

PLEASE NOTE

Due to changing Government guidelines many events in the future may still be affected. Please contact individual societies for up-to-date information.

What's On

Arts & Culture in and around
the borough of
Richmond upon Thames

July and August 2021

The Arts Richmond newsletter

Richmond Artist of the Year

**CALLING ALL ARTISTS!**

Arts Richmond is holding the first Richmond Artist of the Year event at Kempton Steam Museum on Saturday 28 August. Artists are invited into the impressive steam museum and will have the day to capture the essence of this marvellous building. Prizes will be awarded by Haynes Fine Art, the largest provincial dealers in the UK of quality 19th and 20th Century paintings outside London. They have extensive galleries in the picturesque village of Broadway in the Cotswolds but have recently opened a London gallery in Pimlico.

Those who wish to participate should bring their chosen art materials at 10am and judging will happen in late afternoon. Please contact the Arts Richmond office for further details, or to express your desire to enter. Email info@artsrichmond.org.uk or phone the Arts Richmond office on 020 8892 9446.

THE DIANA ARMFIELD DRAWING COMPETITION

An exhibition of submitted work at The Barn Church Atwood Avenue, Kew, TW9 4HF. From Saturday 10 to Sunday 18 July. Open 1pm to 5pm. Free admission.

Visual Arts

Saturday Watercolour Workshop 10 July 10.00am-4.00pm. *Learn From A Watercolour Master: Eric Ravilious*. Made-to-measure one-day workshop led by experienced tutor Pat Harvey at 21, Cranebrook, Manor Road TW2 5DJ, her Twickenham riverside home. All abilities. The aim: for you to end the day with a painting you can be proud of! Suggested donation £45 (£10 reduction per class for three or more). Email patkayharvey@talktalk.net or call 020 3643 6227 for details. patharvey.co.uk

The Artists@Redlees Studios are delighted to open their gallery and individual studios during the weekend of 16th-18th July 2021. Join them on Friday 16 from 6-9 pm or Sat-Sun 17th-18 from 11 am-6 pm to enjoy discovering, experiencing, discussing and purchasing new works of art and craft, and support your local artists' community. Government guidelines are in

place and will be observed throughout. Please check website for updates before visiting. Redlees Studios, Redlees Park, Worton Road, Isleworth, TW7 6DW. redlees.org

Fountain Gallery Tue 22 June to Sun 4 July *Beverley Waller and Elaine Coles*. An exhibition alive with glorious colour. Beverley's evocative sea and landscapes, rich in texture and shimmering iridescence, alongside Elaine Coles's gorgeous silver jewellery and vibrant ceramics dripping with gold. Tue 6 to Sun 18 July. *Southbank Printmakers*. Landscapes, cityscapes, abstract and figurative work using a variety of styles; Tue 20 July to Sun 1 Aug *Ann Marie Whaley. Out of the Blue*: a celebration of the hand-made, the slow evolution of images and object. Paintings by Ann Marie Whaley and Nigel Moores; ceramics by Simon Taylor; Tue 3 to Sun 15 Aug *Gillie Spargo At the Edge*: an eclectic mix of coastal, landscape and local scenes, together with shoreline and botanical-inspired pieces in various media. Exhibiting with Nick Wotton; Tue 17 to Sun 29 Aug *Anoushka Hutton* paints colourful contemporary landscapes and seascapes as well as making silver-plate vintage metal sculptures of fantasy boats and fish. Exhibiting with Wick Hutton; Tue 31 Aug to Sun 12 Sept *Nicky Browne* Original linocuts, drawings, cards and minibooks, plus Molly Fitch's hand-cut and layered paper images inspired by the Hebridean islands, where she lives.

