



ARTS Quarterly

No.92: Winter 2009/10



Association of Reunited Thames Staff
www.arts-tv.org.uk

Celebrating a quarter of a century of ARTS



Association of Reunited Thames Staff
www.arts-tv.org.uk

... to promote social contact and good fellowship among members

President: ROY ADDISON
 Ex-Director, Press & Publicity, Thames Television

COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: Bill Rawcliffe

ARTS Quarterly Editor & Webmaster: Alan Cross

chairman@arts-tv.org.uk

Secretary: Judi McCormack

webmaster@arts-tv.org.uk
editor@arts-tv.org.uk

Rita Fox

secretary@arts-tv.org.uk

Acting Treasurer: Alan Herbert

rita.fox@arts-tv.org.uk

Pam Jarvis

treasurer@arts-tv.org.uk

pam.jarvis@arts-tv.org.uk

Membership: Mary Willcocks

Peter Ernster (membership database)

membership@arts-tv.org.uk

peter.ernster@arts-tv.org.uk

Other helpers:

Gerry Whitney:

David London:

Sheila Hawksworth:

gerry.whitney@arts-tv.org.uk

david.london@arts-tv.org.uk

sheila.hawksworth@arts-tv.org.uk

ARTS Quarterly is published four times a year.

ARTS welcomes articles, letters and photos for publication in *ARTS Quarterly*. We prefer material sent by email (to editor@arts-tv.org.uk), but written material and photos can be sent to the Editor at the address shown. Photos will be credited where their authors' names are advised to us.

Normal deadlines for submission of contributions are:

For the Winter edition: 10 November

For the Spring edition: 10 February

For the Summer edition: 10 May

For the Autumn edition: 10 August

Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Association.

We reserve the right to edit contributions for the sake of clarity or brevity.

Logo design: thanks to John Stamp for the ARTS script device. Alan Cross created the triangular design.



The ARTS web site (arts-tv.org.uk) provides additional information about the Association, as well as publishing many more photos than is possible in *ARTS Quarterly*. Members should also check the web site for late breaking news about forthcoming ARTS events.

ARTS Quarterly is printed by JS Dutton Ltd
 Cale Street, Cale Green, Stockport, Cheshire SK2 6SW
 T: 0161 480 2346 ~ Email: info@jsdutton.co.uk

© Association of Reunited Thames Staff
 (ARTS) 2009

EDITORIAL



Well, our little chat over a drink, about the future of ARTS, led to a discussion at Committee, which in turn led to an email shot to get some feedback on your views. And did we get some views!! You can read something about it on page 6. Amazing how little ideas can develop!

ARTS itself was, once upon a time, just a "little idea" - a "wouldn't it be nice if ..." in the minds of its imaginative founders. No one could have guessed, back in the mid-80s, that ARTS might still be going strong well into the next Millennium - in spite of (but possibly strengthened by) the loss of our broadcasting franchise 17 years ago.

But here we are celebrating our Silver, and we plan to do it in style - as it's pretty unlikely that we will have another 'big' landmark date in our calendar - let's not try to work out how old we will be, if we're still around, when our '50' comes along!

Our thanks go to all of you who have helped to keep ARTS alive for a quarter of a century, either on Committee, or supporting events, or just keeping us fed with contributions for the magazine. We'd love even more support in 2010 - you could help by perhaps recruiting just one new member, or even joining the Committee!

It just remains to say that I hope all our members have a wonderful Christmas, and emerge into the New Year in good health and with a resolution to help ARTS keep going well into its second quarter century! ▼

Alan Cross - ARTS Quarterly Editor



CONTENTS

Forthcoming events at a glance	p 3
Chairman's Chit Chat	p 4
ARTS welcomes these new members	p 4
ARTS needs an Archivist!	p 4
A Winter Lunch	p 5
TEN YEARS ago ... Geoffrey Lugg	p 5
Am email from television and film writer Paul Burton	p 6
As they say in show business ...	p 6
Alsace in Spring 2010	p 7
Temple Banquet and Rumpole Ramble - May	p 8
Temple Banquet & Rumpole Ramble - September	p 9
The face of ARTS over the years	p 10
Whitchurch Silk Mill	p 11
Your letters	pp 12-13
In Memoriam	p 13
Are you a member of ARTS? Are you eligible?	p 13
Walks ancient and modern	p 14
... and never called me Mother - Dick Hibberd	p 14
We were a TV company - so where are all the videos?	p 15
ARTS needs a new AQ Editor - a plea from Yours Truly	p 15
But the spirit of the genius lives on ... !	p 16
All play and no work ...	p 16

Forthcoming events at a glance

Thursday 11 February 2010

ARTS Winter Lunch at 'The Park'

Organiser: Rita Fox

(rita.fox@arts-tv.org.uk)

See page 5 and flyer in this issue

Saturday 17 April 2010

Northern Natter 'n Nibble Night, at the Green Man, 383, Euston Road (opposite the entrance to Great Portland Street underground station), from 6.00pm.

Organiser: Sheila Hawksworth

(sheila.hawksworth@arts-tv.org.uk)

16 - 22 May 2010

ARTS Holiday in Alsace

Organiser: Alan Herbert

(alan.herbert@arts-tv.org.uk)

See page 7 and flyer in this issue

XTCC meetings:

Thursday 28 January 2010

at Astrid Smith's,

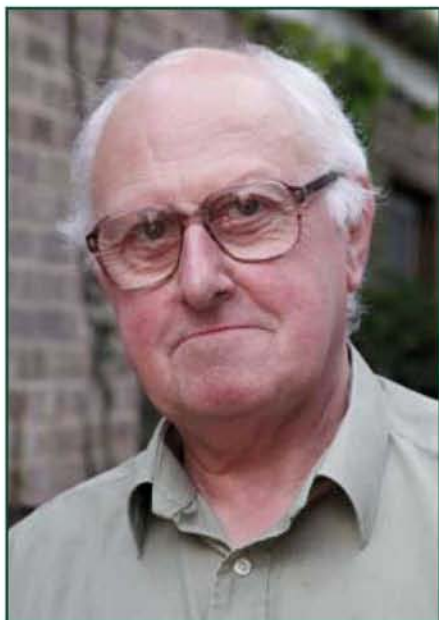
XTCC Organiser: Jim Crowther

Further details including addresses, maps, etc. are available from XTCC co-ordinator Jim Crowther on or xtcc@arts-tv.org.uk.

