

the **RCSheriff** Trust
advancing the arts in Elmbridge

ANNUAL REVIEW
2012
&
PROPOSED PROGRAMME
2013



Art Work from Tales of the Riverbank

1. AIMS OF THE R C SHERRIFF TRUST

To develop, promote and support the amateur and professional arts in the Borough of Elmbridge, through:- awarding grant aid to local artists, arts organisations, venues and projects; organising and directly managing arts initiatives; publishing and distributing a free listings magazine, "**Arts Focus**", three times a year; and offering advice and information to the arts community and to members of the public.

OBJECTIVES

The R C Sherriff Trust supports the arts in Elmbridge, through its grant-making and its self-generated projects, for the following purposes:

- To support and stimulate excellence, new ideas and innovation in the arts in the borough, whether amateur or professional
- To invest in the creative talent of individual artists in Elmbridge and to provide opportunities for them to develop further their skills and knowledge
- To increase opportunities for all Elmbridge residents to take part in or experience high-quality arts activities, whatever their economic or social circumstances
- To increase resources and improve facilities for the arts in the borough
- To support and encourage initiatives aimed at the development of new audiences and venues for the arts in the borough
- To promote good practice in management, marketing, fundraising and educational work amongst arts organisations in Elmbridge, and to encourage collaboration.

2. PROGRAMME FOR 2012: OUTCOMES

2.1. Governance, Networking, Planning and Strategy:

- Convened 4 meetings of the full Board (quarterly).
- Continued the working relationships with Surrey Arts Officers and participated in meetings of the Surrey Arts and Leisure Development Officers Group (SALDO).
- Met regularly with the Elmbridge Arts Development Officer to co-ordinate plans and services and to agree on areas of co-operation, such as the annual Literary Competition and EBC's first Youth Arts Festival "Look:Hear".
- Maintained and increased working relationships with other partners in the borough, including Carer Support Elmbridge; the Centres for the Retired; the Centre Manager at The Heart; Cobham Chamber of Commerce; Cobham Churches Together; Elmbridge Arts Council; Elmbridge Borough Council; Elmbridge Community Link; Elmbridge Housing Trust; Elmbridge Museum; Elmbridge Youth Theatre; Fast and Loose Theatre Company; the Friends of St George's, Esher; Hinchley Wood Education Trust; individual schools; JTI; Painshill Park; Love of Learning; Music in Hospitals; the Princess Alice Hospice; Riverhouse Arts Centre; Surrey Brass; the Voice Education Trust; Walton Business Group; Walton Charity and Walton and Weybridge Advocacy Group.

General Management and Marketing:

- Produced and distributed 3 issues of "Arts Focus", with a regular review of, and improvements to, the format, database, and distribution system, *through the services of a freelance Editor.*
- Continued to improve the services and information available via the **website**, *through the services of a freelance Webmaster.*
- Continued to promote and manage the hire of our two sets of **Radio Microphones (Trantec and Sennheiser systems)** and small **Exhibition Stands**. We have 16 microphones available, various combinations of which were hired out on **9** occasions. The display boards were used by the staff to mount displays about R C Sherriff and the work of the Trust at appropriate events throughout the year.



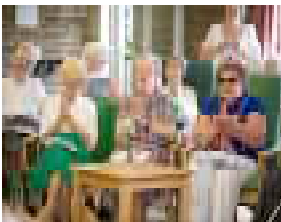
- Continued to review and improve the office administrative systems, and to keep the Trust's administration costs under close scrutiny.
- Administered and supervised 4 (quarterly) grant application/assessment 'rounds'.

3.2 Arts Projects:

3.2.1 2012 DIRECTLY MANAGED PROJECTS

- **January onwards: Elders Arts Project (a three-year programme from June 2011)**

January was the start of the second 'half' of our first year of this project, run in partnership with **Carer Support Elmbridge, Elmbridge Housing Trust** and **Walton Charity**, and supported by local business, **JTI**. We continued with the monthly Friday **art/creative writing workshops**, run by *artists, Sue Meer and Mary Quinn, of Artwords*, at **City Wharf House**, Thames Ditton; and the weekly Thursday **Singalongs** with *Pete Allen and Craig Murdoch, of Whirlygig Arts*, at **Fenner House**, Hersham. After Easter, we added in a shorter weekly Singalong, on Thursday afternoons, at **Sherwood House**, Walton, where the residents are quite frail and confused.



