‘Physical Energy’ Gallops into 2018!

PHYSICAL ENERGY is presently on show at the Royal Academy of Arts.

As part of the bi-centenary celebrations for George Frederic Watts (1817-1904) the Watts Gallery Trust embarked on a part crowd-funding project to create a new bronze casting from the original studio model. The idea is to site this monumental bronze sculpture in a prominent location along the A3, close to the Watts Gallery - Artists’ Village at Compton.

As part of this journey back to Guildford, this massive sculpture has been temporarily installed in the courtyard of the Royal Academy of Arts, 113 years after the original sculpture was first displayed in 1904 as part of their Summer Exhibition.

Physical Energy was the culmination of G F Watts’s ambition in the field of public sculpture, embodying the artist’s belief that access to the great world of art would bring immense benefits to the country at large. Without specific reference to any individual, Watts conceived Physical Energy as an allegory of human vitality and humanity’s ceaseless struggle for betterment.

Alistair Burtenshaw, who succeeded Perdita Hunt as Director of Watts Gallery Trust in September last year, commented: “We would like to thank Guildford Arts, the Art Fund and the many generous donors who have helped us reach this milestone in our ambition to create a public art landmark for Surrey. It is thrilling to see Physical Energy at the Royal Academy ahead of its journey to Compton, where it will stand as a symbol of the rich, cultural heritage of this area”

Further information: artsEGG.uk or www.wattsgallery.org.uk

The original arriving at the Royal Academy 1904
Are We Serious About Public Art?!

It is an unfortunate truth that, when money is tight, the very first thing to be cut is the Art & Culture Budget! With so many more demanding essential services and social dilemmas that beset local councils, it is understandable that public art must take a back seat, therefore in real terms, can any local authority be serious about Public Art?

The traditional way of funding public art is through money received from developers and, although there are certain administrative changes that may be made, the end result will be the same. This ad-hoc way of funding ultimately means that virtually all public art can only be relatively unobtrusive, almost mediocre in stature, and certainly not something that has any sort of presence.

So what is the solution? Perhaps the way forward would be to run parallel public arts projects through a charitable trust or foundation? This would enable funding to be obtained through a multitude of sources from industry, commerce, lottery, private philanthropists, through to the new favourite of crowd-funding!

The importance of resonating public art is very well accepted across all sectors of the community and, with the confidence of a new charitable trust, could have a much more controlled and objective decision making process?

How else will it be possible to have some more iconic works in the Public Realm in both the town centre and the Gateways to the town?

Welcome to Jan Todd

Jan Todd moved to Guildford in 2005 when she began working at the Guildford Institute. Originally from South East London, she has a varied background in both secretarial and administrative work.

Since leaving her post as Deputy Manager at the Institute in December 2014, Jan has turned her hand to working on a supermarket checkout, selling gin, invigilating university exams and a bit of journalism.

She takes a keen interest in the arts and is looking forward to her new role as GA’s Membership Secretary.

Bill Ward, G A Chairman

GA’s Small Grants

One of the primary objectives of Guildford Arts is to nurture, promote and support any art projects within the Borough. To this end, an important GA initiative is to award small grants of £250-£500 to help aspiring artists.

Our next round of applications is planned for April, with the grant money available in May.

Ideas or projects must be ‘not for profit’, and are usually of a one-off nature. Gaining grant funding from us can usually be helpful when trying for larger grants.

For more general information see our web-site or send an outline of your project for consideration to: gagrants@guildfordarts.com

Mike Beckwith, GA Grants
A New Service For Arts Lovers!
Launching artsEGG.uk Pin Board

Guildford Arts provides two websites for the benefit of its members and the ‘arts’ interested citizens of the Guildford area.

ArtsEGG.uk (Arts Events in Guildford Gateway), our flagship site, is populated by well over 100 registered arts event organisers to provide a comprehensive view of Guildford’s remarkably active cultural scene.

Whilst the home page provides an intriguing and dynamic ‘taster’ of the range of arts offerings, it is the Pin Board that attracts most attention, giving an easy way to explore events by category. Clicking on an individual entry provides links to facilitate further enquiries and bookings.