Our cover photo celebrates just some of the many activities that ARTS members have enjoyed over the years. Photos by various ARTS members

Chairman's Chit Chat

You cannot fail but to have been 'gob-smacked' by the stunning front cover of this edition of, what I hope is, your favourite magazine, which is the very first to be in full-colour on all pages and is our 'fanfare' edition to the 25th Anniversary of ARTS in 2010. You'll not be surprised that your Committee is hoping to make it a year to remember, and, already, plans are being commenced to hold a 'Grand Event' which will, we hope, involve a full day of interest for members. A venue, befitting the occasion, is being sought, and we would be interested in any suggestions that members may make regarding this.



In view of the enormous success of the lunches that Rita organises, with the latest one having had a record attendance of 84, our 'Special Event' will, almost certainly, commence with a lunch, involve live music, and may even have indoor and outdoor 'fun' events if the chosen venue can accommodate such facilities. What we really need, though, are your ideas for the day's content, which, ideally, should have links with Thames TV, so put on your thinking caps and get writing, phoning, or emailing anyone on your Committee with your notions.

Talking of record numbers, no less than 45 people attended the latest Northern Natter 'n Nibble Night at Euston, which was organised by Sheila Hawksworth and had the special theme of being in memory of Ken Angus. Also, our trip to Whitchurch Silk Mill was fully booked for the maximum number of 50 that both the Mill and the John Pinkerton barge could take, and the weather was 'out of this world' for the day!

Our Editor's remarks in the last edition of AQ, which were followed-up by a

mail-shot to all current ARTS members who have an email address, surprised the Committee - both with the number and breadth of comments and suggestions, and analysis of those members wishes will be ongoing throughout 2010. However, any proposals for possible changes certainly won't appear before the 2011 AGM at the very earliest, so members can rest assured that any decision regarding any alterations to ARTS membership criteria will only be executed following either a vote at an AGM or as a result of a ballot of all members.

In the meantime, approaching 25 years since the birth of our Club, and particularly as I write this piece immediately following the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, I am moved to remember all of our dearly departed ex-colleagues, of which some 250 names appear in the relevant RTTVS email group 'Oh Bit' files! It is a very sobering thought with the season of good-will just around the corner!

That just leaves me space, on behalf of your Committee, to wish all ARTS members a Happy Christmas plus good health and happiness during what we all hope will be a Silver-Lined New Year!

Bill Rawcliffe

Christmas cards?

Those of you who have not yet bought those special Christmas cards for your nearest and dearest might appreciate a reminder that Mary Willcocks' sister Lynn can supply beautiful hand-made cards and bookmarks for all occasions. She would be happy to discuss any specific requirements if you contact her on or by email at

ARTS welcomes these new members

Jill Lester

Company Secretary's Office,
Teddington

Bob Newman

Electricians & Lighting Directors,
Teddington

Philip Paviour

Production Lighting, Teddington

Geoff Wiggins

CTM, Teddington & News
Central, Euston

ARTS needs an Archivist!

Thanks to our members, we are accumulating a lot (so far about a good car-boot load!) of interesting material that we are so reluctant to dispose of, but we have no time, with our duties of looking after our members, to sort it all out. We are looking for a volunteer who ideally would be in a position to:

- Store safely, and catalogue, material, (documents, recorded material, memorabilia)
- Arrange to convert some old recorded material, on request, to a computer readable format (eg DVD), so that we can put it on the web site
- Work to the ARTS Committee, the AQ Editor and the webmaster to supply material for publication
- Look after any copyright issues.
- All costs would be covered of course, including any storage boxes you might need.

If you think you can help, and would enjoy supporting ARTS and the memory of Thames in this way, please get in touch with Bill Rawcliffe (contact details inside the front cover). ▼

We have some Thames memorabilia items borrowed from members, but have lost track of who lent them to us. If you're waiting for the return of any Thames mementos, do please get in touch, and we'll root them out.

A Winter Lunch - 11 February 1010

BELOW: the scene at The Wharf on 5 November; Rita and Bill addressing the 80-plus members (that's the number, not their age - I think!), Rita with the staff who had looked after us on the day.



TEN YEARS ago: Geoffrey Lugg writing in the ARTS Newsletter No 52 (Winter 1999)

THE GEOFFREY LUGG COLUMN



I suppose 1999 will be remembered for many things: the arrival of the Jubilee Line with its impressive stations; the London Eye which looms over us as the trains slides into Waterloo; the once uncertain but now positive opening of the Dome on New Year's Eve (I can't understand why they've called that station North Greenwich when it could just have been Dome); the downfall of Lord Archer; the re-opening of the Royal Opera House; and my appearance on "15-to-1".

We had another enjoyable gathering of friends at the Autumn Lunch held at The Wharf on 5 November. This was attended by 84 people, some of whom came from as far afield as France and Ireland.

Some of our Members say, "there is not much happening after Christmas", so we are holding a Winter Lunch on Thursday 11 February 2010. Although The Wharf received the majority of votes on the questionnaire distributed at the last Lunch, there was also a very high proportion of people who supported the idea of trying a new venue. As a result the Winter Lunch is to be held at 'The Park', Teddington; please see the flyer enclosed. There is a good bar area next to the dining room, The Park itself has fairly good parking facilities, and there is also good street parking close by after 10.30 am. It is

just around the corner from Teddington Station, and is close to Broad Street with many bus routes.

The capacity is not quite as great as The Wharf, so do please book early – first come, first served. Cheques will not be presented for payment until after the closing date.

I would like to take this opportunity of, once again, thanking all those who attended the Autumn Lunch for their generous support of the CTBF by purchasing their raffle tickets. With the help of Alan Herbert and Gerry Whitney, we sold 35 books and raised the great sum of £174. Wouldn't it be nice if one of our Members won the grand prize!

Have a Happy Christmas and looking forward to seeing you for 'a walk in The Park' next February.

