



THE ARTS SOCIETY EGERTON

NEWSLETTER NO. 5

MAY/JUNE 2021

Please join us for our forthcoming online lectures

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.

Please feel free to invite friends and family who may enjoy any of these lectures. Guests should contact Christine Willis, Membership Secretary, on 01233 756377 email: cmwillis75@gmail.com A link to enable you to log in will be forwarded to them. There is a small charge for guests of £4 per lecture

Please don't forget to leave a review on our website after each lecture

MAKING VISIONS: The Jewellery of Artist Charles Rickett

HELEN RITCHIE

WEDNESDAY 12th MAY at 2.30pm.



An in-depth look at the unique jewellery created by flamboyant artist Charles Ricketts at the turn of the 20th century. His intricate and richly-enamelled neo-Renaissance pieces were designed as gifts for his many friends including May Morris and the fascinating couple known as Michael Field

Helen Ritchie is Curator of Modern Applied Arts at The Fitzwilliam Museum, University of Cambridge. Recent exhibitions include Things of Beauty Growing: British Studio Pottery, Flux: Parian Unpacked and Designers and Jewellery 1850-1940: Jewellery and Metalwork from The Fitzwilliam Museum, for which she wrote the accompanying catalogue.

"Music is the language of the spirit. It opens the secret of life bringing peace, abolishing strife"
– Kahlil Gibran

"After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music" – Aldous Huxley

SHAKESPEARE AND THE BIRTH OF MODERN SHOW BUSINESS

GILES RAMSAY

WEDNESDAY 9TH JUNE at 2.30 p.m.



Poet, playwright and theatre entrepreneur, William Shakespeare became one of the wealthiest celebrities of the Elizabethan age. He also wrote some of the most brilliant plays the world has ever known. Giles examines how theatre moved into the modern era

Giles Ramsay is an independent theatre director and producer who specializes in creating new work with artists in developing countries. He is the Founding Director of the charity Developing Artists, Fellow of St. Chad's College, Durham University and Course Leader in Theatre at The Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. I hope you are keeping well and that like me, you are looking forward to seeing some freedom after the difficult months which we have endured.

Once again, I am so grateful to Gill Bromley for editing the newsletter, and I hope that it has continued to give you a link to the Society.

We shall soon be looking to our AGM, and we propose to run it the same way as last year, in the hope that in the future we return to normal business. I am sorry to say that I have received no nominations from members to serve on the Committee, and so it looks like we shall continue with the same Committee members albeit with a few slight changes in role. I have to say that I am extremely disappointed with this state of affairs, which if repeated next year, will lead to the dissolution of our Society. We have a wonderfully friendly Committee and I would still welcome offers of help, so please do think what you can do. It's your Society after all.

On other matters, we shall be meeting with the Parish Council representatives soon to investigate the audio visual problems which we have experienced at the Hall, and we shall be looking to fix these before we return later in the year. We shall also be looking to recruit a couple of people to deal with the chairs and also teas and coffees for our meetings.

I think that we have weathered the recent difficulties well, and my thanks go to Paul Tubby for his organisation of Zoom and YouTube presentations. We shall be looking to see how best to present our meetings in future, particularly during the Winter months, where I know that some members find the cold dark afternoons difficult. My thanks also go to Gill and Jenny for the programme of speakers which we have had, and bookings have already been made for next year. We also are looking to have a Special Interest Day and Visits. So hopefully, we shall be returning to normality.

This will be the last newsletter until the late summer. Do think about how you can help us run the Society and I hope that you keep safe and well.

Best wishes Allan Mowatt

"I'd rather be a musician than a rock star" – George Harrison

A.G.M.

WEDNESDAY 9TH JUNE at 7pm

As in 2020 this will be held via Zoom. Documents and a link will be e-mailed to you soon

MEMBERSHIP

A warm welcome to those who have recently joined TASE. We hope to meet you in person when government guidelines indicate that it is safe to do so.

This is an early reminder that subscriptions are due in June. We do hope you will continue to be a member of TASE as we emerge from the most difficult year our Society has experienced. We also hope that you will help us to attract new members to our 2021-22 season. We have a varied and interesting programme of lectures booked for September onwards. Programme cards with detailed information will be sent out by mail shortly.

Christine Willis Membership Secretary

DIGITAL & IT



As you all know the April lecture was a Zoom only event, but I am pleased to announce that the May lecture will be available on YouTube as well. The lecturer Helen Ritchie has allowed us to extend the YouTube availability for 5 days which means that you will be able to watch via YouTube from concurrent with the actual lecture until the following Monday evening. This will not apply to the June lecture however as once again we cannot use YouTube. I would urge everyone to try joining the Zoom meetings however as we do like to see you. It gives a more communal feeling to the event and certainly maintains our normal structure of every second Wednesday.

WEBSITE. With the AGM on the horizon, you will be receiving documents via email but they will also be posted on the website in the downloads section which is accessed by clicking “Our Society” and then “Documents”. I also hope to provide links from the “News” tab or maybe on the Stop Press section on the home page, but to keep them all together under an AGM heading is a bit more of a challenge!

Under future lectures you can see what is proposed for the next season. The full lecture description may not be there as we need to firm up details, which are often provided by the lecturer and may deviate from what is available on The Arts Society lecturer pages.

Finally, do take a look at “Web Page Links” which in two sections give lots of interesting places to go for Arts enjoyment. I hope to find a way of posting links to local places of interest on these pages without having type in all the list from the old website and keep them all in a local setting – again a challenge.

