



Annual Report

April 2016-March 2017

The year began in the midst of our 50th Anniversary celebrations. Our exhibition in The Stables Gallery at Orleans House Gallery opened in March and closed on 24 April. Each weekend of the exhibition saw wonderful participatory events in Visual Arts, Drama and Dance, Heritage, Music and Literature. It culminated in the hugely successful Shakespeare 154 event. This complete reading of all Shakespeare sonnets in sequence by Patrons, Members and Friends of Arts Richmond was a momentous and possibly unique occasion. Following the exhibition, we resumed our normal programme of events, re-vitalised by the impact of The Golden Thread, our anniversary festival.

1. Objectives

Our Executive Committee works very hard in pursuit of our joint objectives of informing our community about “What’s on” and “How to get involved” in the huge range of arts events and activities produced by our affiliated groups and societies in the borough. In addition, we also promote a number of events ourselves to enrich the local scene.

The Charity Commission requires us to set out the Public Benefit we offer. We believe that this Annual Report shows that the objectives, as set out above, are amply fulfilled to great public benefit.

Our aim is to support and promote the activities of our affiliated societies and to play our part in supporting arts initiatives throughout the borough. We do so in partnership with other charities, the Voluntary Sector Strategic Partnership and the borough Arts Service.

2. Management and membership

Our structure and management activities remain the same as in previous years.

Three members of the Executive Committee stood down at the 2016 AGM. Sandra Green, whose many years of service to Arts Richmond include a period as Chair was thanked for her enormous contribution to the charity. The successful Young Writers competition is her particular legacy. Heather Morgan also stood down following many years of dedicated membership of the Executive. Sue Ribbans, who remains a co-opted member of the Visual Arts sub-committee, also stood down from the Executive. All three continue to be involved with Arts Richmond as valued volunteers and contributors to our activities.

We welcomed Anne Warrington to the Executive Committee. She had previously served as Swan Judges Representative and became a full member of the Executive. Simon Bartlett, Gillian Thorpe and Jean Wit were re-elected to the Committee.

We hold regular executive committee meetings, have a number of sub committees for our various activities and meet our society representatives formally at the AGM (now to be in July) and informally at many functions at other times.

3. Communication and publicity

Linda White is continuing to produce our monthly What’s On Newsletter. We are enormously grateful to her for her hard work. 1,000 copies are printed each month. It regularly runs to 8 pages – evidence

of the health of our affiliated societies and the significance accorded by them to our marketing. The distribution of flyers through the Newsletter mailing is a crucially important part of our service to our affiliates.

The website continues to be an important communication tool. Many of our affiliated societies use their dedicated areas to promote their events. Sian Morgan, our former Executive Officer, kindly continues to Tweet on our behalf and we are enormously grateful to her for maintaining our social networks. Thanks to her, we now have 1292 Twitter followers.

123 local organisations are currently affiliated to Arts Richmond.

We are grateful for the support of our dedicated band of mailing volunteers (the Stuffers!): Zeena Clark, Joan Heath, Jenny Mason, Rosalind Potter, Peter Calvert, David Ward, Anne Beach, Heather Morgan, Linda White, John Coombs and Janet Langhorne. We thank them for their generous contribution to Arts Richmond. We also thank David Ward, John Coombs and Peter Calvert for hosting our annual Stuffers Lunch, which is always an enjoyable event!

We are indebted to Jean Wit, who, as well as acting as our Assistant Treasurer, continues to volunteer in the Office twice a week.

4. Partnership with LBRuT

We continue to work in partnership with the borough Arts Service. We owe them a particular debt for their wonderful support throughout the planning and implementation of The Golden Thread Exhibition. I chair the Arts Advisory Forum and we have maintained our partnership in the organisation of the Annual Literature and Music and Drama Festivals.

5. Visual Arts (Chair: John Coombs)

During the year April 2016 – March 2017 the committee were responsible for two events for affiliated societies, friends and residents of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.

Arts Tent Richmond May Fair

As usual an invitation was sent to all the affiliated Art societies to let their members know how they could submit works for sale in the Art Tent on Richmond Green. An invitation to submit works for sale was also sent to individual artists known to Arts Richmond. In all 23 artists sold pictures on the day and additionally many sold cards as well.

Bi-annual open photographic exhibition



We were pleased to work with Richmond Adult Community College who kindly agreed to co-sponsor the bi-annual photographic exhibition. This was displayed in the foyer of the college over a week in October 2016. Our thanks to the facilities staff and to the arts department of the college for their invaluable help.

The subcommittee members are Keith Wait, Heather Montford, Sue Ribbans (Co-opted), Linda White and John Coombs.

6. Literature (Acting Chair: Hilary Dodman)

As in past years the Literature Committee worked hard to deliver a number of literary events across the year.

23 April - Shakespeare 154 Sonnet Day

Masterminded by Keith Wait, this wonderful event will stay long in the memory. So many people were involved in the reading, across ages from 98 to 15: famous faces, school children, patrons, our MP, the Council Leader, members of the Executive and dozens from our affiliated societies. It was a moving occasion and a triumph. Thank you Keith!

