

THE ARTS SOCIETY EGERTON NEWSLETTER NO. 2

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2020

!!INTRODUCING OUR 2020-2021 PROGRAMME!!

Following the success of our first online lecture in October (*Mars and the Muses* with Toby Capwell), we will run a full programme via Zoom until June 2021. Full details on page 4.

WEDNESDAY 11TH NOVEMBER 2020 at 2.20pm

CLOISTERS – REMARKABLE CATHEDRAL SURVIVORS

JANET GOUGH



Available to view on Zoom with stream to YouTube and access for 1 week.

Paul will e-mail the links a few days before each lecture.

Medieval cloisters, originally a monastic built space linking other buildings, have in spite of Henry VIII's Dissolution of the Monasteries in the 1530s, probably survived better in England than anywhere else. This is in large part because early on English cathedral communities both recognised their great usefulness and experimented with cutting edge architecture in building cloisters and in so doing created some extraordinarily beautiful spaces. This talk follows the development of the 15 or so cathedral cloisters in England with spectacular photographs. These will hopefully encourage visitors to cathedrals to look beyond the cathedral church buildings and more closely at the cloisters attached to them.

Janet served for eight years as the Church of England's Director of Church Buildings and Secretary of the Church Buildings Council and Cathedrals Fabric Commission. She has written two illustrated paperbacks to encourage greater enjoyment of these amazing buildings, Director's Choice, Churches of the Church of England and Director's Choice, Cathedrals of the Church of England and produced and presented on a TV series on cathedrals for PBS.

A Cambridge graduate in History and History of Art, Janet worked at Sotheby's for nine years, was a trustee at the Churches Conservation Trust, the Museum of Fulham Palace and the Friends of the V&A and guided and lectured at the V&A. Janet set up and ran an architectural history course around visits to significant buildings. Janet has also given tours and lectured on secular architecture and fine and decorative arts.

Currently a trustee of the Priory of St John (Hospitallers) and a commissioning editor for Scala Heritage Publishers, Janet received an OBE for services to heritage in January 2017.

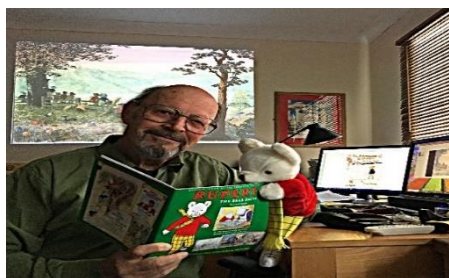
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WEDNESDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2020

RUPERT: THE ANTHROPOMORPHIC BEAR

HOWARD SMITH

Log in from 2:20 p.m. Links will be e-mailed to you



With *Rupert's* centenary in 2020, this nostalgic lecture is the fascinating back-story of how and why *Rupert* was created, exploring the folklore and dark influences on his adventures. See how two artists, Canterbury's Mary Tourtel and Alfred Bestall progressed through the years with innovative artwork and multi-level adventure story lines that kept *Rupert* as a favourite through generations. Launched nearly 100 years ago, Rupert has had three official artists and this is the story of each of them and their creativity that has made Rupert the longest standing strip thrilling generations with his adventures. Featuring rare items and ephemera from major collections, Howard's lectures are lavishly illustrated and contain vintage film clips.

Born during the Second World War, Howard was educated in Scotland and gained an MA from Trinity College, Dublin. In the 1960s he worked for UK and International Advertising Agencies before starting his own marketing and print company in Canterbury. Howard's lectures are inspired by his interest in art, collecting, curating (14 travelling exhibitions) and publishing.

This will be Howard's second lecture to our Society and many of you will remember his fascinating talk on the GPO Film Unit.

FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN



Welcome to this second edition of the newsletter, and again our grateful thanks to Gill Bromley for producing it.

For those of you who viewed our last meeting on Zoom or subsequently on YouTube, I hope that you enjoyed the experience. The feedback has certainly been very positive. While like most of you, I missed the experience of being in the Hall listening to the Speaker performing live, I thought that Toby Capwell was excellent and his slides were terrific. There is no doubt that the quality of the visual aids was helped by the ability to view them up front and close to the screen, without having to look over the shoulders and heads of the audience in front!

Paul Tubby and I have had the chance to talk to Janet Gough and to view some of her pictures, and again I can say that they are top quality. So again, do join us for that meeting. As you will appreciate, we are all on a learning curve, and so we shall slightly alter the format to allow you time to talk to each other at the end of the meeting, if you so wish. Let us know what you think.

