



## **Arts Richmond**

ETNA Community Centre

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 2018-March 2019**

This year saw the launch of our wonderful new venture: the Diana Armfield Drawing Prize. Initiated by the artist in memory of her husband, the competition drew a large number of entries and was a great success.

We worked in partnership with the organisers of Richmond's first Funny Fest and are closely involved with the proposed Richmond Film Festival.

Our established events have gone from strength to strength: huge numbers of entries for the Young Writers Competition; large audiences for our contributions to the Richmond Literature Festival and a capacity audience for the spectacular Swan Awards evening to name a few. Showcoach is a continuing success story: this year has seen a steady growth in numbers of supporters enjoying a stimulating programme and good fellowship together.

We continue to benefit from being situated within a busy community building and enjoy strong working relationships with the ETNA team and SWLEN, with whom we share our office space.

## **1. Objectives**

Our Executive Committee works 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.

## **2. Management and membership**

This year has seen the implementation of last year's decision to move from Holding Trustees to a constituted Board of Trustees. We are grateful to Clive Bradley, Cllr. John Coombs, Sandra Green, Howard Greenwood and David Ward who put themselves forward to serve. The trustees have met regularly to scrutinise the finances and output of the charity.

The Executive Committee benefits from the work of five sub-committees: Drama, Literature (with Poetry), Music, Showcoach and Visual Arts.

We meet our society representatives and members formally at the AGM and informally at many functions throughout the year.

Laurie Coombs stood down from the Executive committee at the 2018 AGM but continues to serve as a member of the Drama sub-committee. She plays an invaluable role in the organisation of the Swan Awards evening.

Cllr. Geoff Acton, Peter Cregeen, Heather Montford and Linda White were re-elected to the committee at the 2018 AGM.

## **3. Communication and Publicity**

Linda White continues to produce our monthly What's On Newsletter. We are enormously grateful to her for her commitment and total reliability. 1,000 copies are printed each month and distributed to councillors, the libraries and the Visit Richmond outlets

The newsletter regularly runs to 8 pages – evidence of the numerous activities of our affiliated societies and the importance they attach to inclusion of their events in our publicity. The distribution of flyers through the newsletter is an important part of our service to our affiliates.

The website continues to be an important communication tool. Linda Hansell, (formerly Sirker) has become skilled in uploading information and in ensuring our information appears on Facebook and Twitter. This is an increasing area of activity for Linda and the office volunteers.

Over 100 local organisations are currently affiliated to Arts Richmond.

We could not manage without our loyal group of 'stuffers' who meet every month to ensure the distribution of the flyers in the newsletter. They are Zeena Clark, Joan Heath, Heather Morgan, Jill Sutherland, Janet Langhorne, Linda White, Rosalind Potter, Peter Calvert and John Coombs.

We are indebted to Jean Wit, our Assistant Treasurer who continues to volunteer in the office two days a week. We also welcome the invaluable contributions of Amy Cottell and Deborah Biasoli who have joined us as office volunteers this year.

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

We continue to work in partnership with the borough Arts Service. I chair the Arts Advisory Forum and we made a significant contribution to the annual Literature Festival.

#### **5. Visual Arts (Acting Chair: Hilary Dodman)**

Committee members: Linda White, Sue Ribbans, John Coombs, Heather Montford.

#### **Art Tent Richmond May Fair**

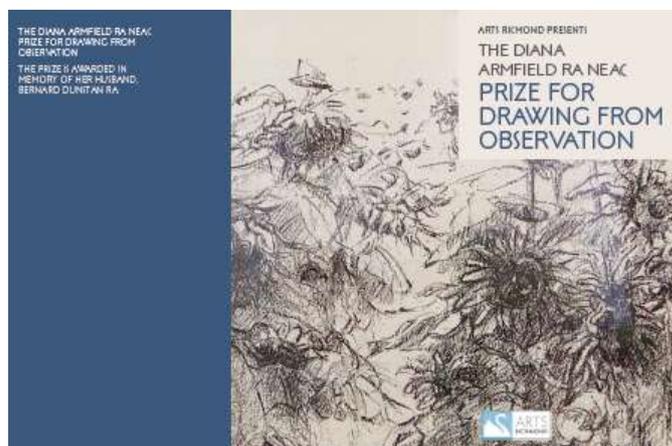
Arts Richmond once again organised a very successful Affordable Art Tent at the Richmond May Fair on Richmond Green on Saturday 12 May 2018. 25 artists who were individual members or members of our affiliated societies took part, providing 76 paintings and many cards, of which 17 paintings were sold, as well as approximately 40% of the cards. It was also a good opportunity to publicise Arts Richmond and its many initiatives.