The highlight of the summer 'term' was a very successful **Diamond Jubilee Tea Party and Singalong**, for *all* the participants in the project, at **Fenner House**, on Thursday 31st May. The afternoon included an exhibition of the art work and written pieces, decorated with bunting created by members of the art workshop.

We ran a third intensive **art and writing project**, for four days per week for four weeks, in July and August, in two venues – **Hersham Community Hall** on Mondays and Wednesdays, and **City Wharf House** on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Guided and encouraged by Sue and Mary, the participants created two communal collage friezes as well as individual books of creative writing and reminiscence, on the theme of "**Tales from the Riverbank**". These were first displayed at a special tea party at JTI's UK Head Office in Weybridge, on Sunday 30th September, where they stayed for two weeks, and then again in Walton Charity's Mayfield House on Friday 26th October. When installed as one continuous mural, the artwork looked very impressive! It was a great achievement, and has now been given a permanent home on the walls of City Wharf House.



The monthly art/writing workshops, and the weekly Singalongs resumed in September. The latter sessions culminated in an invitation to participate in EHT's Christmas Party for their elderly

residents, which took the form of a **Tea Dance and Festive Singalong**, at the **Hepworth Playhouse**, Walton, on 13th December, with Pete and Craig providing the entertainment and compering the proceedings.



As well as collaborating with our regular partners, we put a great deal of effort into promoting the Elders Arts Project more widely this year, including the Director addressing meetings of the **Elmbridge Older People’s Advisory Body**, and of **EHT Scheme Managers**; and distributing flyers through the **Meals-on-Wheels Service** and **Homesupport Elmbridge**. As a result, numbers attending the project regularly have increased quite dramatically: between 25-30 at the Fenner House Singalongs, 10 – 15 at Sherwood House, and 15 – 20 at the City Wharf art/writing workshops.

The project is definitely fulfilling its aim of breaking down social isolation among the elderly. Friendships have formed among the regular attendees and there is increasing cross-over between the art and the music groups. We have now expanded our activities even more, by organising fairly frequent group outings to shows and concerts, which are proving very popular. In autumn 2012, we took our members to see a classical orchestral concert in the courtyard of the **Royal Academy of Arts**, Piccadilly (at the invitation of JTI); **Walton and Weybridge Amateur Operatic Society’s production of “Guys and Dolls”** at the Hepworth Playhouse; and the R C Sherriff Trust’s **“Winter Proms”** at **Hinchley Wood School**

▪ **January - May: Silent Film Competition**

As a complement to a silent film project, centred around pioneering local *film-maker*, **Cecil Hepworth**, being put on by **riverhouse**, we ran a competition for young people (10-15 years) and adults, to make their own 5-minute silent film, on the theme of **“The Homecoming”**. The closing date for entries was 16th April, and judging took place on 25th. We received 3 adult entries, from which we selected one winner, and 8 entries in the Junior category, in which we awarded a joint first prize. The judging panel comprised **Gemma Aston**, Director of **Riverhouse Arts Centre**; **Kirsty Child**, Manager, **Everyman Cinema, Walton**; **Roger Michell**, theatre, film and television director (“Notting Hill”, “Enduring Love”, “The Mother” etc); and **Loretta Howells**, the Director of **RCST**.



There was a special, free screening of all the entries, for family and friends, at **riverhouse**, on the evening of Wednesday 23rd May. The three winning films were then shown as a prelude to the main feature, Hepworth’s recently re-discovered classic silent film, **“Helen of Four Gates”**, with a live soundtrack played by the **Elysian Quartet**, at the **Everyman Cinema**, Walton, on

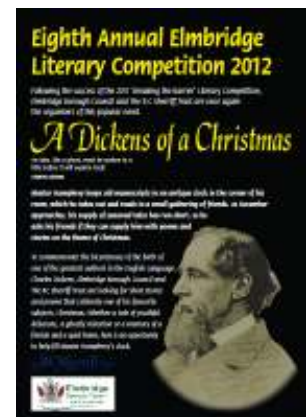
Friday/Saturday 25/26th May. The latter date was a Gala Night, which included a private view of the excellent **“Hepworth Comes Home”** exhibition in the **Robert Phillips Gallery**, which had been curated by *Maggs Latter* and artist, *Simon Dray*; music by *Surrey Brass* in the barn; and a lecture on Cecil Hepworth by *Simon Brown* from **Kingston University**, in riverhouse courtyard, before the entire audience boarded a vintage bus to be taken to the Everyman Cinema for the film showing, and prizegiving to the competition winners.