I am delighted that Howard Smith will join us in December to give us the history of Rupert, the anthropomorphic Bear, on the occasion of what would be his hundredth birthday. You will recall that Howard previously spoke about the GPO Film Unit and the Night Mail, and his talk was very well received.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, there is a note from our Membership Secretary about the need to maintain membership. We know that some members have taken a break from the Society while our meetings at Egerton are in abeyance. But please appreciate that we are doing our best to keep the Society going, and I think that the subscription is still great value with our programme and the other links that Paul provides. If you have a friend who might be interested, we can provide a link on a one-off basis only, in order to encourage them to join us. You must however provide their name and email address to Christine, our Membership Secretary at cmwillis75@gmail.com, and we shall make arrangements. Our software enables us to know who is logging in to our meetings, and for contractual reasons with our lecturers, we want to make sure that these arrangements are always secure.

You can now view our programme for the remainder of the session and you will see that we have some excellent lectures in prospect. I do hope you will continue to support us and recommend us to any of your friends who have an interest in the Arts.

With best wishes

Allan Mowatt

2020-21 PROGRAMME

Please put these dates in your diary

All on Wednesdays at 2.30: Paul will e-mail a link to you before each lecture

See our website for full details ahead of each lecture at

<https://www.theartsocietyegerton.org.uk/Lectures/FutureLectures.aspx>

SEPT 9th	Tony Rawlins	MAD MEN AND ADVERTISING	Re-booked for Sept 2021
OCT 14th	Toby Capwell	MARS AND THE MUSES: The Renaissance Art of Armour	
NOV 11th	Janet Gough	CLOISTERS: Remarkable Cathedral Survivors	
DEC 9th	Howard Smith	RUPERT: The Anthropomorphic Bear	
JAN 13th	Jennifer Toynbee-Holmes	THE ART OF DANCE	
FEB 10th	To be confirmed		
MAR 10th	Chris Alexander	THE SILK ROAD: A Journey of Wool, Cotton & Silk	
APR 14th	Denise Heywood	STAMFORD RAFFLES – Art Collector and Discoverer of Singapore	
MAY 12th	Helen Ritchie	MAKING VISIONS: The Jewellery of Artist Charles Rickett	
JUNE 9th	Giles Ramsay	SHAKESPEARE AND THE BIRTH OF MODERN SHOW BUSINESS	

THE ARTS: WHY NOT TRY ONLINE LEARNING?

The winter months may be an ideal time to develop your skills or undertake a course. There is a huge range of courses and study days available. I am currently enjoying the Stories of Art modular course from the National Gallery. See <https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/events/courses>
The third 6-week module begins in January. Registration will begin in late November.

Others include:

Free courses from the Open University: <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/history-the-arts/free-courses>

The Courtauld Institute which offers various from £20 upwards <https://courtauld.ac.uk/learn/short-courses-online/saturday-study-online>

The British Museum: <https://www.britishmuseum.org/learn/adult-learning>





FRIDAY ONLINE LUNCHTIME LECTURES

Lectures begin at 1.00 p.m. You will find further information on our website.

<https://www.theartsocietyegerton.org.uk/Lectures/FutureLectures.aspx>

The link for The Arts Society lectures is: <https://www.youtube.com/c/theartsociety> . Just click the icon when the lecture appears.

NOV 27TH **Georgina Bexon** **THE STORY OF INDIAN MODERN ART**

18TH DEC **Matthew Denney** **EXHIBITION HISTORY:** The history of Great Exhibitions, Expos and World's Fairs, 1851 to Present, the British Contribution

Full lecture descriptions and biographies can be found at: theartsociety.org/lectures-at-home

TASE MEMBERSHIP

We shall now be presenting lectures via Zoom for the foreseeable future until the Corona Virus is under control and the government has given permission for our meetings to resume at The Millennium Hall.

Zoom lectures have to be paid for, the cost being only a little less than if the lecturers were present in person. As you are aware all lectures are presented by leading experts in their field, and the average cost per speaker is considerable.

The Art Society magazine continues to be sent to members quarterly and extra lectures are available on You Tube organised by the Society's London headquarters (see above)

To make all this possible we need members to continue to pay their annual subscription. This remains the same as last year at £40 – really good value for money as it equates to £4 per lecture. For those that haven't paid yet and would like to continue to be informed and entertained **please send a cheque to Rob Peale, Godwins, Stalisfield Green, Faversham, Kent, ME13 0HY.**

While the vast majority have re-joined we are concerned that we have lost a few members this year and the future of TASE could be threatened. The January edition of this newsletter will focus on the need to increase membership and how you can help us. Meanwhile we would urge you to promote Arts Society membership to your friends, family and neighbours. While not the same as meeting in the Millennium Hall, our online lectures are accessible to everyone, not just those able to walk or drive. During the winter months with its dark afternoons, our programme is there for those who might be feeling lonely or isolated and help them to feel part of a wider Arts community.

I hope that you enjoy our programmes and will be pleased to provide any information on the benefits of joining the Society.

