

Chairman's Letter

It has been another successful year thanks to the imagination, commitment and hard work of the committee members. Each one has made a significant contribution. My thanks go to them all.

To our vice chair **Paul Morrish** who does so much in so many ways for both the Festival and the Eisteddfod, his skills ranging from coping with light and sound, in which he is ably assisted by **Peter Minshall**, to moving A frames and much, much more.

Our finances are in the steady hands of our long-standing treasurer **Chris Coppin** who also makes our financial position understandable to those of us who are less than numerate and **Sandra Doig**, our most efficient secretary who has the skill to foresee what will be needed well in advance.

We have been so fortunate to have **Liz Wilkins** as our imaginative artistic director again this last year. She has given the Festival a new look and even managed to attract a different kind of audience to some events. We owe **Diana Jensen** a double thank you for all the work she does organising and selling tickets as well as running our very successful lunch-time events and contributing her long experience to our discussions. The **Wilcock pair, Tony and Trish** are always willing to take on tasks including feeding performers, acting as front of house, seeking donations and training stewards, while **Jane Parfitt** has made the Art Trail an important part of the Festival and one much appreciated both by local people and visitors over the bank holiday. Jane has been helped by **Shirley Sharp**, but we also thank Shirley for the excellent workshops she puts in for children during the Festival.

Ralph Shallcross, a relatively new member to the committee has taken on the difficult job of publicity and **Sonia Jackson** contributes from her extensive knowledge and experience of music.

I would also like to thank the members of the Eisteddfod group who saved the event from having to close and ran a successful event and a very good concert in the spring. **Rosemary Rodliffe** has been a

prime mover for the Eisteddfod and has now joined the main committee this year which will strengthen links to the Eisteddfod as part of Thornbury Arts Festival.

I have listed each member's contribution to show what a talented team Thornbury Arts Festival is. However, we could do with more members so that we could extend our activities for the benefit of local people. During the year we have become a Company Limited by Guarantee and re-registered as an incorporated charity. These steps give us all the rights and duties of a charity and protect our members from financial liability in the event of financial failure.

Now we look forward to another successful Eisteddfod, Art Trail and Festival in 2012.

Phyllida Parsloe



*Julian
Lloyd
Webber
Arts
Festival
2011.*

Eisteddfod

The 2012 Eisteddfod will be between Saturday, March 10th and Sunday, March 18th. Two new members have come forward to join our small committee, Margaret Berry and Kath Morgans, and we look forward to their input. Help was urgently needed!

Our other event this year is The Big Sing which will take place in St Mary's Church, Thornbury on November 10th and will involve local primary school choirs, thanks to the kind sponsorship of Joan Hawkins.

Rosemary Rodliffe

Looking towards Thornbury Arts Festival 2012

Still with the buzz resonating from the highlights of this year like the amazing luck in hearing Julian Lloyd Webber and his wife Jiaxin Cheng play an encore especially for Thornbury with such emotion that many of the audience left with a lump in their throats! (Soon after they added another string to their bows – Jasmina Orianta - a future cellist for a future festival?!)

That memorable occasion made us think about other high profile musicians who enjoy bringing their talent to festivals such as ours.

So legendary virtuoso percussionist **Dame Evelyn Glennie** the first person in musical history to successfully create a career as a solo percussionist is coming to Thornbury on the first Saturday, April 21st.



Also, 2012 promises the Diamond Jubilee, the Olympics and a Dickens bicentenary amongst other celebrations all of which we are busy thinking about and searching for personalities or events that might help us commemorate together.

A Celebration of Charles Dickens features **Robert Powell** and **Elizabeth Garvie**



on Sunday 22nd April. A Sunday event of this stature we hope will attract a really good audience to enjoy the funny, romantic, grotesque, satirical and macabre side of Dickens' characters.

More events have still to be finalised and our commitment to the younger people of Thornbury is on-going. Our revamped Thornbury Arts Festival page (thank you **Terry Ray**) has attracted lots of hits so continue to check our programme there. The Festival will run from the 20th to the 29th of April.

Jenny Eclair (who twittered ... 'Thornbury I might have played quite rough but secretly you love it!') attracted a different and wider age range Festival audience in 2011 and we hope we will continue to find some things that appeal to younger people as after all they are our future Festival goers and organisers.

Liz Wilkins, Artistic Director

News from the Severn Vale Art Trail

The trail ran at Easter this year with a wealth of Bank Holidays, including the special royal wedding day. This allowed record numbers of visitors with up to 860 visiting some of the shared venues. The event was heralded by the appearance of artists' work in the shop windows of enthusiastic local businesses.

We were treated to a delightful new gallery this year, Thornbury Pound Gallery, kindly prepared for three exhibiting artists by Daphne and Jack Ashton. Many visitors were able to visit this historic Thornbury "lockup" on part of the trail, which made a pleasant walk through the town, taking in



Kenyan Girls by Nichola Latham



Dog Walking by Shirley Sharp

artists from Thornbury Museum, the High Street, Castle Street, Castle School and on to Tilting Road. We are especially grateful to all those at the museum who gave extra stewarding time to host the trail. We are pleased that this was rewarded with large visitor numbers.

Jane and Mike Evans generously hosted eleven artists at the Wickwar Pound Gallery. Their offerings of coffee and cake in the courtyard and viewing of high quality art made a welcome stop on the trail. Six artists exhibited as usual at the Whitsun Hall including some craftwork done by those young adults who live there and Old Down Country Park gave us their lovely sunken room for the eleven days.

Next year's trail runs from May 4th-13th, the Showcase Exhibition running throughout the festival between April 20th and 28th.

Jane Parfitt