At 26 Bridge Road, East Molesey, KT8 9HA. fountaingallery.co.uk

Kate Howe Studios Ltd
katehowe.com

Landmark Arts Centre
landmarkartscentre.org

Willow Bank Studio
janleejohnson.co.uk/

The Surrey Sculpture Society
surreysculpture.org.uk

Orleans House Gallery
orleanshousegallery.org

Friends of Whitton Library.
For more details contact:
friendswhitton@gmail.com

The Bowman Gallery
bowmangallery.co.uk

One Paved Court Gallery:
onepavedcourt.co.uk

Drama



Katie Abbott Performing Arts is an established Trinity College Drama Exam Centre on Twickenham Green, offering tutoring and mentoring for acting qualifications, confidence building, communication skills, and English language speech classes, for individuals, pairs or groups. Please contact Katie at Frabbt@aol.com for further details.

The Puppet Theatre Barge
puppetbarge.com

Bluefire Theatre Co
bluefiretheatre.co.uk

Richmond Shakespeare Society
richmondshakespeare.org.uk

The Exchange
exchangetwickenham.co.uk

Teddington Theatre Club
teddingtontheatreclub.org.uk

Wild Duck Theatre
wildducktheatre.com

Dramacube
dramacube.co.uk

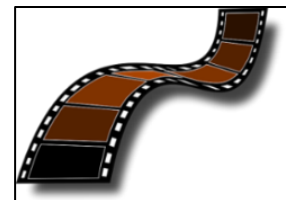
Optik Theatre
thescriptroom.com

Hampton Hill Theatre
hamptonhilltheatre.org.uk

OSO Arts Centre
osoarts.org.uk

Barnes Community Players
barnescommunityplayers.co.uk

Film



Richmond Film Society
richmondfilmsoc.org.uk

Dance



DanceWest *Dance in the Parks Richmond*. Join DanceWest this summer, for an action-packed programme of FREE taster dance classes live in parks across the London Borough of Richmond. Taking

place in July the programme will include the chance to try a range of dance styles and activities for all ages. The programme will be bookable directly via the DanceWest website from June 2021. www.dancewest.co.uk/events
dancewest.co.uk

Music



The Middlesex Yeomanry Concert Band are delighted to be recommencing rehearsals and will be holding their next concert on Sunday, 27th June at 3.00pm in St. James's Parish Church, Hampton Hill. TW12 1DQ. The concert will have an American flavour ahead of Independence Day. Tickets £10. contact: judy.morrison1@btinternet.com, 020 8941 1227

HLO Musical Company is a friendly local community musical theatre company, staging award-winning Gilbert & Sullivan and other musical shows in west London since 1903. They rehearse on Mondays, 8-10pm at St Stephen's Church Hall, Parkside Road, Hounslow TW3 2LR. You are very welcome to come and join them at one of their rehearsals. *The Mikado from scratch*. Sat 10 July at Stephens Church, Hounslow TW3 2BP. Vocal scores available for hire. Tickets £18 for the day or £5 for the afternoon concert at 4pm. Check out their website or email info@hlo.org.uk
hlo.org.uk

COPY / FLYER DEADLINES

We have now resumed posting out the printed newsletter, therefore we can now accept flyers that can accompany it. The deadline for items to be included in the newsletter is:

Sunday 25 July
For events in September

The deadline for flyers to go out with the mailing is:

Wednesday 8 July
For events in September

Disclaimer: Whilst every care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information in this newsletter, we urge you to check details with the venues before attending an event.

If you need help with contact details, please contact our office info@artsrichmond.org.uk

Richmond Orchestra Sun 11 July at 5pm. Composed with the intention to 'stir the world', *Dvořák's 7th Symphony* is an unshackling of emotional intensity from a turbulent period in his life. Together with Rimsky-Korsakov's triumphant *Overture on Three Russian Themes*, Richmond Orchestra's Summer Family Concert welcomes all ages to the Landmark Arts Centre to celebrate the return of live music. The concert, conducted by Martin Smith, will last about 60 minutes with no interval. Tickets from

Landmark Arts Centre. Adults £10 Concessions £8. Students £5. Children (U16) free.
richmondorchestra.org.uk

Stoneleigh Orchestra

is holding a free one day orchestra workshop at St Catherine's School, Bramley, Guildford on Sunday 11th July from 10am to 4pm. During the day, players will work with conductors and sectional tutors on Dukas, The Sorcerer's Apprentice, and music from *Frozen*, culminating in a performance for family and friends. The workshop is open to players aged 8-13 years who are Grade 4-6 standard. Spaces are limited so prior registration is required at: stoneleighyouthorchestra.org.uk/workshop-signup