#### **Diana Armfield Drawing Competition**

In March 2019, Diana Armfield RA NEAC, a distinguished artist, generously sponsored a Drawing Competition for local artists over the age of 16, in memory of her recently deceased husband Bernard Dunstan RA, who was also highly respected in the art world.

It was held from Wednesday 6th to Friday 15th March 2019 at the Landmark Arts Centre in Teddington and 112 excellent drawings were displayed. 51 local artists took part. Jonathan Barker won first prize with his drawing of "The River at Teddington"; Rachel Labovitch won second prize with her portrait "Steph" and many other artists were highly commended.



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

Committee members: Peter Cregeen, Heather Montford, Anne Warrington, Jean Wit, Clive Bradley

#### **Young Writers Competition 2018**

We had another bumper year with over 400 entries from our borough schools covering years 1 through to 10. The presentation again took place at Twickenham's Exchange Theatre attended by all the finalists and their families. Keith Wait organised and directed a band of professional actors to present the final 16 highly commended pieces. These dramatized readings provided a most entertaining and thought provoking presentation which was enjoyed by all. We nominated laureates in the senior and junior age groups. Both of these laureates have gone on to review a number of Arts

Richmond events and have been invited to one or two of our affiliated societies' productions. We hope this will continue in the coming years.



### **The Book Picnic May 2018**

Our author this year was retired British broadcaster and Civil Servant Barbara Hosking who discussed her book 'Exceeding My Brief Memoirs of a Disobedient Civil Servant' Ably assisted by TV broadcaster and consumer rights campaigner Lynn Faulds Wood. We had just over 140 guests attending the Marquee on Richmond Green



### **November Literature Festival 2018**

We held four events at this year's Literature Festival three of which were held at Duke Street Church and presented renowned authors: Kamal Ahmed (*The Life and Times of a Very British Man*) Tim Marshall (*Prisoners of Geography*) and Alan Robert Clarke (*The Prince of Mirrors*), the last in conversation with actor John Sessions.

All three Duke Street events were well attended and received.

We were also able to commemorate Armistice Day with a Centenary Event of Poems and Song held at the Coach House Orleans Gallery.

### **The Poetry Hub 2018-2019**

We have held four poetry events this year: The Poetry Café; A WW1 Centenary Walk with Readings; The Armistice Day Commemoration Event and The Robert Gillespie evening.

### **Poetry Café**

This poetry event on 15<sup>th</sup> June was planned to capture the atmosphere of a friendly café or pub. We were pleased by the very good response it received. Every seat in the Noel Coward studio at HHT was taken and the audience was entertained by a varied and versatile group of poets and musicians, many of whom perform regularly at the Adelaide.

### **1914-1918 Centenary Walk**

This walk, on Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup> 2018 was led by Dr. Helen Baker, a local historian, and Carol Wain. The Walk was based on the Warren Gardens (former Richmond Ice Rink and Pelabon factory), combined with the Richmond War Memorial. During the walk a number of poets presented poems on the theme of WW1 and the Armistice.

### **Armistice Centenary Event, Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

A commemoration of the armistice through poetry and music inspired by WW1 including well known poems by Rupert Brooke and Wilfred Owen was presented in the Coach House at Orleans Gallery.. Poems were read by members of our drama and poetry communities.

### **'Are you going to take that little jump?'**

Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Robert Gillespie talked about his work as an actor, director and writer in the Noel Coward room, Hampton Hill Theatre. Two actors from TTC, Josh Clark and Michael Bishop contributed to the programme.

**7. Drama** (Chair: Gillian Thorpe, Committee Members: Sue Bell, Laurie Coombs, Benedict Dias and Anne Warrington)

This has been another busy year for the drama committee.

**The Annual Swan Awards Gala** took place in September at The Landmark Arts Centre, where we were delighted to welcome Lynn Faulds Wood and John Stapleton as our celebrity guest presenters together with The Mayor of Richmond Upon Thames, Cllr Ben Khosa.

