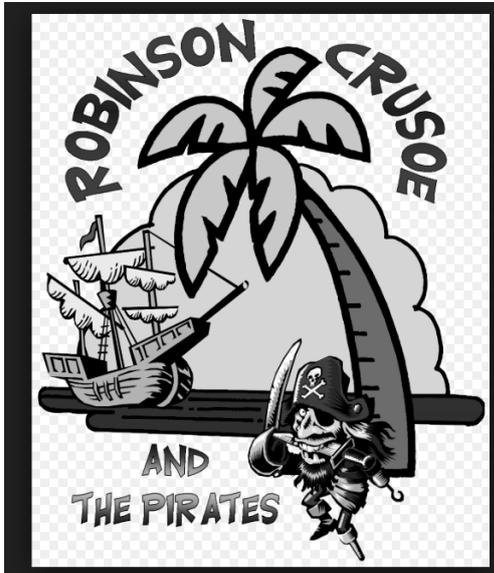


the centre

Quarterly Journal of
The Riverside Arts Centre and Sunbury & Shepperton Arts Association
www.riversidearts.co.uk
Volume 39 Number 2

December 2018

Riverside Players
present
Robinson Crusoe and The Pirates
By Alan T. Frayn
Ticket booking now open
www.ticketsource.co.uk/manorplayers
or phone 07505 206 757



Wed January 16th at 7.30pm
Thurs January 17th at 7.30pm
Friday January 18th at 7.30pm
Saturday 19th 2019 at 7.30pm

Saturday 19th at 2.30 pm
Sunday 20th at 2.30 pm

Manor Players and Shepperton Players are joining forces for the first Sunbury Riverside Players January pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe & the Pirates* by Alan P. Frayn. From the shores of Brazil to the tropics, the show is full of swashbuckling action, damsels in distress and desert island cannibals. In true pantomime fashion, we offer music, dance and nu-

merous colourful characters to entertain and get everyone joining in!

Early bookings are recommended, particularly for the matinees as these tend to sell out quickly. We can't wait to see you there (oh no, we can't)!

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

After a full hot summer programme. thanks to the Air Conditioning, we have had a busy Autumn with contractors coming and going carrying out maintenance and repairs in preparation for the Autumn Programme. Among them, some of you may have noticed, we have had to replace the fence built in 1985 around the yard. (33 years! - Not bad for a fence)

The Craft Centre Studios have been fitted with nearly new light fittings with 'Daylight Tubes', thanks to Francis who acquired the fittings and offered to fit them for us free of charge. Thank you very much Francis. I am sure that your efforts will

be appreciated particularly by the Art Groups that use the studio

Christmas is fast approaching with its usual bevy of seasonal events in December and January. In preparation. the Bar Committee have purchased a new Special Urn for the Mulled Wine. The Directors, Trustees and Officers join me in wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a joyful and prosperous New Year at Riverside Arts Centre

ERIC CHAMPION
TEL: 01932 782850



Riverside Youth Theatre's December production is THE GRINCH - An adaption of 'How the Grinch stole Christmas' by Dr Seuss which has been adapted by Ollie Bowell.

The grouchy Grinch lives on Mount Crumpit, not far from the town of Whoville. The Whos of Whoville love Christmas and joyfully prepare for the holidays. But their noisy celebrations are heard by the Grinch and he gets increasingly annoyed. This adaptation sees the Grinch attempt to ruin Christmas for Whoville.

Will he succeed?

THE GRINCH is directed by Ollie Bowell and Alex Johnson (who are both ex-members of RYT). Come and see our December production

Thursday 6th December - £6

Friday 7th December - £8

Saturday 8th December - £8

Tickets available from www.riversideyouththeatre.co.uk
or from the Box Office – 07871 992988

If you have an interest and some experience of directing, and would like to help RYT, we would love to hear from you –riversideyouththeatre@outlook.com

Editor's notes

December 2018

The next Centre appears in March 2019 The deadline for contributions will be Thursday 14th February 2019 for news, views and future events in March, April and May 2019 I especially like photos! If the contributor for your group has an e-mail address, please let me know, so that I can send them a reminder about a fortnight before the deadline.

