

THE ARTS SOCIETY EGERTON

NEWSLETTER NO. 3

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021

Please join us for our forthcoming lectures starting with:

THE ART OF DANCE

JENNIFER TOYNBEE-HOLMES

WEDNESDAY 13th JANUARY at 2.30pm.

Paul will send an e-mail with relevant link a week ahead of the event. You will be able to log in earlier to chat with fellow Society members. See also Digital and IT news below.



Since the birth of the earliest human civilisations, dance has been an important part of ceremony, rituals, celebrations, a method of healing and a means of expression and entertainment. We will take a look at dance as an art form from its earliest beginnings; through the birth and rapid development of ballet throughout Europe, the explosion of modern dance in the early 20th century a time of unprecedented creative growth for dancers and choreographers and with the growth of post-modernism from the 1960s the expansion of street dance, hip-hop, break dancing and rock dance.

Jennifer Toynbee-Holmes is an experienced guide at Tate Britain and Tate Modern and lectures at various art societies and institutions. She has a special interest in British and European art of the late 18th, 19th and early 20th century. Having gained an MA in film and television practice, Jennifer had a long-standing career spanning twenty years as a television producer/director making documentaries and factual programmes for the BBC, ITV and Channel 4. She was also a visiting lecturer at Goldsmiths College and Birkbeck, University of London and a senior lecturer at Southampton Solent University in the Faculty of Media, Arts and Society.

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Thomas Merton: *Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time*

FROM DOWNTON TO GATSBY
Jewellery and Fashion 1890 to 1929
ANDREW PRINCE
WEDNESDAY 10TH FEBRUARY at 2.30 p.m.



For the series *Downton Abbey*, Andrew was commissioned to produce many jewels for the main characters, and this inspired him to create a talk based on *Downton* and the changing styles of the time portrayed.

Jewellery and Fashion are often seen as two entirely separate and distinct fields of design, but this is very far from the case. Andrew will guide us through the extraordinary periods and events between 1890 and 1929, where the great fashion houses collaborated with the finest of jewellers to produce works of art of outstanding quality and glittering opulence. Along with this he discusses the clients and patrons who commissioned the jewels and how they were worn with the sumptuous gowns.

Andrew Prince has had a passion for the jewellery since he was a small child. In 1980, when he was nine, Andrew's mother took him to the Princely Magnificence exhibition at the V&A, exhibiting Renaissance jewels dating from 1500 to 1630. It proved a revelation. Dazzled by the splendour and opulence of the jewels on show, Andrew decided then and there that creating jewellery was what he wanted to devote his life to.

Two weeks after his 16th birthday, Andrew started work in London's Bond Street, working Antiques Roadshow expert Ian Harris. Under his guidance, Andrew developed an appreciation for jewels that were valued for their quality of design and craftsmanship, rather than for how much the stones in the piece were worth. Private commissions then started to trickle in. The trickle turned into a flood, as celebrities such as Michael Jackson and Shirley Bassey were seen wearing Andrew's creations.

*In 2002, the V&A commissioned a collection of jewels to accompany the resplendent Tiaras, Past and Present exhibition which became one of their most popular exhibits. The exposure gained by the show then led to Andrew's jewellery appearing in film. In 2005, he was asked to make tiaras and jewellery for *Mrs Henderson Presents* starring Judy Dench. In 2009, pieces were commissioned for *The Young Victoria* starring Emily Blunt and Miranda Richardson. In 2012, he was chosen by the creators of *Downton Abbey* to supply a large collection of jewellery for the third series.*

A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

I hope that you had a happy and peaceful Christmas and that the lockdown did not put too much of a damper on your enjoyment of this special time.

We had hoped to have one half of our family to stay on Christmas day while the other half in Ireland were confined to barracks. But it was not to be, and everyone was confined to barracks. So, having the house to ourselves, and in need of some stimulation, we look forward to the New Year.

First of all, I think we did well to continue with our programme and I was pleased to see so many of you at our meetings. Again, I pay tribute to Paul Tubby, without whom none of this would have happened. Realistically, I don't believe that we are likely to be able to resume our meetings in the Hall at Egerton until after the summer – although you never know. Therefore, I urge any of you who are unsure about how to use Zoom to give it a try, and a guide to this is given later in this newsletter. Paul has also arranged for us to stream most of our meetings onto a private channel, which only requires you to click on the link he provides, and so it really couldn't be simpler. No special knowledge is required.

More than ever, I believe that it is good to watch and listen to our lecturers and to be entertained and learn from them. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you can read about some of our forthcoming lectures and other matters and I hope that you feel that we are keeping you informed. Do let us know if there is anything you are unsure of.

