



Arts Guild Newsletter No.1 December 2019

To all our member groups, I would like to introduce you to our new secretary Joan Lomas. Joan is taking over from Elaine Campbell who has done the job for about 10 years. Joan has been on the Management Committee for some years and has now offered to take over the job as secretary. This newsletter is her idea and more about that later.



Big Thank You to Elaine

Big thank you to Elaine for all her hard work as secretary. Her son Damani is one of the Talented Young People that we have supported over the years. She took on the job to say thank you and I think she has more than repaid us.

Damani is now a principal dancer in the National Ballet in Bratislava. We were very pleased to see him dance back in the summer at the Stevenage Festival where he took part in the Finale Concert and also joined us for this year's TYP presentation. Here he is with some of the young dancers getting awards.



Gordon Craig Theatre Archive



Stevenage Arts Guild has been working with the museum on the Stories from the Gordon Craig archive. Do take the time to look at the website

www.thegordoncraigtheatrearchive.org.uk

and in particular the video made by Nigel Howlett which takes you on a backstage tour of the theatre. Lots of other interesting stuff for anyone that has ever been

to a performance in the theatre. The museum's exhibition is now open and will run until early next year. I haven't had a chance to visit yet but it



sounds really interesting. Also there are various Memories events taking place and if you have a story about the theatre that you would like to share please get in touch with them.

Newsletter

Now a bit more about the Arts Guild Newsletter. Joan would like to hear from you if you have an event which you would like to advertise or some information that you would like to share.

Please send us pictures if you have them and links to your websites where our readers can find more information.



We will circulate to all our member groups plus other places in the town such as the hospital, library, council offices. Email us at sagsecretary2019@gmail.com



Courses – would you like us to run some courses to help you?

Does your group need help with any of the following:

- Building an Audience
- Growing your membership
- Social Media for Groups – Facebook, Twitter
- Improving your Website
- Applying for funding

Please let us know if you would like us to look into organising some courses for you.

General Meetings and AGM for 2020

Dates for SAG meetings in 2020.

General Meetings at SBC

4 February

12 May

Management Committee Meetings

21 January

21 April



We're considering changing the venue of the General Meetings and AGM from the SBC offices to the Arts Centre to give you the opportunity to showcase your groups. It would be where you could have a 'market stall' table to display your fliers and posters and to show other SAG members the great things that you doing. Please can you let us know if you like this idea or if you would prefer to stay with things as they are.

Group Update from Meeting on 22 October.

Lytton Players – have had a profitable year to date with excellent attendance. Forthcoming events will be Variety Show at the end of January and Priscilla Queen of the Desert.

Stevenage Choral – reported on a very good year. Forthcoming concerts include Carl Jenkins Requiem, Rutter and Chilcot, Concert of the works of local writers and somposers and Balshazzar's Feast in collaboration with another society.

Stevenage Locomotive – reported a very good 60th anniversary year.

Stevenage Male Voice Choir - currently taking a break from performance but hope to run a workshop to attract new members in the new year.

Since the meeting on 22 October, we were very sorry to hear that Paul Rooke, SMVC's long standing music director, passed away in November. We would like to extend our sincere condolences to Paul's family and to all SMVC members at this very sad time.

Paul's funeral will take place at 12.30 on 12 December at Harwood Park followed by a Wake at Knebworth Park. Please notify Paul's family via this website <https://everloved.com/life-of/paul-rooke/> if you will be attending the funeral.

Stevenage Orchestra –are doing well. Concerts have mostly been held outside of Stevenage. They have a new conductor Tom Briars and they are working with Clifton Hughes and Hitchin Orpheus Choir.

Stevenage Photographic – hosted an excellent lecture programme this year culminating with a lecture recently by an eminent WW II photographer.

Stevenage Writers – have produced their 3rd Annual. It is unusual for a writers society to produce a collection of writings each year and as a result they have developed publishing skills and are happy to share with other groups that are interested in producing a similar publication.

U3A – have had another excellent year. Membership continues to rise and they are now 180+.

Hertfordshire Year of Culture

2020 is Hertfordshire Year of Culture and all groups will be invited to take part in the Borough Council's exciting plans for Stevenage Day.



We hope you have enjoyed this first edition of the SAG Newsletter. Don't forget to let us know of anything you would like to include in the next issue that will be sent out in March and in the meanwhile, let us know of any events that you would like us to feature on the SAG website and on social media.

Here's wishing you, and your groups a very Merry Christmas and a fantastic New Year.

See you in 2020

Hilary

