

THE ARTS SOCIETY EGERTON NEWSLETTER NO. 6

AUGUST 2021

GREAT NEWS: WE WILL SOON BE BACK IN THE MILLENNIUM HALL!

Please join us for our first lecture of the 2021-22 season

GAINSBOROUGH TO BROWN: Art as Nature or Nature as Art?

CAROLINE HOLMES

WEDNESDAY 8th SEPTEMBER

Doors open from 2.00. Meeting begins at 2.30



An eclectic mix of artistic and moral landscapes in eighteenth century England including William Hogarth, Joseph Wright and Johann Zoffany. The silken thread starts with the gnarled mulberry tree that still dominates Thomas Gainsborough's childhood garden in Sudbury, Suffolk continuing to Bath and Chatsworth. Contemporary with England's greatest landscaper, Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, Gainsborough was an originator of the English landscape painting school, were both men painted by Zoffany? We will examine a selection of portraits as well as painted and living landscapes. Art as nature or nature as art? Gainsborough trained with Hogarth whose landscapes are rather more urban whilst Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens provided a striking contrast between the rural idyll and urban fabrication as well as social mores.



Thomas Gainsborough, Henry Duke of Cumberland, with the Duchess of Cumberland. Image provided by lecturer

Caroline Holmes is a consultant designer specializing in evoking historic, artistic and symbolic references. She is an author, and a presenter and contributor on television and radio. In 2017 she was the recipient of the Herb Society of America 'Elizabeth Crisp Rea Award'.

Please feel invite friends and family who may enjoy this lecture. There is a small charge for visitors of £5 per lecture.

COVID RESTRICTIONS

We will follow any guidance issued by the Government and as required by Egerton Millennium Hall Committee. There will be hand gel at the entrance and seats will be wiped down. Please see Allan's letter below.

We appreciate that, for some of you, it will be the first time since lockdown that you have attended such a meeting. We will endeavour to make you comfortable. If you have any concerns please speak to a committee member. We are also aware that for many of you it will be a real boost to get out and meet others in the comfort of the Millennium Hall.

FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Dear Members

Welcome back to the new 2021-22 session.

It will seem strange to be returning to the Millennium Hall after such a long time. We have had a challenging period as a result of Covid, and again, I have to record my thanks to Paul Tubby for keeping the show on the road with our Zoom meetings. Paul is not available for this first meeting, so please note that there will be no Zoom presentation. We shall review what to do about future meetings but it is unlikely that we shall be running Zoom each time.

I am aware that some of you may be nervous about returning to the Hall and I ask that everyone respects the need to be sensible with each other. We are not insisting on masks, but will have wider spacing of seating, more ventilation, hand sanitiser available and will wipe the tops of the chairs. Unless there is very heavy rain, some queuing may be necessary for a very short while outside the Hall, in order to avoid bunching up inside. When you sit down please do not move the chairs more closely together.

During the summer we have altered the sound system and acquired a new lap top for the speakers' presentations. Andrew and Julia have now taken retirement with our very best wishes, and Linda Barnard and her husband will be taking over the setting out of the hall and provision of teas and biscuits.

To celebrate our return we shall be running our raffle again, except that at the first meeting, the tickets will be free! Apart from all this, the Society will continue as before.

However, I have to say again that this will be the final session for Lynne Saunby and myself. Despite saying this a number of times at our Zoom meetings, no-one has come forward to assist the Committee. I know that many of you have already served on this Committee or others, but while several of you have very kindly offered to assist with publicity within your communities, and one has offered to assist with the raffle, I am really disappointed that no one else has offered to help on the Committee itself. Without a Secretary and a Chairman, the Society will fold, as has already happened to a couple of other local societies. It really is up to you. This is my fifth and last year as Chairman and for Lynne it is many more years than that. Please reflect on it and do something to help the Committee and keep the Society alive.

Best wishes
Allan Mowatt

MEMBERSHIP: an APPEAL

Unsurprisingly we have lost a few members over the past year although we are happy to report that we have gained a few. We have begun to promote TASE more widely in local parish magazines, on Facebook and Nextdoor across our catchment area to introduce the love of art to potential new members. Our membership fee of £40 is great value for 10 lectures as staging a single lecture can amount to £600 or more. The lecturers are well known in their field so each lecture is informative and entertaining and as you know refreshments are available giving members an opportunity to get to know new people and chat to friends.