However, if you are not the kind of person that happily visits websites on a regular basis, a new ArtsEGG.uk feature could be of interest. A newsletter service has just been launched. By signing up for it you will receive a monthly update of recently (since the previous newsletter) posted events with the same links to let you pursue items of interest. It is designed to be particularly effective on cell phones!

Give it a try – and encourage your friends to do the same.

Our recently replaced membership orientated website Guildfordarts.com is still going through development as members increasingly put it to use. The hope is that it will become a useful means for members to exchange information about their activities and interests. In particular, we wish to encourage our Practitioner and Organisation Members to populate their profiles so that we can all enjoy the variety and quality of their contributions. (There are over 50 Practitioner and more than 25 Organisation Members of Guildford Arts!).

Take a look at the ‘Directories’ on the right-hand side of the Home page.

Would you like to contribute to the design and content of the site - and the home page in particular? New ideas are always welcome!

Please contact John O’Keefe by email: gawebdev@guildfordarts.com
After more than a year of research and consultation, two major Art Strategies were tabled and approved by Guildford Borough Council late last year. These two strategies together will, hopefully, make the next five years very productive ones for GBC’s involvement in the arts. Broadly speaking, Arts Development is about increasing participation in the arts, while Public Art is the process of an artist working in the public realm with the local community.

The Arts Development Strategy seeks to highlight the importance of the arts and to allow the council, and its partners, to identify and secure resources to help increase participation in the arts in the future. It will strive to support local artists, particularly with better networking, sharing of information and aims to develop more opportunities for young people to take part in art projects across all communities in the borough.

The Public Arts Strategy is concerned with identifying the key priorities for public art projects over the next five years. Public art is often thought of as a large iconic piece like a sculpture, but it can be small, or a series of two or more art works, and it can have a functional purpose such as a bench or lighting, landscaping or traffic calming. To this end, it is useful to think of public art as the process of artists working in the public realm, and with communities.

As regards the funding of public art, it must be noted that developers pay for virtually all public art projects as instructed through the planning process. At the moment, payments are made under Section 106 and, currently, the planning process specifies roughly where, in the vicinity of the development, public art should be placed. This may change under the new system of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) but nevertheless it will be developer money that will be earmarked for public art, without the use of any public funding.
Established more than fifteen years ago, this fantastic sculpture park is reputed to be the world’s largest all-year sculpture exhibition that features over 300 renowned and emerging artists, showcasing more than 600 modern and contemporary sculptures.

The Sculpture Park in Churt is set within ten acres of stunning arboretum and water gardens that have been developed with a series of landscaping projects and the introduction of many thousands of new plants, bulbs and specimen trees that take advantage of the natural contours of the rolling Surrey Hills. The result is a perfect haven for displaying this amazing eclectic range of sculptures, with over two miles of pathways meandering through mixed heath and woodland in a natural valley enhanced by three lakes fed by two natural springs.

It is Britain’s most atmospheric sculpture park that showcases a unique collection of 20th Century modern and contemporary sculpture.

The Sculpture Park is the result of Eddie Powell’s passion, design and dedication to display sculpture within extraordinary landscapes. With a 1st class Honours degree in Photography & Sculpture, and more than fifty years experience as an entrepreneur excelling in the sale and understanding of paintings, sculpture, prints and photography, Eddie is an astute and energetic businessman with a visionary eye. This enables him to identify and nurture both well-established and the best emerging sculptors.

His forward vision in bringing together the beautiful natural surroundings and stunning man-made creations provides a unique opportunity for artists to show their work, whilst allowing the public to enjoy the sculpture for sale in the relaxed environment of the gardens.

All-in-all the Sculpture Park is a unique asset for Surrey and well worth a visit.

For more information phone: 01428 605453
Alistair Burtenshaw FRSA is the director and CEO of the Watts Gallery - Artists’ Village, Chair of Arvon, a fellow of the Royal Society for Arts and a member of the Book Society.

He was previously Director and CEO at the Charleston Trust, Chair of the Board of Trustees at Book Trust, President of Honour of the Paris Cookbook Fair 2013, an Industry Advisory Board Member of the Oxford International Centre for Publishing Studies, as well as Director of Books & Publishing (Worldwide) and a director of The London Book Fair at Reed Exhibitions Ltd.

