

Artists in our Community

Celebrating
artists and skilled
crafters in our
community

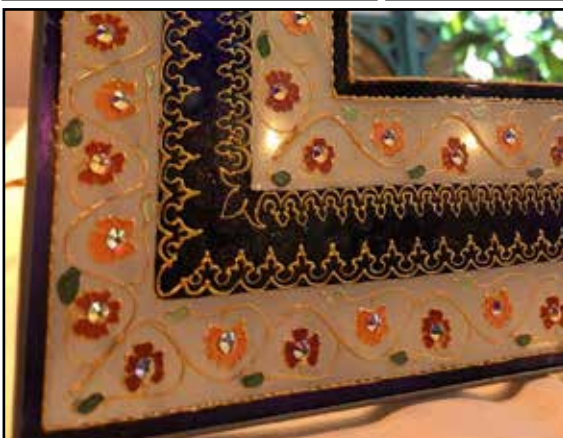
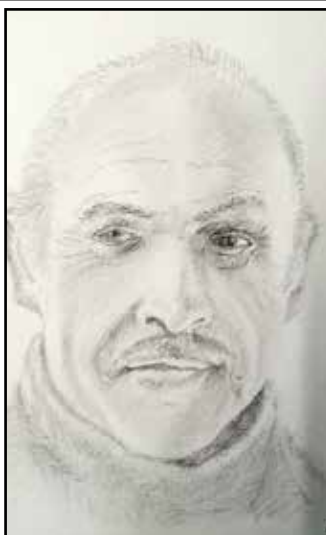
Resident Interview

Save the Date!

Spot The
Difference

Coronation
Weekend Plans

Film and Book
Review



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Contribute to our Next Issue

If you would like to contribute an article for the next issue, the deadline is:

Friday 17 March 2023

Give the article to your Scheme Manager, or email to c.richards@richmondcharities.org.uk
As a guide on word count, a one page article is ideally 340 words.



This magazine is recyclable.

Farewell

Goodbye to Richard Lee, who has moved into a care home.

Competition Winner

Thank you to everyone who submitted competition entries for the **Spot The Difference in Venice**. Picked at random, the winner is:

Eleanor Walker
Congratulations!

Answers from last month's competition are on page 27.

Chapel Schedule: March 2023

5th March	10.30am
2nd Sunday of Lent	Eucharist with hymns
12th March	10.30am
3rd Sunday of Lent	Eucharist with hymns
19th March	10.30am
4th Sunday of Lent	Eucharist with hymns
26th March	10am
5th Sunday of Lent	Eucharist with hymns

Editorial Committee: Juliet Ames-Lewis, Lorraine Bradley, Debbie Flaherty, Chantal Richards, Gennie Thompson & Mike Townsin.

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Letter from Gennie



Dear residents,

I hope you are keeping well and enjoying the stretch in the evenings as much as I am! I am so looking forward

to seeing you all and catching up in the near future.

My past year has flown by. By the time this is published Tafari will already be one! He is already running around and loves playing on Hickey's lawn. Each day has been an adventure, I find it amazing and fascinating seeing the world through his new eyes. It has been such a joy getting to know him



and watching him develop, grow and change. He brings us so much happiness and I treasure each moment.

He had so much fun on our visits to events and different estates last year, it was

so lovely to see him receive such a warm welcome into our community. Thank you all so much again! I feel so privileged to have a job I love and genuinely looked forward to returning too. It has been a pleasure to come back to work and Tafari is enjoying spending the quality time with his Dad.

It is now officially Spring and so wonderful to see flowers beginning to bloom. Warmer

weather means less reliance on heating which is good news indeed!

Our theme this month is to showcase the artists and skilled crafters in our community. I hope you enjoy the content within.

Enjoy the first month of Spring and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Gennie

Almshouse Residents Club (ARC)

by Pat Platt



Some people seem to be under the impression that our new club is a club for outings only. This is not the case so I would like to explain.

The main reason that after many years it was time to close down *Friends & Neighbours* as it was, is because a lot of the residents now don't seem to want a social club anymore. However, there are still many who do enjoy outings/events and parties so we decided to start a club for the residents who still wish to keep going, and it will be run for anyone who still wishes to join in.

If you would like to join in, please call me on 0208 940 4233. Membership is just £5 per year, and I can assure you that a warm welcome awaits you.

SAVE THE DATE

Coffee Morning for Arts and Crafters

Event: Coffee Morning to arrange the *Showcase of Residents' Arts & Crafts*

Date: Wednesday 22nd March

Time: 11am - 12pm

Location: Garden Room

Who is invited?: Everyone that has art or crafts that they would like to show in our own *Showcase*

We will be holding a coffee morning on Wednesday 22nd March to invite any of our residents who would like to display their own arts and crafts by taking part in a *Showcase of Residents' Arts and Crafts* in May.

The date of the showcase is still to be confirmed.

The coffee morning will be to finalise details of how the *Showcase* will run and who would like to take part. We would love to see you there.

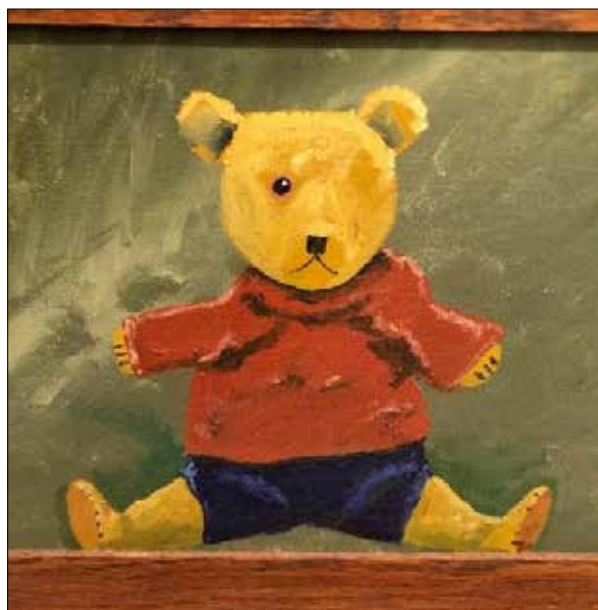
Please let your Scheme Manager know if you are able to attend.