Christine Willis - Membership Secretary

TASE WEBSITE: there is a great feature on our new website which allows members to feedback to the committee their assessments of the most recent lecture including the TAS Friday streams at 1pm.

This is accessed either from the home page or from the lecture page and you need to click the box " Please give some feedback on the last lecture by clicking here."

You may need to scroll down to see it. You will then need the password : **tase**

You can give a rating for presentation and slide quality and also write some thoughts in a text box about the lecture experience including whether you watched on Zoom or YouTube and how easy you found this.

Remember this whole process is anonymous unless you want to id yourself in the textual feedback. The committee will find these reports invaluable and in fact an assessment of the lecture is a requirement of The Arts Society.

CONTINUING DIGITAL LECTURES: our September and October meetings with Zoom were judged to be success. The lecture in October was also streamed to YouTube and made available for a few days afterwards and about 40% of our members watched it via this route. We therefore intend to remain with this format when we can. This has to be negotiated with each lecturer as their views on copyright issues and the possibility of pirating vary widely.

I am delighted to say that Janet Gough, our lecturer for November has agreed that as well a simultaneous stream to YouTube, it can remain on that platform for one week for members to enjoy or even re-watch. With the link I provide members, all you have to do is click it. The actual times when it is available may vary for contractual reasons, but they will be communicated to you in good time. Indeed sometimes there may be no YouTube stream and you will have to take to Zoom to see the lecture.

HOW TO USE ZOOM: Zoom is a free app for computers, smartphones or tablets, which enables groups of people to meet. 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.



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

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 lecture: You will be sent a Zoom link, by email. All you need to do is click it. If you don't have Zoom you will be guided on how to download it. If the link doesn't work then you can run Zoom and put in the ID number and password.

How to get the ID number and password: Members will receive an e-mail with the ID number and password a week or so prior to each meeting together with the link mentioned above.

YouTube: An easy option – just click the link provided in the same email.

If you are struggling to use Zoom ask a friend or family member for assistance. If not, I may be able to help you if you e-mail me

Thank you - Paul Tubby – IT and Website paul.tubby@gmx.co.uk

AN INVITATION TO TASE MEMBERS

The Arts Society – Medway

THE GLASGOW GIRLS, THE SCOTTISH COLOURISTS & THE KELVINGROVE ART GALLERY AND MUSEUM

Led by Elaine Hansen



STUDY/SPECIAL INTEREST DAY via Zoom

Tuesday 24th November at 10am

In the comfort of your own home (or with friends / family if Covid safe to do! ☺)

Full details and a Booking Form are attached in a separate document alongside this newsletter

Elaine Hansen has a Master's degree in Education and taught for twenty-seven years. She now splits her year between Italy and Scotland. After retiring twelve years ago she studied Art History at the universities of Glasgow and Strathclyde. She became a guide at Kelvingrove Art Gallery, Glasgow in 2009. Elaine has been a lecturer for seven years and an accredited Arts Society lecturer for two and a half years.

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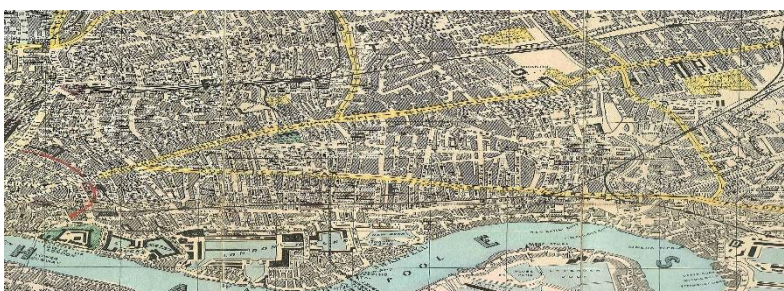
VIRTUAL TOURS with NADFAS (Wessex Area)

Join Arts Society members and guests via Zoom for a stroll with Blue Badge Guide Katie Wignall.

Friday 22nd JAN at 2.00 p.m.: EAST END OF LONDON

Friday 26th FEB at 2.00 p.m. THE RIVER THAMES

£5 per household. E-mail Maggie Watts via maggiewatts136@gmail.com for details



ART IN OUR BLOOD

By Dr Auberon Redfearn; TASE member and past archivist, and an Honorary Member of the Sherlock Holmes Society,

"Art in the Blood is liable to take the strangest forms", remarked Sherlock Holmes, revealing that his grandmother was the sister of Vernet, the French painter (*probably Horace the Younger*). He was referring to his own extraordinary powers of observation, deduction and analysis. However it seems that Holmes did not inherit the special talent of his illustrious ancestor. In vain we seek his canvases in notable collections. Holmes never visited an art gallery to view the works of his famous grand-uncle. The rich variety of his recorded cases includes several concerning stolen jewellery, but none involving paintings: no *"Curious Affair of the Great Art Robbery"*, *"Adventure of the Purloined Rembrandt"*, or a *"Mystery of the Lost Leonardo"*. The only person in his life depicted as an art collector is the arch-villain Moriarty.

