



TASE NEWSLETTER NO. 1

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2020

FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN:

On behalf of The Arts Society Egerton (TASE), I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter. Your Committee has been concerned that we don't lose touch during this difficult period, and we felt that this newsletter would be a good way of reminding you of the benefits of the Arts Society, as well as letting you know what we have planned for the coming months. I am extremely grateful to Gill Bromley for editing this newsletter and for the other members of the Committee for all their help during the past few months.

We have all had to adapt to new ways of working, and at present, I cannot see this changing before next year. Many of you will now be using Zoom as a means of keeping in touch with family and friends, and this has also become the mainstay of The Arts Society's communication with all its local Societies. In addition, I keep in touch with all the other Societies in Kent, and so we know what is going on elsewhere. An example of this is the need for us to change our website, following our provider withdrawing from this work. Paul Tubby has done an excellent job in managing the transition to an alternative host, and more of that later.

Broadly we want to keep contact with you and we plan to start offering a virtual get-together in September and a virtual lecture in October, with a similar pattern for November and December. In order to enjoy this, you will need to use Zoom for the meeting in September but for lectures we hope to stream via a Zoom Webinar. Paul will send an e-mail with a link for you to click to access each lecture. Meanwhile we have included some help with the use of Zoom later in this newsletter. Approximately 90% of our membership have access to a computer and so we hope that you will take advantage of – and support – what we are doing. I am afraid that a minority will not be able to use this but we hope to continue with newsletters such as this in order to keep in touch.

Finally, I hope you keep well and stay safe during this time and all of us on the Committee send you our very best wishes

Allan Mowatt

TASE invites you to a scheduled Zoom Meeting

ZOOM GET-TOGETHER

(see final page to learn how to use Zoom)

on WEDNESDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER

2:00 for 2:30 p.m. start

From the comfort of your own home.

This will provide the opportunity for members to meet to hear more about this year's programme and to discuss how the Arts Society can continue to function during these difficult times.

Paul has set up for you to be able to access the meeting from 2:00 p.m. if you wish. We hope this will enable those unfamiliar with Zoom get to grips with it. For this meeting you will need to have downloaded the Zoom app. Please see the final page of this newsletter for guidance. Then all you have to do is click on the link below and follow the instructions. Paul will be there to guide us through on the day.

Join the Zoom Meeting:

<https://theartsociety-org.zoom.us/j/94399638887?pwd=azJTMXdDYWtBM3lqU20xZFNSbGVXZz09>

Meeting ID: 943 9963 8887

Passcode: 840644

ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH THE ARTS



How much do you know about the Arts Society and its work? Paul has been e-mailing us links to articles and lectures from the Arts Society. These include fortnightly Lectures at Home, Instant Expert and the How to... series and they are well worth following.

I greatly enjoyed '18th Century hand-painted Chinese export silks' with Viv Lawes. I also found Alice White's 'How to look at a Painting' very interesting although, much as I'd love to, I think there would be a lot of tutting if I stood in front of an artwork for 20 minutes.

The above are still available plus much more if you visit <https://theartsociety.org/>

ANOTHER DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES

MARS AND MUSES: THE RENAISSANCE ART OF ARMOUR TASE Lecture via Zoom or Webinar

Tony Capwell
Wednesday 14 October 2020
At 2:30 p.m.

Log-in details to follow



Armour was one of the great Renaissance art-forms. In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries most of the richest noblemen in Europe were dedicated patrons of the armourer's art, a kind of visual language which they used to project their identity and prestige. The armour-making process demanded both fantastic skill in the sculpting of iron and steel and mastery of decorative techniques such as acid-etching and mercury-gilding. This lecture serves as an introduction to the idea of armour as an expressive art-form, where the achievements of virtuoso armourers embodied splendour and richness while also carrying more complex messages about status, aristocratic associations, the social order and divine power.