Rita Fox

Photos © Alan Cross



'The Park' in Teddington - the venue for the next ARTS lunch



An email from television and film writer Paul Burton

Dear Sir,

My name is Paul Burton. I am a writer, filmmaker and film & TV historian. I have a particular passion and interest in Thames Television (1968 - 1993).

One of my recent books includes: *The Morecambe & Wise Quiz Book* (<http://www.paulburton.org.uk/books.htm>). Being a Thames fan, I made sure that I picked a photo for the sleeve that featured Eric & Ernie during their Thames days! Please visit the above link for more details of the book and to see the cover! The book includes many questions relating to Eric & Ernie's Thames TV years!!

Sadly, I never worked for Thames and so I am not able to join ARTS. However, I hope you/ARTS will allow me to contribute to your website and the group. For instance, I have a CD of part of interview that I did with Dennis Kirkland (God I miss him!) at his home during the summer of 2000. I think those who recall Den would love to hear it! I also have some photos of the exterior of Teddington Studios that I took during January 1998. Also, I would be more than happy to write articles about Thames TV and its programmes for your web site - all for free of course! It would just be nice to be able to share my passion for the company with you all! It would be like giving something back!

By the way, I run a popular web site dedicated to the past, present and future of Elstree Studios called *Elstree Calling* (www.elstreecalling.co.uk). I will add an ARTS link to my web site.

I am contacting various people that I have seen listed on ARTS' web site as I am not sure who exactly who to contact. I just hope this will result in your or somebody else contacting me regarding my proposals to help you!

In the meantime I thank you for your time.

Best wishes, Paul Burton

We hope to keep in touch with Paul. If you want to make direct contact, his email address is paulburton73@hotmail.co.uk

As they say in show business ...

You can't please all of the people all of the time!

For those of you who didn't receive the 'circular' email last month (see Chairman's Chit Chat), we've reproduced the essence of it here, along with just a 'flavour' of the breadth of responses we have had. As Bill says elsewhere, we're certainly not going to be proposing any changes during 2010, or even after that without the approval of our members. Thanks to all those who responded - we are listening to all of you!

WHAT WE SAID:

You may have read my Editorial on page 3 of the last ARTS Quarterly, in which I spoke of a 'casual conversation' after a recent ARTS Committee Meeting about the notion of making changes to the ARTS membership criteria. The question was discussed at a more recent Committee Meeting, but, at the moment, we have very little feel as to what our members might think.

The question raised was whether to leave ARTS membership criteria just as they are, or to open up membership to other non-Thames television staff. We already welcome freelancers with Thames, but perhaps we could include other Independent Television staff, or even BBC and satellite staff as well. Staying as we are will lead inevitably to a decline in membership (the forces of nature being as they are!), and perhaps you think we should let nature take its course. Or you might think that opening our doors in this way could destroy the very essence of what ARTS is all about. On the other hand, you might feel that the Association might just benefit from some 'stimulants' to keep it going for longer, and make for a more interesting social 'mix' at our events. Do let us know what you think!

If we changed, we would not envisage embarking on a campaign to encourage a large influx of non-Thames members (unless members overwhelmingly wanted it), and can't imagine that new members from 'outside' would ever constitute more than a small percentage of total membership. Hand in hand with any change might possibly come a change of name to "Association of Reunited Television Staff", though we would certainly continue to state publicly that our roots are in Thames.

And here (anonymously!) are some snippets of what some of you said:

"I would prefer ARTS to keep to Thames staff. However, ARTS must keep going, and if the only way to do this is to include members from other companies, then so be it."

"The bonkers idea of opening up ARTS to other TV organizations, in order to keep it going longer is nuts! ... let ARTS die slowly in a dignified way."

"I am totally against changing the word 'Thames' to 'Television. This will break the last link with our old and very excellent company and make the title meaningless. I accept that nature will take it's inevitable course"

"I can't tell you just how much I endorse the idea of extending ARTS membership to other, non-Thames Television staff. The thought of our becoming an ever-shrinking, closed cult ... fills me with horror, dread and sadness."

"[My] answer is No to both the name change and opening it up to other companies."

"I'm not keen on the idea of opening up the membership. In my opinion, the whole reason for belonging to ARTS is the shared history."

"I personally have no objection to widening the membership but I don't think the BBC should be included."

Unfounded pessimism in 1991 ...

Extract from ARTS Newsletter no 20 (Winter 1991)

ANNUAL MEETING - 22 November

Betty Thomas

More members gathered together at this Annual Meeting at Tottenham Court Road than at any of the previous meetings, primarily, one suspects, hoping to learn something of the future of A.R.T.S. in these changing times.

As you will have read in the Chairman's letter, we were able to say that events planned for next year will all take place, but further than the end of 1992 it is impossible to foresee at the moment.

Alsace in Spring 2010 6 nights, from £498 pp ~ Organiser Alan Herbert

You will all have received the flyer in AQ for this exceptional value for money holiday offered by Mitchellwood Travel. Steve Mitchell has in the past given us wonderful holidays such as Honfleur, Joigny, the Reims Christmas market, Falmouth/Eden Project, Worcester and many more. This time we are venturing into the Alsace region of France close to the German border with the usual mix of interesting day trips in the full sightseeing programme detailed below.

The charming and beautiful region of

Alsace, for centuries a meeting place of Europe's Latin and German cultures, is situated between the Vosges Mountains and the River Rhine, along which the long disputed Franco-German border seems to have found its resting place. Thankfully, these days Alsace is a very peaceful region, one that attracts discerning French, Dutch and German holidaymakers, who come to enjoy the stunning landscapes, picture-book towns and the region's cuisine and fine wines. Despite this Alsace remains an area little known to British people.

So what's included in the price? As

usual, a luxury coach with toilet and video; 6 nights hotel accommodation including 4 nights in Alsace & stop-overs both outward and homeward; 4 evening meals in the hotels giving the opportunity to sample alternative restaurants for 2 nights in Saverne; buffet breakfasts in the hotel throughout, and return Eurotunnel crossing. Optional supplements are Travel Insurance at £24, and a single room supplement of £96. The supplement is high as it is for single use of a twin/double room but we may be able to reduce this if we reach the minimum number of 30 persons on this trip.



