

the centre

Quarterly Journal of

The Riverside Arts Centre and Sunbury & Shepperton Arts Association

www.riversidearts.co.uk

Volume 40 Number 4

June 2 2020

In the midst of the pandemic Covid 19

We are proud to announce that :-

Volunteers at the Riverside Arts Centre, which has been developed, maintained and made available to the community, have been honoured with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award a voluntary group can receive in the UK.



The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service aims to recognise outstanding work by volunteer groups to benefit their local communities. It was created in 2002 to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee. Recipients are announced each year on 2nd June, the anniversary of the Queen's Coronation.

Representatives of Riverside Arts Centre will receive the award later this summer. Furthermore two volunteers from Riverside Arts Centre will attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace in May 2021, along with other recipients of this year's Award.



*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

These are difficult times for all of us, including for everyone involved with the Riverside Arts Centre. We are fortunate enough to have budgeted sensibly over the years and to have built up a rainy-day fund for emergencies. This means that we will be fine and that we are very much looking forward to a time when we can see you all again (in a safe and sensible manner). We expect our doors to remain closed until, at least, June 1st for all activities and are unlikely to see events or shows again until July (at the earliest). When advice changes, and lockdown starts to wind down, I will reach out personally to all our regular users to work out the best way to phase a safe return to something like normality.

This multi-month closure will mean that some of our capital expenditure may have to wait a little while longer, but we are proud of all the work we put in before the pandemic. However, I have asked David Young to work on getting a new website developed that will hopefully resolve some of the feedback we've had from many of you – primarily on working better on mobile or tablet devices. I encourage anyone who has feedback on any aspect of RAC to reach to me (or any mem-

ber of the Management Team) to see if we can make improvements – the best way for us to know what you want or need is for you to let us know.

At present, we are still hoping to have our AGM on July 17th. However, if we are forced to change this date, we will make sure appropriate notices are published at RAC, on our website, and on our Facebook page. You may also see an update in Sunbury Village Matters, where we are now a regular feature (at the request of many of our Affiliates). We may also be able to use this date but restrict attendance and maintain social distancing. If this is the case, we will look to put the event on a live stream so people can watch from the safety of their own homes. We would prefer to avoid this, but safety of our Riverside family is our primary concern.

Let me close by adding that I know several of our regular user-base work in front-line services or have family/friends who do. I would like to, on behalf of Riverside Arts Centre, publicly thank them, and all key-workers, for their daily bravery and hard work to stem the tide of this pandemic.

James Ford-Bannister, Hon Chairman

New Pricing Structure

At the most recent RAC Management Meeting, we agreed to change the pricing structure. In doing so, we have simplified the pricing Matrix and removed most of the supplements - replacing them with an 'Event Charge'. This charge along with the room rate is discount-able (the prices shown are list prices and all Affiliates and Community Groups will get a sizable discount).

The only supplements being continued are PRS (which RAC heavily subsidises), Bar Fee (which is paid to the Bar Committee) and Raked Seating (for it's continuing maintenance and to contribute toward a future replacement). These are not discount-able

Most will notice a small increase on regular bookings (in line with the increased costs of taking on a new repairing lease from the council and increased energy costs) but some may notice a small decrease for multi-day events.

The new pricing structure can be found on the Riverside Arts Centre website

Any questions about this (or what your groups discount will be) should be directed to: riversideartscentre@gmail.com

Editor's notes

June 2020

Due to the current uncertainty the **What's On** is not being published this time. Look on the web-site for news of any possible events.

The next Centre appears in September 2020 The deadline for contributions will be Sunday 18th August 2020 when I hope you will be able to reflect on this summer and to be able to announce your plans for September, October and November

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

Christine



Riverside Youth Theatre in Lockdown

Sunday afternoons are simply not the same since RAC had to close its doors to keep us all safe. Youth Theatre meetings are greatly missed by us all.

Rehearsals for *Box Set* were going so well and had those of us watching it develop buzzing with enthusiasm. This was to be another of our lively revues, with the usual mix of music and sketches. The members were excelling themselves with the dance routines and we knew this would be another vibrant, exciting production.