24 April – Shakespeare’s Globe: A Theatre Reborn

Sara Burn-Edwards gave a fascinating, illustrated talk on the Globe Theatre at Orleans Gallery. We are grateful to her for her generous contribution.

This event was followed by a celebratory drink to toast the Bard and to mark the closing of our wonderful anniversary exhibition.

15 May – Our 50th Anniversary Book Picnic was another special event. We invited a number of patrons to select a significant book and to talk to the picnic audience about its importance to them. A large number of Arts Richmond members and friends enjoyed a thoroughly pleasant and successful occasion.

5, 16, 23 November

We organised three events as our contribution to the Richmond Literature Festival. Clive Bradley, our former Chair and our still very active contributor to our talks programme booked Lord Dannatt and Chris Mullins for two very successful and interesting ‘Books of our Time’ talks on the 16th and 23rd of November; Janet Langhorne secured Lucy Worsley for us for a young people’s event on November 5th.

All three of these occasions were well attended and were major contributions to the Literature Festival.

The Young Writers presentation event fell outside the period of this report (in April 2017) and will be included in next year’s review.

We are grateful to Sandra Green, who although stepped down from the Executive committee and the Chair of the Literature sub-committee continued to play an important supportive role through the year.

Members of the Literature sub-committee are: Clive Bradley, Heather Montford, Peter Cregeen, Keith Wait, Hilary Dodman, Anne Warrington and Jean Wit.

7. Music (Chair: Janet Langhorne)

CHORAL WORKSHOP -SONGS OF GERSHWIN

This very popular and lively Workshop took place on Saturday 4th March at St Richard’s Church in Ham. Our Conductor once again was the inspiring James Hawkins. This year we featured music from “A Gershwin Portrait” by George and Ira Gershwin

We had 85 singers in total .After learning the music in both morning and afternoon sessions we

performed to a small group of family and friends at the end of the day.

Several participants enhanced the day further by singing solo parts

We also ran a very good Raffle which raised £240 All in all it was a most enjoyable and successful day. We are already beginning to plan next year’s Workshop so watch this space and come and join us!

Members of the Music Sub-Committee are: Janet Langhorne, Jackie Allen, Geoff Acton, Hilary Dodman.

8. Drama (Chair: Laurie Coombs)

The Drama Committee have had another busy year, organising the Swan Gala Awards evening in September 2016, planning a Set Design Forum to take place in April 2017, starting planning for the 2107 Swan Awards evening and early work on the bi-annual New Play Writing Festival in March 2018.

Our Gala evening in September 2016 was hugely successful and we were fortunate to have His Worship The Mayor of Richmond upon Thames, Cllr David Linnette with us, as well as our celebrity presenters Isla Blair and Julian Glover. Isla and Julian were at our first Swan Awards Evening back in 1986, and so it was particularly pleasing that they could join us in this, Arts Richmond’s 50th anniversary year.

The ‘mentoring’ scheme for new judges has flourished, under the expert guidance of Anne Warrington. Two of the ‘mentees’ Sue Bell and Elaine Barton have joined the judging panel for 2016-17. The scheme is continuing this year. We are most grateful to all the societies who have been so helpful in getting this programme up and running and for providing complimentary tickets to the participants.

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:

Pam Frazer, Heather Moulson, Helen Nicholls, Carol Stratton, Keith Wait, Anne Warrington. We are very fortunate to have such dedicated and hardworking people on our team. Pam has decided to stand down after serving for many years, and we are grateful to her for all her hard work and dedication. She will be much missed but we are

fortunate that she continues on the drama committee where her expertise and knowledge is invaluable.

Members of the Drama Sub-committee are: Laurie Coombs, Pam Frazer, Sue Bell, Gillian Thorpe and Anne Warrington.

9. Showcoach (Chair: Janet Langhorne)

April: Tour of Kneller Hall.

This was a hugely popular event with 51 people attending.

It was a privilege to see the cadets and band members being put through their paces during rehearsal. The museum was full of fascinating objects and information and reading some of the plaques in the chapel was very moving.

May Book Picnic: Showcoach took a table at this event.

June: We visited the beautiful Art Deco **Eltham Palace** by coach. We had a tour of the house and then free time to explore the lovely gardens. All the 25 people who went enjoyed this visit

July We took 35 members to the **Stanley Spencer Gallery in Cookham** on an idyllic sunny day. The group was split into 2, the first group walking the village with a guide, which was very interesting, whilst the second group was given a talk in the Gallery. The groups then changed places so that everyone was able to do both. We had lunch in one of the many pubs and tea shops before returning home. A great day out!

August 40 people enjoyed their annual trip to **Chichester Theatre this time to see “Half a Sixpence”**. There was an interesting (optional) talk in the auditorium about the production. Then plenty of time for lunch in one of the many restaurants before attending the afternoon performance. A very popular trip as always which delighted us all.

September This was a more local event: a visit to **Strawberry Hill House** for a twilight tour. All those who went found it both atmospheric and interesting.

October A backstage tour of **The Royal Opera House** was attended by 20 members. This was a chance to see the workings of this beautiful theatre accompanied by a well-informed

guide.