Toby is Curator of Arms and Armour at the Wallace Collection in London and an internationally-acknowledged authority on Medieval and Renaissance weapons. He is the author of numerous books on the subject of arms and armour, including Masterpieces of European Arms and Armour at the Wallace Collection (2011; Apollo Magazine Book of the Year 2012); The Noble Art of the Sword: Fashion and Fencing in Renaissance Europe 1520-1630, ex. cat. (2012); Armour of the English Knight 1400-1450 (2015; Military History Monthly Illustrated Book of the Year 2017); and most recently Arms and Armour of the Medieval Joust (2018). Toby also appears regularly on television, most recently on A Stitch in Time (2018; BBC4); as presenter and armour advisor on Richard III: The New Evidence (2014; C4), and as the writer and presenter of Metalworks: The Knight's Tale (2012; BBC4). In 2015 Toby had the unusual honour of serving as one of the two fully armoured horsemen escorting the remains of King Richard III, from the battlefield at Bosworth to their final resting place in Leicester Cathedral

Please join us for this Lecture.
If successful we will continue to deliver your programme into 2021

AN INTRODUCTION TO

We will run occasional articles on a range of cultural themes written by members. **If you would like to submit an article please keep it to 400 words maximum, if possible add any copyright-free illustrations, and send it to Gill Bromley gillbrom57@btinternet by 15th October.** Meanwhile we hope you enjoy the first:

AN INTRODUCTION TO: MERVYN PEAKE: by Jenny Mowatt



Copyright free Illustrations courtesy of Wikipedia, Abe Books and Pinterest

Mervyn Peake was a poet, an author, an artist and an illustrator. He was born in China in 1911 and educated first at Tientsin Grammar School and later at Eltham College in Kent. His first book of poems, *'Shapes and Sounds'*, was published in 1941, but he is probably best remembered for *'Gormenghast'*, televised in 4 episodes in early 2000. This was based on the first two books of the trilogy *'Titus Groan'* and *'Gormenghast'*. He illustrated several classics, notably *'The Ancient Mariner'*, *'Alice in Wonderland'*, *'Treasure Island'* and *'The Hunting of the Snark'*. He was married to Maeve Gilmour, a talented artist. At one time, in the 1950s, they lived at The Grange, Smarden.

His childhood in China had a great influence on Peake's writing. While in Smarden he began an autobiographical novel entitled *'Chinese Puzzle'* which began *'Box within a box, like a Chinese Puzzle – so it seems to me my childhood'*. This Chinese influence is also evident in the structure of *'Gormenghast'*, with the miles of concentric walls, its isolation and the sharp difference between the people in the castle and those outside which so resembles Peking's Forbidden City.

But Eltham, too, was of great importance as it had a strict 'public school' structure and 'character'. Much of the description of Titus Groan's schooldays is taken directly from Eltham and even his Headmaster in the novel resembles his Head at Eltham. If you have neither read nor seen the Gormenghast trilogy, do try it – it will transport you from this strange world to an even odder one!

Mervyn Peake died in 1968 and after his death Maeve Gilmour helped to organise retrospective exhibitions of his work and became Honorary President of the Mervyn Peake Society which was founded in 1975. Recently the British Library received an archive of his paintings and illustrations, but when I went online to check I discovered that the whole collection will be documented before it is available to be seen which is sometime in 2022. This was disappointing, but hopefully by then we should have returned to a semblance of normality and perhaps, who knows, this could be a future Arts Society visit?

MEET YOUR COMMITTEE for 2020-21

Elected at the A.G.M. your Committee has been busy, not least Allan and Paul, as we face the challenges of maintaining our Society during the pandemic. Sadly, it still seems some way off before we can meet at the Millennium Hall so we thought we'd take this opportunity to introduce ourselves

ALLAN MOWATT: CHAIRMAN



Allan.mowatt@btinternet.com 01233 770600

I grew up in Glasgow, and attended Glasgow University where I studied Civil Engineering. After graduation, I worked in planning and transportation at a number of locations in England before being transferred back to Glasgow. I then worked in Hertfordshire and finally was appointed by Kent County Council as Director of Highways in 1991, with special responsibility for the Channel Tunnel Rail Link evidence to the Parliamentary Select Committees. In 1997, I joined a large firm of contractors as Director and retired in 2005. Subsequently I chaired a charitable trust and also a committee on motorway safety.

Jenny and I have been married for over 50 years and we are fortunate to live in a wonderful part of Kent. Apart from TASE, I also enjoy golf and music.

