



artsrichmond

Newsletter of Richmond upon Thames Arts Council

JULY/
AUGUST
2007

Voluntary body promoting the arts and libraries in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

Barnes – Sheen – Mortlake – The Hamptons – Petersham – Kew - Richmond – Teddington – Ham – Whitton – Twickenham

New Young Writers' Festival: the search for a borough Youth Laureate

Encouraged by the growing successes of our established annual Young Poets Competition and the relatively new Young Short Story Writers' Competition, this summer **artsrichmond** is going for a much wider young people's event, inviting young people of all age groups who live or go to school or a youth club in the borough to write in whatever form they choose, with bigger prizes and the overall award of the title of Youth Laureate, supplemented by a number of Junior Laureates. The new Young Writer's Festival has the support of the borough's mayor and of the Library, Education and Youth Services, and we're hoping that many of schools and youth organisations will encourage their members to take part. The Festival will culminate in the Awards Gala at the Orange Tree Theatre at the end of November as part of the borough's *Book Now!* Festival.

We're hoping that there'll be a number of workshops in different parts of the borough over the summer holidays to help young people hone their talents to create some challenging entries – short stories, poems, descriptive writing, essays, lyrics for songs, whatever the imagination can devise. We'll be asking the judges to select winning entrants from over the age ranges so that nobody is disadvantaged because they are younger than other competitors.

Further details, and the simple rules, are available from the **artsrichmond** office (020 8979 3848). The closing date for entries is 30 September, and we're looking for a giant entry.

Are you getting the most out of artsrichmond?

- ❖ **Members and Friends:** Are you coming to the **artsrichmond Evening with Alan Bennett . . . introduced by Michael Frayn** on 28 June at the Orange Tree Theatre? But sorry, all seats now sold.
- ❖ **Members and Friends:** Are you coming to the **artsrichmond** party in Michael Frayn's and Claire Tomalin's (our Presidents for 2007) garden in Petersham on 7 July? Still just time for members to say they are coming – phone 020 8979 3848.
- ❖ **Publicity officers:** Are you letting us know about your events in time for the **artsrichmond** monthly newsletter and for us to circulate to other media? Please let us know soon about your Autumn – and especially September – events. See box on next page.
- ❖ **Are you qualified to be a judge for the Swan Drama Awards 2007/8?** If you have relevant knowledge of drama (and the time) and would like to be considered as a judge, please let the office know.
- ❖ **Are you a regular library user?** If so, would you help us, and our affiliated societies, by acting as an **artsrichmond**/branch library liaison-person? We are looking for members to establish a link with each of the 13 branch libraries in the borough to deliver **artsrichmond's Guide to the Arts**, newsletters, etc, to each branch, and to cooperate with branch library staff to help library users know of arts activities in the borough.
- ❖ **Would you like to help improve the library service?** We want to persuade library users to sign up as members of **artsrichmond** and as **Friends of the Richmond Libraries**, which operates under our auspices. The Friends work closely with library staff to promote an ever-better library service: the libraries are anxious to have close contact with users via the Friends so that they are kept informed of user opinions. More information from the **artsrichmond** office and from libraries.
- ❖ **Do you use ShowCoach for great evenings (at discounted prices) at the theatre?** The next **artsrichmond ShowCoach** outing is to the Richmond Shakespeare Society's *The Comedy of Errors* in York House gardens on Wednesday 3 July at 8.00 pm. Enjoy going in company (and when the event is not in the borough of Richmond in a coach that collects you locally) – phone Edie Purdue on 020 8891 4991. Also with *ShowCoach*: Bletchley Park on 11 August; Lake District Holiday, 14-19 October; Sir John Soane's Museum on 3 October; Tutankhamun Exhibition on 26 November, and West End theatre, concerts and excursions.
- ❖ **Do your young people enjoy writing?** Suggest they take part in the **artsrichmond** Young Writers' Festival this summer and possibly become the borough's Youth Laureate – see this page.
- ❖ **Are you a painter?** Then exhibit – and possibly sell - in the **artsrichmond** art exhibition at the Old Sorting Office this October – see next page.
- ❖ **Do you love music?** See *Music in July and August* below.

