

the centre

Quarterly Journal of

The Riverside Arts Centre and Sunbury & Shepperton Arts Association

www.riversidearts.co.uk

Volume 40 Number 3

March 2020

20 years on

The Centre of March 2000 was the first one I edited, having taken over the task from Alan and Marion Robertson who had been editing it since January 1991.

Some of the events it recorded were:-

Vic Kettle's photographic exhibition of Sunbury on Thames which ushered in the new millennium,

The SSAAs' Burn's Night supper complete with haggis, bagpipes, venison casserole and Scottish dancing and a Coffee Concert of music by Chopin.

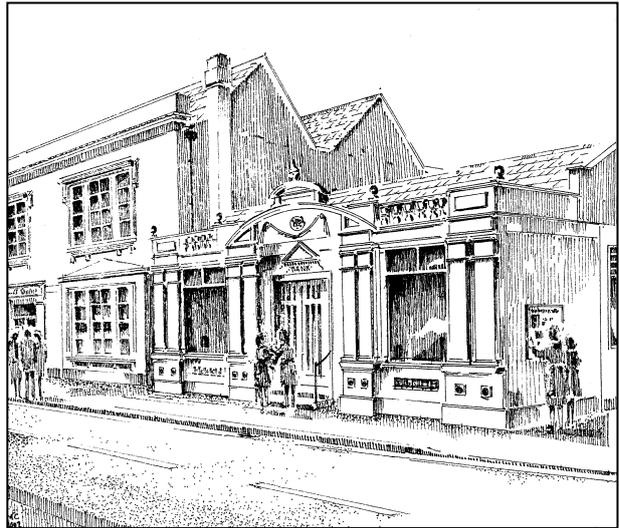
Shepperton Players' pantomime **Santa in Space**

The Book Circle had enjoyed a meeting where its members had chosen readings from Sir Thomas More, Samuel Butler, H.G.Wells, Aldous Huxley and George Orwell predicting the future.

Events to look forward to included a Manor Players' production of **An Evening with Gary Lineker** by Arthur Smith and Chris England and **Stepping Out** by Richard Harris to be staged by Shepperton Players, A two weekend Spring Exhibition from Sunbury Art Group, a second SSAA Coffee Concert and a Quiz Night from Zodiac Light Opera. The Riverside Youth Theatre were preparing a Millennium Revue.

In keeping with the spirit of a new millennium Peter Norgate organised the setting up of the website www.riversidearts.co.uk which, in a different format, he still updates.

When I took over, Alan used a computer to arrange the text and articles were scanned or typed by him, having been edited by Marion. The pages were then passed to Eric Champion, already the Chairman of RAC, who pasted on the banner headline and Spelthorne logo before taking the sheets to the printer in Ashford. Now the whole newsletter is assembled from emailed contributions and sent electronically. But Eric still collects the printed copies before they are distributed to RAC members, and Spelthorne Councillors. The trifold **What's On** is distributed to libraries, adult education centres and the café in the Walled Garden to publicise the events occurring at RAC. And both are put on the RAC website.



Drawing by Michael Croneen

From time to time I include an entry from the booklet **From Orchard to Arts Centre**, now out of print, written by David de Jersey and Pat Champion in 1993, which tells the story of the buildings in Thames Street and how they were converted into an Arts Centre. It was written too early to tell of the RAC Development Project which added the adjacent redundant bank building to the complex and for which RAC members raised funds (generously assisted by The Borough of Spelthorne) and gave thousands of hours of their time, voluntarily, to its purchase and conversion into The Studio in use today

What else is new? RAC houses a Dance Academy. It is a venue for Jazz Concerts and Stand-Up comedy. Physical activities include Keep Fit, Yoga and Pilates. The Senior Drama groups are about to amalgamate and the Youth Theatre all flourish. We are a centre for ABRSM examinations and the Sunbury and Shepperton Arts Association continues to promote events. A new venture is the screening of classic films in a relaxed environment

RAC is still expertly managed by a team of dedicated volunteers for the benefit of the community. What's not to like?

Christine



*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 quarter is over and it's been a hectic one. December and January are always a busy time at RAC with resident groups RYT and Zodiac doing their Christmas shows before our annual Pantomime in January. Manor Players' and Shepperton Players' amalgamation as Riverside Players of Sunbury (RPOs for short) seems to have been a great success, in it's early stages, with one of the best Pantomimes we've had in years - all the audience members I spoke to were highly complimentary. I expect to see their formal merger take place in April of this year so congratulations to them.