Richmond Opera invite you to a Come and Sing or Play Workshop, on Sat 24 July from 10:30am to 4:45pm. They will be studying choruses & music from Handel's *Saul* & Lampe's *Dragon of Wantley*, at The Vineyard Life Church's spacious main hall in Richmond, TW10 6AQ. The fee is £20 for singers and instrumentalists, which includes hire of music and potential solo opportunities. They will work at baroque pitch (A=415). Bring a packed lunch or eat locally. They aim to give a small free informal 'performance' from 4:15PM. Enquiries / Registration by 17th July to: info@richmondopera.org.uk. Everyone is welcome who wants to get (back) into live music-making!
richmondopera.org.uk

In Flagrate choir The choir has kept going since the initial outset of lockdown and

continued with rehearsals on Tuesday evenings - albeit mainly on-line - and they will remain with this format until there is a clear indication that they can return to singing together. Their excellent Musical Director, Eamonn O'Dwyer, has been working with old and new repertoire, in anticipation of normality returning, and concerts beginning. They would love to hear from you! Check out the website or contact Cathy Jago on catherine@cjhenergy.co.uk or inflagrantchoir.com

Teddington Choral Society TCS has managed to continue singing since the beginning of the pandemic and is continuing with online rehearsals on Monday evenings. It is followed by a Zoom rehearsal session directed either by Music Director, Julian Collings, or accompanist, Phil Culling. TCS is hoping to start physical rehearsals again as soon as possible and this will be a quick move as the choir knows well now how to manage socially distanced rehearsals. Feel free to contact them: infoteddchoral@gmail.com or teddingtonchoral.co.uk

Whitton Adult Community Singing They are meeting regularly online, using Zoom, until they can return to the large, well ventilated Function Hall at the Whitton Community Centre. If you have never sung, or only sung a little, or you just love to sing - no need to sing in public, just go along and enjoy learning some great songs. They learn songs from most genres - pop, gospel, classical, folk etc. This is a Singing Class for all adults, singing safely for health & wellbeing. Please contact Loulla Gorman for full details

by email: loulla82gorman@gmail.com or by phone: 07788 664957

Twickenham Chamber Choir

The Helen Astrid Singing Academy provides singing tuition, music workshops, choirs and performing opportunities with established music professionals and directors from theatre and opera. Twickenham Chamber Choir, rehearsals online via Zoom on Thursday evenings. Repertoire sacred, secular and popular classics. Enquiries helen@thehelenastridsingingacademy.com or thehelenastridsingingacademy.com

Follow Us

What's On

in the thriving local arts scene.

Follow us on Facebook
[@artsrichmonduk](https://www.facebook.com/artsrichmonduk)

Instagram
[artsrichmonduk](https://www.instagram.com/artsrichmonduk)

and Twitter
[artsrichmond_uk](https://twitter.com/artsrichmond_uk)

To become a regular recipient of this Newsletter, why not become a member?

Contact Us or Join Us

ETNA Community Centre
Room 21,
13 Rosslyn Road
Twickenham, TW1 2AR
020 8892 9446
info@artsrichmond.org.uk

Barnes Music Festival

culminated on the last weekend of May in an extravaganza of performances with a hugely varied and original Festival! After months of deprivation of live music – for audiences and performers alike – it was a joy to welcome international and local artists in spectacular performances ranging from opera, orchestral, singing, instrumental, musico-drama, film etc. We awarded the Barnes Young Musician of the Year 2021 to clarinettist Mila Mitrovic. Pop-Up Musicians have performed at care homes, community centres, outside shops and churches, and in Friends of the Festival front gardens to bring the enjoyment of live music throughout Barnes. barnesmusicfestival.com