Autumn art exhibition

Two years ago, we had our first **borough-wide art exhibition** at the Old Sorting Office on Barnes Green – it attracted many leading artists resident in the borough as exhibitors and a steady flow of interested viewers and buyers. Last year we had the biennial Photography Exhibition, and in October 2007 we're having the next art exhibition, again at the Old Sorting Office.

Handing-in day is Thursday 11 October, the preview is on Friday 12 October, the exhibition is open to the public on Saturday and Sunday 13 and 14 October, and exhibitors collect their paintings on Monday 15 October. Details from the **artsrichmond** office and from local art societies.

Autumn dates

The Nominations Event for the **Swan Drama Awards** is on Monday 3 September at York House – a little later this year in the hope that more nominees will be back from holidays. The Swan Drama Awards themselves are on Sunday 23 September at the Hampton Hill Playhouse. Our Presidents Michael Frayn and Claire Tomalin will be presenting the awards, and patron Alan Price will entertain.

There'll be a **Book Café** on Sunday 4 November, lunchtime, one of the first events on the borough's *Book Now!* Festival. This time James Naughtie will be talking about his own new book, *Making of Music*, 'from plainsong to jazz and from glittering renaissance courts to Italian opera houses, [the book] explores the drama and the mystery of music. It takes you on a tour to the places that nurtured it and uncovers the characters who created it' (published in September), in company with Sir John Tusa talking about *his* new book, *Engaged with the Arts*. Sir John is also chairing a committee on support for the arts, due to report in the autumn.

Artsrichmond's AGM and membership consultation and Christmas party are on Thursday 6 December. This will be the occasion for our Presidents for 2008, Julian Glover and Isla Blair, taking over from Michael Frayn and Claire Tomalin, to whom grateful thanks.

September and autumn newsletters and mailings

We'll be writing the September artsrichmond newsletter at the beginning of August, before editorial holidays, so would affiliated societies and other eligible organisations with events in September please let us have details by 1 August. Remember that at this stage we do not have copies of autumn programmes, so need your information if we are to be able to help publicise your events.

The monthly *artsrichmond* mailing for events in August will be mailed on 23 July, and that for September on 28 August (the 27 August is the Late Summer Bank Holiday) so we need society flyers etc for the mailing by Friday 20 July and Friday 24 August respectively. There'll be no August newsletter.

Please also let us have autumn diaries of events (5 copies of any printed diaries or circulars please) asap. Send to the office at the Greenwood Centre. We will send copies of these to LBRuT's *What's On*, so you kill two birds – in fact five birds or more with the **artsrichmond**, borough and other websites – with one email!

We have recently circulated a check list of media contacts in the area. If you haven't received your copy, please phone the office. Suggestions for additions welcome.

Note that the *Richmond and Twickenham Times* has moved from King Street, Richmond to Allied House, 29 London Road, Twickenham TW1 3SJ 020 8744 4200

Phyllis Sellick OBE

We are saddened to report the death of our distinguished patron, Phyllis Sellick, at the age of 95. Phyllis and her husband Cyril Smith were an inseparable international piano duo who performed worldwide for more than half a century, delighting audiences, as *The Times* reported, with their spirited renditions of the two-piano repertoire. Miss Sellick was a brilliant protagonist for

modern composers such as Tippett, Walton and Rawsthorne, as well as classical works.

They don't, as they say, make them like that anymore.

Music in July and August

Our two local music societies have completed their main programmes for the season, though the **Richmond Concert Society's** AGM, on Tuesday 17 July at St Mary's Church, Riverside, Twickenham at 8.00 pm, offers a bonus concert with a Beethoven, Chopin and Paganini cello and piano concert (020 8892 1456).