November A visit to the Old Vic to see Shakespeare's **“King Lear”** starring Glenda Jackson as Lear. This was a great chance to see this production. All those who went enjoyed the rather unusual take on this play!

December This was our pre-Christmas visit, this time to The Royal Festival Hall for an evening of seasonal, popular classical music **“The Joy of Christmas”**. 30 members attended this lovely and uplifting concert.

January We had a visit to the Richmond Odeon for a live screening of **The Sleeping Beauty** from the **Bolshoi Ballet** Moscow. This virtual “front row” experience was enjoyed by a small group of members.

February 13 members visited Tate Britain to see this comprehensive exhibition of **David Hockney's** works. This was a bold and fantastic collection of one of the most influential artists of the 20th century.

March: We took a group of 30 members to visit the William Morris Gallery in Walthamstow and take the **“Meet the Man”** tour. This was an intriguing and informative outing which everyone found most enjoyable.

This is a short report of the visits carried out in 2016 – 2017. If anyone wants any further information about any of these visits please email me.

I hope by seeing what we have done in a year many more members might like to come along and join us. Everyone is very welcome.

Members of the Showcoach Committee are: Janet Langhorne, Jean Wit, Heather Morgan, Hilary Dodman

10. 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 forum; voluntary sector strategic partnership and other meetings.

Our sub committees meet regularly to consider members' views and take them into consideration when instigating projects and planning for future events.

11. Thanks

Sara Burn Edwards and Howard Greenwood graciously agreed to extend their Presidential year from December 2016 to July 2017 so in fact they have served for 20 months! They have been wonderfully supportive and generous of their time throughout their presidency and we are most grateful to them.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of Kay Williams, Joan Russell-Williams and The David King Trust and are grateful to Squires Garden Centre, The Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond Gate Hotel, Strawberry Hill Golf Club, Richmond Shakespeare Society, Teddington Theatre Club, the Down's Syndrome Association and Jill Sutherland among others, for their donations. We are particularly grateful this year to the team at the Borough Arts Service who were so supportive of our Golden Thread project. We are also very grateful to our anonymous donors.

Hilary Dodman
Chairman, July 2017

Arts Richmond

Richmond-upon-Thames Arts Council

Joint Presidents 2016-17: Sara Burn Edwards and Howard Greenwood

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

Officers and Executive 2016-17

<i>Chair</i>	Hilary Dodman
<i>Deputy Chair</i>	Keith Wait
<i>Treasurer</i>	Simon Bartlett
<i>Assistant Treasurer</i>	Jean Wit
<i>Administrative Officer:</i>	Juliet Peacock
Executive Committee:	
<i>Elected at the AGM:</i>	Anne Warrington
<i>Executive Members:</i>	Cllr. Geoff Acton
	Lesley Alabaf
	Jackie Allen
	Sue Bell
	Cllr John Coombs (ex-officio)
	Laurie Coombs
	Peter Cregeen
	Pam Frazer (ex-officio)
	Janet Langhorne
	Heather Montford
	Gillian Thorpe
	Linda White
<i>LBRuT Representative:</i>	Cllr. Sarah Tippett

Holding trustees: Clive Bradley – John Coombs —
Sandra Green – Howard Greenwood – Edie Purdue
–David Ward

Past Presidents:

1966-1980 Alderman Monty Garrett
1981-2003 Edward Bostock, CBE
2004 Bamber Gascoigne
2005 Frank Thornton
2006 Rosemary Leach
2007 Michael Frayn and Claire Tomalin
2008 Julian Glover and Isla Blair
2009 Lee Langley and Camilla Panufnik
2010 Clive Francis and Liz Crowther
2011 Sam Walters and Auriol Smith
2012 Jason Bowyer and Claire Ireland
2013 Anne Sebba
2014 Dame Jacqueline Wilson
2015 Clive Bradley CBE

Patrons of Arts Richmond

The Mayor of Richmond upon Thames – Marcia Ashton - Sir David Attenborough OM CH - Lt Col Duncan Beat - Isla Blair - Jason Bowyer PNEAC - Gyles Brandreth - Sara Burn Edwards – Dr Vincent Cable - Helena Caletta - Liz Crowther - Bernard Dunston RA - Clive Francis - Michael Frayn - Bamber Gascoigne - Julian Glover - Howard Greenwood - Jerry Hall - Sir Jeremy Hanley - Toby Jessel - Karl Jenkins - Baroness Kramer - Lee Langley - Rosemary Leach - Bernard Marder QC – Dr Tania Matthias MP - Sir Trevor McDonald OBE – Roger McGough CBE – Alistair McGowan - James Naughtie - Lady Panufnik - Maurice Press - Alan Price - Anne Sebba - Colin Squire - Claire Tomalin - Sam Walters MBE – Dame Jacqueline Wilson
Convenor of patrons: Sara Burn Edwards

Arts Richmond
ETNA Community Centre
13 Rosslyn Road, Twickenham TW1 2AR
Telephone: 020 8892 9446
E-mail: info@artsrichmond.org.uk
Website: www.artsrichmond.org.uk
Registered charity no: 251359