Richmond upon Thames Festival of the Performing Arts

www.richmondfestival.org.uk

OSO Arts Centre

osoarts.org.uk

Landmark Arts Centre

landmarkartscentre.org

Langdon Down Museum of Learning Disability

langdondownmuseum.org.uk

Whitton Choral Society

whittonchoralsociety.net

Richmond Concerts

richmondconcerts.co.uk

Helen Astrid Singing Academy

thehelenastridsingingacademy.com

Instant Opera

instantopera.co.uk

West London Chamber Choir

musicmakersoflondon.org.uk

Concordia Voices For further information contact

secretary@concordiavoices.org or
visit their website
concordiavoices.org

singersandsongs.com
singersandsongs.com

Rogue Opera
vip.rogueopera.co.uk/welcome

Opéra Prélude
www.operaprelude.org

Queen Victoria's Consort
queenvictoriasconsort.co.uk

Old Sorting Office
osoarts.org.uk

Rock, Jazz & Folk



Landmark Arts Centre Thu 1 July at 7.30pm *Keith James In Concert – The Music of Yusef: Cat Stevens*. Tickets £25; Sat 3 July at 7.30pm Twickenham Choral Open Rehearsal. Tickets: free but pre-booking essential. Donations on the night will be welcomed; Fri 9 July at 8pm *Mark Harrison Band: Blues People – A Celebration of the Music & the People Who Make It*. Landmark Arts Centre, Ferry Rd, Teddington TW11 9NN

NEW AFFILIATE **The Jazz Sanctuary** is an exciting and vibrant jazz club based in St Margarets, Twickenham. Their aim is to showcase established and emerging artists and to bring more jazz and live music to SW London! thejazzsanctuary.co.uk

Eel Pie Club
eelpieclub.com

Powerjam Band Project
powerjambands.com

Mood Indigo Events
moodindigoevents.co.uk

Mark's Jazz Sessions phone
07799 582337 for information

Landmark Arts Centre
landmarkartscentre.org

OSO Arts Centre
osoarts.org.uk

JKL-Jazz See
Facebook.com/JKL-Jazz for dates of appearances in the area. The band is also always available for Weddings, Private Parties and Corporate events.

Museums



The Museum of Richmond
13 February - 18 September.
Exhibition: *The King's Observatory: Richmond's Science Story*. Discover the fascinating story of the King's Observatory, a hub for scientific research in Richmond for over 200 years. Extended version available online. [http://bit.ly/KingsObservatory Extended](http://bit.ly/KingsObservatoryExtended); Tue 27 to Fri 30 July *Summer Holidays: A Palace Called Home*. George III loved staying at Kew with his family. Discover the plans he had to build a palace fit for a King, and create your own palace models! To find out more and book, visit www.museumofrichmond.com/families
museumofrichmond.com

Musical Museum
musicalmuseum.co.uk

Historic Houses



The Friends of Marble Hill
friendsofmarblehill.org.uk

Strawberry Hill House
strawberryhillhouse.org.uk

Turner's House Sat 22 May to Sun 5 Sept Wed-Sun 10am-4pm - Booking is essential
EXHIBITION: *Turner's English Coasts*; *SPECIAL TALKS* Wed 18th August – *Turner's English Coasts exhibition tour* with House Director, Ricky Pound; *SUMMER BREAK FAMILY WORKSHOPS* Tue 27 July 2-4pm *Sketching in Nature*; Tue 10 Aug 2-4pm *Turner in Textiles: a different way to 'paint'*; *STORYTELLING AND ART*: Tue 10 Aug 2-4pm *Turner & the Sea*
turnershouse.org

Marble Hill House
English-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/marble-hill-house/

Walks, talks and courses



The Arts Society Richmond
Lectures are back in their usual venue at Duke Street with limited numbers for social distancing. Priority given to members, but guests most welcome virtually as lectures will be simultaneously available online via Zoom and YouTube for the time being,

with 7-day recordings also available for later viewing. Members will be sent Zoom links automatically and details of Eventbrite booking for live events. LIVE & VIRTUAL LECTURE Tue 6 July at 8pm. Sarah Cove will lecture on "*The English Face Unmask'd - 500 years of Portraiture, Materials & Techniques*". Free for members; £5 for non-members; VIRTUAL VISIT Wed 14 July at 11am Daniel Watkins will take us on a virtual tour, using Zoom & YouTube, of *Alnwick Castle*, its grounds & interiors. £5 contribution please. If you wish to join us for any of their events, please email Richmond@theartsociety.org for further details and to arrange payment, and you will be sent the Zoom link 24 hours in advance. theartsocietyrichmond.org