Riquewihr, Alsace



The Itinerary

- **Sunday 16 May** – Departing Teddington around 09:00 (dependent on the number of other pickup points) the coach will drive to Folkestone for the crossing to Calais. Once on the continent the coach will head for the stop-over hotel in the Reims area. After checking in there will be time to relax and freshen-up before dinner in the hotel restaurant.
- **Monday 17 May** – Continuing after breakfast it is intended to get to Saverne in time for lunch. After checking-in at the hotel, the remainder of the day is free until everyone meets up for dinner in the hotel's celebrated restaurant.
- **Tuesday 18 May** – A contrasting visit as the group drive the 25km to Strasburg, the capital of Alsace and part time seat of the European

Parliament. Here there will be time for sightseeing, lunch and the recommended boat trip round the city centre. Returning to the hotel by late afternoon, the evening is completely free.

- **Wednesday 19 May** – Heading southwards the coach follows the renowned Alsatian Wine Route to the delightful town of Colmar. The day will also include a stop in Riquewihr, perhaps the prettiest of all Alsatian wine villages. Returning to the hotel by late afternoon, there will be time to relax and freshen-up before dinner in the hotel restaurant.
- **Thursday 20 May** – Keeping things nice and relaxed the group visit the charming town of Obernai for market day and a tasting at the cellars of the highly respected wine producer Robert Blanc. Returning

to Saverne we will visit the town's impressive Boat Lift before taking a scenic cruise on the Rhine-Marne Canal. Returning to the hotel by late afternoon, the evening is completely free.

- **Friday 21 May** – Leaving Alsace after breakfast the coach travels to Luxembourg for a sightseeing visit before continuing to the stop-over hotel in the Meuse Valley on our homeward journey. Dinner will be served in the hotel's restaurant.
- **Saturday 22 May** – Leaving the hotel after breakfast we will continue the journey back to Calais. En route there will be a lunch stop in Ieper (Ypres) before catching the Eurotunnel back to Folkestone. The expected times of arrival back at the departure points are between 20.00 & 21.00.

As you will hopefully agree, this is a good value for money holiday considering all the trips included in the price. Obviously members can decide to drop out of these sightseeing tours and do their own thing if they wish, but with no price reduction!

Would all those interested please forward the Booking Form, a SAE, and deposit cheque for £75 per person, made out to ARTS, which will be held until a closing date of 11 January 2010 – enjoy Christmas and plan ahead for next year!

Temple Banquet and Rumpole Ramble - May



As directed by the court, (M'lud William Rawcliffe!) the members of the ARTS jury, consisting of 29 women and men true assembled in the precinct of the Temple (Underground Station!) to be guided by City of London guide, Brenda Cole. With fine weather, we enjoyed a pleasant stroll along the Embankment to the first point of interest, the western boundary of the City of London, the 'Square Mile'.

There be 'Dragons' holding the City Coat of Arms, established about 1849, and unveiled in October 1963 by the then Lord Mayor of London. We then proceeded to the Temple gardens that originally extended with steps down to

the river prior to the building of the road on the Embankment in 1870.

We were then guided via the gardens to the Middle Temple hall for lunch where we were forbidden to take photographs on pain of a lengthy sentence, but see www.middletemple.org.uk/banqueting for a virtual tour.

Measuring 100' long by 40' wide, the Middle Temple Hall is regarded as the finest example of a Tudor banqueting hall in the UK and is known as "the most luxurious works canteen in the country" – the lunch was good too! Over 600 coats

to practise as independent advocates in the Courts of England and Wales or to take employment in government or local government service, industry, commerce or finance.



The Inns' names were derived from the Knights Templar who were in possession of the Temple site for some 150 years. The origins of the Inn can be traced from two roots: the occupation of the Knights Templar and the replacement of the priestly lawyers by a lay profession.

After lunch we processed to the Inner temple, Pump Court and thence to Temple Church (ca. 1185) restored after WWII fire bombing.....

For this Rumpole fan and spouse, one of the most memorable highlights of the Ramble will always be John Mortimer's chambers listing the



of arms of former "Readers" adorn the Hall walls; the Readers were usually elected by the peers of the Bench and could become Treasurer. The eastern end of the Hall, including the Screen and Balcony were flattened during the Blitz and subsequently restored with no visible signs of the joins!

Although no exact date can be given, it is believed that the Middle Temple and the remaining three Inns of Court were established by the middle of the 14th Century.

One of the most important features in the Hall is the Bar and the Middle Temple is one of the four Inns of Court which have the exclusive right to Call men and women to the Bar, i.e. to admit those who have fulfilled the necessary qualifications to the degree of Barrister-at-Law, which entitles them, after a period of pupillage (vocational training) either

various barristers he invented, so well portrayed by the excellent cast from the Thames series, Mr Sam Ballard, Mr. Erskine Brown et al., and, of course, Leo McKern's Horace Rumpole, "by the actor who made Rumpole a lawyer we could love".

David & Penny Seal



Temple Banquet and Rumpole Ramble - September



Brenda
Cole



The response to arrangement for a Temples visit had proved so popular that it had been necessary to arrange two visits and this is a brief report of the visit by the second group of 28 ARTS members on 24 September.

We were lucky, the weather was warm and sunny and as we walked over Waterloo Bridge to our meeting point with Alan Herbert on the bank of the Thames opposite Temple station. London looked splendid, especially from the perspective of those for whom a visit to the Capital is becoming increasingly rare!

Once all had arrived and been checked off, Brenda Cole, our excellent guide, led us along the Embankment pointing out historical landmarks on the way to the Inner Temple, including the huge dragon statues which mark the City boundary. Once we were congregated within the boundary of the Inns of the Temples, Brenda explained that their name originated from the Knights

Templar, a loose organisation of religious knights and strong minded monks who protected pilgrims making for the Holy Land and who made their base amongst the inns of the area.

