

the centre

Quarterly Journal of

The Riverside Arts Centre and Sunbury & Shepperton Arts Association

www.riversidearts.co.uk

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Welcome to 2021

Due to Tier 4 restrictions RAC is closed to most users until further notice - visit the RAC website to make contact



KH Dance Academy has been offering online learning to all its students young and old for nearly a year. We were able to hold our summer school in August and then start back in September and run 9 1/2 weeks out of our 13 week autumn term in person and online. We are starting our spring term

back online with the hope to be back up and running in person in the spring.

Online learning is not for everyone especially when trying to dance around pets or dance around furniture but it has been a challenge and a learning experience for all of us and helped keep some kind of normality going.

With hard work, dedication and extra zoom classes I was able to run a video exam session with the help of Bob Simpson on the 13th December for 6 exam children and we have more planned for the spring and summer term.

I am also aiming for another summer school in August and hopefully we will be able to run as normal with a small performance to show to parents at the end of the week with the help of my fabulous team of teachers.

Best wishes to everyone and we look forward to seeing everyone back in the studios dancing again



Music Library at RAC

Moira Edwards has donated a wonderful collection of music books to the Centre. Colleen Muriel will catalogue them and, with Eric's help, set up The Moira Edwards Music Library hopefully in the office.....close to our current library of plays.

Colleen will also be donating a large number of music books (The Colleen Collection) which will focus mostly on instrumental music and choir music whereas Moira's donated music has an amazing focus on piano exams and piano performance.

This Moira Edwards Music Library will be a wonderful resource for everyone.

Once the library is set up people will be able to donate music as well. This way in the bigger picture we are creating an amazing resource for the Centre and for the community.



*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

COVID-19 is enforcing a little adaptation and some temporary (at least we hope so) novelty to proceedings. Please note that face coverings are now a requirement for all users of our building unless the task cannot be completed without one (e.g. eating; drinking; exercise). As I write this, we are in Lockdown #3, so we won't get to see many of your for a while but it's good to be aware that we expect many rules to still apply when we can return to some level of normality - at least in the short term. If you have any questions, please contact bookings@riversidearts.co.uk. For those still planning a comeback, please can I recommend reading the regularly updated government advice and the Riverside Risk Assessment (updated regularly) here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DyyGBL_HTtyQcYDrftXiRGLmPCx3frRIF99qUxmMw/.

COVID-19 is cost the Riverside Arts Centre around £20,000 by the end of 2020 and that figure is likely to increase by another £5-10,000 in early 2021. Although trying to reduce all expenditure whilst closed, it's impossible to remove all maintenance, insurance, and running costs. Run entirely by volunteers, the RAC typically runs just over costs so that it can provide a space for the arts and the community without breaking the bank. Any 'profit' is reinvested in its facilities to make it even better for our community. This year has caused us to break considerably into our reserves. Consequently, I have launched a "gofundme page" <https://gf.me/u/y6nbrx> - which has had a great response so far (for which we are truly thankful). Any donation will help make an impact in keeping Riverside running in the way we've been used to and allow us to continue to serve our community. Thanks in advance for your contribution to this cause that means so much to us and we hope to see you at some point soon.

James Ford-Bannister , Chairman

Technical Director's report.

With the somewhat limited programme of events we were able to provide for during 2020, it is possible that many of you will not have appreciated yet the newly redecorated Bar Lounge, with its Redcurrant Glory, Feature Chimney Breast and Natural Hessian Walls. This was part of our planned redecoration programme carried out by our volunteers to reduce costs, and made possible by, for long periods, an empty building. The programme covered the Main Hall, the Bar Lounge and the Foyer.

At the end of November, we were hoping to hang up our paint brushes and enjoy some socially distanced entertainment in the Bar and the Hall. Unfortunately this was not to be, so our thoughts turned once again to our redecoration programme. Next on the list was The Studio. Initially our plan was to just repaint the doors and leave

the rest until later in 2021 as programmed. But when it became clear that we were likely to be closed for some weeks, we decided to bring the programme forward. Redecoration of The Studio will now be completed by the end of January.

Meanwhile work has been proceeding off site on a modification to our bespoke Raked Seating kit. Pat Langley and I have devised a new system to handle the two staircase units which will in future be stored in the garage and easily wheeled into the Hall for erection when required.

Hopefully with all this work completed during what has been a very difficult year for RAC, we will all be able to enjoy a more restful and enjoyable year during the coming months. We are most grateful to our volunteers James Ford-Bannister, Pat Langley and Ron Millinger for helping with this work.

Happy New Year.

Eric Champion.

**Piano, Flute, Song writing and Theory
Private or Group Lessons
Serious Learning that's lots of fun
All Ages - No exams**

Colleen is teaching online from the Centre

Contact Colleen for more details on 07722574625 or colleenmuriel@hotmail.com



Riverside Players of Sunbury

2020 saw many changes for us all. Sadly we lost Ken Busby, Rita Stringer and Paul Warren all of whom had contributed so much to Manor and Shepperton Players over the years. There were also a number of people who took stock of their lives over lock down and moved away from the area. However, we can celebrate the birth of Riverside Players of Sunbury, a combination of both of the previous societies which has emerged as a very strong organisation well equipped to carry on the great tradition of drama at Riverside.

We sincerely hope that 2021 will be more productive than 2020. Unfortunately, we have already had to postpone our January Variety Show for a while due to restrictions and in the interest of keeping everyone safe.

