also looking at a number of other plays which should welcome theatre-going back with a bang!

Passing Over and The Millstone by Richard Black

The Zoom performances of the ghost morality plays **Passing Over** and **The Millstone** by Richard Black performed by **The Riverside Players** in March brilliantly demonstrated how not to be defeated by the Covid restrictions. The performances may not have been staged, but on screen they were just as absorbing and dramatic.

These plays of gripping suspense with plots of many twists and turns right up to the last page, are an exploration of major social issues. Richard successfully gives his scripts a spiritual, transcendental treatment with themes of redemption and retribution for past wrongs. His expert, clever handling of the subject matters offers vast opportunity for highly emotional portrayals of characters and exploration of the sensitive topics. The actors rose to the challenge and did not disappoint the audience.

Passing Over is set in a mental asylum. The telling of the tragic incident that took place in Oradour-sur-Glane during World War II when most of its occupants were locked in the village church and burnt to death, enables examination of man's inhumanity to man and the psychological consequences not only for those involved in the atrocity but the far-reaching effects on their loved ones. James Berry, (Tom Brierley) a young soldier, has been incarcerated in the asylum for five years. Totally withdrawn, he speaks to no one. He witnessed the burning. Despite his pleading he was unable to prevent it. The ghosts of some of the villagers are unable to rest and regularly appear to James. Two Sentinels Rosa (Vicki Prince) and Anthony (Robert Johnson) whose task it is to help ghosts pass over from this world to the next, release them from their torment. In turn, James is freed from his mental restraints. His commanding officer,

who could have saved the lives of the villagers, is brought to judgement by the ghosts for his refusal to repent.

The second tale, **The Millstone**, takes place in the village of Whitesea and sensitively deals with the effect of child abuse. It is linked to "Passing Over" by the characters James Berry and his fiancé Mary. Now sentinels, they assist in the passing over of ghosts of abused children. They also help the surviving victims to reconcile themselves with the abuse they had suffered empowering them to begin to live their lives without carrying the burden of abuse that had haunted them. Justice is also exacted on the abusers who refused to atone for their actions.

Despite the absence of a stage and the restraints of zoom, the actors demonstrated their versatility by displaying strong, emotional and dramatic performances. Space will not permit comment on every individual performances which were equal in their excellence, but one that does merit a mention is that of the character Jose, the head waiter of the Millstone restaurant, which was brilliantly portrayed by Peter Cornish.

It was not only the superb acting that made these performances such a success. The director, Vicki Prince, expertly staged these complex plays triumphantly negotiating Zoom. The screen images created by the Technical Director, Jamie Higgins, enabled the audience to immerse themselves even further in the telling of the tales. Music gave an other-worldly, spiritual atmosphere whilst the ghost images created for both plays by Kay Harwood Young were particularly poignant.

The plays achieved an audience of over 90 for both performances.

Carmen Souchet

SUNBURY-ON-THAMES FLOWER CLUB



During the lockdowns we have managed some newsletters to members, and some of us have taken pleasure in joining in with other club's zoomed demonstrations. We also managed a postal AGM in November, only six months late. The Surrey Area of the National Association of Flowering Arranging Societies has organised a lot of online activities, and one of the entries in the 'Just For Fun' virtual show appears here.

WE NOW HAVE PLANS! We have booked demonstrators for July, September and November, and will be holding a workshop in October and our Christmas Party in December. We shall have all necessary Covid precautions in place for as long as required. Visitor fee £6 (including a cup of tea). So please join us!

- July 6th 2.00 in the hall. Demonstration by Sally Hardy, entitled 'This and Tat'. Visitors welcome.
 September 7th 2.00 in the hall. Demonstration by Melanie Smith, entitled 'Flowers Bring Smiles'.
 Visitors welcome.
 October 5th 2.00 in the hall. Hands-On Workshop – Alternatives to Oasis, featuring esp. 'Agrawool'.
 Visitors welcome.
 November 2nd 2.00 in the hall. Christmas Demonstration details tbc. Visitors welcome.
 December 7th 2.00 in the Studio. Christmas Party. Details tbc.

Music Lessons

For several years now Colleen Muriel has been teaching piano and flute at RAC. For children it's part of their growing up but I asked Colleen to enquire of some of her adult pupils why they were accepting the challenge of instrument playing now. Here are a few of her pupils' comments:-

Fangni Wang - why I have come back to playing flute as an adult.

Playing flute has brought me so much joy when I was younger and I always thought it would be a shame to just throw away the skill I once had. I was so bored at home during lockdown and was looking for something to do. It was perfect timing for me to pick flute back up again, I'm glad I did. I wasn't looking to do grades or compete, just wanting to play flute leisurely. Colleen was great letting me choose my own music while helping me improve my skills, organising group sessions when we were allowed. I really enjoyed playing in groups and look forward meeting more local musicians.

Matthew Muldoon - Starting piano lessons.

I play guitar a little but I've always had a desire to tickle the ivories, well better late than never, so having more time during this lockdown it was the perfect opportunity to fulfil my wish. I've had the good fortune to meet Colleen Muriel who is making lessons relaxing and an enjoyable experience. I've no set goals and just enjoying the musical ride.

Carmen Souchet

I first began to learn to play the piano at the age of about ten but only continued for a short period. To be able to play has always remained a strong desire. Now retired and taking advantage of the lockdowns, I rekindled my dream with the help of Colleen whose expertise and patience has proved that age is not a barrier. In addition to teaching me how to play the piano, Colleen has also introduced me to the theory of music. I am delighted I took the step to renew my love of the piano and that I am doing this with the help of Colleen.

Nesli Bennett - Having music lessons is great fun.