We were taken on a detailed tour of the both the Inner and Middle Temples past all the very many 'inns' where the various lawyers' practices have their chambers, the historic round church and associated Master's House and the Middle Temple Hall. For many of us this Hall was the pearl of the visit, built in 1570 it retains all its grandeur and this is where we had lunch and were exposed to the incredible range of first class dishes which are available to the lawyers on a daily basis.

The temple Church was quite special too. The doorway is of Norman origin and highly regarded as a very well preserved piece of architecture from that period. Its history is described on a displayed stone tablet - see photo. In all an extremely interesting and pleasurable visit.

Mike Tooms



THE TEMPLE CHURCH A HISTORY IN PICTURES

WELCOME TO THE TEMPLE CHURCH. WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL ENJOY THE CHURCH'S BEAUTY, ITS HISTORY AND ITS CALM.

THE CHURCH WAS BUILT BY THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OVER EIGHT HUNDRED YEARS AGO. THE ROUND CHURCH WAS DESIGNED TO RECREATE, HERE IN LONDON, THE SHAPE AND SANCTITY OF THE ROUND CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE IN JERUSALEM; THE PRESENT CHANCEL WAS ADDED IN 1240. THE TEMPLARS WERE MONKS AND SOLDIERS TOGETHER. THEY WERE ALSO BANKERS AND DIPLOMATIC BROKERS TO SUCCESSIVE KINGS; THE TEMPLE ITSELF WAS AT THE CENTRE OF ENGLAND'S RELIGIOUS, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE.

THE TEMPLARS WERE SUPPRESSED AT THE START OF THE 14TH CENTURY. IN 1608 - WHEN THE CHURCH WAS ALREADY OVER 400 YEARS OLD - JAMES I GRANTED ALL THE TEMPLARS' FORMER LAND BETWEEN FLEET STREET AND THE RIVER TO THE SOCIETIES OF INNER AND MIDDLE TEMPLE, TWO OF LONDON'S INNS OF COURT. THE INNS UNDERTOOK IN RETURN THAT THEY WOULD MAINTAIN THE CHURCH IN PERPETUITY FOR THE CELEBRATION OF DIVINE SERVICE. THE INNS HAVE DONE SO, EVER SINCE, WITH A GENEROSITY THAT HAS RE-BEAUTIFIED THE CHURCH IN EVERY GENERATION.

THE CHURCH WAS REFURBISHED IN CLASSICAL STYLE IN THE 1680S, ONCE MORE IN GOTHIC STYLE IN THE 1840S, AND IN ITS PRESENT FORM AFTER WORLD WAR II.

The face of ARTS over the years



Association of Retired Thames Staff

Here is a quick round-up of the header styles that we have used for the ARTS Newsletters over the years. Interestingly, the rather neat ARTS logo that appeared on the very earliest issues (as above) was dropped in favour of simple wording using the preferred Thames typeface (corporate influence there, methinks!). We can see the progression through the introduction of the Pearson logo - no doubt an acknowledgement to their generous financial support in those affluent days. 2002 saw the introduction of the John Stamp logo, and in 2003 we added the 'triangle' (your current Editor's invention), and also changed our 'R' from 'Retired' to 'Reunited'. We called our 'document' a Newsletter until 2005, when the new style (below) prompted the decision to rethink the name, as it was already really much more than a Newsletter. After some debate we decided on ARTS Quarterly, which is what we have to this day. A quarter of a century of dedicated production! ▼



ARTS
ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED THAMES TELEVISION STAFF



NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 20

WINTER 1991

ARTS
ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED THAMES TELEVISION STAFF



NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 1995
No. 35

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 1999
No. 51



ARTS ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED TELEVISION STAFF

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2001
Edition No.60



ARTS Association of Retired Television Staff



Association of Retired Television Staff
NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2002
Edition No.64



PRESIDENT: Roy Addison, Executive Vice President Corporate Communications, RTL Group.



Edition 65/Spring 2003

Association of Reunited Thames Staff



Edition 68
Winter 2003



Inside this issue:

New ARTS website..... 2
Official 3

Whitchurch Silk Mill - Tuesday 13 October. Report & photos: Alan Cross

Whitchurch Silk Mill, lunch at the Jolly Miller, Warnborough, and cruise on the John Pinkerton to King John's Castle

Around 50 members, partners and friends converged on the Silk Mill at Whitchurch, Hampshire, most by chartered coach from Teddington, and others under their own steam. The weather was perfect. After teas, coffees and large slices of cake, we were divided into two groups and shown round the Mill by our guides. There was really plenty to appeal to both the gentlemen and the ladies in our party: the Thames guys (mostly engineering types, let's face it!) were probably more interested in the complexities of the looms, powered originally by the water



scenery that drifted slowly past us under the warm afternoon sun.

King John's Castle (also called Odiham Castle), though a ruin, looked quite beautiful in the warm light. After the 'obligatory' group photos in front of the castle, we were able to learn of its history, and the links with Magna Carta and Runnymede. Half an hour or so later, we were back on board the John Pinkerton to return to Colt Hill, and thence home.

This was an excellent day for all. A variety of activities, well paced, and superbly organised. Even the weather was orchestrated to perfection. So a big 'thank you', Bill, from all of us. ▼

wheel, but now by electricity; the ladies were, by all appearances, transfixed by the beauty of the silks – especially in the Shop!

All too soon lunchtime was approaching, and we were on our way to the Jolly Miller at Warnborough, some miles away, for our lunch. If there was any small disappointment in the day, it was the quality of the lunches and the promptness of service, but this in no way dampened our spirits.

Once lunch was over, it was a short journey by coach or car to Colt Hill to join the narrow boat John Pinkerton. Once on board, we cruised ever-so-sedately westbound along the Basingstoke Canal, enjoying all the quintessentially pastoral



Your letters

Dear Alan

I went to a meeting of the Teddington Society's history section on 4 November, and was asked whether anyone had any information on a John Rees, who was a cameraman on *Thank Your Lucky Stars* back in 1963. An autograph book he owned came up for sale and raised a lot of money for charity. I feel sure some of our members will have known John and the Teddington Society would be grateful for any information.

Many thanks

Regards, Pam Jarvis

Dear Alan

"What interesting places you visit" said a friend of mine after I had recently been on fascinating days out to Middle Temple and Whitchurch Silk Mill / Basingstoke Canal. I thought "Yes, I do have a varied life and I love being a part of the organization that facilitates it."