- **March: Visual Art Project with Julian Farrar**

We ran three very successful drawing workshops at **riverhouse**, for A-level art students from **Hinchley Wood** and **Rydens Schools**, and for members of the **Walton and Weybridge Advocacy Group** art classes, with the artist, *Julian Farrar*, based on his exhibition, **“More than MEat”** in the **Robert Phillips Gallery**.

- **June: Launch of 2012 Literary Competition**

The **Eighth** Annual Literary Competition was promoted to schools early in June, as a result of which, four booked creative writing workshops for the autumn term (**Esher CofE High School, Heathside, Royal Kent Primary and Westward Prep**). The official launch to the public took place on Saturday 23rd June as part of EBC’s **Leisure Live** event and flyers were made available on our website and through all our usual outlets – bookshops, community centres, **the Civic Centre**, EHT and Walton Charity Housing Schemes, libraries, museums and a mailout to all the individuals on our Literature database. The theme this year was **“A Dickens of a Christmas”**, to celebrate the bicentenary of Charles Dickens’ birth.



- **July/August: Summer ArtsFest**

Our annual summer ArtsFest, for children aged 5 – 10, took place in the week beginning 30th July, in **Cobham Village Hall**; and the week beginning 13th August, in **Chandlers Field School, Molesey**. A team of artists (*Imogen Andrews, Jenny Cave-Jones and Claire Rye, led by Donagh Curwen*) plus storyteller, *Kevin Graal*, provided arts and crafts activities on the theme of **“Space Junk”**, culminating in an inspiring exhibition of the very varied artwork, and a lively presentation of the participants’ ideas.



Once again, we worked through EHT and **HomeStart** to target families in social housing, who would not be able to afford other holiday play schemes. However, this year, to help defray costs (because we were employing more artists than previously), we charged a fee of £10 per week, £5 for siblings, which possibly proved a deterrent to some of the most needy families, as we had a few spare places on the Molesey week, although Cobham was full.



▪ **July - November: The Eighth Annual Literary Competition, 2012: “A Dickens of a Christmas”**

The competition closed on 22nd October. We received 165 entries in total, divided this year into five, rather than four, categories: 23 in the 5-7 category; 49 in the 8-10 category; 47 in the 11-13 category; 8 in the 14-18 category; and 38 adults.

Four schools submitted mass entries from their pupils: **Esher CofE High School, Heathside, Royal Kent Primary and St Charles Borromeo Catholic Primary**, three of whom had had subsidised creative writing workshops during the early part of the autumn term, from two of our judges, *Susannah Cherry and Adrienne Dines*.

Judging took place on Monday 29th October, and, as in previous years, the judges were *Susannah Rickards Cherry* (writer of short stories and creative writing tutor) and *Sylvia Green* (children’s author) for the juniors and *Adrienne Dines* (novelist) and *Agnes Meadows* (poet) for the 14+ group. They tried to ensure that each school would be represented at the reading/prizegiving evenings, without compromising on literary quality.



Among the adult entries we had a huge variation in standard and imagination, as usual; but it was good to see new people taking prizes again this year.

The prizegiving and public readings for the Literary Competition took place at **riverhouse** on Wednesday 14th November at 6.30pm, for the 5 – 13 year olds, and Thursday 15th November, at 7.30pm, for the older categories. The entries were adapted into performance pieces, often for several voices, and were beautifully read by *Simon Cherry* (actor, writer and TV producer), *Adrienne Dines* and *Agnes Meadows*, assisted by *Loretta Howells* (Director of the R C Sherriff Trust).