Kew Society Wed 7 July at 7pm. Webinar talk by Peter Fullagar *Virginia Woolf in Richmond*. He will be exploring how Richmond and the surrounding area influenced the writer. His recent book on the subject has been published in support of a campaign for a permanent, full-size bronze statue of the writer on Richmond Riverside. The talk is free to all and can be accessed via the [website](http://kewsociety.org)

Richmond U3A Wed 25 August at 2.30pm. A talk by Dr Vanessa Jenkins *Historic Jewels*. To name a few – the Peregrina Pearl, owned by Mary Tudor, Napoleon III and Liz Taylor, brooches worn to support the abolition of the slave trade, exquisite eggs and jewels designed by Fabergé. u3asites.org.uk/richmond-on-thames

NEW AFFILIATE **Hampton Hill Photographic Society** Wed 21 July from 8pm to 10pm. Online talk by Flower and Fine Art Photographer Polina Plotnikova FRPS "*Starting from a Blank Canvas*". Guests always welcome. For more information and to register, go to www.hamptonhillps.org.uk/programme/

Richmond Scientific Society Their lecture season has ended, but will be restarting in September and continue until May 2022. Before Covid their illustrated lectures were held on one Wednesday each month at 8pm in Vestry Hall, Richmond. It seems unlikely that they will be able to have an event there in September, so they shall be continuing via Zoom as they did for recent events. rss.btck.co.uk

York House Society yorkhousesociety.org.uk

Richmond Society richmondsociety.org.uk

Richmond Local History Society richmondhistory.org.uk

Kingston and District Branch of the Embroiderers' Guild kingstonanddistrictbranch.co.uk

Poetry Performance contact Anne Warrington on warringa@blueyonder.co.uk

Barnes Literary Society barnesliterarysociety.org.uk

Richmond Art Society richmondartsociety.com

Richmond & Twickenham Photographic Society rtps.org.uk

SHOWCOACH NEWS

Due to the pandemic, we have had to suspend many of the Showcoach activities but we are hopeful that we can soon meet up to visit a gallery, go to a concert or a play, However we have a few events in the pipeline so we hope you will join us on one or more of them. Let us hope that we will soon be out of lockdown and can enjoy the culture of the local area and of London.

RESIDENTIAL TRIP

There are still 2 places left on the residential trip to Northumberland in September this year. If you would like to come with us please get in touch with the office.

CHICHESTER THEATRE

We have organised a trip to Chichester to see "*South Pacific*" on Thursday 26 August. Tickets are selling fast so get in touch with the office if you wish to book.

A SOCIAL EVENT

We are hoping to organise a lunchtime meet-up at Orleans House Gallery but have not yet finalised details.

Arts Richmond office phone 020 8892 9446 or email info@artsrichmond.org.uk

Richmond Scientific Society rss.btck.co.uk

Borough of Twickenham Local History Society botlhs.co.uk/membership/

The Richmond Local History Society

richmondhistory.org.uk

The WEA (Workers Educational Association Richmond)

wea.org.uk/london/branches/richmond-branch

Popes Grotto Preservation Trust

popesgrotto.org.uk

Richmond and Twickenham Historical Association

history.org.uk

Richmond Association for the National Trust

For information contact the Programme Manager on tel: 020 8979 3834, email: wendyasim@btinternet.com nationaltrust.org.uk/features/richmond-association

Richmond Art Society

richmondartsociety.com

RHACC (Richmond and Hillcroft Adult and Community College)

rhacc.ac.uk

The Portcullis Trust

theportcullistrust.org.uk

SUPPORTING THE ARTS

Soon we will be able to be free of lockdown constraints, if the pandemic continues to abate. As foreign travel may be out of the question, let us be tourists in our own country. The UK is rich in scenery, culture and good food so let us support all those businesses and industries by patronising them.