So, I decided to write and say thank you to ARTS for arranging these outings. I offer a special thanks to Bill our Chairman for organizing both events.

Of course as your Secretary, I have first hand knowledge of the trips and holidays at the committee meetings. I know the dedication that goes into making them a success, and we are lucky to have our health to enjoy these outings.

So, whilst I was offering my gratitude, I decided that an 'advert' to join the committee would not go amiss. How about enjoying a few hours on the first Wednesday of each month, to offer your ideas or expertise in a convivial atmosphere in Teddington with ample parking and perhaps partake in a drink/lunch afterwards at your discretion?

'ARTS NEEDS YOU!'

Judi McCormack, Secretary, ARTS

Dear Alan,

Regarding the first editor of the magazine, it was of course Betty Thomas ably assisted by her husband Rupert. Betty unfortunately is not very well at the moment, but I do remember her thumping away on her old typewriter. We would then gather in each other's houses to collate it and then given a bundle each to deliver. I used to plod around Hampton and always knocked in the hope of having a gossip and scandal. We must have posted only about a 100, so the cost was very little, in spite of the fact that we had tons of money in these golden years. How things have changed! However I do love AQ and long may it continue as it is our main link to so many of our friends. I do so hope that someone will take over this hard and time-consuming task, I'd try myself if I was 10 years younger and not going completely ga ga!

Yours

Duggie Fairbairn

Alan

I think the occasion of the Coronation Street photos [AQ last issue] was the Computer Associates/Software International UK Meeting at University of Manchester, Institute of Science & Technology, 21-23 July 1987.

The Conference Programme lists the Thames Delegation as:

- Pam Boxall
- Phyllis Campbell
- Jane Chadwick
- Kelvin Cox
- Leo Doyle
- Nick Meffe
- Jackie Neeve
- Kevin Rendall
- Alan Rolph
- and me.

Regards

Ron Keevil

Dear Editor

For those who didn't already know, 28 October was the 50th anniversary of the birth of Anglia Television in Norwich. Those of us still alive (The 59ers) met for a grand reunion buffet lunch, and some of those present came from afar.

In actual fact, I exceeded this qualification by 4 years, having already obtained my 55ers tie, earned with A.R.

Although a great success, it was preceded a few days before with the news that the last-but-one of the original board members, Lord Aubrey Buxton had died.

The kids that now run the station went on air at 6pm. with champagne. We, that actually did it, had our red wine about 3 miles away, but in much better company!

Cheers, Sid Denney

Dear Alan

The Northern Natter 'n Nibble Night on Saturday 17 October saw 45 people there. A really good mix of people - three PBX girls, Rosie Harrison and Carole Bernard from Make Up, two Sparks, camera and sound studio people, Peter George, Rupert Parker and Paul Cox from film cameras, Steve Minchin, Daphne Hamilton, Peter Crook, Christine Fanthome, and Alan Ritchie (VTR) who came because we made the evening a tribute to Ken Angus. Trevor Hails had produced six photos, which we framed and put one on each table, with large copies on the bar door and round the room. Trevor, Ken, Adrian and Peter all did tributes to Ken, and we all raised our glasses to him at the end - he would have enjoyed it. And the food was fine - so a really good night was had by all.

Sheila Hawsworth

Please note: When sending letters to the Editor, it will help if you can mark them 'for publication' or 'not for publication', according to your wishes. We don't want to publish what was intended as a personal note, but also we want to be sure to publish all intended contributions. Emails, please, to editor@arts-tv.org.uk, or letters to the Editor, Alan Cross, at the address on page 2.

More letters

Dear Alan,

Being one of the first three of the Thames Management to be 'made' to take early retirement in 1990 I may have been among the early members of ARTS. I seem to remember Jack Andrews being a prime mover in its birth pangs.

My first reaction to your email is to record my appreciation to you, the past and present ARTS committees, and Bill Rawcliffe, in his multi functional roles for doing such a splendid job, even though my only participation these days seems to be reading the quarterly ARTS Magazine. We used to always attend the ARTS Dinner Dance, from wherever we lived, until it was moved from its original date - a mistake I believe and I said as much to Bill Rawcliffe at the time. I seem to have served on some committee or other for most of my life, so I do know how much 'behind the scenes' time and effort is put into our 'voluntary organisation', in particular as I was the first secretary to the Thames Television Sports & Social Club founded in the early time of Muir Sutherland's reign.

My second reaction is that we should let nature take its course. ARTS is a 'Thames Television production' - akin to our broadcasting products, the best of which we all look back on and at with pleasure and pride in the knowledge that 'we were there'. ARTS membership 'dilution' would, for me personally and selfishly perhaps, make the whole thing meaningless. There are other organisations already in place, such as British Cinema & Television Veterans, to which I also belong, that cater for the kind of people you are suggesting attracting, and yes - I did see Rita Fox's letter therein. As a wise man once said - 'Nothing stays the same forever'.

Yours sincerely
Bernard E Burke

Dear Alan

Have just been reading the latest ARTS Quarterly and in particular the piece on when ARTS started up. I think you will find that it started via the Thames TV staff newsletter that management used to send out to everybody. I can remember reading the odd paragraph or two about ARTS before I retired and that was in September 1987. One of the first things I did was to join and almost straight away go on our first coach holiday with them to France for a week, staying in a village just outside Paris in the Hotel Paix. At that time Arts used to organise a Spring and Autumn trip organised by Betty Thomas, ex Teddington secretary and her husband Rupert (non Thames). Joanna Walker was a great supporter. Her great ambition at that time was to get hotels to stop charging high single rates for hotel single rooms. Betty would have given you all the information you need on when ARTS started as she was the editor, printer and postman of the first real newsletters that were printed. She was made a life member of ARTS when she retired from the post a few years ago.

The other person who springs to mind from those early days is Denis Day. He was treasurer for many years before he died and I wondered if any of his original cash books are still around, they would probably contain all sorts of interesting entries, like the first annual cash gifted by Thames TV to the Association.