Paul Tubby IT and Website

“My music is best understood by children and animals” – Igor Stravinsky

PAST HISTORY – A LOOK AT THE LIFE OF THE ARTS SOCIETY EGERTON

When lockdown started I thought I'd spend some of the time getting the lists of lectures and lecturers updated, but the weather was too good (do you remember 2020?) so I gardened and forgot all about it for a year. Then came Directory Day, the big event in the life of lecturers and Programme Secretaries where new and established lecturers give short presentations and are booked by eager Programme Secretaries. This usually takes place in Central Hall in London where crowds mill around and lecturers vie for space but this year it was all done on YouTube. Obviously, when planning a programme, it is vital to know which subjects have been covered and we are very lucky as a Society that several years ago former Chair and also former Programme Secretary Patsy Erskine-Hill had the foresight to compile comprehensive lists of both subjects and dates of lectures and of lecturers who have been to Egerton. (When you visit the website, you will find all this information there). However, when embarking on the hand-over process with Gill, it became increasingly clear that what was needed in addition was a database, so that is what I attempted to do and it was fascinating. By far and away the greatest number of lectures have been on Art – artists, movements, subjects, techniques. There were also many lectures on special areas of the world, such as "Tibet – Roof of the World" and also 'Performing Arts' as well as 'Metals, Gems and Minerals' and 'Famous People' to mention just a few categories. As our Society was started in 2001 there were a lot of subjects to cover so PLEASE take the time to look at the first attempt at the database and please, please send in suggestions for improving it.

As I looked through the lists of all the lectures, several sprang to mind as memorable. The very first talk in 2001 was "The Careful Collector: Fakes, Forgeries and Reproductions" given by David Battie, then of the Antiques Roadshow. Another, in 2007, which was unexpectedly entertaining was "Rescuing Zeugma from the Euphrates" when a young archaeologist called Loise Schofield described with great humour her battle to complete the dig before the dam waters covered the site. And who could forget the more recent talk in 2019 on "The Borgias: the most Infamous Family in History" when Sarah Dunant enthralled us for an hour without looking at a single note? So here is a challenge for members: which is your most memorable lecture? Answers will be published in the next Newsletter and it will be interesting to see if there is any agreement.

Finally looking to the future, the pictures below relate to lectures in our 2022 programme! New topics to add to the database.....

Jenny Mowatt Ex-Programme Secretary



Photos supplied by lecturers

"Some days there won't be a song in your heart. Sing anyway." – Emory Austin

"Music is the tool to express life – and all that makes a difference." – Herbie Hancock

"One good thing about music, when it hits you, you feel no pain." — Bob Marley

DIRECTORY WEEK 2021

The prospect of a day in London listening to aspiring Arts Society Lecturers was what attracted me to volunteering to become Programme Secretary. Covid19 put paid to all that! Directory Day 2020 was cancelled. This year Jenny and I attended a Virtual Directory Week during which we had the option to watch over 100 lecturers at our leisure. Each had just 3 minutes to wow us as we became armchair critics. We were aware of the topics you recommended in the Survey and narrowed our list down to those who lived within reach of Egerton, making travel affordable. As we viewed we scribbled notes which we compared afterwards. We were in total agreement about who shone and who didn't.

As well as Directory Week we share reviews of lecturers with other Arts Societies in the Kent Area. Anyone rated 'outstanding' goes on our shortlist. If I am searching for a particular theme (eg Christmas) I can view videoclips of new and established lecturers on the Arts Society website

I then started to plan the year's programme aiming to provide a varied range of topics across the arts. I checked Jenny's database to ensure that we haven't previously had a lecture on the topic. I then phoned the lecturer to discuss a booking. They've had a tough year and are delighted to be invited to visit Egerton. Chatting to these eminent people is one of the pleasures of my new role.

Given the pandemic continues to mutate I booked lecturers who can also use Zoom if we are unable to meet in the Hall. This will also be useful in the event of inclement weather. In future we may be able to film lectures or live broadcast to members who can no longer get to the Millennium Hall due to illness or disability. That will enable members to continue to enjoy the Society even if they are incapacitated.

Hopefully we will be back in the Millennium Hall before too long but once we are able to meet in one another's homes maybe some of you who live near one another will get together to view the lectures including those members who have been unable to use Zoom.

Arts Society lecturers are on an international standing and lecturing is how most earn a living. The average fee is around £400; very good value and a privilege to meet them in person.

The 2021-22 programme will be my first. You will be the judge of whether I've done a good job! To whet your appetite, below are a few of the characters who will be appearing.

Finally a plea: please submit a review via our website following each online lecture. It just requires a rating (outstanding to poor) and there is the option to add your comments if you wish. I have to submit ratings to the Arts Society so I need to know what you think. It is also useful to help me identify lecturers we would wish to invite back (and any we don't). Lecturers also get to rate us commenting on their experience so please help to make them feel welcome!



Photos supplied by lecturers

"Music is the universal language of mankind." – Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

ARTS SOCIETY



Enjoy the arts at home with a series of films by Arts Society Accredited Lecturers via Arts Society Connected or via their YouTube channel. The 13 short lectures include one by Graham Jones who will entertain us in December. Go to <https://www.connected.theartsociety.org/talks-lectures> or <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCK6MAqHahY37PG3x7kr2cUw>

ART ON OUR DOORSTEP: A STROLL AROUND BETHERSDEN



"If music be the food of love, play on." – William Shakespeare

"When I hear music, I fear no danger. I am invulnerable. I see no foe. I am related to the earliest of times, and to the latest." – Henry David Thoreau

"Music can name the unnameable and communicate the unknowable." – Leonard Bernstein

"Where words fail, music speaks" – Hans Christian Andersen

"Without music, life would be a blank to me." – Jane Austen

YOUR COMMITTEE

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