Here's to a more normal 2021, and to a resumption of our full programme including our visits and special interest days. I wish you all well and thank you for your continued support.

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 the links to you before each lecture

See our website for full details ahead of each lecture at

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

MAR 10th Chris Alexander

THE SILK ROAD: A Journey of Wool, Cotton & Silk

**APR 14th Denise Heywood
Singapore**

STAMFORD RAFFLES – Art Collector and Discoverer of

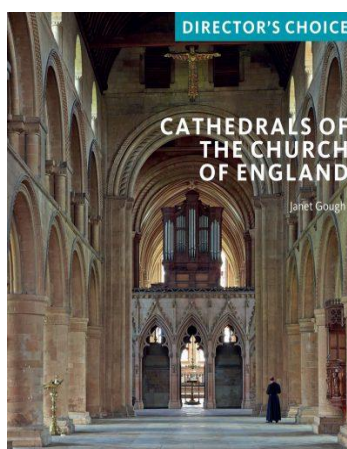
MAY 12th Helen Ritchie

MAKING VISIONS: The Jewellery of Artist Charles Rickett

JUNE 9th Giles Ramsay SHAKESPEARE AND THE BIRTH OF MODERN SHOW BUSINESS

CATHEDRALS OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Several people who enjoyed Janet's lecture on Cathedral Cloisters have enquired about her book. *Cathedrals of the Church of England* (Director's choice series), is a beautifully illustrated paperback with two pages on each of the Church of England's cathedrals plus Westminster Abbey. It was fully updated and reprinted (for the third time) in 2020. The normal selling price is £14.95 but Janet is selling to TASE members for just £12 to include post and packaging. If you wish to order contact Janet via email with your postal address, indicating whether you would like her to write an inscription and sign the book (give exact wording). Janet will send you details of how to pay by bank transfer or cheque. Contact janet@janet-gough.com See <https://www.scalapublishers.com/cathedrals-of-the-church-of-england/> Janet has also written *Churches of the Church of England* in the same series.



FRIDAY ONLINE LUNCHTIME LECTURES

The Arts Society advise that they will be offering more on-line lectures in the new year but do not yet have details. They will be published in the Arts Society Bulletin. You will also be able to find information on our website at theartsociety.org/lectures-at-home

Edgar Degas: *Painting is easy when you don't know how, but very difficult when you do*

Horace: a picture is a poem without words

TASE MEMBERSHIP: WE NEED YOUR HELP

Firstly a warm welcome to our new members; we are delighted that you have joined us and hope you will enjoy this newsletter, our Zoom Lectures and all TASE and the Arts Society has to offer. We look forward to meeting you in person one day.

While hoping that we will be able to meet later in the year we will continue to present monthly lectures via Zoom for the foreseeable future.

We still hope to attract new members and the good news is that from January our fees for Zoom lectures will be charged at £4 per month; anyone joining in January will pay £20 and from February £16. We really need your help to enable us to get the word around. If you know anyone who would enjoy our current programme please share this newsletter with them and suggest they try TASE. They just need to contact our Membership Secretary Christine Willis via bocmwillis@gmail.com or 01233 756377

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.

Once we know when we can return to the Millennium Hall we intend to undertake a major Membership Campaign. Our Society was founded in 2001 and we want it to survive and thrive for the next 20 years.

Meanwhile we have included a Survey to accompany this Newsletter. It will help us with future programming but also help to identify those of you who could assist by submitting items in your local parish magazines or on social media.

Please find time to complete it and return it by 31st January

Christine Willis Membership Secretary

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DIGITAL & IT: JANUARY LECTURE

As the January lecture, for contractual reasons with the lecturer, will not be able to be either streamed or kept for later viewing, we are encouraging as many members as possible to download the Zoom Client app.

On a PC/laptop this can be done by clicking the following link:

<https://zoom.us/client/latest/ZoomInstaller.exe>

It is best to register a **free** account that means your name will appear next to your image during a Zoom meeting and it will make the experience so much better.

On other devices the instructions are on the next page.

TASE WEBSITE <https://theartssocietyegerton.org.uk>

We are fortunate to have a great website. Paul spends a considerable amount of time maintaining it. Not only does it contain information about our Society, current and past programmes, but the links will lead you to a huge variety of sites of cultural interest from ancient monuments to galleries of the world. Try spending just 10 minutes every day dipping in and discovering something new



NEW YEAR RESOLUTION: LEARN TO USE ZOOM!