Best Wishes Sam Bassford

From a very happy ARTS member to Rita Fox after the last Lunch...

Dear Rita
Yummy, Yummy, Yummy
I've a happy little(?) tummy.
Perfect Paté,
Delightful Duck
Brilliant Brulée,
TOP MARKS!
from Maureen Martin

IN MEMORIAM

Doreen Brown (was Ford)
Children's Dept. Teddington

Ron Green
Freelance Cameraman at
Teddington Studios

Jimmy Nichols
Lighting, Teddington

Del Randall
Vision Mixer, Teddington,
& Technical Supervisor/
Operational Manager

Ron Walsby
ABC, & Head of On-Air
Promotions, Teddington

Edward Woodward
Actor

Our dear friends and colleagues

Are you a member of ARTS? Are you eligible?

If you have received this issue of ARTS Quarterly as a complimentary copy (or you pinched or 'borrowed' it!), and think you may be eligible to join ARTS, why not apply? ARTS is open to all who worked at any time and in any capacity for **Thames Television, ABC Television or Associated Rediffusion** - whether young, not so young, still working or now retired.

A quick phone call to our Membership Secretary Mary Willcocks on , or an email to membership@arts-tv.org.uk will bring you full information and a membership application form. Membership is just £17.50 per year (2009-10), which brings you four issues of this magazine, group deals on holidays, walks, lunches, and lots more - all enjoyed with your favourite people from way back! ▼

Walks ancient and modern

Extract from ARTS Newsletter No 27 (Autumn 1993) where Margaret Austen describes the very first ARTS Walk

THE WALKERS OF A.R.T.S.

(commonly known as W.A.R.T.S.)

On the first Wednesday in May the A.R.T.S. 'Rambblers' met at the free car park on Ranmore Common, near Dorking. The day was fine and we had a good number turned up - thank goodness, as this was my first time as organiser and I didn't want to do the walk on my own!

We set off along the roadside and then out into woodland. The bluebells were a picture - the perfume and colour were just what I had hoped for.

We walked downhill, through open farmland, then up again past Polesden Lacey grounds. Fine paintings, silver and porcelain are on show in the house, and worth seeing if you are in the neighbourhood.



Following Hogden Lane we passed two lonely cottages, then out on to Dogkennel Green (not a dog in sight) then through a small wood filled again with bluebells, past a field with ewes and their offspring, to the Ranmore Arms, where we regained our strength. After a pleasant break we walked through mixed woodland, passing some New Age travellers living in an assortment of homes - a large brown tepees, a coach and various vans.

The North Downs Way was our next path to a good viewpoint, looking out over Dorking and Westcott. From here you could spot planes taking off from Gatwick Airport.

A short stroll brought us back to the starting point, and after all this thirsty work and about seven miles a few of us enjoyed a well earned cuppa at the nearby Cartledge restaurant.

This is a very pretty route - especially in May.

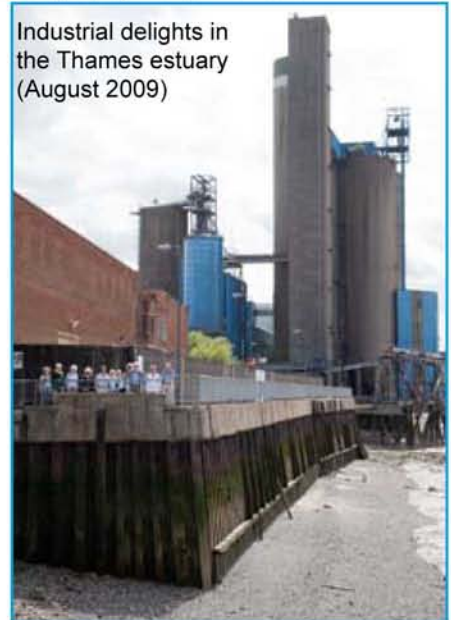
MARGARET AUSTEN

Recent walks - contrasting landscapes



Above: tranquillity on the River Wey in May 2009 - the repeat of the first ever ARTS walk described (left) by Margaret Austen

Industrial delights in the Thames estuary (August 2009)



Photos © Alan Cross

... and never called me Mother - more musings from Dick Hibberd

I wonder just how many euphemisms there are for dying, or for being dead. For some reason, we find it difficult to say in the course of conversations that someone has died or is dead. We might say, 'passed on', gone to a better place, etc.

Sometimes we will sadly be told that "I lost my husband/wife, earlier this year." I'm tempted to say what I think, and that is "How careless of you". Perhaps the husband/wife was of very short stature, and is still wandering around some department store, their whereabouts concealed by showcases, and counters which are higher than they are! Perhaps the person who has done the losing should take a good look around where they last saw them, and search a great deal more diligently. You never know they might be found

again.

I enjoy Alexander McCall Smith's novels about the 'No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency' in Botswana. There the characters in these books refer to their dead as being 'late', a subtle difference from 'the late' which we sometimes use. "Oh yes he is late", meaning he is dead; I wonder how they refer to someone who is less than punctilious!

And do people really die? I know that their bodies may cease to function, and they can hardly be referred to as sentient, but my friends are always with me, and probably always will be. It is just that I cannot hear their answers, but I still ask them questions. And there are so many questions, aren't there, why didn't we ask them when they were with us,

rather than in another room?

Most of us are so busy that we often don't make the time to sit and think quietly, and then say "I know, I'll ask him or her". But sadly they are often dead and gone, and we cannot hear the answers to our 'late' questions.

I know I should have asked my Mum, "Why did we move to Cheam at the beginning of the last war?" I'm just curious why we moved further into London, rather than away from the Blitz.

My Mum and Dad have both been 'late' for many, many, years now, and I guess I will never know the answer to this and my many other questions in this life, so I will have to accept the fact that the opportunity is past, and gone, gone, and never called me Mother. ▼

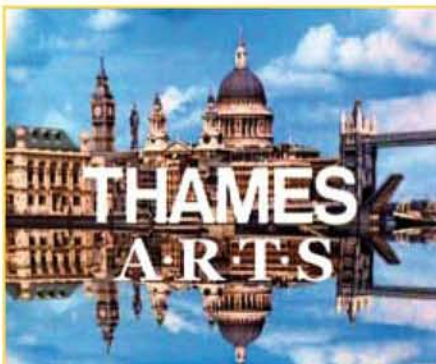
We were a TV company – so where are all the videos?