But it is evident that Art did indeed transfer powerfully over the two generations, although in a different form. Holmes was a musician, his instrument the violin. According to Watson he was an accomplished performer upon it, and could play difficult pieces well. Sometimes he would simply *"drone away to soothe his ruffled spirits"*, and he would use the instrument as an accompaniment to cerebral concentration. He would scrape abstractedly, producing strange haunting cadences or deep sonorous chords of melancholy in a reflection of his changing mood, then conclude by rewarding the patient Watson with a sprightly medley of his colleague's favourite Scottish airs. When he had enjoyed the good fortune to buy a genuine Stradivarius for fifty-five shillings in the Tottenham Court Road, such an apotheosis of serendipity demanded that he develop the skill of a virtuoso to play it.

Watson also tells us that *"he was a composer of no ordinary merit"*. Ah – where are those compositions now? Where are the ingenious impromptus, the sparkling scherzo, the elegant études, the nocturnes while he waited for a chemical distillation to complete? But especially – what of the violin concerto? His programme for it would surely have been based on the typical progress of an investigation. First movement – *Allegretto ricettivo* (entry of the client, statement of the case, assimilation of the facts); Second movement – *Adagio ruminato* (a nest of cushions, a pile of tobacco and several hours' uninterrupted celebration); Third movement – *Allegro molto vivace* (shaft of inspiration, *"I have it! Come, Watson – nor a moment to lose!"*). We shall never know – but at least we have Watson's account of the Adventures.



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If anyone would like to contribute a 400-word article for future newsletters please send a few paragraphs to Gill Bromley (contact details at the end of this newsletter)

COMPETITION

Congratulations to Peter Whitestone on being the first winning entrant drawn from the hat. The answer was '*The Scream*' by Edvard Munch and Peter won a book token.

Sorry no competition this time as we've run out of space.

ART ON OUR DOORSTEP



Many of you will know the Three Chimneys inn just outside Biddenden. The building dates from around 1420 and was a simple ale house. During the Seven Years' War (1756 - 1763) up to 3,000 French prisoners were kept at nearby Sissinghurst Castle. The French seamen were placed on parole in the area and were allowed out as far as the pub.

The pub was referred to by the locals as the "Three Wents' (or three ways) but the prisoners called it "Les Trois Chemins" and the unique name Three Chimneys derives from the French for the junction of the three roads. The current sign differs slightly from previous signs in that there is no notice attached to the road sign. Although it still shows a 18th Century French prisoner, original signs showed him observing the parole boundary notice attached to the road sign as above.



If anyone would like to contribute to this feature for future newsletters please send a few paragraphs to Gill Bromley (contact details at the end of this newsletter)

HAPPY READING

Having enjoyed the first Arts Society Lunchtime Lecture with Peter Ross entitled 'The English Cookbook, I felt inspired to share a review of a book I've recently enjoyed:

THE SHORT LIFE AND LONG TIMES OF MRS BEETON by Kathryn Hughes

Everyone knows of Mrs Beeton and her '*Book of Household Management*' but what do you know about her, her complex family who largely disapproved of her marriage to young (and syphilitic)

entrepreneur Sam Beeton, and of those cookery writers who preceded her (and whom she plagiarised unashamedly)? For instance did you know that she spent much of her youth living in the Grandstand at Epsom Racecourse nannying her siblings, though not during the racing season? Isabella Beeton's step-grandfather founded the Dorling racing dynasty. Kathryn Hughes has undertaken meticulous research. The book is a rich delight of family history, anecdotes and, of course, contains a wealth of information on cookery, domestic life, and how to run a household. Sadly, Mrs Beeton died aged just 28 but what a legacy.

The book, first published by Harper Collins in 2005, 428 pages plus references etc, remains in print and available on Kindle. If anyone would like to borrow my paperback version please contact me – Gill



The winter months are the perfect time to curl up with a good book and Christmas is the perfect time to give and receive books. Reading is not only escapism, but is proven to reduce anxiety and depression, so vital this winter. **Please send reviews of books you would recommend to Gill for publication in future newsletters (contact details at the end of this newsletter).**

FINALLY: TAKE CARE, STAY SAFE AND KEEP WELL

We hope to see you at our next Lecture on 11th November. If any member is feeling isolated and would just like a chat please contact one of us.

Feedback on this Newsletter, as well as contributions for the January edition, is always welcome. Please send them to me at gillbrom57@btinternet.com or post to me at 32 Orchard Glade, Headcorn TN27 9SR

Thank you - Gill Bromley – Editor

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