However, we are hoping that RYT can start again in September and are looking forward to bringing *Box Set* back for a rousing Christmas entertainment, but at this moment we can't make any firm decisions – we are in the lap of the virus!

I'm writing this in the middle of what should have been our production week and to make some attempt to bring RYT together, a series of photos from all our productions (well, almost all) since 1982 is being posted on the Riverside Youth Theatre Facebook page. They will still be there when you read this, so it might be worth a look to see if you recognize anyone or any memories are jogged. There have already been several comments from the 1980 – 90 Alumni!

Keep safe, and we hope to see you in December, when all of this will be behind us.



Bar staff required

The licensed bar at the Riverside Arts Centre provides a very welcoming and welcome facility to those attending concerts, plays, films, dance shows etc.

Not only does the bar sell drinks at very attractive prices, but also provides a steady income stream to assist with the maintenance of the building. To keep costs to the minimum all bar staff are unpaid volunteers.

We are looking for more people to give up the occasional evening, be it once a week, once a month or once a year to help.

No experience whatsoever needed, only a liking for people and the ability to smile.

Contact David Young on 07796531427 or 08twithuis@gmail.com for further details and perhaps have a trial run



Riverside Players of Sunbury

The Extraordinary General Meetings of both Shepperton Players and Manor Players voted on 19th March to wind up their affairs and transfer their assets on April 9th to the newly created Riverside Players of Sunbury. So as from 9th April MP and SP ceased to exist.

Because of the lockdown the inaugural Annual General Meeting of RPoS did not take place on April 9th but the existing steering committee and officers will stay in place until this AGM can take place.

Officers are Saara Sofia Paakko (chairman)
 Guy Shirley (treasurer)
 Vicky Prince (secretary)

.The website address is <http://www.sunburyriverside.co.uk/>



SUNBURY & SHEPPERTON

ARTS ASSOCIATION

Our last two Coffee Concerts were a triumph: On February 15th Alistair Logan – Clarinet, and Anna LeHair – Piano, with a beautiful programme of duets and solos; and then on March 14th Declan Zapala – Guitar: What an eye-opener! Everyone present was gasping! The first half of his programme was fairly traditional, and beautifully played, but the second half was his unique style of percussive guitar – including pieces written by himself – with indescribable hand and arm movement producing the most exciting sounds. Another on our list of artists we shall be inviting back as soon as we can see our way to producing the new season's programme.

We had provisionally booked Carole Boyd and the Bibby Sisters for our May concert, which of course has not happened. However, they will be the first to be confirmed for the new season, which we shall be greatly anticipating!

John Hart , who in May 2018 was named as 'Young Volunteer of the Year' by The Boroughs of Spelthorne and Runnymede' and who has long been associated with Riverside Youth Theatre has sent this information:-

Riverside Arts Centre is now contributing to COVID-19 research in the way of Folding@Home

'Riverside has 3 servers in the dimmer room that are now not doing much due to Riverside being vacant. So I have set them to work on medical research tasks. More information about folding at home can be found here: <https://>

SUNBURY-ON-THAMES FLOWER CLUB



The club has sadly been unable to meet since our March Hands-On Workshop, which was enjoyed by all participants, and it is likely that our next meeting will be September. We shall circulate all

members with details when finalised. Our NAFAS Area Chairman has been sending frequent newsletters, which are available to all members with internet access – where would we be without our computers/ipads/smartphones etc?! The Flower Shows are all disarrayed – Squires last week cancelled, Hampton Court postponed until the Wisley time slot in September, and the Wisley show itself cancelled. I haven't heard about Chertsey in August.

We should love to hear details from members about any flower arranging which they have been able to do. Pictures would be great!

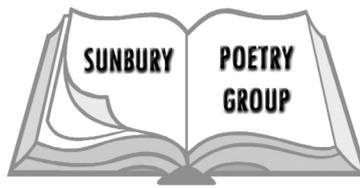


Our regular meetings have been cancelled since March. We have a full programme starting in September and look forward to being able to commence our fascinating talks once again.

Laughing Chili

Laughing Chili have all their live events on hold for the time being, pending the government's advice over the coming months. In the absence of live shows and quizzing, we are holding weekly quiz and music events online.