More congratulations are also in order as all the volunteers of RAC were nominated, by our friend Cllr. Vivienne Leighton, for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service - the MBE of volunteer groups. It is such a huge honour to pass the first rounds and be accepted for consideration at the final, national level. May I add my personal thanks to everyone who has donated their time to making Riverside a place the community cherishes but, particularly, to my predecessor (Eric Champion) who has very much built a culture

that encourages participation and giving back - so everyone can enjoy our wonderful facilities. We also have positive news that the new lease is in its final stages and should be finalised in the coming weeks. The tireless work of my colleagues Eric, Peter Norgate, Richard Black and, our solicitor, Julian Philip have left us with a document we think secures Riverside's future for the next two decades and also gives the council the flexibility they needed for the modern world.

Finally, I would like to celebrate our latest addition - the Wonderama Cinema. Anja & Joe have created something that already wowed local residents and has gotten everyone talking. For years we wanted to have the ability to show films at Riverside but never had the right personnel or skill sets to do it regularly and reliably, despite many residents calling out for it. I can finally say that we have the right people running a wonderful selection of monthly cinema dates - so thank you to them for coming to us and being so keen to create Wonderama.

James Ford-Bannister, Hon Chairman

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

On February 4th a small posse from the RAC Committee enjoyed a delightful reception at Losely House, Guildford.

We had been invited by the Lord Lieutenant of the County to join five other voluntary groups in Surrey to promote what our organization offers to the community with a view to gaining the prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Services. This is presented to "exceptional groups of volunteers whose level of initiative and impact are truly outstanding."

These groups had been chosen from a much greater number of nominations within the county and to have got this far is a huge achievement.

Riverside Arts Centre had been nominated by Vivienne Leighton during her year as Mayor of Spelthorne. She has been a keen supporter of the Centre since the early days, when she was a member of Shepperton Singers so is very aware of how long we have been involved in the community.

Each group was invited to provide a display of its work and we were able to

talk in depth to the Lord Lieutenant and members of the Surrey Lieutenantcy Office as well as Spelthorne and other Surrey councillors.

What seemed to impress those we spoke to more than anything was the sheer hard work and enthusiasm of so many volunteers over 40 years to create, from a derelict factory, the amazing building and facilities we now have.

The wide diversity of groups and numbers of local residents that are now able to benefit from the Arts Centre was also frequently commented upon.

The other groups, Walton Firs, Chiddingfold Bonfire Charity, Tice Meadow Wildlife Centre, Claygate Recreation Ground Trust and Go Godalming Canoe Club are the other groups to have reached this point and all had excellent displays and enthusiastic members.

The final result will be published on June 2nd and whatever the result, Riverside Arts Centre should be very proud of this nomination.



Riverside Players of Sunbury

First Production

Thursday April 2nd to Saturday April 4th at 7.45pm

Amy's View

by David Hare

directed by David Hight

It is 1979. Esme Allen is a well-known West End actress at just the moment when the West End is ceasing to offer actors a regular way of life. The visit of her young daughter, Amy, with a new boyfriend sets in train a series of events which only find their shape 16 years later. A generational play about the long term struggle between a strong mother and her loving daughter, *Amy's View* mixes love, death and the theatre in a way which is both heady and original. It is another great example of the cultural and political commentary David Hare is known for. *Amy's View* was first performed at the National Theatre, London, in June 1997, and transferred to the Aldwych Theatre in January 1998.

Tickets: £12 Bookings: by phone: 07505 206757 :by email: racboxoffice@gmail.com
online: www.sunburyriverside.co.uk



Riverside Youth Theatres May Revue : BoxSet

RYT's production of **BoxSet** is a show not to be missed. Rehearsals are going well with our extremely talented and enthusiastic cast, putting together a fantastic array of songs and sketches that will appeal to all audiences. With material ranging from old favourites such as Oliver! to newer delights like Hamilton and Shrek our talented cast will provide an evening of entertain

ment for the whole family to enjoy - and if that's not enough sketches from the likes of Monty Python and French & Saunders can only add to the appeal.

Show dates are May 14th-16th
and tickets will be available via the website
www.riversideyouththeatre.co.uk
be sure to get them before they sell out!

