



**Arts Richmond**  
ETNA Community Centre, Room 21  
13 Rosslyn Road, Twickenham TW1 2AR  
Telephone: 020 8892 9446  
E-mail: [info@artsrichmond.org.uk](mailto:info@artsrichmond.org.uk)  
Website: [www.artsrichmond.org.uk](http://www.artsrichmond.org.uk) Registered charity no: 251359

# Annual Report

## April 1<sup>st</sup> 2022-March 31<sup>st</sup> 2023

### Introduction

#### A Year of Transition

Our last AGM took place with a third of the year under review having taken place. Governance is not the most exciting of topics but the changes agreed at the last AGM meant many of our volunteers and our Administrator had to work differently. I am pleased to report that everyone has embraced the changes and, as can be seen in this report, Arts Richmond has had a strong year of events aimed at enhancing our affiliates' programmes of activities and promoting the Arts in our Borough.

My thanks to all the volunteers; members of our various sub committees; my fellow Trustees and Linda Hansell for all their work and help in putting our new structure in place.

Looking forward I believe we have a strong team who are focussed on making Arts Richmond financially secure and looking for new ways to promote our affiliates and boost awareness of all the Arts in the Borough.

### 1. Objectives

The subcommittees of the Board of Trustees work hard in pursuit of our objective to disseminate information and promote engagement in the huge range of arts events and activities produced by our affiliated groups and societies. In furtherance of the

same objective we also promote a number of events ourselves as evidenced in this report.

### Management and membership

At March 31<sup>st</sup> 2023, 133 organisations were affiliated to Arts Richmond, an increase of 14 on last year. Our current Trustees are John Coombs (Chair) Hilary Dodman (Deputy Chair) Simon Bartlett (Treasurer) Sue Pandit, Gillian Thorpe, Jean Wit, Peter Cregeen, Geoff Acton, Sandra Green and Rachel Tranter.

### 3. Communication and Publicity

Linda White continues to do magnificent work producing our monthly *What's On* newsletter. Gillian Thorpe continues to play a vital role in monthly proof reading. Our circulation of 1000 remains constant and the newsletter is distributed to the libraries and Visit Richmond outlets. The digital edition is widely disseminated among the affiliates every month. The newsletter generally runs to 10-12 pages - evidence of the numerous activities of our affiliated societies and the importance they attach to inclusion of their events in our publicity.

On 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, our Facebook reach per 7 days was on average 3397 which is up on last year. On Instagram we had 1028 reaches per 7 days, again up on last year. On Twitter

we had over 2669 followers. This again demonstrates the enormous increase in our social media presence in 2022-2023. This is due entirely to Linda Hansell and volunteer Deborah Mearnes who covers 7 hours a week in her role as Press Officer.

We could not manage without our loyal group of ‘stuffers’ who meet every month to ensure the inclusion of affiliates’ flyers and the distribution of the posted newsletters. Sadly we lost Zeena Clark earlier this year who was a firm supporter of Arts Richmond and came to help stuffing right up to a few weeks before she passed. We miss her very much and are grateful to her for all her ‘stuffing’ years!

Still helping are Hilary Dodman, Janet Langhorne, Jenny Mason, Heather Morgan, Judith Anderton, Jennifer Braddle and Linda White.

We are hugely indebted to Jean Wit, our Assistant Treasurer who continues to volunteer in the office one day a week and works remotely for Arts Richmond on some other days. Two new members of the team are Astrite Vula and Nana Gombo who helped greatly with the Young Writers competition. Astrite worked on the rebranding and graphics for both the book, contents and projection images for the event itself and also acted as one of the presenters at the event. Nana tirelessly worked with all the schools and entrants and collated the record breaking 901 entries.

#### **4. Partnership with LBRuT**

Arts Richmond is incredibly grateful to LBRuT for their continued financial support for our activities which contribute to the delivery of the Borough’s Cultural Strategy.

#### **5. Visual Arts (Chair: Catherine Sweet)**

**Committee members: John Coombs, Hilary Dodman, Penelope Grant, Heather Montford, Linda White and Astrite Vula**

The Visual Arts Committee is a dynamic group, committed to creating and sustaining opportunities for artists across Richmond borough and beyond.