Glasgow has a wonderful arts tradition and I know my grandfather used to socialise with some of Charles Rennie MacIntosh's friends at the Glasgow School of Art. The Arts Society gives us a wonderful range of the arts, and so often people tell me that they came to a meeting that they thought would be of no interest, only to find that it was actually fascinating!

CHRISTINE WILLIS: MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY



I was born in Surrey and moved to Kent when I was very young. I worked in administration, and when my husband started a business, I ran the office. I was a member of NDFAS Faversham and, on moving to Egerton 3 years ago, I joined The Arts Society Egerton. I enjoy many aspects of the arts including visiting art galleries, theatres, stately homes and gardens. I have been the Membership Secretary for 2 years now and enjoy being a Committee Member.

ROB PEAPLE: TREASURER



robpeaple@hotmail.com 01795 890230

Despite my name I do not spend my time stealing others' money! Instead my main pre-occupations are gardening, golf and stamp collecting. I'm also a member of Ashford Community Choir. I'm interested in, but not particularly knowledgeable about, all types of Art and have learned a lot from our Egerton meetings. After living in Stalisfield for over 30 years I'm beginning to feel like a local, albeit the Bristol area, where I grew up will always remain in my memory

JENNY MOWATT: PROGRAMME AND PUBLICITY (JOINT)



oastpost@btinternet.com 01233 770600

I spent my childhood in the seaside town of South Shields, Tyneside. On leaving school I worked in the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance before deciding that I wanted to teach. I trained in Sheffield and qualified in 1968, the year I met Allan. My first job was in a very deprived part of the city. Allan and I married in the December of that year. 9 months later we moved to Teesside. I couldn't get a full-time job so I taught in the morning and worked in Woolworth's in the afternoon. A year later we moved to Glasgow and I began teaching in a very rough, inner-city school in a slum-clearance area. Only 2 buildings were left standing next to it - one was a police station and the other a brothel! After a year I moved to a less stressful post in Milngavie. We stayed in Scotland for 14 years during which time our son and daughter were born and Allan was head-hunted and we moved to Stevenage. Our final move, 28 years ago, was to Smarden and I hope never to move again! Having enjoyed pottery as a hobby I completed my City and Guilds course in Ceramics at Tonbridge College. Since then I have run a succession of pottery courses, exhibited in galleries and taken part in Open Studios. Sadly, my kiln 'died' so I stopped my class but with all this Arts Society Zoom tuition I am hardly missing it!

NICOLA BROCKLESBY: VISITS

Nicola.brocklesby@hotmail.co.uk 01622 890182

GILL BROMLEY: PROGRAMME AND PUBLICITY (JOINT)



gillbrom57@btinternet.com 01622 890214

You may know me from the TASE Raffle Table! I grew up on a hop/sheep farm on the Smarden/Bethersden border and have lived in Smarden on and off for much of my life. Last year my husband and I moved to Headcorn; a nice place to retire. I trained as a librarian in Ealing and worked for KCC for 38 years in various roles in libraries across the county. My last job was Archives Manager at the new Kent History and Library Centre in Maidstone which was truly wonderful. Having travelled so much in my career I have a huge love for Kent; its coast, areas of outstanding natural beauty, its villages and towns. I am no expert but have a diverse range of cultural interests including reading, theatre, cinema, heritage, music and dance. I will work alongside Jenny as I take on the programme and publicity role. I will value your support including suggestions and assistance in encouraging new members from your communities.

PAUL TUBBY: IT AND WEBSITE



paul.tubby@gmx.co.uk 01233 732958

I was born in Essex but went to UEA in Norwich to study chemistry. After graduating I worked for ICI in Manchester as a Research Technologist servicing the textile industry. I subsequently went into Pharmaceutical Sales working for Glaxo (now GSK) initially living in the Black Country. I moved to Kent in 1974 still in Pharmaceuticals, part of my responsibility being up-skilling team members in IT skills. I retired in 2004, sometime afterwards joining EDFAS on the committee as the membership secretary for 4 years but after relinquishing that role continued as manager of the website and also assumed the communications role.