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

Editor's notes

March 2020

The next Centre appears in June 2020 The deadline for contributions will be Monday 11th May 2020 for news, views and future events in June, July and August 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



COFFEE CONCERT SEASON

Saturday March 14th

10:15am Coffee & Croissants **11:00am** Concert **£14**

DECLAN ZAPALA – GUITAR

Declan Zapala is a UK-based guitarist with a colourful portfolio career divided between music composition and production from his home studio in Watford.

A Masters graduate of the Royal College of Music, he is best known as a concert artist for his innovative approach to using the classical guitar simultaneously both as a percussion instrument and as a guitar.

Declan will be treating us to some classics for the guitar, including pieces by J.S. Bach and Pernambuco, together with an introduction to his exciting style of percussive guitar music.

Other dates in the season will be Saturday April 18th and May 23rd

BOX OFFICE: www.ticketsource.co.uk/ssarts

Tickets : boxoffice@ssaa-arts.org on the door) or 01784 257175

The Sunbury and Shepperton Arts Association (SSAA) is Registered as Charity Number

Series of Flute Concerts

Flautist Colleen Muriel (M.A. B. Mus. FRSM, FTCL, ARCT) will be presenting a program of reflective and relaxing music for flute alone in the Craft Centre (Riverside Arts) March 14, June 27, and September 26 @ 3 - 4 pm.

Come drink some tea and relax while enjoying some beautiful flute music. Suggested donation for each program £5.00-£10. per person. For further information (colleenmuriel@hotmail.com) www.elflauto.ca

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 so you decide how much of the pose to include in your picture using the style and medium of your choice. Easels and boards are available; bring your own painting/drawing materials. Current members use oils, acrylics, pastels, charcoal, 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

Louisa Treger, author of *The Lodger*, an acclaimed novel published in 2015, visited the Book Circle on 21 November where she spoke of her writing process, her enthusiasm for the lives of strong non-conformist women, and the sources of inspiration driving her novels.

Her informative and highly entertaining talk focused on her latest book, *The Dragon Lady*. About the life of Virginia Courtauld, it gained its title from the exotic dragon tattoo Ginie had snaking up her leg. She was inspired to investigate this life by seeing a painting of her in the National Gallery of Zimbabwe in Harare.

A blend of fact and fiction, Treger creates a portrait of an extraordinary woman in an era of great social and cultural change as she and her second husband, Stephen Courtauld, travel from the Italian Riviera before the Great War, to the Art Deco glory of Eltham Palace in the thirties, to the secluded Scottish Highlands, and then to Rhodesia in the early 50s - only to find that being progressive liberals during segregation proves mortally dangerous.

Born in London, Louisa Treger began her career as a classical violinist and worked as a freelance orchestral player and teacher. She subsequently turned to literature, gaining a First Class degree and a PhD in English at University College London, where she focused on early twentieth century women's writing. Married with three children she lives in London.

Gytha Lodge entertained members of the Riverside Book Circle on 19 December with a talk about the evolution of her writing career.

She completed her first novel at the age of 14 and sent it off to a publisher, who was kind enough to take the trouble to phone her to say that he thought the script wasn't quite ready yet - advice for which she remains grateful.

While studying English Literature at Cambridge she found herself drawn to the stage and soon became involved in script-writing, which taught her how to write good dialogue, which she maintains is the key driver to any story.

Next she became a translator working for groups of clients - one of which was in the electronic games business. Always an enthusiastic player she became involved in the content creation of new games.

Nevertheless, she remained a frustrated writer and so embarked on an MA in creative script-writing at the University of East Anglia where she learned not only her craft but how to pitch a story. This is the practice of telling a story in three paragraphs.

With her first book in hand she sought and obtained the services of an excellent agent but, sadly, her

crime story set in the 1920s did not appeal to publishers. But this tenacious writer simply abandoned it in order to start another crime novel about a child who disappears. This time she pitched it right and her script generated so much interest that Penguin Random House gave her a three book deal.

Her debut crime novel, *She Lies in Wait*, was released in January 2019 with Penguin Random House worldwide and is published in nine additional languages. And, the book was recommended by Richard and Judy, a fact which secured its success with readers. The second book in her Jonah Sheen series is scheduled to appear this year and the third will be published next year.

Gytha, a multi-award-winner for her play-writing and childrens/young adult stories, works as a freelance business content and copywriting provider.

Marianne Kavanagh, a former freelance editor to a variety of newspapers, magazines and websites including Woman, The Tatler and the Telegraph's Saturday magazine, was deputy editor of Marie Claire before leaving to have three children. She lives in London.