But there's some great music to be found around and near the borough in July and August. The **Thames Philharmonic Choir**, conducted by John Bate and with baritone Michael Bundy and pianists Roger Beeson and Benjamin Costello, is celebrating Bastille Day on Saturday 14 July with opera choruses, songs and piano duets by Berlioz, Bizet, Gounod, Jannequin and Poulenc at St Paul's Church, Augustus Road, SW19, at 7.30 pm. The concert is followed by a French supper with wine (020 8874 7462 - separate ticket needed for the supper to be ordered a week beforehand).

On the same day, **Cantanti Camerati**, conducted by Geoffrey Bowyer, is giving a concert of sacred and secular music at St James's Church, Piccadilly, featuring Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb* and works by Byrd, Elgar, Holst, Purcell, Rutter, Sullivan, Vaughan Williams and Weelkes. That's at 7.30 pm – tickets from 020 8898 8020 between 6.00 and 7.00 pm or from Albert's Music Shop, Twickenham. 14 July is a busy day: the **Band of the Middlesex Yeomanry Association** is playing a concert for residents of the Star and Garter home in Richmond. The band has some vacancies for brass players – phone 020 8979 3733.

Before that, **Garrick's Temple to Shakespeare** on delightful Hampton Riverside closes its programme of summer mini-proms with a special ticketed chamber concert by the Sylvan Players on Sunday 1 July at 7.30 pm as part of the Mozart Summer Festival (0118 986 0905). And on 11 July, **Richmond Music Trust's** Richmond Youth Concert

Band is playing at the Barn Church, Avenue Road, Kew, at 7.30 pm (020 8538 3866).

You may be just in time for a whole raft of concerts on 30 June as well. **Kew Sinfonia's** summer concert is at St Anne's Church, Kew at 8.00 pm, featuring Strauss's *Oboe Concerto* and Vaughan Williams and Haydn (020 8940 1892 or 020 8332 6220). International pianist Anthony Atkins plays at **St Richard's Church**, Ham at 7.30 pm in aid of Cancerkin (Rameau, Debussy, Chopin, Albeniz, Villa-Lobos and Ravel) (020 8541 1931 or 020 8940 9807), and **Twickenham Choral Society** is at the **Landmark Arts Centre**, Teddington with a concert of English and American choral music at 7.30 pm (020 8977 7558).

Then in August there's *On the Edge*, the borough arts team's **World Music Weekend** on Richmond Riverside on Saturday and Sunday 18 and 19 August, and keep a look out for the Children's Theatre Festival, *Larks in the Parks*, for 3 to 8 year olds during August (020 8831 6000).

ShowCoach programme

Upcoming **ShowCoach** theatre visits, excursions and holidays include:

3 July: *Comedy of Errors* in the York House Gardens

5 September: Excursion to *Milestones* Living History Museum

12 September: *The Drowsy Chaperone* at the Novello Theatre

3 October: Excursion to *The First Emperor*...China's Terracotta Army at the British Museum & to Sir John Soane's Museum

14-19 October: Lake District holiday with cultural visits

26 November: Excursion to *Tutankhamun* exhibition at the Dome

12 December: Excursion to the Christmas exhibition at the Geffrye Museum

2008 holidays:

8 April for 6 nights: Tuscany and Umbria visiting Florence and Rome

11-20 October: India

Details from Vice President Edie Purdue, 020 8891 4991

Dance

For lovers of ballet, **Chelsea Ballet** returns to Richmond's Parkshot centre with *Reflections of Dance* on Saturday 14 July at 7.30 pm in the Studio Theatre (020 8961 0519). They'll be back in December with some Tchaikovsky masterpieces.

The next day there's an outdoor dance performance at **Orleans House Gallery**, Twickenham, marking the bicentenary of the abolition of the slave trade: Sunday 15 July at 3.00 pm as part of the LBRuT *Partners in Dance* programme – details from 020 8831 6000.