I really benefit from practising the fabulous pieces I am learning on the piano, not only because I can choose the music that I would like to play but also it's a rewarding hobby. Playing a melody and working out the rhythms are very therapeutic and I find that I feel refreshed when I spend time at the keyboard. So I include some jazz, blues as well as classical pieces, the popular music from film scores might be another option for me. Having come back to lessons after decades I enjoy learning about how music works. The things I learnt as a child seem to ring true looking at the structure of music and the nice thing about that is I can dabble at music at my own pace. Whether a beginner or a person with some previous experience, learning music with Colleen is good for the soul and the brain cells.

Piano, Flute, Song writing and Theory Private or Group Lessons

Serious Learning that's lots of fun

All Ages - No exams

Contact Colleen for more details on 07722574625 or
colleenmuriel@hotmail.com



KH Dance Academy

Children and adult classes from 18months. RAD Ballet & Silver Swans, ISTD Tap & Modern, ID Contemporary and Street, Zumba Gold.

All abilities welcomed.

Classes taught in a fun and friendly environment following covid-19 guidelines.

Adult classes

Monday 10.45-11.45am Silver Swans Ballet for the older adult.

Monday 7.30-8.15pm Brand new Fitness Class working on general toning of the whole body no experience needed.

Tuesday Zumba Gold 10-11am 11.15-12.15pm

Tuesday Adult tap and Ballet classes between 7-9pm running classes for all abilities

Summer Term 2021

Monday 19th April- Saturday 17th July

Half term week commencing the 31st May



SSAA – SUNBURY & SHEPPERTON ARTS ASSOCIATION

CONCERTS – YIPPEE!!!

We are delighted to announce that we have booked the following concerts for the Autumn. Tickets will be available from August onwards, at the previous price of £14.

Watch out for more details!

Sunday September 19th 2.30 CONCERT with Tea & Cake

MENGYANG PAN – Piano

You may remember **Mengyang Pan**, the wonderful pianist who closed our last Arts Festival. She had a wonderful reception from the audience at that performance, and we have been thrilled to be able to re-book her to perform within the fortnight of Re-opening Events in September. This will be a Sunday afternoon concert, followed by Tea and Cake!



Saturday November 6th 10.15 for 11.00 COFFEE CONCERT

JONATHAN RADFORD – Saxophone and ASHLEY FRIPP – Piano

This is another return visit because we like him so much – **Jonathan Radford** played his saxophones for us in 2019 and at this Saturday morning Coffee Concert, is joined by **Ashley Fripp** on the piano. The format of the concert will be as previous Coffee Concerts. Watch out for programme details.



Sunday November 28th 2.30 with Tea & Cake

CAROLE BOYD – voice, & The BIBBY SISTERS Piano Duo, performing as 'INFINITE RICHES'

We have been trying to book a return visit by **Carole Boyd** for ages, and Covid and lots of things have got in the way. We are delighted that it's now in the diary! Carole Boyd has been presenting a programme of voice and piano with the **Bibby Sisters Piano Duo** for some time, and it is definitely time that we heard them, followed by Tea & Cake!



KH Dance Academy

Summer School

Summer School will take place Monday 9th August through to Friday 13th August from 9-3pm for children from 4 years and upwards with a show on the last day and join in a fun-filled week of dance, drama, singing and craft.

Open to all ages from 4 years

£100 Full week 9am to 3pm

£50 Half day : 4-6 years 9am to 12 noon

Sibling discounts

Contact Kathryn to book a place : 07891675753

SUNBURY CHERTSEY ARTISTS

PORTRAIT, LIFE, PRINTING & MORE

Paint and draw from a model at untutored sessions in Sunbury-on-Thames at The Riverside Art Centre. Limited to 5 artists per session until all COVID restrictions are lifted on June 21st. All abilities welcome.

Thursday morning from 10.30 and Thursday & Friday evenings from 19.30.

UPSTAIRS IN THE CRAFT CENTRE

Places must be booked in advance until all COVID restrictions are removed

Thursday morning call Lisa on 07711271691

Thursday evening call Kate on 07712618797

Friday evening contact Nerissa on nerissadeeks@hotmail.co.uk (this session also available via Zoom)

Prepare for our Summer show in June at Squires Orangery and watch this space for news of all day Saturday sessions.

Mood Indigo Events

Riverside Arts Jazz

The main Sunday concerts will be with audience plus livestream and the Tuesdays will be livestream only.

June Tuesday 1st, 7.30pm
Sunday 6th, 7.45pm

My Life In Music with Tina May - Interview interspersed with music
Maciek Pysz (guitar) with Terence Collie, Mark Rose and Sophie Alloway

July Tuesday 6th, 7.30pm
Sunday 11th, 7.45pm

My Life In Music - guest TBA
Leo Richardson (sax) with Terence Collie, Paul Michael and Paul Cavatiuti

August Sunday 1st, 7.45pm

Kate Mullins (vocalist) with Terence Collie, Richard Sadler and Rha Stranges plus Job Shenoy (sax) tbc.

NB: This will be preceded by an afternoon workshop for vocalists lead by Kate Mullins and Terence Collie. Details on website.

Tuesday 3rd, 7.30pm

My Life In Music - guest TBA

For information : www.moodindigoevents.co.uk

re-Opening Showcase Events. 23rd to 26th September.

Thursday 23rd evening and Saturday 25th afternoon and evening

Variety Show including our performing groups (Riverside Youth, Laughing Chili Riverside Players, KH Dance School, Zodiac Musical Theatre, and On Stage Now)

Friday 24th Speed Quiz with Laughing Chili and

Sunday 26th a special film showing by Wonderama Cinema followed by a Mood Indigo Jazz Concert.

Further details to follow together with how to book your tickets.

Our "Friday Grand Piano Group" will be running a sponsored "pianothon" later in the year