Alistair is expert at forging powerful working relations at CEO, foreign government ministry and cultural organisation levels, articulating new business propositions with clarity, purpose and cultural sensitivity. He has been and continues to be a highly successful leader and innovator of the arts.

Born in Westminster 1969, his university education spans both the University of Hertfordshire and The LUISS Guido Carli University where he graduated with a 2:1 BA Hons. Degree in Business Studies.

Alistair comments: “This year we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of artist GF Watts with a magnificent new bronze of Watts’ sculptural masterpiece Physical Energy in the courtyard of the Royal Academy. As we look to the future, I believe Watts Gallery - Artists’ Village has a central role to play in our community - through our transformative ‘Art for All’ education and learning programmes, engaging audiences with both the art and ideas of GF Watts and designer Mary Watts, who believed in the power of the arts to transform society - and by showcasing the work of leading artists, past and present through our temporary exhibitions programmes. Whether welcoming visitors from Surrey, the UK or overseas to explore our unique collections of mid 19th to early 20th-century paintings, sculpture and other decorative arts, or our arts and crafts built heritage, Watts Gallery - Artists’ Village has something for everyone.

I’m very proud of the way Surrey residents have embraced the Watts Gallery - Artists’ Village and they have been at the heart of its transformation in recent years. As we continue to develop our offer, I look forward to working in close partnership with our community to ensure we provide the best possible experience for all our visitors”.

For further information: www.wattsgallery.org.uk or tamsin@wigwampr.com
Mary Branson - Champion of Installation Arts

Mary Branson M.A. specialises in large-scale installations, often in unique spaces, including a good number that have been temporarily located in the Surrey countryside. She uses light, sound and repetitive forms to create works that are often conceptual, minimal and abstract, but always underpinned with multiple layers of meaning and symbolism.

Her most recent project has been ‘New Dawn’ - a seven metre high permanent light sculpture in the Westminster Hall, Houses of Parliament. This followed her post as Artist in Residence to the House of Commons, and is a celebration of the women’s suffrage movement. 2018 marks the centenary of the right to vote for women.

‘New Dawn’ is the first piece of permanent contemporary art in the Palace of Westminster, and is viewed by close to a million visitors each year!

Mary enjoys taking artistic residencies, notably working with Crisis for the homeless in Oxford, and with the Watts Gallery working with women prisoners in HMP Send. She also works as a freelance fine art lecturer at universities and colleges, and has appeared on both television and radio. Her regular public talks always provoke much interested discussion!

“As a Surrey artist, much of my work has some roots in the local landscape. I grew up here and have spent plenty of time walking the chalk tracks of the Surrey Hills. The far reaching views work for me as an ideal gallery space, and setting up new ways of viewing a situation or installation is key for me. My methods are bound up with conceptual propositions about the human condition. I don’t offer answers, but try to use the space to articulate these ideas.

“I like to build partnerships with everyone concerned with the space I use, and I try to encourage participation in the creative process, so that the final piece resonates with its community.”

Mary’s next project is a light installation for the Swiss Church, Covent Garden, for January 2018. This personal piece explores the notion of ‘frozen grief’ for those dealing with loved ones with Alzheimer’s or dementia.

For further information: https://marybranson.com
Art & Culture Coming to West Horsley Place

The Mary Roxburghe Trust, is a charity that has been created by Bamber and Christina Gascoigne to rescue and restore West Horsley Place so that it can become a vibrant art and cultural centre. The Trust’s vision is for the Grade 1 listed house and surrounding 380 acre estate to become an exciting hub for both the performing arts, visual arts and also for the hands-on teaching of arts & crafts.

Following the hugely successful first summer festival for Grange Park Opera in the new Theatre in the Woods at West Horsley Place, in November the Trust received the news that GBC’s Planning Committee had voted to approve its Arts Planning Application. Now the Trust can begin to rescue and restore a house of significant historic and architectural importance which dates from the 15th Century and which, in October 2016, was placed on the Historic England ‘At Risk’ Register.