Artists in our Community

by Juliet Ames-Lewis



In preparation for our upcoming *Showcase of Residents' Arts and Crafts* (see advert right), we thought we would give you a little taste of all the amazing artists and skilled crafters we have in our almshouse community. Enjoy!



'I've had no art training but **I do get a buzz from creating a likeness** and it's a nice change from adding and subtracting!'

Above: One much loved family teddy

Left: My father aged 20 before heading off to India in 1939

Jon Blythe, Trustee

Artists In Our Community - ALMSHOUSE NEWS



'I started to knit, then to crochet. But **cross-stitch** finally took me over!' (The cats show the four seasons).

Jane Whitmore, resident

'Over the years my main occupation was as a cartoonist for national papers and magazines. I also had many cartoon books published. Latterly, I have painted (in acrylics).

My inspiration comes from travelling and looking at artists' work. Some of my favourites are Picasso, Niki de Saint Phalle, Hockney, Basquiat, the French Impressionists and street art. I also love sculptors' and potters' work.

During Covid I wanted to try something different and these ***papier mache cats*** were some of the characters that were created. I don't know what inspired me, they just seemed to evolve !'

Ian Heath, resident



ALMSHOUSE NEWS - Artists In Our Community

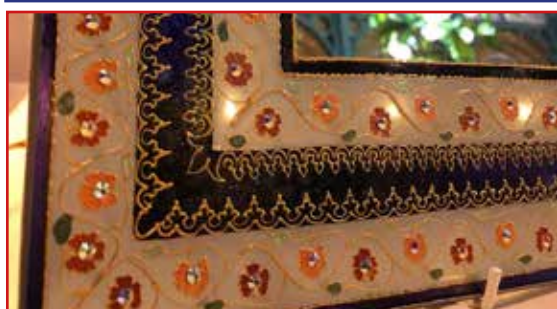


'I will paint on any surface

whether it's paper, canvas, furniture or my preferred medium – glass. I studied stained glass at Kensington & Chelsea College, but found I enjoyed the technique of glass painting a lot more. I have been selling my hand painted mirrors, vases and pictures at Covent Garden's

Apple market for nearly 30 years and still enjoy not only the making, but the satisfaction that people want to buy something that I have created, and which I have spent many hours in the making. You can see more of my work on **Instagram: mmhandpaintedmirrors'**

Maria Merca, resident



'Beads, shells and lots of glitter were used to make these during lockdown and all sold at Hive in Twickenham last year. This year – new exciting hobby. Mandela dot pictures and signs – glasses, keys and mobile'. *Angela Greaves, resident*





‘I have always loved painting and craftwork. In South Africa I studied Chinese painting with a wonderful artist from Singapore and then went on to teach it for many years. When I moved to London I studied Botanical Art and watercolour painting which I absolutely love. I have exhibited my work at local galleries, but now I prefer painting for fun!’

Liz Prescott, resident



‘My brother-in-law, Robert Barr, used to be a **professional sculptor.**

Here are two of pieces which hang in our home.
Top left: Three Proud Walkers. It is made of marble, slabs of white (Carrara), red (Sasso Rosso), and green (Serpentine possibly) and it hangs on our living room wall.

Top right: Monkey. Made of chips of marble that he collected off the floor after he had made other pieces. Re-cycling! It hangs in our dining room.’

More work here: www.studio-barr.com

Serge Lourie, Trustee



‘This is my Auntie Stella’s patchwork art. She also makes

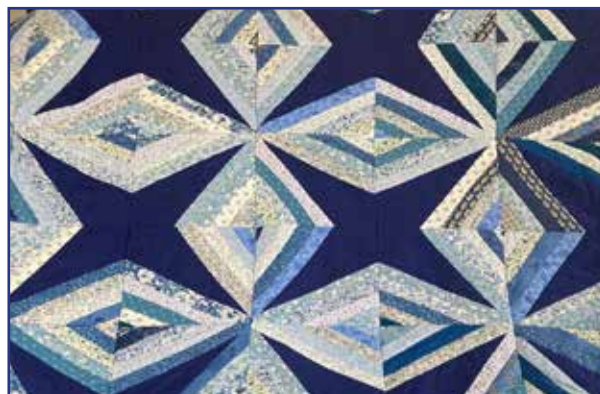
beautiful bed covers

and is part of a patchwork group in Somerset.

They often exhibit their works locally.’

Debbie Flaherty, staff

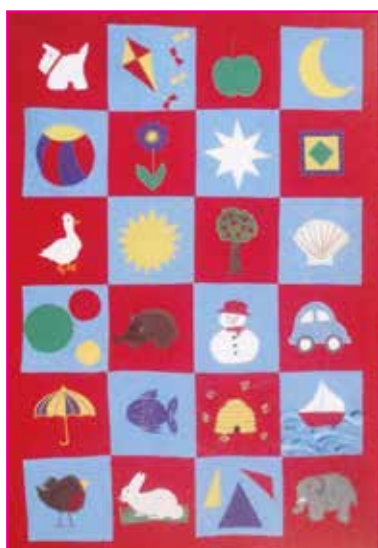
ALMSHOUSE NEWS - Artists In Our Community



'I have been doing patchwork and
quilting since the age of 8
alongside my grandmother.

These are samples of a few of the many I have made over the years. At the craft sessions at Wright's in the Terrace Room on a Friday I am creating new patterns and designs. There is always a use for scrap material.'

