

the centre

Quarterly Journal of

The Riverside Arts Centre and Sunbury & Shepperton Arts Association

www.riversidearts.co.uk

Volume 40 Number 2

December 2019

Thursday 16th to Saturday 18th January at 7pm
Matinee performances - Saturday 18th, Sunday 19th January at 1.30pm

Riverside Players

Present

Old Mother Hubbard

By Paul Reakes

Tickets £12

Box Office and Information 07505 206757.

Book online at www.sunburyriverside.co.uk or racboxoffice@gmail.com

SUNBURY RIVERSIDE PLAYERS PRESENT
OLD MOTHER HUBBARD
THE PANTOMIME!
BY PAUL REAKES

THIS AMATEUR PRODUCTION OF "OLD MOTHER HUBBARD (REAKES)" IS PRESENTED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH SAMUEL FRENCH LTD A CONCORD THEATRICALS COMPANY

16TH - 19TH JANUARY 2020

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE UNTIL 1ST DECEMBER 2019

TICKETS: £12

THE RIVERSIDE ARTS CENTRE
SUNBURY, TWIS SQ

noda
Professional support for amateur theatre
Visit Us: www.SunburyRiverside.co.uk 07505 206 757

Riverside Players present this nursery rhyme turned into a Wild West adventure, directed by Olwen Holme. Old Mother Hubbard's only misfortune is that she is poor and in true panto tradition can't pay the rent.

When the Good Fairy grants her one wish, she, her dog and her two children are transported to the Wild West because she wishes that she could find her long lost brother Oswald.

Will they find Oswald?

Will they escape a fate worse than death?

Will Dandy the dog be able to save them all in the nick of time?

Will they all find true love and live happily ever after?

Guess you will need to buy a ticket to the show! Also taking to the stage will be dancers from the KH Dance Academy !!

(This amateur production of "Old Mother Hubbard" by Paul Reakes is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French Ltd ` a Concord Theatricals Company)



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

Another interesting quarter of Riverside activities has gone by and much has changed behind the scenes during those three months. With the lease process looking very positive, as we move through the minor details and standard legal red tape, Eric has been busy progressing some of the building works that have needed attention but needed to be dealt with after we were confident of the new lease. Someone of you may have noticed the excellent new boiler installation for the main building. This is ready and running to keep us warm throughout the winter and should be a great improvement – especially for efficiency. At the same time, we are coming towards the end of the installation of a new heating system for the Craft Centre Studio. This will replace the inefficient (and difficult to manage) system that we currently have with a programmable system that should provide a much better experience for our Craft Centre users.

I have been working with RAC Hon. Secretary and RYT Chair Carole Dow to provide new rostra/decking, which will live at the back of the stage. This is much sturdier, stronger and safer

than the existing wooden system and will allow us to renovate the system we previously had in use (having survived regular use for several decades). Please be aware that the larger pieces are heavier and more difficult to wield than expected but are easy to move and assemble with two people. We currently have legs to provide a 300mm platform height but are open to investing in other heights if sensible reasoning is supplied.

Finally, the RAC Management Committee has asked Pat Petch (Hon. Arts Director) and David Young (Manor Players) to form a Committee centred around better communication and outreach between the groups and to the Sunbury community. Regular users should expect to hear from them about how we can all work together to better reduce that regularly heard bar phrase of “oh, I didn't know this place was here – can you tell me what sort of stuff goes on?”.

RAC wishes you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

James Ford-Bannister, Hon Chairman

Groups meeting WEEKLY at Riverside

Manor Players	Tuesday & Thursday at 8.00pm	Contact:07899 846243
Riverside Youth Theatre	Sunday at 2.00pm	Contact:07958 523733
Shepperton Players	Monday & Thursday at 8.00pm	Contact:07875 345512
Ladies Keep Fit	Tuesday at 9.30 & 10.45am	Contact:07891 675753
Riverside Pilates Group	Monday at 5.45pm & 8pm	Contact:07968 412354
Sunbury Yoga and Hermeneutic Society	Tuesday, Wednesday at 7.30pm	Contact:01932 788118

Groups meeting MONTHLY at Riverside

Riverside Book Circle	Third Thursday at 2.00pm	Contact:01932 782788
Sunbury Poetry Group	First Thursday at 7.30pm	Contact:01932 787157
Sunbury Flower Club	First Tuesday at 2pm	Contact:01932 772294 or 07867 534556

Visitors and New Members are always welcome

Editor's notes

December 2019

The next Centre appears in March 2020 The deadline for contributions will be Valentine's Day, Friday 14th February 2020 for news, views and future events in March, April, May 2020. 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.