This was the second time that we had ‘celebrity guests’. *Sarah Mussi*, a writer of award-winning novels for teenagers, presented the prizes for the junior categories, and gave a very entertaining talk. This evening was also attended by *Councillor Janet Turner, the Mayor of Elmbridge*, who later awarded Diamond Jubilee medals to the first, second and third prizewinners aged between 5 – 18, which was a very thoughtful gesture. *Lucinda Hawksley* was the guest speaker and presenter of prizes for the 14+ categories. As the great-great-great-granddaughter of *Charles Dickens*, and biographer of his artist daughter, *Katy*, she gave an inspirational talk about the potential that writers have to bring about change in society, using Dickens’ novel “*Nicholas Nickleby*” as a prime example.

These evenings were, once again, extremely rewarding and enjoyable events, much appreciated by the writers and their teachers, families and friends.

▪ **November: Winter Proms, 24/25th November**

The Arts Development Officer at EBC organised “*Look:Hear*”, in November, a pilot **Youth Arts Festival** in the borough, including a weekend each of dance and drama workshops, and an art exhibition. Our contribution was to run the first-ever **schools Winter Prom**, on Saturday/Sunday 24/25th November.

300 students from five secondary schools (*Esher College, Esher CofE High School, Heathside, Hinchley Wood and RES*) took to the stage of *Hinchley Wood School*, on 24th, in an explosion of gospel singing, under the tutelage of the *ACM Gospel Choir*, followed by a rousing performance from a massed brass/percussion/woodwind band led by *Majestic Brass* (who were also our headline act) to round off the first day. The amount of talent showcased by the various choirs, instrumental ensembles and soloists from each of the schools, during the afternoon, had also been very impressive.

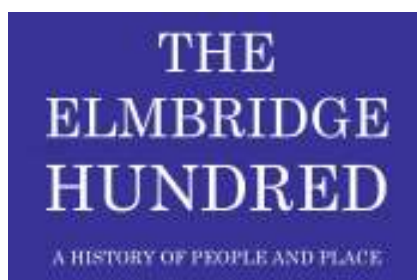


On the second day (Sunday 25th), the *Promenade Choir* and the *Loveday Singers*, both produced a varied repertoire and absolutely beautiful singing, with the *Esher Swing Band* and

Crafty Clarinets adding some instrumental variety to the programme.

The whole weekend was a great success and a fitting finale to both the “Look:Hear” Festival and our action-packed year.

3.2.2 OTHER INITIATIVES FINANCIALLY SUPPORTED BY THE TRUST, THROUGH PARTNER ORGANISATIONS



- The Trust continued its involvement as a community partner in **The Elmbridge Hundred** project, originally conceived to celebrate the centenary of **Elmbridge Museum**. 2012 proved a disappointing year for the project, however, as, despite a strong application, we failed to achieve Arts Council funding for the creation of the 100 Poetic Plaques and the accompanying History Trail around the borough. We were also unsuccessful in attracting significant sponsorship from local businesses (perhaps not surprisingly in these recessionary times). The Steering Group will be considering alternative ways to carry the project forward.



- The Trust also continued its financial support to **“Fast and Loose” Theatre Company**, with a grant towards their excellent spring production of *Shakespeare’s “Much Ado About Nothing”*. Sadly, the founder and Artistic Director of the company, *Celia Andrews*, decided that she could no longer continue beyond 2012. Fast and Loose ‘went out on a high’ with their final show, in the October half-term week: a very good production of *Ben Jonson’s “The Alchemist”*, with a young and enthusiastic cast, who performed this extremely difficult play with great skill and confidence. Over its five years of existence, the theatre company had achieved its aim of bringing high quality productions of classic drama, to Elmbridge, and of giving opportunities to young professional actors and directors. It will leave a gap in the drama provision in the borough.



- The visual arts programme at **St George’s Church, Esher**, was curated by *artist, Rebecca Price*, this year. It consisted of four main components: **“Dance Signatures”**, an exhibition and residency by *artist, Richenda Court*, in March-April, exploring the relationship between art and movement; **“Modern Madonnas”**, in May-June, an exhibition by groundbreaking female artists chosen from Surrey and the South-East, celebrating the ‘mother and child’ relationship; **“The Big Draw”**, a family art workshop on Saturday 13th October, as part of the annual international initiative; and, bringing the season to a close in November, **“Look:Hear”**, an exhibition showcasing the best of



Elmbridge's young artists as part of EBC's first Youth Arts Festival.