Drama

Teddington Theatre Club's 80th anniversary production is Jimmie Chin's *Albert Make Us Laugh*. It's at Hampton Hill Playhouse from 30 June to 8 July (0845 838 7529 from 2.00 to 9.00 pm). *See article on back page.*

Also at the Hampton Hill Playhouse, **Teddington Children's Theatre** is presenting *Oliver Twist* on Thursday 12 (7.45 pm) and Saturday 14 July (2.30 pm) and *The Importance of being Earnest* on Friday 13 (7.45 pm) and Saturday 14 July (7.45 pm) (01342 826066).

Then on Sunday 29 July at HHP there's a **gala performance** of *Angina Monologues* in aid of Breakthrough Breast Cancer. There's a champagne reception at 7.00 pm, and a luxury raffle and auction (020 8979 9499 from 2.00-9.00 pm only).

Richmond Shakespeare Society's great outdoor production is *The Comedy of Errors* at York House gardens, Twickenham, from 1 to 7 July (020 8744 0547). And there's 'magnificent music hall' at **Normansfield Theatre**, Teddington on Saturday 14 July at 7.00 pm, and then *The Yeoman of the Guard* performed by Carl Rosa Opera on Saturday 22 July at 3.00 and 7.00 pm (020 8943 3849).

ShowCoach is going to *Comedy* on Wednesday 3 July at 8.00 pm – a great way to enjoy this splendid outdoor production (and at discounted prices) in the sunken garden at York House. The performance is on a raised stage so everyone gets a good view – you can take your own chairs, rugs and a

picnic for a delightful evening (020 8891 4991).

Elevate Youth Theatre is presenting a drama week ending with performances for 6-10 year olds (*Revolting Rhymes*) and 10-13 year olds (*play in a week*). 07907 573534 for details.

The **Orange Tree Theatre** has a summer break in July and August, but OTT members can enjoy priority booking until 14 July for the new season (020 8940 3633; box office closed from 15-31 July).

Richmond Theatre will also be closed for much of August – it's undertaking a major refurbishment of the dress circle, with new seats and carpeting and a renovated bar – but has a full programme in July: from 2- 7 July, Rik Mayall in *The New Statesman*; 9-14 July, *Lady Salsa*; 16-21 July, *Blonde Bombshells of 1943* by Alan Plater; 23-28 July, *The Decorator*; 30 July – 4 August, *Deadlock*, with Simon Ward. Then on Monday 6 (1.30 and 4.30 pm) and Tuesday 7 August (10.30 am, 1.30 and 4.30 pm), *Make Way for Noddy and Friends*. (0870 060 6651).

Art and exhibitions

Richmond & Twickenham Photographic Society's exhibition, *My World*, is at the Landmark Arts Centre, Teddington, from 19 to 26 July (020 8391 5855 and 020 8977 7558).

At **Orleans House**, *Parallel Views: Black History in Richmond*, opens on 30 June, marking the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade. The **Riverside Gallery**, Old Town Hall, Whittaker Avenue, Richmond, has *Artplay 2* from 7 July to 16 September – the interactive exhibition for children and their families. (020 8831 6000).

Visit **artsrichmond's** website:

www.artsrichmond.org.uk

The **Fountain Gallery** in East Molesey has no fewer than five exhibitions in July and August: *Holly Caulfield* 26 June to 8 July Playful and uplifting acrylic and mixed media paintings. *Human Themes* 10 to 22 July David Wentworth's pastel and oil paintings portraying people in everyday situations in cafes and bars.

Exotica 24 July - 5 August Bold powerful paintings inspired by the richness of exotic fruits, by Suzy Abrahams.

Debbie Lanyon 7 to 19 August Paintings on the cusp of abstract and figurative, inspired by the Thames and central France.

Perspectives 21 August to 2 September. Evocative landscapes and life drawings by Angela Kilenyi and Jim Woodman.