E-mail thecentre.rac@gmail.com. A link to your poster can be put on the RAC website. Send it to river-sidearts59@gmail.com

Christine



If you missed the last Coffee Concert in November, you really missed a very beautiful experience. We were treated to the most sublime playing of Chopin and Debussy piano music, by young and gifted Lithuanian pianist **Ugnius Pauliukonis**. We hope to be able to invite him back!

Our next Coffee Concert will be on **Saturday February 15th** (10:15 for 11:00) when our musicians will be **Clarinetist Alistair Logan, and Pianist Anna LeHair**. They will be playing a rather different programme, including some exciting pieces which are variations on tunes you may well know – by Prokofiev, Gershwin and Verdi.

On **March 14th**, we shall be welcoming young **concert Guitarist, Declan Zapala**. His exciting style includes favourite pieces from the classical guitar's vast repertoire, as well as introducing exciting new techniques, which I believe you will really enjoy.

Tickets are always available on the door, but you would help a few people's blood pressure if you would consider booking in advance!

Contact details: www.ticketsource.co.uk/ssarts or any enquiries 01784 257175

Wonderama Picture Palace

Introducing Wonderama Picture Palace, Sunbury's first resident pop up film club. Bringing nostalgic movie magic back to the Riverside Arts Centre for the first time in over 100 years!

Breakfast Club

Come along to our friendly Breakfast Club screenings for company and conversation over refreshments from our tearoom before enjoying old favourites together in a relaxed atmosphere. Wonderama doors open at 10am. Film starts at 10.30am Tickets £6

Some Like It Hot

Wednesday 18th December 2019

...and as a special treat, we are showing the 1903 silent film Alice In Wonderland from the BFI National Archive before the film. Believed to be the very first adaptation, filmed in Walton and starring local Sunbury girl May Clark. Only 9 minutes remain but what an amazing piece of local film history!

Singing In The Rain

Friday 10th January 2020

Saturday Night Spectacular

Spend an evening with friends at our Saturday Night Spectacular. Join us at the bar from 7pm with Wonderama opening its doors at 7.30pm for movies, music and merriment. The film starts at 8pm and will have a thoughtfully placed interval. So let's all go to the lobby! Tickets £9

The Big Lebowski

Saturday 1st February 2020

Tickets and information from wonderama.cloud

SUNBURY on THAMES FLOWER CLUB



We have had fun with our flowers so far this autumn!

We started in September with a visit to RHS Wisley during their lovely Flower

Week. Some of our members had entered the NAFAS competition, which was staged in a big marquee, Mary Wallis was awarded a 1st, and Margaret Goodgame and Heather Hurrell Commended.

In October we held a 'Hands-On' workshop, when members had a go at designing and arranging flowers without using 'floral foam' (because it is a type of plastic, and we are trying to use less of it.)

We saw some beautiful designs, using a variety of techniques to hold the flowers, including taping the top of a container, using crum-

pled wire, glass beads, sand etc.

At our November meeting, we had a wonderful demonstration by the talented Graham King. We couldn't believe that he was celebrating twenty-five years of being an arranger – he is far too young!

As well as lovely floral designs, Graham is very well known for using the most beautiful and interesting containers – all of which he makes himself. We are hoping to invite him back for a workshop on making one or two of his designs.

December will be our club Christmas party, and January will be another workshop. On February 4th, we have booked Katherine Austin for a demonstration called 'Beauty and the Beach'. Visitors are always welcome at 2:00pm, £6 includes a cup of tea!

As Wonderama Pictures Palace is presenting films Riverside Arts Centre in December, January Februsry I have included this short extract from the story of the Arts Centre as written by Pat Champion and David de Jersey in 1993 - Ed

FROM ORCHARD TO ARTS CENTRE

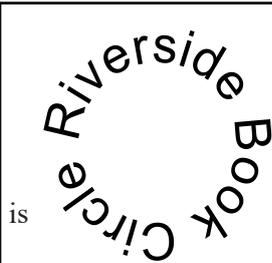
Kelly's Directory (1912) lists the Assembly Rooms, now Riverside Arts Centre, as *Sunbury Picture Theatre, (William Clark, Proprietor) Thames Street*. This was the conversion of the Assembly Rooms into a cinema, showing silent films (the new talking pictures were advertised in Hounslow in October 1914 in the Middlesex Chronicle).