To give the Estate a new life and purpose, and to ensure that it delivers a wide public benefit, the Trust will now also be able to progress its plans to further encourage the performing arts and to introduce visual arts and the teaching of arts & crafts. Work is already underway to rescue and restore the Grade II listed stables and barns situated close by the manor house in which teaching and workshops will take place.

Commenting, Peter Pearce, Director of the Mary Roxburghe Trust said:

“There has been a manor house at West Horsley Place since Domesday. It is tremendously important that this beautiful house & estate will be restored and made fit to stand for the coming centuries, and that for the first time, West Horsley Place will be accessible to all; a place to learn new skills, enjoy stimulating performances and connect with history.

“Our vision is that West Horsley Place will become a great cultural and heritage asset for Guildford, that it will enhance tourism and will contribute to the rural economy in this area. We are delighted that Guildford Borough Council supports our vision and we extend our thanks to everyone who has helped us to reach this major milestone. Now...we must raise the funds required to ensure this can happen!”

For further information: www.westhorsleyplace.org or Tamsin Williams - tamsin@wigwam.com
“Enrich, Entertain & Inspire”

The Cranleigh Arts Centre, established more than 30 years ago, remains a beacon of how a charity and community arts organisation should be run! The Centre offers the best in film, live music, talks, comedy, theatre and the visual arts. Their eclectic programme caters for all ages and tastes. It is a friendly local venue run by a small staff and an army of dedicated volunteers.

In addition to their top quality entertainment, there are numerous classes, children's activities and workshops on offer - with everything from pottery classes to Bollywood dancing!

Cranleigh Arts Centre’s mission is to enrich, entertain and inspire all those that visit. Whatever brings you through the doors, they promise a warm welcome and a good time. Their friendly tea bar serves a delicious range of snacks, cakes and refreshments throughout the day and a fully licensed bar opens for evening events.

For more information: artsEGG.uk or www.cranleighartscentre.org

‘Paper & Clay’ - 70 Years of Picasso’s Work

Showcasing Picasso’s boundary-pushing creativity in drawing, printmaking and ceramics over seven decades of his career, the exhibition will demonstrate his complete sense of liberation and experimentation across mediums and focus on works he produced on paper and in ceramic, celebrating the mischievous genius who loved to break through conventional boundaries of medium and genre.

Throughout Picasso’s life, the prolific artist created a vast array of hand drawings. From a pastel drawing he created as a teenager, to a major preparatory study made in 1937 for the painting Guernica, to a dextrous ink drawing made in 1971 at the age of 89, this exhibition will show the extraordinary range of his achievement over a period of seventy years.

From the late 1950s, Richard Attenborough and his family built up a huge collection of more than 250 pieces of ceramic works, the bulk of which have now been bequeathed to the New Walk Museum & Art Gallery in Leicester.

For this exhibition, the Lightbox has collaborated with the New Walk Museum, the Victoria & Albert Museum and private collectors to bring this celebration together.

For more information: artsEGG.uk or www.thelightbox.org.uk
‘The Bard’s Not That Hard’

Established in 2006, Guildford Shakespeare Company has grown into one of Surrey’s largest and best-loved producing theatre companies. Its aim is to re-invigorate the act of theatre-going, break down barriers and prove that everyone can access and enjoy the works of Shakespeare.

This year, GSC’s Education Department engaged with over 4000 people, young and old, across Surrey and the South East.

“Our aim is to become the ‘go-to’ provider for Shakespeare education in the South East outside of London” explains Ant Stones, GSC’s Head of Education. “Through our work in schools and our in-house drama clubs, participants are empowered to grow in confidence, learn new skills and increase their understanding and experience of the world’s greatest playwright.”

In 2017 GSC’s professional teams visited 34 schools across the South East, delivering 92 bespoke workshops with children of all ages. Children are able to witness an actor’s approach up-close, often acting alongside them, before trying out the scenes themselves.

“We are dedicated to working with all sections of society and run several outreach programmes with some of the most disadvantaged schools in Surrey. With the support of the charity Delight, we reach a new generation of theatre-goers with touring productions, many of whom have never visited a theatre, let alone seen Shakespeare live.”