My telephone is 01932 782788, e-mail thecentre.rac@gmail.com or put copy on the notice board at RAC

A link to your poster can be put on the RAC website. Send it to riversidearts59@gmail.com

Christine

Earlier this year a very successful Grand Dinner was held at RAC to celebrate 40 years of the Arts Centre at 59 Thames Street. It was attended by seventy guests some twenty of whom had been here 40 years ago.

An initial target of £30,00 was to be raised to begin the renovation of the building and to start the process of its conversion to the splendid Arts Centre which graces Thames Street today. The founding groups gave money from their funds and local businesses were approached for donations of both money and equipment. Below is another extract from 'From Orchard to Arts Centre' written by Pat Champion and David de Jersey which was sold for fundraising - every little counts!



FROM ORCHARD TO ARTS CENTRE

Negotiating the lease was a slow business. Late in 1977 however, it was considered likely that a lease would be agreed, commencing in April 1978. So that work could begin before that date the council agreed to issue a licence operating from 1st October 1977. Although work could not begin until 1st October there was a large crowd on 17th September when the Mayor of Spelthorne, Councillor Leon Fox, presented the keys of 59 Thames Street to Tom Williams, the first Chairman of Riverside Arts Centre.

The Mayor wished everyone success with the project and admired the courage of the committee in taking on so much hard work. Tom had carried the burden of much of the initial liaison with the council and without him the project might never have started successfully. The presentation took place on the pavement outside the front door and immediately afterwards nearly one hundred people trooped inside to view the building. The building was nominally empty; all the machines had been taken away and there was an open space from almost one end (where the bar now is) to the other (the far end of the workshop). Old pipes and conduit littered the walls and thick black greasy deposits stained the unwary; a relic of fifty years of engineering. Underfoot there was a layer of debris together with various fastenings sticking up from the floor, where machines had been bolted down. The building was damp and dirty, having been out of use for many years and it was no surprise that some of the visitors left quite rapidly, feeling that the task ahead was over ambitious.

Clearing the building of debris would be a long process made worse by the lack of electricity or gas. One light bulb was found to work in the upstairs lavatory, powered by the Bank next door, but mugs of tea had to be made using a camping gas stove. Meanwhile fundraising became very im-

portant: it had been estimated that £30,000 would be needed for materials and professional services even assuming that most of the work was carried out by volunteers.

Evenings of poetry and music were held in local pubs; coffee mornings were run by individuals, and parties of members got together for compass dinners.

Groups were keen to use the building as soon as possible. Even while the clearing up was under way members of Shepperton Players were to be seen building scenery for their forthcoming pantomime and in spite of the state of the building the first event was held in the hall on Sunday 18 December 1977 when a Christmas concert was put on by Shepperton Singers and Shepperton Players. Readings and Carols were enjoyed in the cold hall, lit by oil lamps with old carpets on the rough concrete.

Re-decoration of the upstairs rooms allowed them to be used for the Art Exhibition in May 1978 and they were in use for rehearsals and meetings from then on. As so often happened at Riverside, the impetus to complete a task came from a forthcoming event: the rooms were decorated for the May exhibition, fires were installed in time for the November exhibition and the orchestra pit covers and the steps at the bar end of the hall were hurriedly constructed in time for the 1980 festival.

By early 1979 the bar was becoming quite respectable, indeed this area was nearly completed with the bar counter and security grill, a suspended ceiling and all tastefully decorated. As some of the last gloss paint was being applied near the window a suspicious clue was noticed; this was the prelude to a disastrous set back. Dry rot was found to be rampant in most of the face of the building.