MANY THANKS TO ALL OUR TREMENDOUS SUPPORTERS

Arts Richmond is blessed to have some wonderful people who work very hard to put on many cultural events, encourage self-expression and creativity in Richmond borough and beyond. Foremost of these are the Committee and the Patrons, amongst others. We thank them for such valued support. Here is the current list of the Presidents and Patrons.

TRUSTEES

Clive Bradley
John Coombs
Sandra Green
Gillian Thorpe
Rachel Tranter

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

VICE PRESIDENTS

John Coombs
Hilary Dodman
Pam Frazer
Sandra Green
Edie Purdue

CHAIR

Nicholas George

TREASURER

Simon Bartlett
Jean Wit (*Assistant Treasurer*)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Nancy Baldwin
Peter Cregeen
Hilary Dodman
Pam Frazer
Jo Humphreys
Janet Langhorne
Jim Millard

Heather Montford
Sue Pandit
Lesley Pollesche
Gillian Thorpe
Anne Warrington
Linda White

CO-OPTED TEAM MEMBERS

Sue Bell (Drama)
Clive Bradley (Literature)
Laurie Coombs (Drama)
Heather Morgan (Showcoach)
Sue Ribbans (Visual Arts)

PRESIDENTS 2020-2021

The Right Honourable Sir Vince Cable and Lady Rachel Cable

PATRONS

Ms Diana Armfield
Ms Marcia Ashton
Sir David Attenborough OM, CH, KBE
Ms Claire Ireland
Mr Gyles Brandreth
Mrs Sara Burn Edwards
The Right Honourable Sir Vince Cable and Lady Rachel Cable
Ms Liz Crowther
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Mr Bamber Gascoigne
Mr Julian Glover & Ms Isla Blair
Sir Jeremy Hanley KCMG
Ms Lee Langley
Sir Trevor McDonald
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Ms Helena Richardson
Ms Anne M. Sebba
Mr Colin Squire
Mr John Stapleton
Mr Colin Starkey
Mr Sam Walters MBE & Ms Auriol Smith
Mrs Kay Williams

Join Us

Complete and return for
Individual Membership
£20

Name:
Address:

Phone:

Email:

Date:

N.B. To ensure privacy under the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) which came into force in May 2018 we are required to gain your consent to hold your personal details on our database. In order to continue to receive our newsletter please tick the box

A lack of response will NOT be accepted as your agreement.

I am paying £20 electronically for my membership. Bank details: Arts Richmond Co-operative Bank, Sort Code 08-92-99 Account No. 65130096. Please

include 'mmship' in reference

In the future I would like to pay £20 by standing order for a yearly subscription

I would like my payments to be treated as being Gift Aid donations

Please return this form to:
Room 21, ETNA 13 Rosslyn Rd, Twickenham TW1 2AR



Arts Richmond (*est. 1966*) is an independent charity (251359) supporting 100+ Arts and Cultural Organisations in and around the borough of Richmond upon Thames

Arts Richmond is an independent charity with 100+ affiliated societies based in and around the borough of Richmond upon Thames. As well as representing the voluntary arts sector on the Richmond upon Thames Borough Council's *Arts Advisory Forum*, we provide a wide variety of services and events aimed at promoting local arts and cultural activity including:

Regular Information about *What's On* and *How to Get involved* in the thriving local arts & cultural scene through our *website*, and monthly *What's On Newsletter*.

Showcoach: Excursions to plays, musicals, operas, concerts and places of interest – some with coaches from pick-up points across the borough. We know how important safe transport and companionship is for our members and we make every effort to ensure ease of access for all.

Literature: We run literary events throughout the year including our annual *Book Picnic* on Richmond Green, and *Young Writers' Festival*, as well as events in the Richmond upon Thames Literature Festival.

Drama: We promote the performances of local professional and amateur theatre companies and run the *Swan Drama Awards* – our local version of the Oscars – rewarding amateur talent in the borough – as well as encouraging playwriting.