While the wider community was emerging from the coronavirus pandemic, there were still some larger visual arts events missing from the calendar during this reporting period – including our Affordable Art Tent at the Richmond May Fair, which did not run for another year. Art House Open Studios was also not delivered by Richmond Art Service, instead a small amount of borough artists joined forces with Kingston Artist Open Studios, with mixed feelings on how successful the event was over such a large area.

Arts Richmond trialled several new events this year, also adapting previous event formats to maximise the ways in which our members, affiliates and local residents can participate in visual arts and culture across the borough.

Long standing Chair of Visual Arts, Hilary Dodman, stood down in November, handing over to Catherine Sweet. Hilary continues to be actively involved in the Committee, and we thank her for her ongoing support and enthusiasm.

#### **Teddington Art Trail, April 2022**

As many artists and independent retailers had been significantly impacted by the pandemic, Arts Richmond invited artists from across the borough to display their work for sale at independent shops along Teddington High Street, Broad Street and the Causeway in Teddington during the whole month of April.

Modelled on a similar, successful initiative which took place in Barnes previously, artists partnered with local shops to display their work. A map of participating stores was available so that residents and visitors could explore the independent retailers Teddington has to offer, and so they could discover and

purchase original, affordable art from local artists. 19 artists participated in 23 stores.

The Trail was kindly supported by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. Arts Richmond also arranged an official launch and networking event for artists, retailers and local residents at the Landmark Arts Centre on 1st April, attended by the Mayor of Richmond upon Thames.

Overall the feedback we received from artists, retailers and visitors was very positive. However at present we do not have the resource to deliver another event such as this one for the borough. Huge thanks are owed to Linda White for her outstanding support for this initiative.

### **Richmond Artist of the Year 2022**

Following the successful introduction of this event the previous year, we welcomed 35+ artists to the WWT London Wetland Centre for the second annual Richmond Artist of the Year competition on 12th June.

Artists were able to find a spot across the 105 acre nature reserve in Barnes to create an original work in just three hours. Entries were judged by representatives from the Wetland Centre, Richmond Arts Service and Leigh Gallery (Hampton Hill), and we were able to award a cash prize sponsored by Haynes Fine Art. Finished works were displayed at the on-site art gallery for visitors to enjoy until the end of August, and we held a private view for our contacts, artists and volunteers, plus WWT supporters, with wonderful feedback.

We are grateful to everyone involved for their commitment and energy, and look forward to making this event a staple in our calendar going forward. We would like to give a heartfelt thank you to the London Wetland Centre for supporting this event.

### **Affordable Art Tent - St Margaret's Fair**

As we were not able to run our regular Affordable Art Tent at Richmond May Fair, we adapted the format for a slightly smaller offering at St Margaret's Fair in July 2022.

Artists were able to submit up to three pieces of work for £100 and under, with many finding new homes on the day. We were also able to introduce Arts Richmond to a new audience and increased our membership base thanks to this event. We look forward to incorporating this new event into our calendar going forward, alongside our regular offering on Richmond Green. Thank you very much to all the volunteers who supported the delivery of this event.

### **Teddington Unlocked, October 2022**

We were delighted to work with luxury housing development Teddington Riverside to stage an exhibition at their show home near Teddington Lock during October. Curated by Catherine Sweet of BobCat Gallery, the exhibition 'Teddington Unlocked' showcased work from local artists depicting the borough of Richmond, and 10% of all sales were donated to Arts Richmond. Thank you very much to the team at Teddington Riverside for facilitating this exhibition, including a wonderful launch event for their residents and guests.

### **The Diana Armfield Drawing Competition & Exhibition at The Exchange**

We are very grateful to The Exchange for facilitating another exhibition of competition entries alongside our Young Writer's festival in March 2023.

Diana Armfield herself continues to judge entries to this competition, supported by John Coombs and Catherine Sweet, and this year we received more entries than ever before – including many who put their work forward for the very first time. Diana also presented the awards at the private view on 16th March.

We were also able to list entries for sale on our website thanks to a newly introduced shop function.

Huge thanks to Linda Hansell for administering this significant event, including cataloguing more than 100 entries!