The evening itself was a sold out event. As ever the judges had a difficult job attending 41 productions during the course of the acting year (Sept 17-July 18). 35% of these were musicals and almost half involved children or young people – a very encouraging sign for the longevity of local theatre.

The 2018 accolade award was presented to Pam Frazer, who stood down from the organising committee at the event. Pam has been a driving force in so many areas of the arts in Richmond – she was a judge for many years and she will be much missed on the committee (although we are hoping to lean on her for advice and support in the coming months). She continues to organise the Richmond upon Thames Performing Arts Festival (RUTPAF) which does so much good work in recognising young talent.

The Swan Awards are a very integral part of Arts Richmond's year and they would not be possible without the hard work of the judges: Elaine Barton, Sue Bell, Keith Wait, Stephen Leslie and Pip Egan. Sadly Helen had to withdraw during the year due to ill-health. We are very fortunate to have such dedicated and hardworking people on our team.

**SWAP, the 'mentoring' scheme for new judges** continues to flourish under the expert guidance of Anne Warrington. Two of the 'mentees' John Bellamy and Warren Walters joined the judging panel for 2018/19 taking the places of Elaine and Helen. The scheme is continuing for 2019/20. Joe Stockwell and Benedict Dias will be ready to step in for the new season as new SWAN judges. We continue to be grateful to all the societies for providing complimentary tickets to the participants.

We couldn't do such a great job without the financial support of Kay Williams; she is a great friend to the Swan Awards and we are grateful. We would also like to thank Sara Burn Edwards and Colin Squire (Squires Garden Centre).

**Directors Forum:** This event was held on Saturday 2nd February, principally as part of SWAP's mentoring scheme. It was very popular. The event was held at Hampton Hill Theatre and led by Wes Henderson Roe with a panel of 5 practitioners. There were 33 in attendance with a good spread across the societies both in attendees and panel. There was good feedback, all suggesting we do more of these forums going forward.

### **Future plans**

The Drama Committee goes into 2019 with different challenges – as reported elsewhere Pam Frazer has retired from the committee and our Chair, Laurie Coombs, has also resigned from the committee. However she has agreed to stay on as a

co-opted member to help with the 2019 Swan Awards event.

It is also planned to have a New Plays Festival in spring 2020. The venue will once again be the Orange Tree Theatre, subject to availability. Invitations have gone out to the Arts Richmond drama group members. Expressions of interest have been requested by end of June 2019.



**8. Showcoach** (Chair: Janet Langhorne Committee Members: Jean Wit, Linda White, Heather Morgan, Hilary Dodman)

April 19 - 22<sup>nd</sup> Our 3 day residential trip to the *Great Houses of Derbyshire* was very popular with all 26 participants

We visited the World of Wedgwood, Chatsworth House, Haddon Hall, Hardwick Hall and Calke Abbey during our stay. We were based in Buxton in a beautiful old Hotel dating back to 1573

June 8<sup>th</sup>. A very successful day trip to *Charleston* for a very interesting guided tour in the morning. We then continued to Lewes where everyone was able to have lunch and then enjoy the unusual shops before returning home. All 40 members enjoyed this trip

July 11<sup>th</sup>. A small group of 10 had a guided tour of the *Guildhall Museum* followed by lunch and then a free flow visit to the *Bank of England*. Those who went said it was a very interesting place to have visited.

August 8<sup>th</sup> Our popular annual visit to the *Chichester Festival Theatre* attracted 45 members. This year's performance was "*Me and My Girl*" which was excellent. As there was no pre-talk this year members had more time to visit the lovely city for lunch and visit the shops and Cathedral.

September 4<sup>th</sup>. Showcoach visit to *The Proms!* This proved a very popular choice with 20 members booking to hear the *Tango Prom* showcasing the history of the Tango from its origins in the 1880's to the present day. A really exciting evening for everyone!

October 12-14<sup>th</sup>. Another success for Showcoach was when 21 members visited *Glyndebourne* to see a performance of Massenet's "*Cendrillon*". During our 2 night stay in Eastbourne we also visited Penshurst Place, Brighton and its famous Pavilion and Chartwell. A very successful trip which will be repeated by popular request.