GSC also runs 9 weekly in-house clubs in Guildford, Woking and Godalming, including primary after-school clubs, a Saturday drama group, and a flagship young company called ‘The Bard’s Not That Hard’.

For more information: artsEGG.uk or www.guildford-shakespeare-company.co.uk

Independent Venue Week is a 7-day celebration at the end of January of small venues around the UK and a nod to the people that own, run and work in them, week in, week out. These venues give artists their first experience of playing live in front of an audience, and for fans to get up close to artists that may well one day be playing stadiums and festival main stages.

On board this year, as official partners, are BBC Music and Arts Council England, alongside Creative Scotland and Arts Council Wales.

For more information: artsEGG.uk or www.theboileroom.net
Dispelling Confusion?

It’s all in the name and the order of the words!

The art scene in Guildford is thriving but the names of the organisations are causing confusion! Perhaps you can find some clarity with their names and descriptions:

Guildford Art Society: www.guildfordartsociety.co.uk is the longest established group which was founded in 1926 and has a current membership of 300 artists, practising and non-practising, amateur and professional. The Society offers a full programme of demonstrations, talks, workshops and two annual exhibitions. It is a social as well as a creative organisation.

Guildford Arts: www.guildfordarts.com is a charity dedicated to the promotion and development of arts activities, of all varieties, in the Guildford area. The Art@Work scheme displaying art in local offices is run by Guildford Arts, which also presents Yvonne Arnaud Art summer exhibition at the Mill Studio with a mixture of local and nationally known artists. Guildford Arts also offers a Small Grants Scheme with the principal aim of helping new local arts initiatives/projects to get off the ground. Arts EGG (Arts Events in Guildford Gateway) www.artsEGG.uk is the innovative website giving details of all current arts events in the Guildford area.

The Arts Society Guildford: www.theartssociety.org/guildford is the new moniker for Guildford Evening Decorative & Fine Arts Society (GEDFAS). The Society offers an exciting programme of monthly lectures on a vast range of arts related topics given by eminent speakers. There is also the annual Special Interest Day in association with the Guildford Book Festival, and day visits by coach to places of great interest, including some which are not often open to the public. The Society also supports and promotes the Arts in the area through the activities of Young Arts, Heritage Volunteers and Church Recording Teams.

Jan Wilkinson, Guildford Arts, Deputy Chairman

Do You Love to Sing?

A Cappella singing, and very close harmony Barbershop singing, can be the most enjoyable and exciting form of vocal expression there is.

Guildford Harmony Ladies Chorus sing A Cappella and Barbershop in close 4-part harmony. We would like to introduce our new Musical Director, Di Crosfield. Di is a vocal coach, opera singer, choral singer and competition judge whose wicked sense of humour makes her great fun to work with. If you would like to try us out do come along to one of our rehearsals.

For more information please visit: www.guildfordharmony.org or e-mail contact@guildfordharmony.org
Or phone: Annika 07884 234283 or 01483 306182
GA members and other arts organisations may send suitable copy or articles at any time before 10 April for publication on or about 25 April 2018. Please send your contributions to the editor by e-mail.

MEMBERS: advertise your arts event in our regular mail-outs.

E-mail below for the mailing schedule and confirmation of available space. Flyers should be A5 size or folded A4. We send out 450 copies and are able to include flyers from other groups, dependent on weight, at a nominal cost of £45

gaflyers@guildfordarts.com

Become a Member

- Are you interested in or involved in the literary, visual or performing arts?
- Would you like to know more about what arts events and activities are available?
- Perhaps you would like to promote your own artistic activities to a wide Guildford based audience?

If your answer to any of the above is ‘yes’ then Guildford Arts should be of interest.

- We are an organisation dedicated to the nurture and promotion of the arts in the Guildford area.
- We are a registered charity that draws its membership from both the providers of artistic experiences and those who delight in and support those offerings.
- We run exhibitions, talks and events organised by ourselves, or in association with others.
- We provide financial support for arts initiatives of all kinds.
- We provide promotion of arts endeavours through our regular News & Views and our two web-sites.