



**Chair's report by Gaynor Wingham for Eltham Arts AGM Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2017 at C.A.N.E, New Eltham Library, Southwood Rd, New Eltham SE9 3QT**

Since the 2016 AGM the Eltham Arts network has gone from strength to strength, with individuals & groups being part of a vibrant & growing arts scene in Eltham and the SE9 area.

The Eltham Arts committee (currently six members) has provided a pivotal small group, while coming together to organise events with others, providing guidance and support within their own areas of interest and expertise. In addition to myself, Dave Kenningham, Zahira al Zahira, John Wingham, Pragya Kumar and now Miriam Storey are the Eltham Arts committee. We meet every six weeks approximately. Meetings are always well attended, lively and enjoyable.

Due to other commitments, Reeva Charles stepped down from the Eltham Arts committee during the year, but continues to be a support. However, we are delighted to welcome Miriam Storey onto the committee.

We have supported many individuals and local groups over the year. We use social media to publicise events and attend events organised by members of our network. We celebrate achievements of local artists and encourage new ideas and initiatives. We have been involved directly in organising a number of events since the last AGM. These include:

- July 2016 Aspects of Winter CD launch from the song challenge
- July 2016 The Eltham Music Festival 2016 in Passey Place with RBG. Three Sats of great music
- Sept 2016 Severndroog Castle Open House event.
- Nov 2016 Eltham Arts Winter Festival – 150 events all over SE9 with our network
- July 2017 Eltham Music Festival 2017 with RBG 250 performers over 3 Sats in Passey Place
- June 2017 A Plateful of Songs CD. Launch at Bob Hope Theatre Bar
- July 2017 July is Eltham Music Month – a mini festival over SE9 of all types of music
- July 2017 Eltham Park Festival with local police team. Bringing music, arts, crafts and local businesses into the Festival.

We have successful social media platforms. At the last AGM, we reported over 2200 Twitter followers, and now have over 2800 followers, and active Facebook and event pages. We use newsletters, flyers and posters for individual projects. We have had coverage in Newsshopper, South London Press, Weekender and Meridian.

I write the Life in Eltham column and some features for Greenwich Visitor. This provides an excellent opportunity for us to publicise what's going on in Eltham, and promote key events and local issues. This is distributed all over Royal Greenwich and is online. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Matt Clarke, the Editor, for his continuing support to Eltham Arts and our network.

We encourage people to work together and to publicise each other's events and projects. Groups regularly report to me that they have had very good ticket sales for their events, and we are thanked for our social media support which contributes to publicity.

This next year we have an exciting project. The multimedia WALL project will include many aspects of creativity and will include exhibitions and events. This is on the agenda.

I would like to thank everyone who has been involved with Eltham Arts over the last year and since we started in 2013. We have many great supporters of our aims, and hope to evolve as Eltham evolves and develops. We will always remain positive and supportive to the Eltham and SE9 community.

Gaynor Wingham – Chair of Eltham Arts