Those of you who visit the ARTS web site will know that we have extensive and growing galleries of both ARTS events and Thames memorabilia.

As a result we had to lease a bit more server space – though that only amounts to a few pence per member per year. But the new space means that we have the room to include video and sound clips. But where

is all the material we used to enjoy? I'm sure most members will remember the Christmas Specials that were produced by most of the network companies and the BBC – I mean the stuff that most definitely couldn't go out on air! Then there are other out-takes, logos, idents, and some other filming behind the scenes that was definitely 'Not for TX'.

So, do you have some of this material lurking in your loft? Better still, have you converted it to DVD, or could you be persuaded to?



ARTS tapes 'discovered'

We have recently received all of the late William Daw's Thames/ARTS archive material through Rob Croser, for which we are very grateful. Among the many books is a box of more than 40 VHS tapes marked 'ARTS', which appear to be the output of the 'ARTS Video Group', effectively an early 'video' version of ARTS Quarterly dating back as far as 1987! We'll soon be

putting some of this on the ARTS web site.

Benny Hill Show tapes 'discovered'

Through ARTS member Norman Donaldson, we have recently had passed to us a Philips N1500 video machine and two dozen Benny Hill tapes.

Norman says: "The VCR was used by the late John Street (an ex-BBC Producer who was involved in the very first Benny Hill Shows at the BBC). Apparently John was the only person

that Benny Hill would allow to compile the USA versions [for Thames]. TTI provided John with 1-hour shows on cassette, from which he would plan the ½-hour shows for the USA. I believe the very first dozen or so were done by an outside facility before moving to Teddington. Gloria [John's widow] would like it to be known that she has donated the machine and cassettes on behalf of John Street. I can't remember the dates, but it probably started circa 1980.

Norman Donaldson"

We are yet to fire up the player – quite possibly the drive bands are all rotted and sitting in pieces in the bottom of the case – but we're looking forward to seeing what we have, if we can get it working. We may not be able to add any of this to the web site, of course, as there are probably copyright issues to address.

But, back to that 'special' material - it must be still out there somewhere, and someone will have an old machine that will play it. Let us know what you have, and we'll see what we can publish (password-protected, 'for members only' if necessary)! ▼

ARTS needs a new AQ Editor - a plea from yours truly

It's almost five years since I took on the job of AQ Editor. I did so slightly reluctantly at the time, I must admit, but grew to enjoy the task of creating something that I hoped our members would enjoy, and would look forward to reading each quarter.

However, after five years, it's time for a change. I need to claw back a little more time for other pursuits (remember I'm married now!), and let someone else have the chance of putting their own creative stamp on the ARTS magazine.

When I took it on, I had no skills in publishing, and no software to do it with! The ARTS Committee were good enough to help me with buying software, and I soon learned enough to make a decent enough job of producing a magazine.

Our present printing company handles not only printing, but the distribution as well. The printer puts magazines and flyers into envelopes, labels them up, and puts them in the post – no more teams of ARTS 'lickers and stickers' to get them out to you, which is how it used to be done.

So the question is ... could you take on the Editor's job now? I'm assured that the Committee will look favourably on helping with a 'reasonable' software purchase, after which the learning process, and style of the magazine, would be down to you. It goes without saying that you would need to be fairly computer literate to start with, and be prepared to spend some time learning the 'package'. I will of course be happy to assist during a hand-over period. I plan to stand down from the post at

the next AGM, in May 2010, which is just before the June issue of AQ will be published, but will be happy to oversee the production of that issue with anyone who takes on the job in May.

I'd be pleased to talk to any member who'd like to explore things a little further – without taking on any immediate obligation of course. Please email me at editor@arts-tv.org.uk, or phone me on .

ARTS Quarterly is the only contact that many of our members have with the rest of their old colleagues – without a magazine they would get little from their membership of ARTS. That could see a sharp decline in our numbers, and the future of ARTS itself could be under threat if that happened. Not a happy thought. ▼

But the spirit of the genius lives on ... !

Tommy Cooper might have died the year before ARTS started, but we can thankfully still enjoy his unique humour ...



Photo taken by Peter Ernster, of Norman Wisdom unveiling the Tommy Cooper 'blue plaque' at the Teddington Studios in May 1996.

Duggie, if you try repeating any of these jokes, we'll ALL know where you got them!

1. Two blondes walked into a building ... you'd think at least one of them would have seen it.
2. Phone answering machine message - '...If you want marijuana, press the hash key...'
3. I went to buy some camouflage trousers the other day but I couldn't find any.
4. I went to the butchers the other day and I bet him 50 quid that he couldn't reach the meat off the top shelf. He said, "No, the steaks are too high..."
5. I went to a seafood disco last week ... and pulled a muscle.
6. Man goes to the doctor, with a strawberry growing out of his head. Doc says "I'll give you some cream to put on it."
7. A man takes his Rottweiler to the vet. "My dog's cross-eyed, is there anything you can do for him?" "Well," says the vet, "let's have a look at him". So he picks the dog up and examines his eyes, then checks his teeth. Finally, he says, "I'm going to have to put him down". "What? Just because he's cross-eyed?" "No, because he's really heavy."
8. So I was getting into my car, and this bloke says to me "Can you give me a lift?" I said "Sure, you look great, the world's your oyster, go for it."
9. Two fat blokes in a pub, one says to the other "Your round." The other one says "So are you, you fat bast**d!"
10. Police arrested two kids yesterday, one was drinking battery acid, and the other was eating fireworks. They charged one and let the other one off.
11. "You know, somebody actually complimented me on my driving today... they left a little note on the windscreen. It said, 'Parking Fine.' So that was nice."
12. A man walked into the doctors, he said, "I've hurt my arm in several places." The doctor said, "Well, don't go to those places."

All play and no work ... and probably taken while on overtime, too!



A couple of photos sent in by Peter Ernster, that need little explanation. A few more wrinkles on some of those faces now!