Marianne attended our meeting on 16th January at short notice due to a cancellation from the scheduled speaker and her fascinating talk on the tricks of the trade of the novelist was warmly received by all who attended.

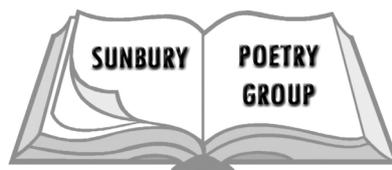
Marianne's first two novels, *For Once In My Life* and *Don't Get Me Wrong*, both witty romantic comedies, have been translated into eight languages. Her third and fourth novels, *Should You Ask Me* and *Disturbance*, are published by Hodder & Stoughton and have been described as 'an unput-downable combination of thriller and psychological drama' by none other than **Emma Thompson**.

She explained that fiction is good for exploring the dark and complex human characteristics of individuals who are often reluctant to give up secrets. She went on to demonstrate the different ways of writing about characters, either from the outside or by inhabiting them and acknowledged the narrative interest of generating a bad character.

She discussed various writing voices: the omniscient narrator such as the first person voice employed by **J D Salinger** in *Catcher in the Rye* and the third person narrator as used by **Sarah Walters** in her novel *The Paying Guest*. She also highlighted the interest generated by an unreliable narrator - which she enjoys using - and pointed out the importance of threat to develop a sense of unease within the reader.

Marianne concluded by illustrating some of her themes through an excerpt from **Colm Tobin's** *The Testament of Mary*, clearly one of her favourite books, which I took to be a further recommendation for future reading.

Vicki Lenoel



The first Thursday in December is when we traditionally celebrate Christmas at The Centre. Unfortunately, for several years now we have had to cancel our room there because a Christmas Market has been held in The Avenue on our meeting day, making parking very difficult. However, we did not cancel our party, but transferred it to the house of one of our members, Joyce Langmead, who welcomed us to her home for an evening of fun and frivolity, together with a delicious meal and an ample supply of nectar! Thank you, Joyce.

Our first meeting of the New Year was a “bring and read” session on the subject of Beginnings and Endings. Of course, many of the poems concerned birth and death, but it was not a gloomy evening. W.B. Yeats, perhaps with feelings of regret and jealousy, contrasted the carefree days of youth with the worries of later life:

To a Child Dancing in The Wind

*What need have you to care
For wind or water’s roar?
And tumble out your hair
That the salt drops have wet;
Being young you have not known
The fool’s triumph, nor yet
Love lost as soon as won,
Nor the best labourer dead
And all the sheaves to bind.
What need have you to dread
The monstrous crying of wind?*

Other popular poems included “Funeral Blues” by W.H. Auden, “Death in Leamington” by John Betjeman and Pam Ayres amusing “if Only Once Again My Hair Would Sprout” – a problem encountered at any age by men or women! The evening ended with a reading by Gwenda of Dylan Thomas’s best known and most beloved

poem “Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night”.

Our February meeting consisted of the long-postponed presentation by Pat Dowthwaite of poems about Towns and Cities. The first poem was written by Charles Causley in the ruins of the bombed Coventry Cathedral:

*Coventry, that ruddled city,
Under a metal, shunting sky
I sat in the cracked cathedral
The holiday-makers limping by.
Christ hung down like a hawk-moth caterpillar,
Down his cheeks ran woollen tears.*

John Betjeman implored “Come, friendly bombs and drop on Slough!/It isn’t fit for humans now/ There isn’t grass to graze a cow.” Other poems dealt with Belfast, Washington and Liverpool. Of course, Pat felt she had to include Wordsworth’s “Composed Upon Westminster Bridge”:

*Earth has not anything to show more fair:
Dull would he be of soul who could pass by
A sight so touching in its majesty:
This City now doth, like a garment, wear
The beauty of the morning: silent, bare,
Ships, towers, domes, theatres, and temples lie
Open unto the fields, and to the sky;
All bright and glittering in the smokeless air.*

As always, we cordially invite visitors to join us at our meetings upstairs at the RAC, which are held on the first Thursday of each month, commencing at 7:30 p.m.

Our next four meetings are:

March 5	Ambition	Bring and Read
April 2	Loneliness	With Ian Pringle
May 7	Faith	Bring and Read
June 4	Victorian Poets	With Colin Hurrell

Laughing Chili

Friday 20th March : 1st May : 29th May

Speed Quizzing in Sunbury

Come and experience the latest in quizzing, at Riverside’s new monthly event.