We are delighted that more members are now using Zoom to access lectures etc. They are also a great way to 'meet up' with family and friends. It is simple to use via an e-mail link. If you haven't tried it maybe ask a friend or family member to assist you.

It 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

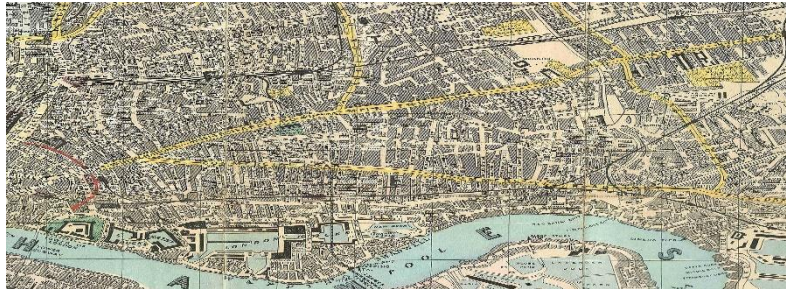
VIRTUAL TOURS with NADFAS (Wessex Area)

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



FREE LECTURES FROM GRESHAM COLLEGE



Thank you to TASE member, Julia Blackwell, for drawing our attention to the free lectures offered by Gresham College. The College was founded in 1597 by Sir Thomas Gresham to bring “new learning to Londoners”.

These lectures are delivered by live and in person, and currently streamed directly, to your device wherever in the world. The standard of the lectures is very high – each lecturer being a Professor in their chosen field – the areas covered are:

Astronomy; Architecture; Business; Classics; Film; I.T.; History; Law; Literature; Mathematics; Medicine; Music; Rhetoric; and Religion

The extensive programme (about 15 lectures a month) can be found on www.gresham.ac.uk. Given Covid 19 all are live streamed at present but people must register on the lecture webpage. The registration is simple, free and needs to be done online in person.

Especially timely will be the lectures by Gresham Professor of Physic, Chris Whitty – about the role and limits of the state in healthcare. January and February lectures include the Mathematics of Bell Ringing; What makes a Film Classic; Russian Piano Masterpieces; BBC Radio in the LP Era; England’s Tudor Reformation; Mathematical Journeys into Fictional Worlds; Giotto and the early Italian Renaissance and so much more

FREE LECTURES FROM MIRTHY

Mirthy is an online platform for professional public speakers to provide online talks to older adults in the comfort of their homes. Mirthy’s mission is to help those in later life remain active, social and connected in their community. The platform screens online lectures, covering a wide range of subjects, on Thursday mornings at 11:00 a.m. Lectures run for around 30-40 minutes and cover gardening to travel, history to showbusiness. For details see <https://mirthy.co.uk/>

WHAT IS ART?

John Lubbock: *Art is unquestionably one of the purest and highest elements in human happiness. It trains the mind through the eye, and the eye through the mind. As the sun colours flowers, so does art colour life*

Henry Ward Beecher: *Every artist dips his brush into his soul and paints his own nature into his painting*

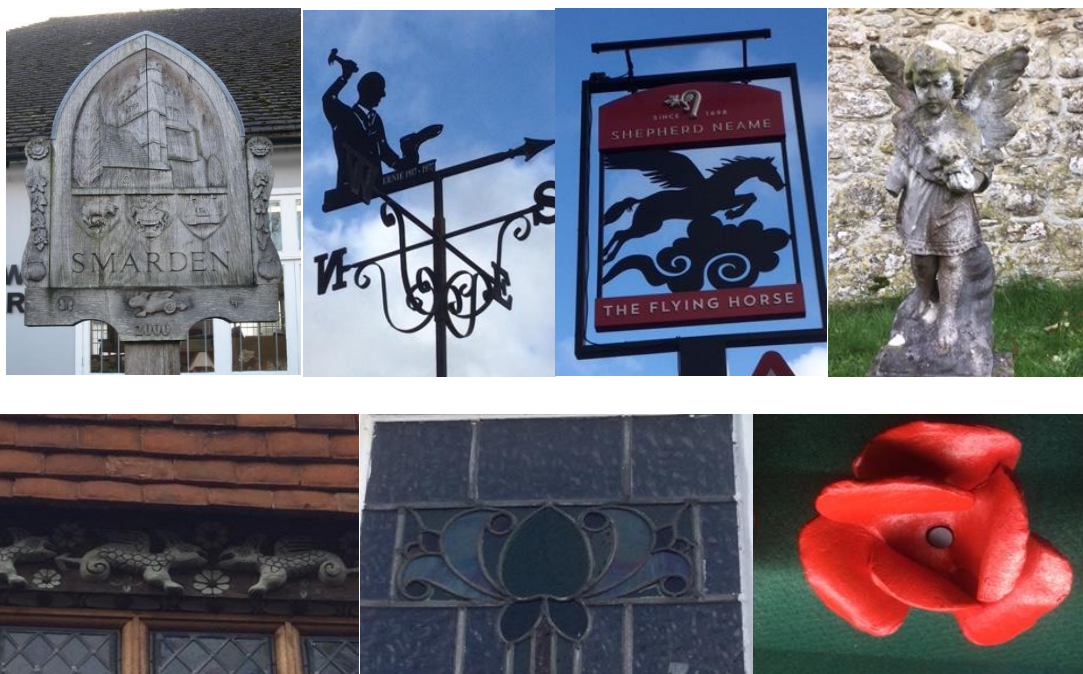
Pablo Picasso: *Art washes away from the soul the everyday dust of life*