(To be continued)

SUNBURY on THAMES FLOWER CLUB



Tuesday December 4th in the Studio

CHRISTMAS PARTY

with Moira Edwards
(members only)

2019

Tuesday January 8th

WORKSHOP

All invited. Details from the committee

Tuesday February 5th

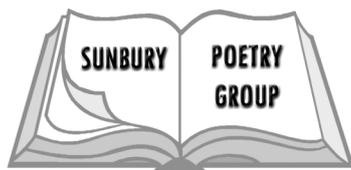
LIZ WAITE 'All the Word's a Stage

*Competition – 'A Stage Show'(to be titled)
All invited*

Tuesday March 5th

WORKSHOP

All invited. Details from the committee



Our September meeting featured a presentation by Karan and Surbhi Deva of the work and lives of the British Romantic Poets. It was explained that Byron was heroic, whilst Shelley and Keats' were tragic. The Napoleonic Wars had a great effect and there was widespread suffering amongst the working classes. Tom Paine also impacted on society and influenced the poets. Shelley said that he did not believe in marriage and he approved of free love. However, he married twice, although he was said to be very shy. More than a dozen poems were read aloud by members. Time flew by and Karan and Surbhi will be concluding their dissertation next year.

In October Colin Hurrell presented "The Poets Speak", which was based on historic recordings from the British Library Sound Archive CD. These featured the voices of poets born in the 19th century reading their own works. The earliest was Robert Browning reading "How they

brought the good news from Ghent to Aix". This was recorded in 1889 just 12 years after Thomas Edison invented the tinfoil cylinder phonograph. Understandably, the sound quality was very poor. However, recording techniques improved and "1805" by Robert Graves was almost equal to modern standards. In between we were treated to the voices of such well known poets as Henry Newbolt ("Vitai Lampada" and "Drake's Drum"), W. B. Yeats, Hilaire Belloc, John Masefield, Edith Sitwell, Robert Frost and Rudyard Kipling – more than 20 in all.

In November, members brought poems to read on the subject of "Home". These included the humorous "I'm goin' 'ome to Blighty" by Robert William Service and verse by Philip Larkin, Anne Bronte, John Clare and others.

Our December meeting is cancelled because the date clashes with a Christmas event on The Avenue. Early 2019 meetings will be as follows:

Jan 3 New Year drinks and nibbles, poems on the subject of "Joy" – and a Quiz.

February 7 "Fantasy" – Members' bring and read.

March 7 "Cities" – A Presentation by Pat Dowthwaite.

April 4 "Royalty" – A Presentation by Joyce Langmead and Barbara Taylor.

The Riverside Book Circle year began on 20 September when novelist, journalist and broadcaster, Jane Thynne visited the Arts Centre to deliver a talk to circle members. Born in Venezuela, she grew up in London and after attending The Lady Eleanor Holles School in Hampton, she spent a year working at the Old Vic Theatre, before reading English at St Anne's College, Oxford. After Oxford she joined the BBC as a production trainee but was drawn to journalism and joined the staff of the Sunday Times before becoming media correspondent on the Daily Telegraph. However, she has said that her single most exciting career moment was obtaining a publishing contract for her first novel.

A prolific writer with many books to her credit, including one called *Tips for Meanies*, Jane is the author of the Clara Vine series of novels featuring a British spy working in Germany during the Third Reich. This series provided the subject of her talk: *Spies, Seduction and the SS: A Female Agent in Nazi Germany*. Jane has undertaken extensive research on the subject of The Third Reich and she entertained us with a wide range of social details on the status of women in Nazi Germany, with a particular focus on some leading Nazis' wives. She looked at Hitler's requirements of women in society, their behaviour and demeanour, and the way in which some officers' wives felt about the transformation of their husbands into monsters. Indeed five of the wives attempted suicide during the period. Heroine Clara, an actress by trade and a spy by choice, moves at the heart of the Nazi Party with much of the action taking place in Berlin during the lead up to war. The novels mix social realities and historical events, with fictional characters who also 'just happen' to mingle with real-life figures including Hitler, Goebbels, Himmler, a young JFK, Marlene Dietrich and two of the Mitford sisters.

Jan Noble saves the day! Richard Wilson, a Shakespeare studies specialist, was expected at the RAC on 18 October to give members of the Book Circle a talk on Shakespeare and Fascism, but due to a diary confusion failed to appear. However, Jan Noble, local poet, writer, and son of Book Circle chair, Liz Noble,

attended the meeting to introduce the speaker and so was on hand to step into the breach. Jan runs occasional poetry workshops at Sunbury's Millennium Embroidery Gallery and was well equipped to deliver an entertaining off-the-cuff talk on contemporary poetry and its relevance today.