Beatrice Quaid, resident



Far left: 'A woven wall hanging using beach finds and a variety of sari silks.'

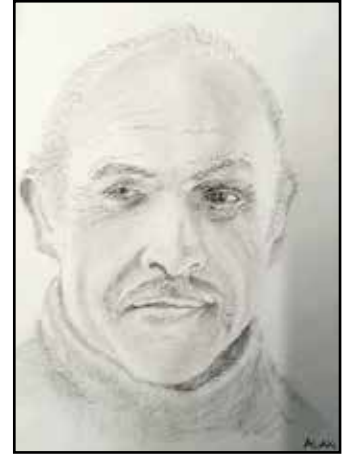
Left: 'Sea scape using hand dyed fabrics, machine and hand embroidery and beach finds.'

Below left: 'Child's play mat in various textures.'

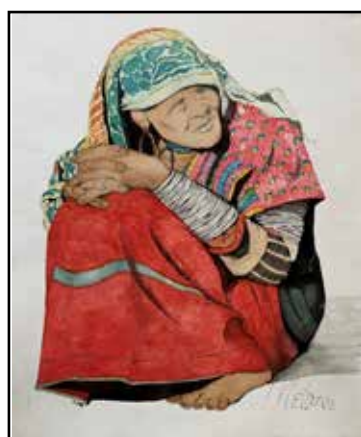
Below right: 'Hand embroidered, thousands of stitches!' *Irene Donovan, resident*



Artists In Our Community - ALMSHOUSE NEWS



'Lockdowns over recent years stimulated me to get back into sketching portraits of family and friends and a few well known faces. And now living at Michel's, I decided to attend **The Seasons' Art Class** in Richmond to develop my skills. These are a few of my efforts. And being of a certain vintage now, I like to be accompanied by Boom Radio.' *Alan Shirley, resident*



'I don't know where I got my interest and inspiration for painting, drawing and all things arty, but I do know for sure that it wasn't from the art nun at the Convent! She used to come in once a week and slap down a sheet of newsprint for each of us and plonk five jars of gloopy poster primary colour paints in the middle of the table with what can only be described as paste brushes and return an hour later to collect our creations.

I enjoy sketching, drawing en plein air, watercolour painting, stitch art and paper craft. I also enjoy painting on my iPad.'

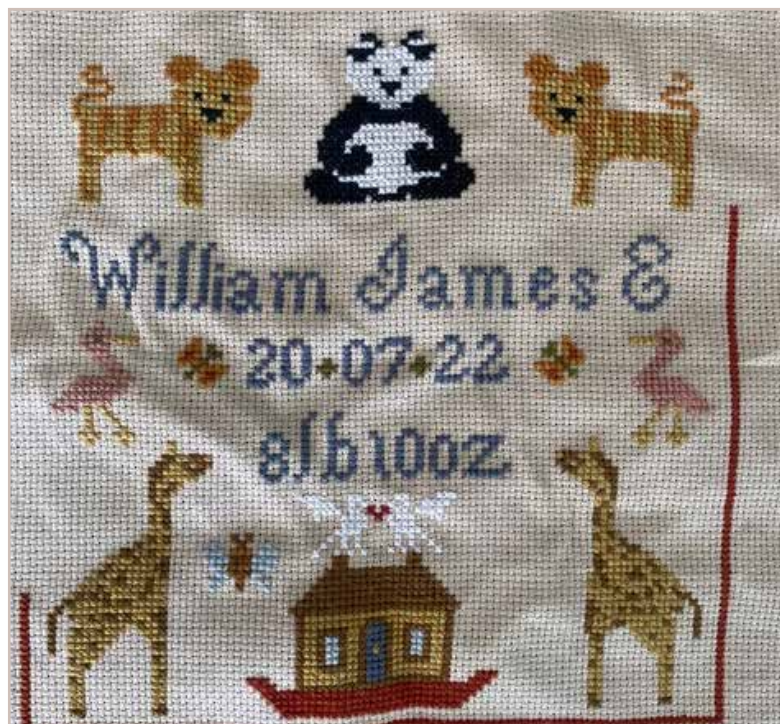
Melanie Stapelkamp, resident



‘When our girls were young, rainy days were often spent at the dining room table, paints sprawled everywhere and creative juices flowing. Artwork would cover the fridge door each week, with the best pieces from home and school displayed for all to see. We soon ran out of space and decided to create the wall of fame in the living room. Favourite pieces were framed and made it on to the wall. These pieces have a special place in my heart, as they were created when the girls were still at primary school. My personal favourites are a self-portrait drawn by Olivia in the style of the Canadian artist Sandra Silberzweig (top right in the photo) and a close up of a dragon's eye by Anabelle (bottom left). Each picture has its own memory. The saying “a picture tells a thousand words” really resonates here.’
Sam Maskell, staff

‘I did some watercolour classes years ago and it looked like I was painting by numbers, so no talent here!’

This photo is of a partially completed **sampler being done by my wife for our latest grandchild** (the one born in the hall). It takes hours and hours so is a real labour of love!
Jeremy Williams, Trustee



Let Me Tell You A Secret

by John O'Brien, husband of Trustee Kate O'Brien

I have been making mosaics with primary school children for nearly 20 years since I took early retirement. It is always great fun and even the 'naughty' kids enjoy it and get stuck in. They particularly like it when we hide secrets in the art work we make. Often we use morse code to embed our message using long and short pieces to represent the dots and dashes of the code.

I often make an example mosaic beforehand so the children have an idea of what sort of project we will be making and I would like to share with you my favourite piece and let you into the secrets hidden in it. The theme for our mosaic week was 'Numbers'



and this is the example piece I made, it's a pair of stilettos with a number underneath. The first secret is the number itself. Can you imagine yourself standing on your head looking at the number? Upside down the numbers become letters and they spell out the subject of the mosaic – HIGH HEELS!