Electricity had not come to Sunbury when the cinema started. It was being proposed in July 1913, but Kelly's Directory first mentions it in 1926 having made no mention in 1922. From the regulations of the Middlesex County Council it would appear that the projector must have used **limelight** - a piece of lime heated in an oxyhydrogen flame.

[Apparently the cinema was arranged with the screen at the south end of the hall ie at the present entrance]

Incidentally:-

At a meeting of the Urban District Council held in July 1910 a speed limit of 10 mph was imposed on motor cars in Thames Street, Sunbury.



To open the new Book Circle year D B John talked about researching his debut novel **Star of the North**. A political thriller where a Korean American teenager kidnapped from a beach in South Korea and taken to North Korea.

Being intrigued by dark, secretive, closed, hard to reach places where information is hard to find and fascinated with absolute power stemming from his reading of George Orwell's **1984** as a boy, North Korea was the ideal setting.

The author's aim was to produce a fictional story based on fact to give readers insight into living in North Korea. Research revealed fear is part of everyday life. Everyone is watched by everyone else. One disloyal remark can lead to severe punishment imposed upon three generations. Lives are dictated by a three-tier class structure. The lowest, Hostile class (grandparents collaborated with the Japanese or were merchants or prostitutes) can only work mines or do menial tasks. Their class can never be escaped. The Middle Class, known as Waivering Class, is not trustworthy because relatives live in South Korea. The Loyal Class constituting approximately 10% of the population whose families are peasants and fought on the side of North Korea, is allowed to live in the capital, go to university and find jobs. Even so, its members are extremely cautious and terrified of upsetting the regime.

Two portraits per family of Kim Jong-un and his grandfather are required to be hung and dusted every day using special dusters provided by the regime. Radios must blast propaganda all day.

Any deviation is severely punished. Only high-ranking diplomats or defectors are allowed to leave the country and great risks are taken to watch South Korean soap operas on DVD or listen to Western music.

Sometimes the truth really is stranger than fiction.

Is culture good for us?

That was the question posed by Dr James A. Smith, lecturer in English Literature at Royal Holloway University in October, when he visited the book circle. He illustrated possible answers to this question with examples from two very different novels.

The first, the well known classic **Howards End** by E M Forster, features two families, one affluent and influential, is contrasted with a relatively well-heeled but bohemian and liberal family. Between these is the central character, a young man of few means who craves the acquisition of culture. (Sadly he meets an untimely end when a well loaded bookcase falls on him with lethal results.)

He compared this tale to a second novel, an up-to-date cross-cultural rendition of the story by acclaimed author, Zadie Smith, and her novel **On Beauty**

The lecture broadly discussed class in society and its relevance to the acquisition of culture, then and now, and a lively discussion ensued on access to culture today.

I, for one, will be heading for the library in my quest for a copy of **On Beauty**.

Dr Smith is author of **Samuel Richardson and the Theory of Tragedy** [2016] and **Other People's Politics** [2019]



Zodiac Musical Society

Affiliated to the National Operatic and Dramatic Association, Spelthorne Community Arts Council, Runnymede Arts Association, Magna Carta Arts Association and Riverside Arts Centre.

Registered Charity Number: 800031

Zodiac are presenting their Christmas show entitled 'It's Christmas' at Riverside on Friday 13 and Saturday 14 December at 7.45 pm and a matinee on the Saturday at 2.30 pm.

The show includes Christmas Songs, Carols and a short pantomime entitled 'A Beauty a Beast and big pants'.

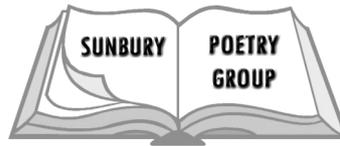
There are also sing a long carols and of course our unique rendition of '12 Days of Christmas'.

Tickets are £10 and include mulled wine and a mince pie. Available from the box office on 01932 220167.

Tempus fugit and the past three months have passed so quickly. They have, however, been full of interest for our members.