He began by quoting fellow poet Adrian Mitchell who once told an audience that "Most people ignore poetry because most poetry ignores most people" and clearly Jan is on a mission to develop what he described as a 'minority sport'.

He then performed his poem 'My name is Swan' a poem Jan has taken to every Swan public house in London and also performed at a major poetry event in Italy where he shared a stage with Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy, there to mark the end of her 10 year appointment as laureate. The warm reception received by the British poets at this conference came as no surprise to Jan who pointed out that Italy has long held British culture in high regard.

Touching on the difference between 'page' poetry and 'performance' poetry he described performance poetry as 'live literature' traditionally carried out in public meeting places such as coffee houses. But when coffee houses were accused of pamphleteering, creating dissension and were deemed to be dangerous the performances moved to ale houses. One of Jan's aims is to bring this culture back into pubs. Swan is a kind of every-man who knows all the secrets of the dirty edges of the city and we 'local listeners' recognised many references - the abandoned gravel pits, the Air Park, and Swan-Upping etc - as he navigates the Thames' tributaries observing the disenfranchised noise and anger below the surface of things. Jan likened Swan to *The Wasteland* - W H Auden's response to the hate speeches of the 1930s.

At the end of the afternoon during the open discussion Jan touched on the difference between poetry and prose quoting Coleridge who apparently thought that poetry is the best possible words in the best possible order while prose was just words in the best possible order. A thoroughly entertaining afternoon but I'm still interested in hearing about Shakespeare and Fascism!

KH Dance Academy



Providing dance classes for ages 18 months through to Adults specialising in Melody Bear, RAD Ballet, ISTD Tap & Modern, ID Contemporary and Street, Adult Tap and Ballet, Keep fit classes and Zumba Gold.

Weekly classes held in Sunbury-on-Thames with Monday, Tuesday and

Saturday classes running at the Riverside Arts Centre

For further details contact:

Kathryn Cameron-

Webb 07891675753

RAD RTS, ISTD Associates, FDI & CDE

www.kh-danceacademy.co.uk

Spring Term Dates 2019

Monday 7th January - Saturday 6th April.
Half term Monday 18th - Sunday 24th February.

Melody Bear Little Bear Feet Classes from 10-10.30am Mondays

Melody Bear is a creative dance syllabus for children 18 months upwards and is shared by the teacher, parent and toddler through the joys of dance and singing.

ADULT CLASSES

Silver swans adult Ballet Class every Monday from 10-45-11.45am

Free trial class available with block booking thereafter @ £6 per class for a block of 5 classes/ 6 classes

Zumba gold Every Tuesday from 11.15-12.15 at the Riverside Arts Centre. For the older adult or those looking to get back to gentle exercise.

Laughing Chili Comedy Night

December 2018 – 01/12/18

Our Christmas show is almost sold out, so grab your tickets before they go.

Featuring the star of Channel 4's 'Balls of Steel', Mark Dolan is our headliner. He's joined by regular Matt Green as MC; musical genius and sex God, Earl Okin; and the madcap Tony Marrese.

16+ only. Show may contain themes and language of an adult nature.
Doors and bar open from 7.30pm. Show starts at 8.30pm.
Tickets are £15, with more information from www.laughingchili.co.uk

No show in Jan

February 2019 – 02/02/19

Join us in February as we bring you the first comedy night of 2019.

Comedy Store star Rich Morton headlines with his fabulous mix of musical comedy, and is joined by 3 more top acts from the UK comedy circuit for a night of fun & laughter.
Join us at the bar first and then for a great night of comedy in the Studio on Saturday 2nd February.

16+ only. Show may contain themes and language of an adult nature.
Doors and bar open from 7.30pm. Show starts prompt at 8.30pm.

PITCH UP AND PAINT!

Are you looking to spend some time drawing and painting (in any medium) and make new friends?

Pitch Up and Paint meet on the first Tuesday of each month (the 2nd Tuesday of December and January) at the Riverside Arts Centre.

We are a friendly group and whether you are a beginner or advanced, we are currently welcoming new members.

If you are interested, why not come and meet us and find out more about what we do. Our next couple of meetings are 11 December and 8 January.