LYNNE SAUNBY: SECRETARY

lynnesaunnby@gmail.com 01233 663775

INGA MAYOR: COMMITTEE MEMBER

I was born in Maidstone in 1930 and was educated at Maidstone Girls Grammar School. I worked in Barclays Bank in Maidstone and taught briefly at bank school in Wimbledon. I went on to be a speaker at the bank for 22 years. I married in 1954 and have 2 children and 5 grandchildren. I was widowed in 2010. I worked for Victim Support for 14 years and was also a speaker for them. I belong to W.I., U3A and Quilters. My favourite reading is history, especially biographies.

VICE-CHAIRMAN – VACANT

(let us know if you would be interested)

MONEY MATTERS: THE ARTS SOCIETY EGERTON FINANCES



The aim of our financial management is to balance our income and expenditure whilst maintaining a small contingency surplus.

In a normal year our two biggest items of spend are meetings (including refreshments and hire of the hall), and our payment to the Arts Society HQ. We also incur significant expenditure for Special Interest Days and Visits although their income more than covers their costs.

The payment to Arts Society HQ is based on our membership numbers and at heading towards £3500 looks expensive. However, for this we get support in finding and assessing speakers; technical support for arranging Zoom etc meetings; free lectures and articles; information exchange with other Societies and, of course our Arts Society magazine. On balance, we think a charge which works out at under £20 a head is reasonable.

On the income side we are critically dependent on membership subs which make up over 75% of the total. The raffle, guests at meetings, Special Interest Days and Visits make up the remainder and are also extremely important to our financial well-being.

It has been particularly reassuring in recent weeks to see the level of membership renewals. Your continued support is most gratifying as, without it, the Society would fold.

I am always happy to answer any questions you may have.

Rob Peaple -Treasurer



During my stewardship of the website role we have seen three manifestations of the website. Each change has been brought about by circumstances beyond the control of our society. The latest change is in the course of happening now. This has come about as the person who hosts our website and controls our domain name, has had to give up that task. We have decided to move our website to Airedale Solutions which has an entirely different approach and engine driving the data. This is still a work in progress but we will see a fresher look and a website which is easier to manage albeit quite a lot of initial work to keep the data we have amassed over the years. There will be some advantages in that it seems to have a better appearance across various devices so that a PC, tablet or phone will all look different but at the same time pleasing and easier to read than our previous website. The next lecture will always be highlighted first and each member will have the chance to vote and assess each lecture after the event. We will also have reports on how often the website is used by our members/public so we will be relying on you all to make the most of it!

The domain name remains the same: <https://www.theartssocietyegerton.org.uk/>

The other major task during the lockdown has been getting to grips with virtual meetings and your society has licenced Zoom to achieve this in a version which allows a Webinar. This means members who are reticent or nervous about Zoom meetings can simply click a link and watch the lecture/proceedings without being seen or heard themselves, just like watching TV. Their equipment will not need a camera or microphone so older laptops should do the job. We strongly suggest that the Zoom App is downloaded. Watching via browser can be problematical. It will be possible when physical lectures resume to stream the event onto Webinar for those members who feel unable to attend the actual meeting and indeed this could be a reality for a while if the rules preclude the usual numbers in the hall. This is a different world we are all having to come to terms with!

Paul Tubby – IT and Website

SOME VIRTUAL CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS TO ENJOY THIS AUTUMN

As lockdown eases, some of us may be able to venture out to visit galleries, stately homes and museums. However, the situation will continue to be challenging for many of us with winter ahead.

I have really enjoyed watching some of the on-line Arts Society lectures and reading the How to be an Expert series online. Paul has kept us informed of a wide range of new and interesting content.

Many of us enjoyed the National Theatre productions and have explored a wide range of websites to cultural content to keep us stimulated, informed and entertained. Indeed, we have been able to travel the world of culture from our armchairs. If you haven't done so already try searching the websites of museums and galleries around the world. Here are a just a few worth trying:

a list of some wonderful online Exhibition tours at <https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/article/9-virtual-exhibition-art-tours-to-watch-online>

fantastic virtual **International Museum Tours** listed by Time-Out at <https://www.timeout.com/travel/virtual-museum-tours>

Heritage Open Days 11th-20th September: this year's programme includes many online visits as well as in-person. Virtual tours include Berwick Castle, various Churches, the Ruskin – Museum of the Future Exhibition and more. Visit <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting>