November 22<sup>nd</sup> Here we had a walking tour of *Bloomsbury* with a Blue Badge Guide all 20 members found this area a fascinating place to explore. After lunch we then had a free flow visit to the *Foundling Museum* which was a very interesting but sad place to learn about.

December 13<sup>th</sup> A very popular visit to the *Royal Festival Hall* to hear the Philharmonia Orchestra performing festive classics and carols sung by *Kings College Choir* amongst others. All 30 members had a great evening

January 22<sup>nd</sup> A small group of 10 visited the *Rambert School* in Isleworth. Here we learnt about the history of the school and watched a variety of dancers performing. We all enjoyed the day and were encouraged to join in the workshop!

February 20<sup>th</sup> This month 20 members attended a brilliant exhibition at *Tate Britain of Edward Burne-Jones*. Our free flow visit was preceded by a very informative private talk which helped us understand his painting. Everyone enjoyed their visit to see this great Pre-Raphaelite painter.

March 21<sup>st</sup> *Witness for the Prosecution* was well attended by 15 members. *The old County Hall* was an excellent setting for this play and everyone thoroughly enjoyed it.

This is a brief summary of the visits undertaken for Showcoach during the year 2018 – 2019 They illustrate the wide variety of places and events members greatly enjoyed through the year

## 9. Assuring quality for members and funders

We receive regular feedback on events through:

- Formal feedback forms
- Messages via our Website and other social media channels
- Views expressed at such forums as the Arts Advisory Panel, Voluntary sector strategic partnership and other meetings.
- Our sub-committees meet regularly to consider members' views and expectations and take them into consideration when instigating projects and planning for future events.
- Our office is open for contacts and prompt responses every day from 9.30am to 12.30pm.

## 10. Thanks

We are enormously grateful to Roger McGough for his wonderfully supportive year as our President July 2018 – July 2019. The inaugural Roger McGough Poetry Competition reached its climax in May 2019 (outside the remit of this report) and will be reported on at the next AGM.

We welcome Lynn Faulds Wood and John Stapleton as our Presidents 2019-2020 and look forward very much to working closely with them.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of Kay Williams and the David King Trust and are grateful to Squires Garden Centre, Richmond Theatre, Richmond Shakespeare Society, Teddington Theatre Club, TOPs Musical Theatre, BROS, Rose Theatre and others for their generous donations to our annual raffles. We are also very grateful to our anonymous donors.

We are particularly grateful this year to Roland Bostock who has generously ensured the reinstatement of the Edward Bostock bench on Richmond Hill. The plaque makes particular reference to his work for Arts Richmond.

Hilary Dodman  
Chairman, July 2019

# Arts Richmond

## Richmond-upon-Thames Arts Council

**President 2018-2019: Roger McGough**

Vice Presidents: John Coombs, Pam Frazer, Sandra Green, Edie Purdue and David Ward

### **Officers and Executive 2018-2019**

*Chair* Hilary Dodman  
*Treasurer* Simon Bartlett  
*Assist Treasurer* Jean Wit

*Administrative Officer:*  
Linda Sirker/Hansell

#### *Executive Members:*

Cllr. Geoff Acton  
Lesley Alabaf  
Sue Bell  
Peter Cregeen  
Benedict Dias  
Pam Frazer (VP)  
Janet Langhorne  
Heather Montford  
Gillian Thorpe  
Linda White  
Anne Warrington  
LBRuT Representatives:  
Vacant

#### *Trustees:*

Clive Bradley  
John Coombs  
Sandra Green  
Howard Greenwood  
David Ward

#### *Past Presidents*

2013 Anne Sebba  
2014 Dame Jacqueline  
Wilson  
2015 Clive Bradley CBE  
2016 Sara Burn  
Edwards/Howard  
Greenwood  
2017-18-Samantha Bond

### **Patrons**

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Diana Armfield  
Marcia Ashton  
Sir David Attenborough OM,  
CH,KBE  
Gyles Brandreth  
Sara Burn Edwards  
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Lady Cable  
Liz Crowther  
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Bamber Gascoigne  
Julian Glover & Isla Blair  
Howard Greenwood  
Jerry Hall  
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His Honour Bernard Marder  
Sir Trevor McDonald  
Roger McGough CBE  
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Colin Squire OBE  
Colin Starkey  
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Kay Williams

#### *Convenor of patrons:*

Sara Burn Edwards

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