## **6. Literature (Chair: Hilary Dodman)**

**Committee members: Peter Cregeen, Hilary Dodman, Heather Montford, Sue Pandit, Gillian Thorpe, Anne Warrington, Jean Wit**

2022-2023 was a year of recovery for our Literature programme. We had enormous success with our November 2022 Talks series and an increased number of entries for the Young Writers Competition. We launched the Roger McGough Poetry Competition for culmination in May 2023 and worked with others on a contribution to the borough's Arts and Ideas Festival to take place in June 2023. Both these latter events will be reported on in full in the 2023-24 Annual Report.

### **Arts Richmond Literature Festival**

Our festival took place every Wednesday evening in November 2022 at The Exchange in Twickenham. Our Presidents, Sir Vince and Lady Rachel Cable graciously agreed to host the talks series and were present at every event.

**On Wednesday, November 2nd** we welcomed the actor **Paterson Joseph**, well-known for his TV appearances in 'Casualty' and 'Peep Show', for his work with the RSC and for his roles in many films including 'The Beach' and 'The Other Man'. Paterson has turned to writing and talked to us in the most engaging and informative manner about his debut novel, 'The Secret Dairies of Charles Ignatius Sancho'.

**On Wednesday, November 9th, Alan Johnson**, the former Labour Home Secretary, shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer and sometime postman who, in recent years, has

turned to thriller writing, was our guest speaker. 'The Late Train to Gypsy Hill' and 'One of our Ministers is Missing' have enjoyed enormous success. Alan entertained a large audience with anecdotes and reflections on his time in the public eye and on his writing career. His genial, relaxed approach, and great sense of humour ensured an enjoyable and interesting time for us all!

**On Wednesday, November 16th** our guest was **The Right Honourable The Lord Patten of Barnes**, Sir Chris Patten, the 28th and last Governor of Hong Kong, former Chairman of the Conservative Party and now Chancellor of Oxford University. His talk on his recently published 'Hong Kong Diaries' was received with enormous interest by a large audience which included a good number of former Hong Kong nationals now resident in the area. His emotional attachment to the people of the former British administrative area was clear and his concern for the current situation even more evident. This was a stimulating, informative and surprisingly emotional evening.

**On Wednesday, November 23rd** we welcomed the journalist **Luke Harding** to the Exchange stage. His outspoken criticism of the regime in Russia, his fearless journalism and his several books on his experiences inside the country have been met with great acclaim and it was fascinating to listen to someone with such personal and immediate experience. His book, 'Invasion: The Inside Story of Russia's Bloody War and Ukraine's Fight for Survival' (2022) was of immediate interest. His responses to questions from the floor further enlightened the horrific current situation for us.

**On Wednesday, November 30th Sir Vince Cable and Lady Rachel Cable** themselves were our speakers. They focussed on their recently published book, 'Partnership and Politics in a Divided Decade' which is an enlightening mixture of memoir, reflection and shared experience through the time of the

Coalition government (2010- 2015) when Sir Vince served as Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills. It was particularly interesting to hear Lady Rachel's side of the story and her reflections on being the partner of a major public figure.

We are enormously grateful to all our wonderful speakers, to all those who came along in such numbers on five dark, November evenings to be our audiences and to the team behind the operation both at the Exchange and Arts Richmond.

We are particularly grateful to Sir Vince who helped us with the speakers list and presided over every event. We owe him and Lady Rachel a huge debt of gratitude for their commitment and support.

Each evening was supported by Helena Calletta of The Open Book who sourced and sold copies of all our speakers' books and presided over book signing sessions on each occasion. We express our thanks to her for her generous support.

### **Roger McGough Poetry Competition 2022-2023**

Our annual Roger McGough Poetry Competition was launched in October 2022 for completion in May 2023. A huge amount of work goes into the organisation of this competition. Led by Anne Warrington and supported chiefly by Linda Hansell and her office volunteers, the many entries were catalogued and prepared for the judges. The generous support of Roger McGough ensures good response to this event but we are keen to develop it further next year. The prize giving and celebration will be reported on in next year's annual report as it took place on May 21st 2023, outside the remit of this report.