Virtual Architectural Tours including the Taj Mahal and Machu Pichu can be found via <https://www.arch2o.com/historical-sites-free-virtual-tours/>

Plays, Musicals and Dance can be accessed via <https://www.timeout.com/theatre/best-streaming-theatre-shows-how-to-watch-online>

The Barbican offers a variety of options for all interests at https://www.barbican.org.uk/read-watch-listen?gclid=EAlaIQobChMIxtbLhPmz6wIVQ7DtCh3KRAPVEAAYAAEgIEaPD_BwE

Globe Theatre: <https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/watch/>

You can sign up for various online classes including a **History of Art course from the V&A:** https://www.vam.ac.uk/whatson/programmes/course?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=V%26A_Google_Ad_Academy&utm_term=Art_History_Courses&gclid=EAlaIQobChMIpoicj_uz6wIVz4BQBh0I7wXmEAAYASAAEgKdb_D_BwE

Finally, given my passion for libraries and all they have to offer, I have to add a recommendation to check out <https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries> You will find details of how to order books, which libraries are open, and how to download free e-books (there has been a huge growth in digital reading since lockdown) and much more. All services can be accessed from your computer.

Please let Gill know of any virtual content that you'd recommend to TASE members

HAPPY READING AND VIEWING

COMPETITION

I hope you have found this Newsletter of interest. Having edited it I will welcome feedback, suggestions for future editions, anything you'd like to submit for future publication including an introduction to one of your cultural interests, and anything you'd like to recommend for members to enjoy over the winter months (forthcoming exhibitions, books and other publications, drama, museums etc)

Meanwhile below is a well-known painting which has been 'squashed'. Please e-mail the name of the artwork and the name of the artist. For some reason it reminded me of 2020!

E-mail your comments on the Newsletter and/or answers to the Competition to gillbrom57@btinternet.com by 15th October. There will be a small prize for the first winning entry to be drawn by my husband.....

Gill Bromley - Editor



SO WHAT IS ZOOM AND HOW DO YOU USE IT?



For many Lockdown has prompted us to update our IT skills to enable us to keep in touch with family and friends. My family held a weekly Quiz with participants as far away as Nottingham. It was a great way to see and chat with everyone.

As Paul suggests above, we strongly advise that you download Zoom even to view the Webinar as although browser use is possible some devices don't work without Zoom.

But if you want to know more about this useful tool we hope the information below will be helpful and some of you will give it a try. Our Committee Meetings have been held via Zoom and, given you have the option to change the background, we have enjoyed seeing Allan sitting by a tropical palm-fringed beach!

WHAT IS ZOOM AND HOW DO YOU USE IT?

Zoom is a free app for computers, smartphones or tablets, which enables groups of people to meet. During Lockdown families, friends and various organisations have used it very effectively. They can see and hear one another. People from many different locations can join in. It is relatively simple to use so well worth downloading and giving it a try. If you are unsure maybe a family member can help you to set it up.

How to get started: on your phone or tablet go to the Google Play Store (or the Apple App Store if you have an i-pad or i-phone) AND DOWNLOAD THE FREE Zoom app. Don't be distracted by other apps with similar names. Look for the blue and white Zoom logo shown above.

On a computer; go to zoom.us where you can use the service online, or -as we recommend – download the Zoom app.

You will need either to sign up specifically for Zoom, or sign in via your existing Google or Facebook account, if you have one.

How to enjoy TASE Zoom Meeting: when you start Zoom, or visit zoom.us, click on 'Join a Meeting'. You will be asked to give an ID number and, sometimes, password

How to get the ID number and password: Members will receive an e-mail with the ID number and password a week or two prior to each meeting. They will also be available on the TASE website; go to 'Future Lectures'

There will also be a link both for Zoom and Webinar that will already contain the ID and password. You can simply click this. If you prefer not to download Zoom then you can **try** to join via your browser. But this can be more time consuming each time than d/loading Zoom in the first place!

If you are struggling to use Zoom ask a friend or family member for assistance. If not, Paul may be able to help you if you e-mail him at paul.tubby@gmx.co.uk

FINALLY: TAKE CARE, STAY SAFE AND KEEP WELL

If any member is feeling isolated and would just like a chat please contact one of us.

We hope to see you on 9th September and that you will join our first online lecture in October