There are stars at the toe of each shoe and



Left and above:
mosaics made by the
children.

everyone knows that stars twinkle, so if you have twinkle toes you are a dancer – these are dancing shoes. Now look carefully between the heels of the shoe. Can you see the champagne bottle? These are party shoes!

The final secret is in the background of the mosaic. Most of the lines of background are all white, but some have coloured pieces in amongst the white. Look at the top line on the left with coloured pieces—how many coloured pieces? There are 5 and the first number down below is also 5. The second non-white line below it has 7 coloured pieces and the second number below is 7. And so it goes on. The pattern of the background is created by the number.

Mosaic making is a slow process but quickly produces attractive results. Nobody can tell if you have made a mistake because all the pieces are broken but our eyes work hard to put them all together to form a whole.

Resident Interview: Steve Harbud

Creativity runs in my family! These are a couple of examples of some of the work my dad did over the years. A pen & ink drawing from 1939 and a Chinese lacquered Hi-Fi system sitting on a decorated cabinet which take pride of place in our Almshouse at Manning Place. Beautiful memories of his talent.



My Dad, an antique restorer/ decorative artist although Chinese lacquering was his speciality, passed away in 1992 leaving myself, two brothers and a sister with a gift of art to use how we wished. I was way into my thirties before ever attempting anything artistic. No art school or college, no formal training of any kind, I

just bought a few brushes and a couple of boards to see what materialised!

My elder brother Les worked alongside my dad all his life, learning and developing his skills to carry on in his footsteps. It was an established business in London, but sometimes visiting homes like the DuPont family to do delicate artwork in situ. Gold leaf was a big part of their expertise working on many precious items like thrones, jardinières

belonging to the Queen Mother and furniture for many of the Royal Family. They rejected the offer to re-gold leaf Buckingham Palace Ballroom due to its enormity! My mum and dad accepted the dinner offer with the Spencer family at Althorp House in recognition of all work he had done for them over the years.

Writing this I'm just wondering why I wasn't there alongside my brother! That's another story. On to me, I enjoy my painting. These are a couple of examples of my work, sometimes copying from photos for people can be very rewarding like a friend's dog or a colleague's house. Landscapes can be quite challenging, like the old Castle Combe.



I believe that expression in art and craft in whatever form it takes can be really good for the soul and can keep the mind active.

Thinking of how to begin, how to develop and complete a piece of work and looking forward to starting another. Good stuff!



Richmond Council Fuel Grant Scheme



by Juliet Ames-Lewis

The Council has opened its annual fuel grant scheme and you can apply for a grant of up to £170 paid directly to your energy supplier.

PLEASE APPLY AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS HELP WITH YOUR ENERGY BILLS.

If you haven't already applied, you need to do so very quickly as the scheme closes on **9th March 2023**.

The on-line application form can be accessed at the link below:

https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/housing/housing_grants/heating_grants/fuel_grants/fuel_grant_scheme

To apply you must first register an account and then complete the form. If it is not possible to complete the claim on-line, this is the most efficient method, a Word version is on the website which can be downloaded and the completed form returned to the Council, either via the Customer Services Centre or by post.

If you need help, please ask your Scheme Manager.

SAVE THE DATE

Residents' Summer Outing

We need your suggestions!

Date: Thursday 13th July 2023

Time: all day

Location: to be confirmed

We are currently thinking about this year's seaside trip.

The date for the trip will be Thursday 13th July 2023 and any suggestions for the seaside town you would prefer to visit are welcome.

Please let your Scheme Managers know or drop a note into one of the suggestion boxes **before the end of March 2023**.

Handy Websites for You



This month **Debbie Flaherty** shares her favourite gifting websites:

www.trouva.com – full of UK independent shops

www.byfoke.com – lovely gift boxes

www.biscuiteers.com – beautiful boxes of biscuits

Almshouses in Bloom 2023



by Linda Prendergast

The Richmond Charities would like to put all of our wonderful gardeners to the test again this year with our very own in-house **Almshouses in Bloom** competition. There are two main categories – individual gardens, and for those who don't have gardens there will be a category for pots and hanging baskets.

We are also keen to encourage residents at individual estates to collaborate and work together, so that perhaps all (or a cluster) of individual gardens or pots have a planting theme or a colour theme.

Why not speak to your neighbours and pool your ideas?



Last year's winners: *left to right*

Ron and Mary Bronks: Winners of the best individual garden category.

Doreen Colbert: Special commendation.

Lisa Blakemore: Winner of the best hanging basket and pots category.



Almshouses in
Bloom
2023

Following on from the huge success of our first **Almshouses In Bloom** competition in 2022, we're hoping to go bigger and better this year. There will now be trophies and garden vouchers for first, second and third places in both of the main categories. There will also be a prize awarded for the one garden the judges thought earned a *special commendation*. Everyone who enters will be given a certificate as well.

All entries will be marked and rated by an impartial judge and a prize giving event will be arranged to present the trophies to the winners.

Why not take the opportunity to have your garden tidied up in readiness for the competition by completing the form that was delivered to all residents recently?

If you would like to enter the competition please contact your Scheme Manager and ask for an entry form. Judging will take place in early July and all entrants will be advised in advance of the date when the judging will take place.

Coronation Weekend 6th-8th May 2023



by Juliet Ames-Lewis

As you will all know, the Coronation of King Charles III will take place on Saturday 6th May 2023. There will be an extra bank holiday on Monday 8th May 2023.

That weekend is also a special weekend in the life of The Richmond Charities as on Sunday 7th May 2023 at 11am our new Chaplain, Derrick, will be licensed at a service in our Chapel, followed by lunch on Hickey's front lawn (invitations will be sent out to you all for this).