St George's also put on a series of music workshops and concerts throughout the year.

- The Trust once again allocated funds to **Love of Learning**, to enable them to run a **programme of arts-based workshops**, led by professional artists, for disadvantaged parents and their children, in children's centres, primary schools and community centres around the borough, throughout the year. The aim of the sessions was to encourage better communication and a closer relationship between family members, and to teach them skills in how to play creatively together. The focus this year was on making **puppets** and then developing stories and short plays with them, and the organisers were delighted with the imagination shown and with the positive feedback from parents.
- The Trust contributed funds towards **Painshill Park's 30th Anniversary Arts Project** by supporting a **residency and education programme**, with artists, **Richenda Court** and **Jono Retallick**, who worked with **St Andrews Primary School, Cobham**, and **Walton Leigh Special School**. The young pupils all had a very creative, enthusiastic response to their visit to this historic landscape.



- The Trust awarded a grant to **Surrey Brass** to enable them to commemorate their **10th Anniversary** through the commission of a new piece of music, entitled "**Brass Energy**", from renowned conductor/composer, **Barry Forgie**. This was given its world premiere at a concert at the **Vera Fletcher Hall** on Saturday 24th November.



- For the third year, our **Project Manager, Sam Thompson**, provided advice and practical support to the organisers of the **Walton Festival of Light**, and managed the parade on the night (Saturday 17th November). This annual event was funded almost entirely by **Walton Business Group and the Heart**. Music for the procession was provided by **the Oatlands Pipe Band** and the **Molesey Scout Band**. Lantern-making workshops, led by artist, **Donagh Curwen**, were held in the local schools, **Walton Centre for the Retired**, and for **Elmbridge Community Link**. As in previous years, the traders were very pleased with the increased footfall and sales.



- The Director continued as a Trustee (on a personal basis) of **Hinchley Wood Education Trust**, and of the **Voice Education**

Trust (comprising *Burhill and The Orchard Infant Schools* and *Chandler's Field Primary and Cleves Junior Schools*).

3.3 Grants:

- **46** grants were awarded during the year, through a combination of Arts Initiative Projects delivered by partner organisations, Regularly Funded Organisations, Three year Funding, and the four Open Application deadlines, dispensing a total of **£61,151**. The "Actual" total dispensed will be less, as not all the Underwriting Grants will have been taken up in full.
- A list of all the grants awarded, by type of grant (Appendix I) is attached, plus an analysis per art form (Appendix II), and of the 'geographic spread' of this expenditure, throughout the borough (Appendix III).

4. PROGRAMME FOR 2013:

4.1 **Directly Managed Arts Projects:**

- **January – December: Elders Arts Project**

This project has been going from strength to strength over the past two years; so we want to continue to build on that success. We will continue the ***weekly Singalongs*** at Fenner House and Sherwood House, and the ***monthly art and writing workshops*** at City Wharf; and we will offer taster sessions in either discipline to other retirement communities, as appropriate. The ***intensive four-week summer art project*** will be focusing ***on films and film-making***, linking in to our 20th Anniversary Sherriff Film Festival.

- **February – July:**

Art competition for schools, art classes and community groups, to design a poster linked to the films being shown in the autumn

- **June/July:**

Launch of the ninth **Elmbridge Literary Competition** (in partnership with **EBC**), focusing on creating short plays, in honour of R C Sherriff, with a playwriting weekend in July to offer ideas and help.

- **June – September:**

A **photographic exhibition**, touring to 10 venues around the borough, providing a retrospective of major Trust projects from the past 20 years.

A **new anniversary project** for community groups, individual artists, and the general public, to paint glass bricks to contribute to **a glass wall**, to be installed at the Medicine Garden, Cobham, as a permanent memorial to the R C Sherriff Trust.

- **August: ArtsFest** for children
- One week of subsidised summer holiday arts activities, primarily for children living in social housing.

October: 20th Anniversary Month

- **Secondary Schools Autumn Prom:** an evening concert, showcasing their pupils, with a **massed gospel choir**, led by the *ACM Gospel Choir*, as a finale.