In SEPTEMBER we enjoyed reading poems on the subject of "Dreams and Dreaming". We began with a poem by Eric Towers, a local poet and writer, who was chairman of our group some years ago and also taught creative writing. His poem "City of Gold" imagined the delights of the mythical city of Eldorado. Although D.H. Lawrence is perhaps best known as a novelist, he also wrote a number of poems, including "Piano", which was read to us by Pat Dowthwaite. It describes the recollection of a young child sitting under a piano ("in the boom of the tingling strings") and listening to his mother singing. Surbhi Deva introduced us to Edgar Allan Poe's "A Dream within a Dream" which questioned whether all that we see or feel is nothing more than a dream. Amongst many other interesting contributions, the amusing childhood poem "Wynken, Blynken and Nod", read by Pat Love, was much appreciated.

OCTOBER brought us the second part of Surbhi's presentation of The Romantic Poets. She focused on the man who was described by one of his lovers, Lady Caroline Lamb, as "Mad Bad and Dangerous to Know". Of course, that man was Lord Byron, who fully lived up to his reputation and had relationships with both women and men. It is surprising that he found time to write any poetry, but he did - and we very much enjoyed reading "She walks in beauty, like the night" and "By the Rivers of Babylon". Byron



travelled extensively in Europe and he loved Venice and Greece, where he easily found admirers. Eventually, however, he tired of his promiscuous lifestyle and wrote "So, we'll go no more a-roving - so late into the night."

The subject of our NOVEMBER meeting was "In All Weathers", which gave members the opportunity to "bring and read" poems relating to all seasons of the year. We were not disappointed, as we were treated to poems such as "Snow in the Suburbs", by Thomas Hardy and "London Snow" by Robert Bridges. In contrast, "The Last Rose of Summer", written by Thomas Moore on a visit to Ireland, reminded us that, like the rose, we all one day must bloom and die. Dorothy Parker's "Fair Weather" was written as a metaphor representing relationships as either calm (dull?) or stormy (preferable?) She knew which she preferred! "I have a need of of wilder, crueller waves - sudden and terrible to rises and wane. Finally, Shel Silverstein encouraged us to lighten up and "Sing a Rainbow."

As always, we extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to attend any of our meetings.

Our programme for the next three months is:-

December: Private Party at a Member's House

January 2: "Beginnings and Endings" Bring and Read

February 6: "Cities and Towns" A Presentation by Pat Dowthwaite

Sunbury Chertsey Artists

If you have ever wanted to paint or draw a model then come and join us.

We share the costs (£10 to £15 per two and a half hour session) and have a break with a cup of tea/ coffee and a biscuit.

These are untutored sessions.

Easels and boards are available; bring your own painting/drawing materials.

Current members use oils, acrylics, pastels, graphite and/or coloured pencils. All abilities welcome

Upstairs in the Craft Centre

Thursday morning 10.30am to 1.0pm portrait painting/drawing contact Lisa on 07711 271691

Thursday evening 7.30pm to 10.0pm life painting/drawing contact Martin on 02089 775903

Friday evening 7.30pm to 10.0pm portrait painting/drawing contact Avis on 01483764715

Saturday 10.30am to 4.0pm on the 7th & 21st December, 4th & 18th January and the 1st & 15th February, portrait/life painting/drawing contact Nigel on 01483 725891



KH Dance Academy

Spring Term 2020

Monday 6th January- Saturday 4th April

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

Weekly classes held in Sunbury-on-Thames with Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday classes running at the Riverside Arts Centre.

Melody Bear Little Bear Feet Classes from 10-10.30am

Mondays at the Riverside Arts Centre

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

Alongside our Tuesday evening adult tap and ballet classes we also run a Silver Swans ballet class for the older Adult.

Silver Swans Adult Ballet Class every Monday from 10-11.45am

All adult abilities welcome along with complete beginners or those looking to rekindle their ballet roots. The classes will work on barre and centre work to help improve mobility and posture, coordination and most importantly to have fun and enjoyment throughout the class. Free trial class available with block booking thereafter @ £6 per class for a block of 5/6 classes

Zumba Gold

Every Tuesday from 10-11am and 11.15-12.15 at the Riverside Arts Centre. For the older adult or those looking to get back to gentle exercise.