Gustav Klimt: *Art is the line around your thoughts*

Jackson Pollock: *Art is coming face to face with yourself*

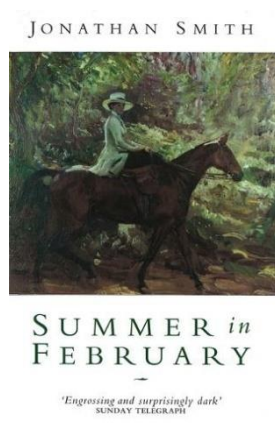
ART ON OUR DOORSTEP: SMARDEN

While Covid restrictions may limit travel there is plenty of art to enjoy on our doorsteps. Next time you take a walk around your town or village see what you can spot. Why not take a photo and send it to Gill for publication in the next newsletter. This month's selection can all be seen on a short stroll around Smarden. The Church is open, the village shop offers hot and cold drinks to take-away and there are plenty of seats around the village where you can sit and enjoy winter sunshine.



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



The winter months and current restrictions make it the perfect time for reading and browsing books. I regret to say I knew nothing of Alfred Munnings until I read 'Summer in February', a novel by Jonathan Smith. I immediately had to visit the Munnings Gallery in Dedham, Suffolk. The Gallery is closed for winter but you can see more about the artist and his work on the website at <https://www.munningsmuseum.org.uk/>

This review from the Goodreads Choice Awards sums the book up perfectly: *Sir Alfred Munnings, retiring President of the Royal Academy, chooses the 1949 Annual Banquet to launch a savage attack on Modern Art. The effect of his diatribe is doubly shocking, leaving not only his distinguished audience gasping but also many people tuning in to the BBC's live radio broadcast. But as he approaches the end of his assault, the speech suddenly dissolves into incoherence when he stumbles over a name - a name he normally takes such pains to avoid - that takes him back forty years to a special time and a special place. Summer in February is a disturbing and moving re-creation of a celebrated Edwardian artistic community enjoying the last days of a golden age soon to be shattered by war. As resonant and understated as The Go-Between, it is a love story of beauty, deprivation and tragedy.*

Please send reviews of books you would recommend to Gill for publication in future newsletters (contact details at the end of this newsletter).

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TAKE CARE, STAY SAFE AND KEEP WELL

We hope to see you at our next Lecture on 13th January. 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 March edition, is always welcome. Please send them to Gill via gillbrom57@btinternet.com or post to at 32 Orchard Glade, Headcorn TN27 9SR

Thank you - Gill Bromley – Editor

YOUR COMMITTEE

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AND FINALLY.....

To fill the back page I have added a few poems on the theme of Hope

PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY: £25 BOOK TOKEN TO BE WON!



TO THE FUTURE: POETRY OF HOPE

*O sweet To-morrow! –
After to-day
There will away
This sense of sorrow.
Then let us borrow
Hope, for a gleaming
Soon will be streaming,
Dimmed by no gray –
No gray*

Thomas Hardy

*"Hope" is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all -*

*And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard -
And sore must be the storm -
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm -*

*I've heard it in the chilliest land -
And on the strangest Sea -
Yet - never - in Extremity,
It asked a crumb - of me.*

Emily Dickinson

*Deny me all the good of earth —
All joy and soul-rebounding mirth,
All wealth and rank and love's great days;
But leave one thing by which to cope
With ebbing life's dim evening rays —
Leave me but hope*

Max Ehrman

Hope smiles in the threshold of the year to come, whispering 'it will be happier....'

Alfred Lord Tennyson (from the Foresters Act I Scene III The Outlawry)