### **Young Writers' Competition and Festival of Writing 2022-2023**

Our annual Young Writers' Competition was launched in September 2022 and the

celebratory prize-winners Festival of Writing took place at The Exchange on Sunday, 26th March 2023. The Deputy Mayor of Richmond upon Thames, Councillor Fiona Sacks, graciously presented certificates to the finalists and awards to our winners.

There were 901 entries to the writing competition from schools, clubs and individuals across the borough. This represents an enormous increase on the post pandemic figure of 400 last year and is a testament to all the hard work undertaken by our office volunteer Nana Gombo . She contacted over 50 schools and colleges, making personal contact with decision makers. We are also enormously grateful to those on our Literature Committee who were involved in the initial sifting and to our three external judges, Anne Beach, Imogen Bond and Elizabeth Ryan for their hard work in identifying and selecting the most outstanding pieces of writing for our anthology and presentations at the event.

The poems were brought to life by a wonderfully talented group of young actors from Edmundian Players, Dramacube and from Richmond College, directed with great enthusiasm and professionalism by Marc Batten.

To support the Young Writers' event we applied for funding to Barnes Literary Society and were successful in securing sponsorship of £500 for the making of a promotional video of the Celebration and Prize giving event. We are grateful to BLS for their generosity and to Sue Pandit for her advice and support in this process. We salute the expertise of Gordon Vowles Productions in the production of our video which is not only a wonderful record of the day but will also enable us to make a much greater impact when we are promoting the event in the future.

## **7. Drama (April 2022 – March 2023)**

**Chair: Gillian Thorpe** (till October 2022), **Danny Wain** (from October 2022). Plus drama committee members who served during this period: **Nancy Baldwin, Marc Batten, Sue Bell, Laurie Coombs, Hilary Dodman, Jeremy Gill, Loz Keal, Heather Montford, Danny Wain, Linda White.**

2022 2023 was a vibrant year for local theatre. After the challenges of the pandemic and the post-pandemic period, our drama affiliates planned their programmes with gusto.

It was a joy to hold a live Swan Awards event in September 2022, making up for those lost pandemic years. The Swan judges team, at that time comprising Paul Bethel, Susan Conte, Pip Egan, Margaret Keelan, Elizabeth Slater and Warren Walters, had covered an impressive 53 productions all told. Going into the new season. Michelle Hood has joined the judges' team and Pip Egan has stood down. Many thanks to her for her hard work and expert input. The Swans rules and processes are to be reviewed and the Awards themselves will be organized slightly differently in 2023, with a Nominations Evening in July and a new-look party to celebrate the awards to the Swan winners in September.

The drama committee continued to focus on planning for the future, following the Consultation carried out in spring 2022. Early committee meetings concentrated on the Consultation findings under the principal themes: Collaboration, Marketing, Resources and the Swan Awards. As a result, a series of drama forums were planned to bring together our affiliate members and Arts Richmond's drama committee.

The drama committee is looking forward to another busy and active year of theatre for 2023 2024. A second Radio Plays Competition, sponsored by the family of the late Colin Skipp, who played Tony Archer in The Archers for 46 years, is already in full swing. Results will be announced in the autumn of 2023.

Danny Wain as Chair of Drama will steer the committee through the next exciting year of change and consolidation.

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## **8. Showcoach**

**(Chair: Janet Langhorne Committee Members: Jean Wit, Linda White Helen Taylor)**

**April** - 23 members visited **Kensington Palace** which included the new exhibition "Life through a Royal Lens", a unique chance to explore the Royal Family's relationship with the camera. Everyone enjoyed their visit.

**July** - 47 members joined our annual visit to **Chichester Festival Theatre** to see the acclaimed production of '**Crazy for You**'. Everyone enjoyed their day in Chichester which included time explore the City centre and enjoy lunch before the matinee performance.

**August** - 16 members visited **Freemasons Hall**, an amazing Art Deco Grade 11 listed building, braving one of the hottest days of the year. They had coffee in the beautiful, and cool, Art Deco cafe before meeting our guide who was very informative and a great deal was learnt about the history of Freemasonry. We finished in the magnificent Grand Temple which contains a brilliant pipe organ, lavish gilt thrones, mosaic ceiling and enormous bronze doors. A most enjoyable day.