The exhibition at the **Richmond Museum**, Whittaker Avenue, Richmond, celebrating the twinning of Richmond, Surrey and Richmond, Virginia continues until 17 November, alongside *Trading in Human Lives*, the Museum's exploration of Richmond's involvement in the slave trade, which closes on 28 July.

The **Grafton Gallery** in Church Road, Barnes, has an exhibition of new work by Mary Fedden Award winner Sarah Bowman alongside Mungo Powney's colour infused urban landscapes and interior studies.

The **Rainbow Fund for South Africa** has arranged a private view for its members of paintings by Roz Cryer, *Light and Landscape*, at the Cambrian Centre, Cambrian Road, Richmond on Sunday 1 July from 6.00 to 8.00 – the exhibition is open to the general public on Saturday 30 June and Sunday 1 July from 10.00 am until 5.00 pm.

The **Environment Trust for Richmond upon Thames's Art Picnics** in July are at York House Gardens, Twickenham (great views of the river and the gardens) on Sunday 15 July and at the Crane Park

Island on Sunday 29 July – a willow weaving workshop. The picnics start at 11.00 am and finish at 4.00 pm. Advance booking is essential: 020 8891 5455.

Excursions etc

Richmond Association for the National Trust's July Programme includes a canal trip at Little Venice on Tuesday 3 July and a coach outing to Chartwell and Quebec House on Wednesday 18 July (020 8546 9179).

The **Friends of Bushey Park** have 'walk meets' on Saturday 28 July (wild flower walk) and Saturday 25 August (the deer herds). Meet at 11.00 am at the Diana Car Park (020 8977 5614).

Teddington Theatre Club's 80th (1927 – 2007)

Teddington Theatre club will be celebrating its 80th anniversary with a gala performance of Jimmie Chinn's *Albert Make Us Laugh*. Jimmie, a long standing member of the club, allowed them to first perform the play in 1987 and two of the original cast are taking part in the current production.

The club was founded by Bill Hazell who was deputy headmaster of St. Mark's Secondary School, Teddington. He was always looking for new ways of teaching his students and, loving performing, he persuaded some of his colleagues and friends to perform the set-book play for the exam syllabus to the students. The play that year was *Twelfth Night*, and by bringing the printed pages of the play to life, it meant that not only could their students understand it better but enjoy the experience of watching their teachers cavorting in front of them! It proved a great success and the teachers enjoyed the experience so much that they decided to continue as a group and formed a permanent society for the express purpose of performing exam plays for their pupils. They gave themselves the title of *The Teddington and District Amateur Dramatic Circle* which was later shortened to Teddington Theatre Club and the scope of its presentations gradually broadened as its membership increased.

TTC has survived many problems; rehearsals in homes and upstairs in pubs. The plays were performed in many

venues, starting in Elleray Hall in Teddington and then in St. Mary's Hall in Twickenham, York House, Ronayne, and then Hampton Court Theatre, which was their permanent location from 1970 until the new theatre project was started. For two years the club performed in the Vera Fletcher Hall while Hampton Hill Playhouse was being built as a permanent home.

Hampton Hill Playhouse was officially opened by HRH Princess Alexandra in 1999. TTC raised the money to build the shell of the theatre and a further £875,000 to enable them to apply for a lottery grant towards equipping the theatre. They made the delivery of their grant application newsworthy by wearing theatrical costumes and dressing as Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. The inside of the theatre was completed by Michael Holden Associates who are currently working on the Rose Theatre in Kingston.

Teddington Theatre Club brings the very best in amateur theatre to its members with a varied programme of eight main auditorium presentations and four studio productions each year. Between these, other dramatic and musical societies hire the theatre for their own productions and rooms can also be hired for business meetings and wedding receptions. Run entirely on a voluntary basis by its members, the theatre and the club have become a wonderful asset to the community.

Richmond upon Thames Arts Council

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