Music: We promote the extensive programme of concerts organised by concert societies, choral and other music groups throughout the borough and run an annual *Choral Workshop* with eminent local conductors.

Visual Arts and Photography: We promote the work of local artists and run exhibitions and competitions offering the opportunity to buy paintings, prints and photographs at affordable prices.

Heritage and Museums: We promote the events and exhibitions taking place at the large number of historic places in the local area. www.artsrichmond.org.uk



@artsrichmonduk



artsrichmonduk

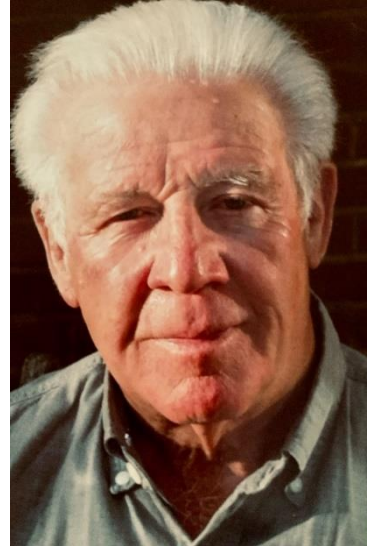


@ArtsRichmonduk

FERGUS O'KELLY (1932-2020) AND JOHN BELLAMY (1937-2021), A PERSONAL TRIBUTE



Fergus O'Kelly



John Bellamy

Sadly, during the last six months we have lost two past Swan Judges. Both were popular and very active octogenarians, devoted to the stage, and both actors and accomplished singers with rich baritone voices. As another erstwhile Swan Judge, I could just focus on that part of their lives, but our mutual involvements in the thespian world were far more intertwined and I admired each of them for the skills they had to offer and which they gave so freely.

Fergus O'Kelly died on 6th November 2020, aged 88, and John Bellamy on 3rd May 2021, and aged 83. They will be greatly missed by the Arts Richmond community. Their contribution to the arts locally is mirrored across the Thames; as Fergus on the Surrey side, so John on the Middlesex side.

Fergus O'Kelly was born in July 1932 in southern Ireland. As an actor, he featured in many films, usually as the twinkle-eyed Irishman, although on the stage he toured in *Never Stand Still*, about John and Charles Wesley. In the 1960s Fergus started presenting the BBC Radio 4 schools programmes *Music Workshop* and *Singing Together*. From 1968 he also presented another educational programme, the award winning *Science All Around*. Also on Radio 4, he did book readings and voiceovers for *Front Row*.

The high point for many in Fergus's television career was playing Fr Barty Dunne, "the Laughing Priest" in the popular series, *Father Ted* (1995). This role was featured in a recent obituary in the national newspaper [The Irish Post](#).

Fergus had studied at the Guildhall School of Music in his twenties and he was a very gifted musician and an outstanding singer and pianist. Still recording jazz standards until fairly recently, he first hit the music charts in the later 1960's with an EP of *The Lark in the Clear Air*. A singing coach of the highest standard, he once had his own

voice production studio in Putney. He became Director of Music at St. Osmund's Church, Barnes and was the founder and conductor of the Castelneau Chorale.

However, Fergus was best known in Arts Richmond circles as the leading light in Barnes Community Players, which he co-founded with Creina Foy in the early 'eighties. During his period as Chairman and later Life President, BCP raised record amounts for charity. For this achievement, he was made a Swan Accolade winner in 2011.

Fergus was a Judge in the 2006-07 season. He tackled the task of Judge with great energy and his usual good-humour, but I recall some very robust discussions during judging.

One of the last times that I saw Fergus was BCP's *King Charles III* at Kitson Hall. He was in the audience, as he had been suffering from skin cancer and had had a bad accident a few days before, scalding his forearm. It was the very day that my own brother had died, and so we spent much of the interval consoling each other.

Fergus was an open a friendly man, always with a huge smile. Our hearts go out to his widow Phyllis, to whom he had been married for 61 years, and to his daughter Deirdre, who keeps the family acting spirit motoring at BCP, and to her sisters, Grainne, Lisa and Catherine.