For further details contact: Kathryn Cameron-Webb 07891675753

**RAD RTS, ISTD Associates, FDI & CDE
www.kh-danceacademy.co.uk**

Laughing Chili

Dec 2019 – 06/12/19 Christmas Quiz

Come and experience a quiz like nothing you've seen before.

With high tech questions on your smart phone or tablet, music, games, 2 fun hosts, and a whole lot of madness! Bring your friends, make up a team, and see who will be crowned champion of the night.

Doors and bar open from 7.30pm. Quiz starts at 8.30pm.

Teams should be a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 8 players.

Tickets £5, with more information from www.laughingchili.co.uk

Dec 2019 – 20/12/19

Come and join us for the Laughing Chili Christmas Party.

A regular comedy show, followed by a silent disco 'til late!

Pop on your headphones and choose which of the 3 channels you'll listen to.

Chart & current pop music, golden oldies, or 60's, 70's & 80's classics.

Bring a crowd down and make a night of it.

Doors and bar open from 7.00pm. Show starts at 8.00pm.

Tickets £18.00, with more information from www.laughingchili.co.uk

Jan 2020 – 11/01/20

Feb 2020 – 08/02/20

Our first 2 nights of 2020 promise more fabulous line-ups of comedy, with acts picked from the UK and International comedy circuit.

Show listings will be published towards the end of the year.

Join us at the bar first and then for a great night of comedy in the Studio.

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 £12.50, with more information from www.laughingchili.co.uk

Thursday 5th to Saturday 7th December
Riverside Youth Theatre
Goodnight Mr Tom
Based on the novel by Michelle Magorian
More info from www.riversideyouththeatre.co.uk

Friday 13th and Saturday 14th December at 7.45 pm
Saturday 14th at 2.30 pm
Zodiac Musical Society
It's Christmas
Christmas Songs, Carols and a short panto
Tickets are £10 and include mulled wine and a mince pie.
Available from the box office on 01932 220167.

Wonderama Picture Palace

Wednesday 18th December at 10am for 10.30am Friday 10th January at 10am for 10.30am
Some Like It Hot **Singing In The Rain**
Tickets £6 and more info from wonderama.cloud
Saturday 1st February at 7.30pm for 8pm
The Big Lebowski
Tickets £9 and more info from wonderama.cloud

Mood Indigo Events
Riverside Arts Jazz

Sunday 22nd December at 7.15 for 7.45pm
Christmas Special featuring Alan Barnes - Sax/clarinet
Terence Collie - Piano : Richard Sadler - Bass : Bobby Worth - Drums
Ticket price includes mulled wine, mince pies and free Christmas raffle.
Tickets £15 online, £17 on door : www.moodindigoevents.co.uk
Sunday 5th January at 7.15 for 7.45pm
Celebrating the music of Tubby Hayes featuring Simon Spillet on saxophone
with the Terence Collie Trio
Tickets £12 online and £15 on door : www.moodindigoevents.co.uk
Sunday 2nd February at 7.15 for 7.45pm
Julian Costello on saxophone with the Terence Collie
Tickets £12 online and £15 on door : www.moodindigoevents.co.uk

In The Studio

Friday 6th December at 7.30 for 8.30pm
Laughing Chili - Christmas Quiz
Teams should be a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 8 players.
Tickets £5, with more information from www.laughingchili.co.uk
Friday 20th December at 7.00 for 8.00pm
Laughing Chili - Christmas Party
A regular comedy show, followed by a silent disco 'til late!
Bring a crowd down and make a night of it.
Tickets £18 more info from www.laughingchili.co.uk
Saturday 11th January at 7.30 for 8.30pm
Saturday 8th February at 7.30 for 8.30pm
Laughing Chili Comedy Night
Show listings will be published towards the end of the year
Doors and bar open from 7.30pm. Show starts prompt at 8.30pm.
Tickets £12.50 more info from www.laughingchili.co.uk
16+ only. Show may contain themes and language of an adult nature.

Sunbury & Shepperton Arts Association
Morning Coffee Concert with coffee and croissant
Saturday 15th February at 10.15 for 11.00am
Alistair Logan (clarinet) and Anna Le Hair (piano)
A programme of Prokofiev, Gershwin and Verdi
Tickets £14 : Box Office: www.ticketsource.co.uk/ssarts
or boxoffice@ssaa-arts.org or 01784 257175