Alternatively, contact Carol Merry, group co-ordinator, at carolmerryat5@gmail.com or call 07808849949.

Sunbury Yoga Society

The Sunbury Yoga Society, founded at the Riverside Arts Centre in 1997, announces a name change. It is now known as The Sunbury Yoga and Hermeneutic Society. The change was deemed necessary, as unfortunately in more recent years, the word Yoga has become synonymous with physical exercise and this has led to a certain amount of confusion. It was therefore necessary for us to differentiate our much earlier mode of Yoga practices from the more recent 'keep fit' versions.

We have at the same time been in the process of radically changing our website to make known these differences. Over the last 21 years, although not exactly secret, we have been low on self-promotion. One reason for this was because of the need to keep our classes at a manageable level, particularly so since we are now limited in space and down to two evenings a week. Although it must be stated here, that we are most grateful to the Riverside Arts Centre for supplying our much appreciated and valued venue.

From long experience we are aware that our practices at the Society are not easy, indeed can be hard, and are not to everybody's taste. Therefore we require a website that is more informative and gives better indication of our practices. This hopefully we are now in the process of achieving.

We are always pleased to hear from you and enjoy taking your telephone calls and receiving your emails. So please feel free to contact us.

For those who are interested we run two sessions a week, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, 7.30 - 9.30. We are a not-for-profit society supported by the voluntarily donations of our members. Because of the nature of our practices, all attendances are by arrangement only.

Hermeneutics: is derived from the Greek word '*Hermeneuo*', translate, interpret. A branch of knowledge that deals with interpretation, especially, but not exclusively, of Holy Scriptures and Literary Texts. Hermeneutics is the theory and methodology of interpretation.

Sunbury Yoga & Hermeneutic Society www.sunyog.co.uk or 01932 788118

Saturday 1st December at 7.30 for 8.30pm
In The Studio

Laughing Chili Comedy Night

Headliner : Mark Dolan

Doors and bar open from 7.30pm.

Show starts prompt at 8.30pm. Tickets £15, more info from

www.laughingchili.co.uk

16+ only. Show may contain themes and language of an adult nature.

Thursday 6th to Saturday 8th December at 8pm

Riverside Youth Theatre

The Grinch

An adaptation of How the Grinch stole Christmas' by Dr Seuss.

Adapted by Ollie Bowell

Tickets: Thursday £6, Fri, Sat £8

www.riversideyouththeatre.co.uk or Box Office – 07871 992988

Friday 14th December at 7.45pm

Saturday 15th December at 2.30pm and 7.45pm

Zodiac Musical Society

Christmas Revels

Festive songs, pantomime, mince pies & mulled wine

Tickets £10 Box Office 01932 220167

On-line bookings : www.zodiabmusicalsociety

Mood Indigo Events

Riverside Arts Jazz

Sunday 23rd December at 7.45pm : Christmas Special

Featuring Art Themen - saxophone

Terence Collie - piano : Stuart Barker - Bass : RHA Strangers - Drums

Tickets : £12 via website, £15 on the door : www.moodindigoevents.co.uk

Saturday 26th January 2019 from 7.30 to 11.30pm

Sunbury & Shepperton Arts Association

Burns Night

A Fun evening with three course Scottish meal including haggis, bagpipes,
facilities of RAC's bar

Scottish Country Dancing with professional caller. Kilts optional.

Tickets @ £32 from 01932-787390

boxoffice@ssaa-arts.org and www.ticketsource.co.uk/ssarts

Saturday 2nd February at 7.30 for 8.30pm

In The Studio

Laughing Chili Comedy Night

Headliner : Rich Morton

Doors and bar open from 7.30pm.

Show starts prompt at 8.30pm.

Tickets £12, more info from www.laughingchili.co.uk

16+ only. Show may contain themes and language of an adult nature.

Saturday 16th February at 10.15 for 11.00am

Sunbury & Shepperton Arts Association

Morning Coffee Concert

Jonathan Rasford (saxophone) and Eleanor Korman (piano)

Programme will include Scaramouche by Milhaud and Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue

Ticket £12 (includes coffee and a croissant)

Box office: 01932-787390 or on the door