The Charity will not be organising a big Coronation party, given we already have the event on 7th May to welcome Derrick, and also because we will be holding a summer party in August for residents from all estates. However, due to the welcome lunch for Derrick we will have a marquee up at Hickey's which could be used by residents on Monday 8th May for your own Coronation party.

What the Activities Team (Claire, Linda and Jo) and I are proposing is that we also offer to put up marquees or gazebos at other almshouse estates, where is it possible to do so, and if enough residents

at other estates would be likely to join in, so that residents could hold their own Coronation parties and celebrations on Bank Holiday Monday 8 May. If you and others at the estate at which you live would like the charity to provide a marquee/gazebo, tables and chairs, for you to then organise your own Coronation party, please email me at j.ameslewis@richmondcharities.org.uk as soon as possible (and by 20 March at the latest) with approximate numbers of residents that wish to gather.

If there is enough interest, we will then see if we can arrange marquees/gazebos. **We need to know as soon as possible** as it is likely that marquee companies will be in great demand that weekend!



If you live at an estate where it is not possible to put a marquee or gazebo up, then please talk with your Scheme Managers who can link you in with residents at other estates so that you could join in with their event.

Exercise Sessions

with Chrissie Donovan



by Jo Davison

**When: Tuesday 7th March
AND Tuesday 14th March**

Time: 6pm

Where: The Chapel

After the success of the 2 taster **exercise sessions** in January with Chrissie Donovan we will be running another 2 sessions in March. The sessions are open to all no matter your ability. You can come and take part or just come along and see what it's all about.

On Tuesday 7th March the taster session will be all about Core, Stretch and Flexibility. This will be a low impact, mobility warm up including simple core conditioning, balance work, stretch and flexibility training. The focus is on body posture, alignment and aims to improve muscle flexibility and core strength. A great stress reliever too!

On Tuesday 14th March the taster session will be a 'Total Body Workout'. This will be a low impact, fun and invigorating class which combines a variety of exercise routines, body conditioning and strength work – much needed for our physical health and well-being.

Come and join the fun ...bring water, wear comfortable clothing and footwear. A small towel would be good for some final stretches but mainly bring yourselves and get that feel good factor!

Kew Gardens

Membership for Our Residents



by Claire Sanecka



The Winter solstice has past, on average sunrise is starting to creep in earlier by one minute per day, and you may have noticed sunset is also holding out for that one minute later per day too. This can only mean one thing.... Spring is on the way! (If only I could insert some party poppers here!)

Residents have started making use of our Membership with Kew Gardens and we would like to encourage those residents who haven't yet signed up for a ticket to come forward and speak with your Scheme Manager.

Tickets are allocated on a first come first served basis and we currently have 100 remaining.

Perhaps you would like to invite one friend, join a neighbour or go it alone to relax and unwind while watching the seasons change among the world's most diverse collection of plants.

Our membership offers entry only and does not permit entry to exclusive events.

Art & Soul Taster Session



by Claire Sanecka

When: Thursday 30th March

AND Thursday 6th April

Where: Secret Garden Room

Timings: 11:00am – 11:45am

Break: 15mins

12noon -12:30pm

These sessions will be led by an Art & Soul trained artist. The artist will create a safe and welcoming place for individuals looking to improve their mental health and wellbeing through hands-on, creative activity.

You don't need any artistic skills or previous creative experience to join. All art materials are supplied. Everyone attending this workshop automatically joins the Art & Soul community with access to a range of further artistic activities, services and experiences. Please book a space with your Scheme Manager

Beginners Canasta

Angela Greaves from Wright's Almshouses has taken on the task of teaching the beginners Canasta Group in the Terrace Room at Wrights on a Tuesday afternoon. The idea is that she will teach the residents living at Wright's first and then when they are confident enough they will open it up to other residents.



SAVE THE DATE

Quiz Night

Date: Thursday 27th April

Time: 6pm

Location: The Chapel

A neon sign that reads 'QUIZ NIGHT' in yellow capital letters, set within a black rectangular frame.

Following on from the success of their first quiz night in November, Margaret Goddard and Richard Howard have got the next quiz night planned for Thursday 27th April at 6pm in the Chapel.

Drinks and nibbles will be provided.

We hope to see you all there for a great evening of fun as always!

Craft Afternoons at Wright's



by Linda Prendergast

When: Every Friday

Time: 2pm

**Where: The Terrace Room
at Wright's Almshouses**

The Terrace Room at Wright's Almshouses in Twickenham is now the home of craft sessions on a Friday afternoon from 2.00pm.



At the moment we have four residents using the room for various craft projects. The hope is that more residents will come and join the group. Whatever skill you have, the Terrace Room is perfect for you to come and work on your project.



The room is spacious, bright, airy and has a terrace for you to sit out on in the good weather with a cup of tea or coffee. Wright's Almshouses is on a bus route so it is easy to get to and, as always, if you are not able to use public transport and would like to join the group, we can arrange transport for you.



My 75th Birthday Party!



by Angela Greaves

I recently celebrated my 75th Birthday with family, friends from Wright's Almshouses

and friends from Queen Alexandra's Court – my former Almshouse in Wimbledon run by SSAFA.

Tea was served in the Terrace Room at Wright's, Twickenham – a beautiful venue with views across Richmond and Twickenham.

My guests were served tiny sandwiches (cucumber and goats' cheese and egg mayonnaise), scones with clotted cream and jam, mini cupcakes, chocolate eclairs, Battenberg slices, Victoria sponges, meringues and fruit cake made with Guinness (compliments of Beatrice from Wright's)!

The centrepiece was a light sponge cake with pistachio and strawberries bought from Buon Giorno, the Italian Patisserie downstairs.