With high tech questions on your smart device, music, games, videos, and a whole lot of fun!

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



KH Dance Academy

Summer Term 2020

Monday 20th April to Saturday 11th July

Half Term - week commencing 25th May

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 - Comedy Evenings

7th March

Comedy in Sunbury with TV's Jeff Stevenson headlining the March show.

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, and more information from www.laughingchili.co.uk

21st March

Jonny Awsum is coming to town!

Star of 'Britain's Got Talent', Jonny's very first solo tour will include brand new material, together with the greatest hits from his TV and comedy club sets.

Doors and bar open from 7.30pm. Show starts at 8.30pm. **14+ only.**

Tickets £14.00 (£12 conc) from www.laughingchili.co.uk

4th April

The fabulous Sol Bernstein will be closing April's comedy night.

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, and more information from www.laughingchili.co.uk

9th May

The very funny Geoff Boyz will be May's comedy headliner.

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, and more information from www.laughingchili.co.uk

Saturday March 14th from 3 - 4pm
Flute Concert for Flute Alone
With flautist Colleen Muriel
Suggested donation £5-10 per person
More info colleenmuriel@hotmail.com

Wonderama Picture Palace
Wednesday 4th March - 10am film 10.30
West Side Story
Friday 13th March at 7.30pm film 8pm
True Romance
Friday 27th March 7.30pm film 8pm
Dirty Dancing
Wednesday 15th April - 3pm film 3.30pm
School of Rock
Saturday 18th April bar 7.30pm film 8pm
The Great Gatsby 2013
Monday 20th April at 10am film 10.30am
High Society
Friday 8th May at 3pm film 3.30
Rock Around The clock
Friday 8th May at 7.30pm film 8pm
TBC
Friday 22nd May at 10am film 10.30am
42nd Street
Saturday 30th May at 7.30pm film 8pm
Mamma Mia
Daytime shows £6 when the tearoom is open
Evening shows £11 and the bar is open
Tickets and information
from wonderama.cloud

Mood Indigo Events
Riverside Arts Jazz
Sunday 8th March at 7.15pm for 7.45pm
Tribute to Michel Petrucciani
featuring Tommaso Starace on saxophone
Sunday 5th April at 7.15pm for 7.45pm
The Music of McCoy Tyner
featuring Mornington Lockett on saxophone
Sunday 17th May at 7.15pm for 7.45pm
Latin Jazz Night
featuring Guillermo Hill on guitar

All above with the Terence Collie Trio
Tickets £12 online and £15 on door
Booking: www.moodindigoevents.co.uk

Riverside Jazz Jam

Tuesdays 10th March, 7th April, 5th May
Open to musicians and vocalists
Bar opens 7.15pm : Music starts 7.45pm
Tickets £7 on door and £5 online
Booking and more info
www.moodindigoevents.co.uk

Saturday 14th March at 10.15 for 11.00am
SSAA Morning Coffee Concert Series
Declan Zapala - Guitar
Some classics and some surprises!
Ticket £14 (includes coffee and a croissant)
Box Office: www.ticketsource.co.uk/ssarts
or boxoffice@ssaa-arts.org or 01784
257175

Other concerts
Saturday April 18th at 10.15 for 11.00am
Saturday May 23rd at 10.15 for 11.00am
Programmes to be announced

Thursday April 2nd to Saturday April 4th
Riverside Players of Sunbury
Amy's View
By David Hare
Tickets: £12 **Booking: phone: 07505 206757 :**
email: racboxoffice@gmail.com
online: www.sunburyriverside.co.uk

Thursday May 14th to Saturday May 16th at
8pm
Riverside Youth Theatre
BoxSet - a revue
Tickets available
from www.riversideyouththeatre.co.uk

Laughing Chili Comedy Nights
The Studio
Doors and bar open from 7.30pm.
Show starts at 8.30pm.
Saturday 7th March
Headliner **Jeff Stevenson**
Tickets £12.50 : 16+ only.
Saturday 21st March
Jonny Awsum
Tickets £14.00 (£12 concessions) 14+ only.
Saturday 4th April
with the fabulous **Sol Bernstein**
Tickets £12.50 : 16+ only.
Saturday 9th May
With the very funny **Geoff Boyz**
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