For full details of these, and updates on when our live shows will restart, please follow our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/laughingchili/>



Following the March issue of "The Centre", little did we think that all activities at Riverside were about to cease, with no assurance of when they might recommence.

Now, nearly three months later, the future is still uncertain and we have had to adapt and rearrange our lives.

We hope that it will not be too long before we can return to Sunbury and read together in person. Our meetings are held upstairs at The Centre on the first Thursday of each month, commencing at 7.30 p.m. – but not until hostilities cease!

Here at the Poetry Group, we agreed that we should not lose touch with one another and we decided to circulate by email poetry of our choice on the date of each scheduled meeting.

The response has been patchy, although several of our members have been enthusiastic and have regularly contributed poems, such as the following:

The poet's overriding message is that life is short, the world beautiful, love is splendid and we must use the short time we have to make the most of it.

TO DAFFODILS

Fair Daffodils, we weep to see

You haste away so soon;
As yet the early-rising sun
Has not attain'd his noon.

Stay, stay,
Until the hasting day
Has run

But to the even-song;
And, having pray'd together, we
Will go with you along.

We have short time to stay, as you,
We have as short a spring;
As quick a growth to meet decay,
As you, or anything.

We die
As your hours do, and dry
Away,
Like to the summer's rain;
Or as the pearls of morning's dew,
Ne'er to be found again.

Robert Herrick (1592-1674)

ABRSM - Music Examinations

Here are a few details of future plans from the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music who have held practical exams at Riverside Arts Centre for the last thirty three years .

All practical exams at RAC have been cancelled until further notice. From August all such exams (Grades 1 to 8 plus ARSM) may be taken on line with the possibility of face to face exams being reinstated by November / December but this decision is in the lap of the government. The conduct of theory exams has yet to be finally confirmed by ABRSM.

A new piano syllabus will be introduced from July 9 this year. There will be several innovations with the introduction of an INITIAL GRADE to precede Grade 1 and a DUET OPTION upto Grade 3. The higher grades will continue to Grade 8 as before culminating in the ARSM diploma which has become very popular. The new syllabus (2021 - 2022) may be used from 1st January 2021. This year's syllabus 2019- 2020 will be valid until December 21 2020 because of the disruption caused by the Corona Virus.

When face to face exams are eventually reintroduced at RAC the current rules of social distancing will doubtless have to be observed. Joys to come ! But ABRSM who have upheld the cause and standards of performance in music for so many years will certainly continue to do so and music will flourish once again in Sunbury and in our beloved Riverside Arts Centre!

Moira Edwards FTCL LRAM ARCM (Mrs)
Honorary Local Representative for ABRSM in Sunbury

FROM ORCHARD TO ARTS CENTRE

A Brief History of 59 Thames St, Sunbury By Pat Champion and David de Jersey, published in 1993

Following the recent celebrations (albeit muted), I've included this extract which illustrate the use of the building during World War II.

In 1921 the Copley family, father, mother, daughter and son, moved into the building and lived in the upstairs rooms. Mr Copley ran the company, The Ewell Manufacturing Company Limited, which was in the business of foil paper or *silver paper*.

The foil which Ewell manufactured²² was both tinfoil and aluminium foil. Later²⁵ lead foil paper was also being made by a process similar to that of tinfoil.

Metal foil was laminated onto paper and used for tea and tobacco packing, largely being sent overseas particularly to South Africa. The printing works which had been in the Assembly Rooms moved across the alley into buildings in the yard and remained there for some time before moving further away, when Ewell Manufacturing expanded even more.

Tinfoil was manufactured by the deposition of tin (from a colloidal suspension?) onto paper which was then pressed between steam heated rollers. The mirror finish on the paper was achieved by the combination of heat, pressure and relative motion between rollers which

were mirror smooth. Aluminium foil paper was different in that the aluminium foil came as huge rolls and adhesive was used to bond the foil to the paper backing. Both tinfoil paper and aluminium coated paper would typically be embossed with one of a large variety of designs.