John Bellamy was born in Cheam in December 1937. He was an outstanding pupil at St Paul's School in Hammersmith, excelling in classics, and he went on to Queen's College Oxford, where he read Greats. He was equally at home on the sports field playing rugby and cricket. He had even learnt surfing as boy with grandparents in Cornwall, but cricket came first and he continued playing for the Old Pauline Club for many decades.

John's father, Edward Bellamy, was a member of BROS for 50 years, a leading light and sometime Chairman. John naturally started performing in plays and musicals with BROS and then with Hinchley Wood Operatic.

It is over a quarter of a century that I have been involved in theatre with John, with several Swan affiliates, including SMDG, OHADS, and TTC. The first time I acted with him was in 1999 in Ayckbourn's *Season's Greetings* for SMDG, I as Neville and John as Bernard, an amateur puppeteer. Puppeteering was no problem; John had once learnt tap-dancing for a particular role. The last time was in *Pravda* in 2013 for TTC. I was La Roux, but John played no less than five very different roles.

John had also acted very many times in the series of short plays that I have written every summer for the Garrick's Temple, and I have directed John a number of times, including with The Stage Company in *Forever in Trust*, which I was commissioned to write for the bicentenary of The Hampton Fund charity in 2011, when John played the Prince Regent.

Most notably I remember directing him in 2002 in Noël Coward's *Nude with Violin*, for which the lead part, Sebastien, requires the actor to speak eight languages. With his great linguistic skills John took on the role, having no problem whatsoever with French, German, Italian and Spanish. He had not had any Russian or Chinese though, so together we had a few lessons with tutors. I was amazed how quickly John assimilated Russian and even Chinese! His talents as a classicist certainly helped me when revisiting some of the Greek dramatists.

John had a strong singing voice, which was honed by long-term performing with bodies such as the London Symphony Chorus. His language skills had again helped when he sang professionally in the chorus of Berlioz's epic *Les Troyens* with L'Opéra de Lille. We shared a love of opera, but John's quick wit and gleeful performing made him ideal for Gilbert and Sullivan, in which he shone. He would make yearly pilgrimages taking G&S to France, where he owned a house.

John was a Swan Judge, for 2018-19 and 2019-20. His judging observations were always sharply observed. Hosting us at Melrose, his Teddington home, gave me a chance for discussing his wide art collection (we both collected Chris Orr) and his methodically catalogued library.

It might have been that John and I could have known each other in the 1950's, but for a quirk in circumstances. I had been offered a half scholarship to St Paul's. Had my father been able to afford the rest, I would have entered the school when John was in the upper sixth.

Tragically John's last days were a losing battle, whilst recovering from a stroke, against a series of infections, culminating in Covid 19. It seems ironic to lose a friend with such an intellect and otherwise in robust health, when the ravages of the pandemic are subsiding. John's wife Jane, known to Hampton as Dr Young, a much-respected ex-GP, and to me as the Hampton Fund trustee with whom I worked at its bicentennial, died just before Christmas 2019. Our deepest sympathy is with Alex and Ed, John's daughter and son, on their double loss.

Fergus O'Kelly and John Bellamy achieved much in their lives, yet wore their achievements lightly. Both had far more to give. The world of the arts, not only locally but much further afield will be poorer without them.

Keith Wait

RICHMOND UPON THAMES PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL



Virtual Music Festival 2021

An online Festival was held in May 2021 for the Piano, Vocal and Instrumental Sections of the Festival which attracted a high-quality entry from across the UK, the Republic of Ireland and France. Adjudicators Paul Harris, Ben Costello, Susan Clark and Fiona McLean Buechel assessed over 300 video performances and all entrants received a detailed mark sheet and a certificate.

Major award winners:

Young String Player of the Year – Alix Vaillot Szwarc (Menuhin School, Cobham)

Young Wind Player of the Year – Lola Frisby Williams (Devon)

Young Singer of the Year – Hannah Wiseman (Twickenham)

Young Pianist of the Year – Eliza Ruffle (Richmond)

More details, pictures and videos on www.richmondfestival.org.uk



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