Buki made the beautiful cream rose floral arrangements which complemented the decor and added to the ambiance of the afternoon.

A truly English traditional tea party and, needless to say, there wasn't much left over at the end of the afternoon. Thank you to all who helped me put it all together – my sister Barbara and friends from Wright's, Beatrice and Buki. Much appreciated. A thank you too to Linda for popping in for a cuppa after work!



Out and About Group: Exhibition of Lighting

by Angela Greaves



On Tuesday 24th January 2023, Beatrice and Angela from Wright's Almshouses met up with other residents from various almshouses at Richmond Station at 4.30 pm.



We travelled by train and tube to Canary Wharf where the ***Exhibition of Lighting*** was on display. The group outing was arranged by Richard Yardley, who wore a red jacket and hat so we could follow him amongst the crowds!



The *Exhibition of Lighting* was an amazing sight and, despite the cold and the crowds, we all had a wonderful evening. The many exhibits were controlled by computers and were very intriguing, each exhibit telling a story in lighting and sound. The favourite was the huge Globe floating in the water and depicting a view of the earth as viewed from space.

New friendships were forged, many photographs were taken and we terminated in a coffee shop for a well-deserved rest and refreshments before making the journey home. A huge thank you to Richard who looked after us all so well and ensured that we didn't get lost!



Night-time road closure planned for Heath Road railway bridge works

Network Rail are due to begin major bridge maintenance works at the railway bridge at Heath Road junction with The Green, TW1.

How to support survivors of the Turkey-Syria earthquake

Beware of fake websites asking for donations. The most direct way to support survivors of the earthquake is by donating on this website:

www.dec.org.uk/appeal/turkey-syria-earthquake-appeal

Celebrating International Women's Day - Wednesday 8th March

An afternoon filled with inspirational talks, discussions and networking. Female founders Ann Chapman Daniel (Minesoft) and Sophia Proctor (Munchy Play) will share their stories. Vocalist and presenter, Shelle Luscombe, will tell us all about her '50 @ 50' fundraising challenges. Event details: Date: Wednesday 8 March 2023. Time: 1pm to 3.30pm. Location: The Exchange, 75 London Road, Twickenham TW1 1BE. Price: From £10

Volunteer at Repair & Share events in Kew

Kew The Transition is planning a series of Repair & Share events this year. The event offers an opportunity to learn how to repair and reuse our things so that we reduce waste and consumption. The Transition is looking to add to its number of talented volunteer repairers so they can offer the widest range of skills. They also want to welcome the largest number of neighbours looking to learn how to refurbish and rehabilitate their broken but beloved items.

River footpath opened by Twickenham station

A new footpath along the River Crane is now open to the public, providing a direct link between Twickenham station and Moormead Recreation Ground.

Road closure for toads crossing

It's that time of year again. The toads, which live on Ham Common, are currently breeding and will make the 100-metre journey from their habitat to pools on the other side of the road to spawn for approximately three to four weeks.



The Coronation

Richmond Council will again waive the administration fee for street party road closures this summer, to help residents celebrate the Coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Camilla, Queen Consort, over the bank holiday weekend of Saturday 6th to Sunday 8th May 2023.

Major road closure in Richmond starts on Wednesday 1st March

Hill Street in central Richmond will be closed in a northbound direction, between Richmond Bridge and Water Lane, from Wednesday 1 March for approximately three weeks.

Come chat with a local pharmacist on our Community Health Bus this March

Residents can access blood pressure checks, support to stop smoking, preventative health advice from a local pharmacist, free COVID-19 testing kits and more free services on our Community Health Bus. The health bus will be parked at the following dates, times and locations in March:

Tuesday 14th March, 8.30 am to 2.30pm - outside Kanset Pharmacy, 177 Ashburnham Road, Richmond TW10 7NR

Thursday 23rd March, 11am to 5pm - York House lay-by, Richmond Road, Twickenham TW1 3AA

Eligible residents will also have access to their first or second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine as well as a flu jab.

Film Review



by Mike Townsin

Mr Turner

This is Art on film: Director Mike Leigh manages to capture, with great sensitivity, the painterly essence of Turner's work – to see the world as the artist saw it.



We meet Turner in middle age, already successful, living with his cheery father and a devoted, sometimes comic, housekeeper; he also has a semi-estranged wife, two adult daughters, and a kind-hearted lover in Margate –

not to mention his scientist cousin with whom he shares his interest in the properties of light.

Timothy Spall is brilliant as the shambolic, grumpy, complex Turner – a characterisation which, according to contemporary reports, is pretty accurate.

This is an unsentimental, beautifully shot portrait of the man and the Victorian era he inhabited, with a cast of colourful, stunningly well-acted, characters, from critics to peers almost as famous as him; and, in particular, in a film which powerfully illuminates Art and how artists work.

On This Day:

2nd March 1904

Theodor Seuss Geisel was born US writer and illustrator. Using the pseudonym Dr Seuss, he wrote popular children's stories including *The Cat in the Hat*.

On

This Day:

12th March 1954

Anish Kapoor British Indian artist was born. He was the first living artist to have a solo show at the Royal Academy of Arts in London.

On

This Day:

15th March 1901

A display of 71 paintings by Vincent Van Gogh went on display in an art gallery in Paris and were greatly admired.. The Dutch painter had died years earlier and sold only a few paintings in his lifetime.

On

This Day:

24th February 2023

The Louvre Gallery in Paris is still closed due to Covid-19 restrictions but every artwork is available to view online:
www.collections.louvre.fr/en/

National Awareness Days

Cultivation Street Week. 6th-12th March. Celebrating community gardening across the UK.