We will be continuing to do some productions via Zoom including a new play by a new local playwright Richard Black. We will also be doing some on-line workshops until such time that is safe for us all to meet again in person. I am sincerely looking forward to the time when we can perform on stage again and have a good chat in the bar afterwards.

For information on Riverside Players contact riversideplayersofsunbury@gmail.com or call 07760 802328

Riverside Arts Centre Committee (info@riversidearts.co.uk)

Hon Chairman - James Ford-Bannister

Hon Treasurer - Lydia Fowles

Hon Secretary - Carole Dow

Hon Technical Director - Eric Champion

Hon Arts Director - Pat Petch

Membership Secretary (Co-opted) - Marian Richards

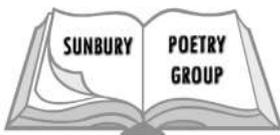
Bookings Secretary (Co-opted) - Neszil Bennett

Editor of The Centre (Co-opted) - Christine Norgate - thecentre.rac@gmail.com

Riverside Communications / User Liaison - David Young riversidearts.co.uk

Hon Chairman (RAC Club - Bar) - Chris Dunne riversidearts.co.uk

riversideartscentreclub@gmail.com

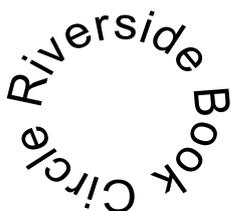


We have been unable to meet in person over the past few months, although we have exchanged poems over the Internet. Like everyone else, we are looking forward to the day when RAC will fully reopen.

In the meantime, I am circulating to members a poem by a retired American teacher, Kitty O'Meara, who wrote an accompanying note: "This moment of isolation from the normal rhythms of society might give us a chance to reflect on what really matters in the society we feel cut off from."

In the Time of Pandemic

The poem was contributed by Kitty O'Meara to Wisconsin Public Radio on 5th April 2020. They broadcast it and also posted it to their website wpr.org



We at the Riverside Book Circle have missed meeting all our friends at the Arts Centre every third Thursday afternoon in the month. We hope that in this long lock-down you have found books that have intrigued and supported you.

We look forward to meeting you again when restrictions are lifted, and hope to offer talks on subjects such as The Forsyte Saga, Politics and Publishing, Jacobean Thrillers and Frankenstein.

We agree with Martin Amis who wrote, "Literature is the great garden that is open to everyone..... It is of course Eden; it is unfallen and needs no care."

Have a happy and safe New Year.

Sanda, Barbara, Christine and Liz

Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music

The ABRSM is a world wide institution devoted to promoting and encouraging the knowledge and promotion of music amongst the young and whose practical and written examinations have set many a budding young musician on a career in professional music making .

Riverside Arts Centre has been hosting these exams as a Public Centre since 1987 and until 2020 has been consistent in opening its doors three times a year for approximately 12 weeks in total ,bringing in something like 1200 candidates per year and over the thirty three years that ABRSM has been running the Centre an amazing 40,800 budding musicians ,to say nothing of a huge amount in rent to swell RAC funds !

However 2020 was a different story ! Covid 19 forced closure for the exams in both the Spring and Summer exams . However many of you may have noticed our brave little sign advertising ABRSM exams outside the RAC in November and December, signalling that it was business as usual for the candidates arriving with instruments , music and masks at the ready! Sanitisation and social distancing were the order of the day as examiners were required to sanitise the piano keys twice for each candidate , once for the newcomer and a second time for aural tests while the stewards were getting well exercised escorting each candidate up to the Warmup Room in order to sanitise the piano keys for the new candidate ! But we did it, greatly to the surprise of many candidates and parents and we were preparing to do it all again in March 2021 before the regulations changed!

Grateful thanks are due to Eric Champion and James Ford- Bannister who set up social distancing signs and to the stewards (Marta Blaiklock, Lorna Doyle, my husband Jeremy and me, Moira , Gill Finlay and Oliver Hottinger) who behind their masks made the whole operation run smoothly!

Sunbury Chertsey Artists

Happy New Year to all artists, hope you managed to get creative during the lockdowns and restrictions of 2020? We expect to restart normal sessions as soon as people from different bubbles are allowed to meet indoors. Probably by late spring, when vaccination levels are higher and we begin to get this virus under control. We'll let you know which portrait or life sessions are restarting and when, in the club newsletter. If you are interested in being added to the circulation for this, as a previous member or someone just wanting to give it a try, then please email: pam.j.davison@gmail.com

Sessions take place in the Craft Centre on Thursday morning, Thursday evening, Friday evening with full day sessions on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month. They cost between £11 and £15 per session. Easels are available. Bring your own materials. Oil painters are asked to use low odour solvents for the comfort of other artists. These are non tutored sessions and all abilities really are welcome.

We have our Summer Exhibition booked for July which is open for all subjects and styles.



KH Dance Academy

Spring Term 2021

Monday 4th January- Saturday 27th March
Half term week commencing the 15th February

Children and adult classes from 18months. RAD Ballet & Silver Swans, ISTD Tap & Modern, ID Contemporary and Street, Zumba Gold. All abilities welcomed.

Classes taught in a fun and friendly environment following Covid-19 guidelines.

For further details contact Kathryn Cameron-Webb
info@kh-danceacademy.co.uk or 07891675753