During the second world war the company's experience in handling aluminium foil made it ideal for the manufacture of the radar decoy *Window* (*Chaff* to American readers) which consists of strips of aluminium foil whose length has been cut to match the radar set one is trying to confuse. These strips are dispensed by aircraft and sink slowly to the ground. The radar sees the strips as an object in the sky and interprets it as a convoy of aeroplanes. The secrecy of this activity was such that a ministry security guard was posted in the factory somewhat to the disgust of Mr Copley who protested that his staff were loyal and trustworthy!

Piano, Flute, Song writing and Theory Private or Group Lessons

Lower Sunbury and Hampton
All Ages (including Adults)
very welcome

Colleen Muriel

(M.A. – music, B. music, FRSM, FTCL, ARCT)

**Serious Learning That's
Lots of Fun. No Exams.**

07722 574625 /

colleenmuriel@hotmail.com

piano-and-flute-lessons-sunbury-on-thames-uk.org/

ONLINE LESSONS AVAILABLE - SKYPE, FACETIME, ZOOM
(SPECIAL £10. FOR 30 MINUTES DURING THIS TIME OF Coronavirus)

Mood Indigo Events

Riverside Arts Jazz

Tuesday 9th June at 7.30pm - Live streaming from RAC

Duo Jazz Concert

with Terence Collie - Acoustic Piano Richard Sadler - Double Bass

www.moodindigoevents.co.uk



Riverside Players of Sunbury

Thursday the 28th May was a milestone for both the newly formed Riverside Players of Sunbury and Sunbury resident Richard Black. For the Riverside Players it was the first broadcast to their members and supporters via the internet. For Richard Black, it was the reading of his debut play "Passing Over"

Richard was inspired to write the play after researching a particularly cruel deed which took place in the French village of Oradour-sur-Glane during World War II – the burning to death of most of its occupants who had been locked in the church. "Passing Over" not only highlights man's inhumanity to man by this action but also the psychological consequences not only those involved in the atrocity but the far-reaching effects on their loved ones. The play has been carefully crafted to enable adaption to any inhumane event anywhere in the world at any time.

The setting of the play mainly takes place in a mental asylum five years after the tragic burning. James Perry (read by Tom Brierley), who witnessed the atrocity, has been mentally locked in his own world. His mind struggling, refusing to connect with reality. Although an innocent in the atrocity, ghosts of the villagers are unable to rest and appear before James torturing his soul every year on the anniversary of their death. They also appear before Jacob White (Alex Stringer), the man who betrayed the villagers. He does not regret his betrayal but justifies his action with the thought 'they would have died anyway' and does not give the repentance the ghosts are looking for. Appointed sentinels Rosa (Vicki Prince) and Anthony (Robert Johnson) not only make the passing over of the ghosts to the next world possible but influence how James and his fiancée Mary (Olivia Thompson) spend the remainder of their lives.

The quality of the performance was extremely high and the emotion displayed by the cast more than met the intensity of the play. Tom Brierley, (James) Vicki Prince (Sentinel) and Robert Johnson (2nd Sentinel) gave strong performances and were brilliantly supported by the remainder of the cast.

Narrator (reading stage directions)	Geoff Buckingham
James Berry	Tom Brierley
Jacob White / Radio Voice	Alex Stringer
Rosa	Vicki Prince
Anthony / Enemy Sgt	Robert Johnson
Mary Clarke	Olivia Thompson
Joyce Clarke / Nurse 2 / Villager 2	Olwen Holme
Lily Berry / Nurse 1 / Receptionist	Jenny Hazell
Dr Bishop / Councillor / Officer 1	Chris Butler
William Grayson / Rev'd Craythorne / Officer 2	David Hight
Nurse Williams / Villager	Saara-Sofia Paakko

This production was an amazing feat as the cast had the luxury of only one rehearsal and had never encountered the trials and tribulations that Zoom can present. **Well done** to the Riverside Players of Sunbury and **Well done** to Richard Black for an excellent thought-provoking debut play.

Groups meeting WEEKLY at Riverside

Riverside Youth Theatre	Sunday at 2.00pm	Contact:07958 523733
Riverside Players	Monday & Thursday at 8.00pm	Contact:07796 531427
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