#CultivationStWeek raises awareness of the benefits of gardening together, working together to create spaces where volunteers and residents can relax, chat, and develop new skills.

www.cultivationstreet.com

National Feet Week. 7th - 13th March
Make National Feet Week a time to have your feet checked or to get that niggling issue sorted and make your feet your priority – after all they take you anywhere you want to go.

www.nationalfeetweek.org

Debt Awareness Week. 20th - 26th March. Run by UK's leading debt advice charity StepChange, the week aims to increase awareness of problem debt and the advice and solutions available to help, especially right now with the cost of living crisis. Anyone experiencing problems with debt can access free, confidential support from StepChange. www.stepchange.org

Wear A Hat Day. 25th March 2023
Grab your favourite hat and raise funds to bring us closer to a cure for brain tumours. Take part with your school, workplace or simply at home with family and friends either on Friday 25th March or on any day during the month. www.braintumourresearch.org

Page Turners

by Mike Townsin

Big Magic

by Elizabeth Gilbert

Here's a curiosity. Remember the Magi (3 wise men) who paid homage to

the infant Jesus? The word was derived from the Greek 'mageia' for wizardry or magic, which came down to us through Latin (magia), old French (magique), Middle English (magyk). Funny how the title of a book published in the 21st century can trace its roots back over two thousand years. A kind of Magic.

But I digress. The author Elizabeth Gilbert, urges us to throw off our creative inhibitions and embrace the possibility of magic in the Hogwarts sense – the supernatural, the mystical, the surreal, the divine.

It's a kind of self-help book in which she gives us insights into how to develop our individual creativity; in a nutshell it's about inspiration, when an idea enters your head, what that feels like and how to bring it to fruition.

But here's her hypothesis: an idea needs a person to seize it, turn it into something material, otherwise if neglected for too long, it will slip away and look for another host.

Through her own experience she shows how easy it is to get sidetracked by the mundane stuff – the media, shopping, brooding, getting angry – and miss the buzz of an idea when it taps you on the shoulder. Watch out!



Miscellany



Curated by Mike Townsin

- In 2018 the Sahara Desert was covered in a blanket of snow; it lasted a day.
- Just over 6000 years ago the Sahara was a lush rain forest.
- It is impossible to hum while holding your nose
- The circulatory system of an adult is about 100,000 miles long.
- Peanuts aren't nuts, they're legumes. And walnuts are seeds.
- The American flag was designed by a schoolboy as part of a project. President Eisenhower called the school to say it was approved.
- In 2008, an MI5 officer appeared on The One Show; halfway through his moustache fell off.
- Jentacular adj. breakfasty, breakfastish; of, or relating to, breakfast.
- After becoming part of the British Empire the sarong-clad Burmese called the Brits 'The Trouser People'.
- In the 9th century, Ireland was called 'Scotia' and Scotland was known as 'Albania'
- In 1987, American Airlines saved \$40,000 by removing an olive from each salad in First Class.
- Horripilation means getting goosebumps.
- The Hebrew for candyfloss is searot savta (grandma's hair).
- Olivia Newton-John was president of the Isle of Man Basking Shark Society.

Natural Remedies



by Debbie Flaherty

Health Tip – How art can uplift your spirits.

We all have our low days and sometimes we find it difficult to shake off that feeling. Studies show that art can provide a number of benefits for our mental health.

A suggestion is to create some art yourself. It doesn't matter if you consider yourself an artist or not, making art is a great way to lift your spirits and express yourself. So why not give it a try and see how it makes you feel.

A visit to local art galleries or art museums may inspire you to start creating or just lift your mood to see something of beauty that has been created. Watch an art documentary, these often explore an artist's work and life stories and can be very inspirational.



ART Wit and Wisdom



Curated by Mike Townsin

• ***A designer knows he has achieved***

perfection not when there is nothing left to add, but when there is nothing left to take away.Antione de Saint-Exupery

• ***Everything has beauty, but not everyone sees it.*** Andy Warhol

• ***Arts and sciences are branches of the same tree.*** Albert Einstein

• ***Art is like a lover whom you run away from but who comes back and picks you up.*** Tracy Emin

• ***Artists are here to disturb the peace.*** James Baldwin

• ***Creativity is magic. Don't examine it too closely.*** Edward Albee

• ***Every artist was first an amateur.*** Ralf Waldo Emerson

• ***Drawing is rather like playing chess: your mind races ahead of the moves that you eventually make.*** David Hockney

• ***A simple line painted with the brush can lead to freedom and happiness.*** Joan Miro

Getting To Know YOU

Melanie Stapelkamp

What is your most valuable possession?

Controversial I know, but my Mum's ivory rose which was passed down through generations. My Mum always wore it around her neck on a black velvet ribbon.

What is your favourite song and how does it make you feel?

Jerusalema by Master KG. Very inclusive. (*Jerusalema* is a song by South African DJ and record producer Master KG featuring South African vocalist Nomcebo. The upbeat gospel-influenced house song was initially released on 29 November 2019.)

Who is your favourite artist and why?

I have so many but my favourites are Australian and African artists, I love their colours and naivety.

What words of wisdom would you pass on to the younger generation? Just go for it! Life is short!

What scares you most?

Global warming.

What is your greatest achievement?

My three beautiful children.

All-time favourite movie?

Gone With the Wind – that's where I got my name.

If you could travel back in time, where would you go?

To the convent and apologise to the nun whose veil I pinned to the curtain. It didn't end well.

What is your favourite season?

Definitely summer!

Answers in next month's issue.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE. THERE ARE TEN DIFFERENCES.

Your chance to win a £10 M&S Voucher! Circle the differences on the left image. Give this whole page to your Scheme Manager, or place in the suggestion box before Friday 17th March 2023.

Name: _____



The Milkmaid by Johannes Vermeer 1658

Local Theatre: GRiP Theatre



by Chantal Richards

I am the sort of person that wears many hats, so as well designing this magazine and being a photographer,

I am also the founder and joint director of a theatre company — GRiP Theatre. My husband and I created the company and a fringe pub theatre venue in Hampton Wick in 1992. We ran it evenings and weekends alongside our full time jobs.