**September** - 29 members visited **Kelmscott Manor**. a limestone Grade 1 Manor House in the Cotswold village of Kelmscott. This was William Morris's summer house which he jointly leased with the Pre-Raphaelite painter Dante Gabriel Rossetti. We also saw Morris's grave and were welcomed into the lovely tea garden to enjoy the surroundings and refreshments before our very well organised guided tour. Everyone really enjoyed their day in the Cotswolds

**October** - 26 members joined our 2 night residential trip, our 3rd visit to **Glyndebourne Opera Touring**. We also visited Farleys House and Gallery near Chiddingly in East Sussex, the home of the photographer Lee Miller and Surrealist artist Roland Penrose. It houses a collection of contemporary art by their friends Pablo Picasso, Man Ray, Max Ernst and Joan Miro. We had a very interesting tour in the house and saw the new gallery which houses different exhibitions. On our second day we were accompanied by our Blue Badge guide to Standen House, an NT property, then onto Glyndebourne for Mozart's The **Marriage of Figaro**. We had great seats for this brilliant performance followed by a very good dinner

in the Carvery. On the third day we first visited the famous Grade 1 listed St Michael and All Angels Church at Berwick, a lovely church with beautiful murals by the 20th century Bloomsbury artists Duncan Grant, Vanessa Bell and Quentin Bell. Following this we headed to Michelham Priory founded as an Augustinian priory in 1229 for a guided tour.

**December** - 29 members went to see **Matthew Bourne's Sleeping Beauty at Sadler's Wells** by coach. This was a different take on the well-known story. The sets and costumes were really quite amazing. Everyone enjoyed this pre-Christmas trip to the theatre

**January** - we had the opportunity to have a free visit to **Hampton Court Palace** through the Community Access Scheme. 12 members took advantage of this and all enjoyed exploring the Palace at leisure despite the cold weather! Hopefully some these members will now join Historic Royal Palaces and enjoy the other 5 Palaces within the group

**February** - 19 members visited the **Tate Modern for the EY Cezanne Exhibition** which brought together over 80 selected works from all collections over Europe, Asia and the Americas and illustrated the breadth of the artist's career. Key examples of his iconic still life paintings, Provençale landscapes, portraits and bather scenes were explored. Our package included refreshments on arrival before a private introductory lecture about the exhibition by an expert Tate guide and a lovely buffet lunch before having a free flow visit of the exhibition. Everyone really enjoyed their visit and agreed that having a lecture really helped in their understanding of his work.

This ends a busy year finally getting back to normal life at last. I would like to thank Linda for helping promote the various trips on social media and to Jean and my Showcoach team for all their help.

## **9. A9. Assuring quality for members and funders**

This is achieved through;

- Our office being open for contacts and prompt responses every day from 9.30am to 12.30pm.
- Our attention to the regular production of a high quality newsletter giving accurate in date information about the activities of our affiliates and ensuring they receive value for money for their membership fee. Our attention to the development of our social media platforms and our constant striving to increase our profile in these areas
- Our Trustees Board meeting regularly to consider members' views and expectations and take them into consideration when instigating projects and planning for future events
- Our trustees working to ensure the probity and financial stability of the charity

## **Thanks**

We gratefully acknowledge the support of Kay Williams and the David King Trust. Barnes literary Society and Arts Society Richmond ShoeBucket Productions.

We are also very grateful to our anonymous donors.

# Arts Richmond

**Joint Presidents 2022-2023** The Rt. Hon. Sir Vince Cable and Lady Rachel Cable

**Vice Presidents:** John Coombs, Hilary Dodman, Pam Frazer, Sandra Green, Edie Purdue

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Deputy: Hilary Dodman  
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Assist Treasurer Jean Wit  
Gillian Thorpe  
Rachel Tranter  
Peter Cregeen  
Sandra Green  
Geoff Acton  
Sue Pandit

Administrative Officer:  
Linda Hansell

## Sub Committee Chairs:

Hilary Dodman  
(Literature)

Catherine Sweet  
(Visual Arts)

Danny Wain  
(Drama)

Janet Langhorne  
(Showcoach)

## Past Presidents

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2014 Dame Jacqueline Wilson  
2015 Clive Bradley CBE  
2016 Sara Burn Edwards/  
Howard Greenwood BEM  
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2018-2019 Roger  
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Sara Burn Edwards

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