Festival of films with screenplays by R C Sherriff, at venues around the borough, plus a **concert of Film music**, by *Surrey Brass*, at the Hepworth Playhouse

Exhibition of works by artists who have been supported by, or worked for, RCST over the past two decades, in the **Robert Phillips Gallery**, with the retrospective photographic exhibition in the **riverhouse barn**.

Closing date for the **Literary Competition**.

- **November: Ninth Elmbridge Literary Competition**, (in partnership with **Elmbridge Borough Council**).

The **judging** of the Literary Competition, followed by the **prizegiving** and rehearsed **readings** of the winning plays, linked with a **Rehearsed reading** of "**The Hopkins Manuscript**", a science fiction novel by R C Sherriff, at the **Vera Fletcher Hall**.

4.2 Other Initiatives - To Be Achieved Through Partner Organisations

- Continued representation on the **Elmbridge Hundred** Steering Group with the Elmbridge Museum, Elmbridge Borough Council, Brooklands Museum and lead artist, Alistair Grant
- Continued financial support to **Love of Learning** to provide a programme of arts workshops for disadvantaged families, around the borough, throughout the year.
- Continued financial support for weekly **art workshops** for **Walton & Weybridge Advocacy Group**, with *artist, Corinne Manches*, culminating in an exhibition.

4.3 General Management, Marketing and Networking:

- Organising and convening 4 (quarterly) Board meetings
- Administration of 4 (quarterly) grant application deadlines/assessments
- Production of 3 editions of “**Arts Focus**”
- Continued improvement of the design, usefulness and accessibility of **the Trust’s website**
- Continued improvement of the “**Recommended Artists**” list, and promotion of this service to schools, youth centres and community groups
- Continued membership of the **Hinchley Wood Education Trust**
- Continued expansion of our network of Elmbridge and Surrey contacts/organisations.

5. TRUSTEES

The following served as Board Members and Trustees in the course of the year:

- **Cllr Barry Cheyne**
- **Cllr Nigel Cooper (Vice-Chairman)**
- **Cllr Mrs Elizabeth Cooper**
- **Cllr Mrs Claire Gibbins (resigned January 2012)**
- **Cllr Mrs Shweta Kapadia**
- **Cllr Mrs Ruth Lyon**
- **Mr Brian Nathan (appointed April 2012)**
- **Mr Frank Renton (appointed April 2012)**
- **Cllr Mrs Tannia Shipley (Chairman)**
- **Ms Wendy Smithers**
- **Cllr James Vickers**
- **Co-opted members:**
Mr David Walsh (Asset Management Consultant)

6. STAFFING

Permanent:

Loretta Howells: Director (full-time)

Sandra (Sam) Thompson: Administrator/Project Manager (full-time)

Dean Blanchard: Treasurer (part-time), assisted by **Michelle Rowley**, both of whom are employees of Elmbridge Borough Council (Finance Department).

Freelance:

Alphaset Printers printed the three issues of **Arts Focus** during the year.

Tim Kerr, a *sound engineer*, continued to maintain, and advise on, the Trust’s **radio microphones**, as a volunteer.

David Thompson acted as *webmaster* and *Editor of "Arts Focus"*.

David Walsh: *Asset Management Consultant*, retained his responsibility for overseeing the Trust's investment portfolio and liaising with Heinz Schmid (BNP Paribas/Willams de Broë), and Louise Hall (Investec), *the Trust's Fund Managers*.

Investec took over from Willams de Broë as the Trust's *Investment Managers*, from September 2012. Barclays was retained as the Trust's *Bank*. A Blakebrough (PIA) undertook an *Independent Examination of the Trust's accounts*, in accordance with the Charity Commission's requirements under SORP.

7. ACCOMMODATION

The Trust continued as tenants of *Elmbridge Housing Trust*, with a full range of office furniture and support services provided as part of the lease agreement. However, in January 2012, we moved to a different office within *Case House*, sharing first-floor accommodation with *Carer Support* and *Homestart Elmbridge*, with *Music in Hospitals* as our neighbours, making an 'external charity hub' within the building.

Loretta Howells
Director

12th February 2013