Our company was a great launchpad for many newly graduated actors, writers and directors. Chris Chibnall started his script writing career with us and went on to create ITV drama *Broadchurch* and is the recent showrunner of *Doctor Who*.

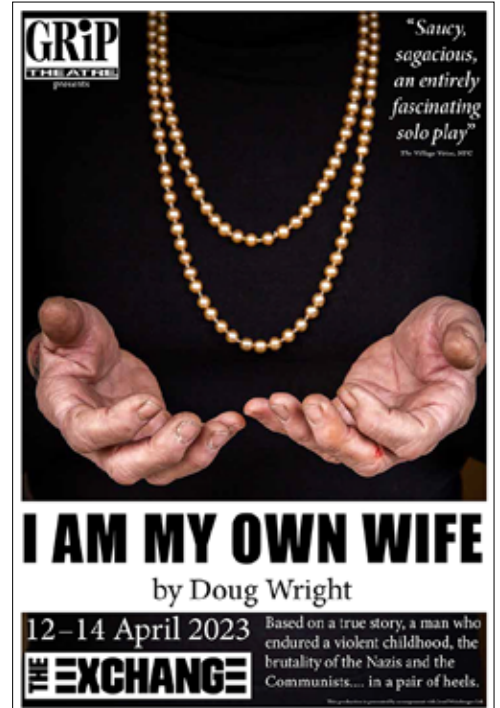
This April, we are reviving our company with a production of *I Am My Own Wife* by Doug Wright. 'It's a fascinating true story of a man who endured a violent childhood, the brutality of the Nazis and the Communists, in a pair of heels.' A one man show starring the talented Andy Hough and directed by my husband, Martin Richards.

The play runs for 90minutes and is a great evening out in Twickenham. I have organised a special group discount (6 or more for £8 each) for Almshouse Residents – please quote *Richmond Charities*. Concessions are £10. I look forward to seeing you there!

I AM MY OWN WIFE.

12th – 14th
April 2023.

at The
Exchange,
75 London Rd,
Twickenham
TW1 1BE
(opposite
Twickenham
train station)



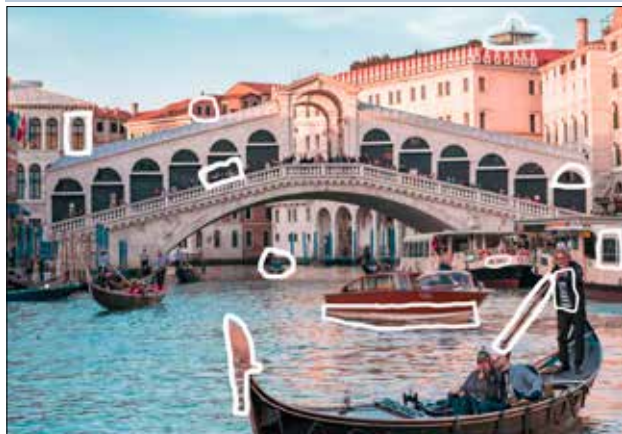
Box Office: **020 8240 2399** (call for group discount)

Book online: www.exchangetwickenham.co.uk

ANSWERS: FEBRUARY - Word Scramble

1. DASD MRYA - Dad's Army
2. NBNEY HLIL- Benny Hill
3. IVNAG NAD ATCEYS - Gavin and Stacey
4. ODC NMARIT -Doc Martin
5. ELLRSUS DHAROW Russell Howard
6. CELMAIH CMINETRY - Michael McIntyre
7. RSIEAFR - Frasier
8. STSOHG - Ghosts
9. FYTLWA WOTRE - Fawlty Towers

ANSWERS: FEBRUARY Spot the Difference - Venice





by Nigel Davis

As a small boy, I used to love looking at the superb illustrations in the books which my mother had kept from her own childhood. Elves and fairies featured a lot in those days (no doubt it is nowadays rockets and space invaders) and the paintings by artists such as Arthur Rackham, RS Brock and Kate Greenaway were of outstanding quality. And of course we now also have the fairy illustrations of our very own Maureen Bliss of Manning Place!

This fairy poem by Robert Graves is taken from his first book of poems, published in 1918. (The collection was strikingly entitled ***Fairies and Fusiliers***, as it included a number of Graves's powerful war poems.)

This poem is, I think, a lovely poem of its type – I can just imagine, for example, a Kate Greenaway illustration of fairies ‘chin to knee on the orchard wall.’ And perhaps too, to an adult reader, there is a slight edge to the poem. ‘Come away, come away, come away’ the fairies seem to be seductively saying. But come away where?

I never read this poem as a boy. But if I had, I am sure that I would have liked it then as much as I like it now at the age of 71!

Cherry Time by Robert Graves

Cherries of the night are riper
Than the cherries pluckt at noon
Gather to your fairy piper
When he pipes his magic tune:

Merry, merry,
Take a cherry;
Mine are sounder,
Mine are rounder,
Mine are sweeter
For the eater
Under the moon.

And you'll be fairies soon.

In the cherry pluckt at night,
With the dew of summer swelling
There's a juice of pure delight,
Cool, dark, sweet, divinely smelling.

Merry, merry,
Take a cherry,
Mine are sounder,
Mine are rounder,
Mine are sweeter
For the eater
In the moonlight.

And you'll be fairies quite.

When I sound the fairy call,
Gather here in silent meeting,
Chin to knee on the orchard wall,
Cooled with dew and cherries eating.

Merry, merry,
Take a cherry,
Mine are sounder,
Mine are rounder,
Mine are sweeter for the eater
When the dews fall.

And you'll be fairies all.