You, our members, are our best recruitment resource. Please help us to promote our Society in your community. Here are a few things you might be able to do:

- Share this newsletter with someone who might be interested. Maybe you could e-mail it to your contacts and invite them to join you at the next meeting. For this reason our programme for 2021-22 is included on the final page
- Promote TASE at other local meetings. For example, if you are a U3A, Active Retirement or W.I. member your society may allow you a couple of minutes to tell members about TASE (Gill can provide you with copies of our programme for members to take away)
- help us to extend a warm welcome to visitors and new members; it can be daunting stepping into a room of people for the first time and we want visitors to become members

Later in the year we intend to produce posters for display, and flyers for distribution in local communities as part of a wider promotional campaign. Meanwhile we always welcome suggestions and offers to help promote TASE so please talk to Gill or I at meetings or send us an e-mail

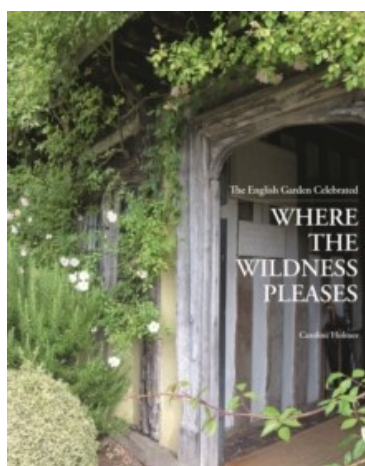
Thank you

Christine Willis Membership Secretary

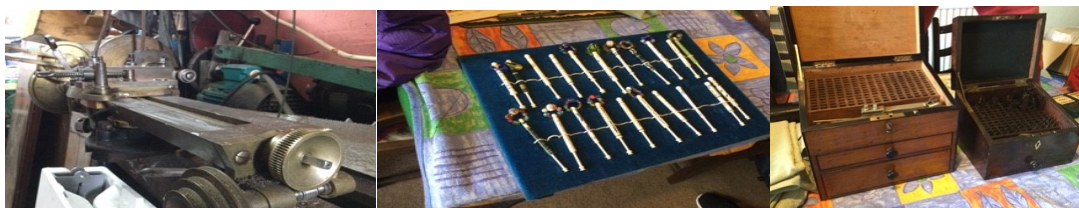
MONTHLY RAFFLE

Members will be aware that we raffle a book at each meeting. The books are recommended to us by each lecturer and relate to the theme of the lecture. The Raffle helps us to fund each meeting and offers the opportunity to go home with a rather nice book. Please support it if you can. Tickets cost £1 and are on sale at the door.

STOP PRESS: we will run a free Raffle on 8th September to welcome everyone back. One ticket for everyone who comes along. The prize is Caroline Holmes' latest book about gardens of the High Weald.



BARRY'S OLD MACHINES!



Having spotted publicity for Helen Ritchie's lecture on the Jewellery of Artist Charles Ricketts, a gentleman who lives in Grafty Green contacted me asking whether we'd like to see his 'old machines'. Barry Adams has a collection of lathes and some of intricate lace bobbins he has created. So Jenny and I recently undertook a visit to see what was on offer.

Barry's lathes include a J.H.Evans ornamental turning lathe No 1284, the first known lathe engraved with the address 159 Wardour St. By 1879 Wardour St had been renumbered. A lot of the decorative work is done with shaped cutters (fly cutters). He also owns a Swiss Gudel straight line engine which cuts zig zag lines in a straight direction. He is currently working on assembling a Plant of Harbourne Birmingham trade rose engine which cut rose patterns.

As well as lathes Barry has an extensive collection hand engraving tools and some of the ivory lace makers bobbins which he used to create.

For further information see <http://ornamentalturning.co.uk> and <https://plumier.org>

It was a fascinating visit. Barry, like most collectors, is passionate about his interests which also include canals and steam trains (more collections!) and his artefacts are amassed in every room of his home!

Small group visits of around an hour can be arranged. If any TASE members would like to see Barry's lathes and bobbins please contact Gill via gillbrom57@btinternet.com or 01622 890214 and small group.



YOUR COMMITTEE

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THE ARTS SOCIETY EGERTON

2021-22 PROGRAMME

Please consider printing this page and offering to a friend who might be interested in joining our Society

See our website for further details on each lecture at
<https://theartssocietyegerton.org.uk/Lectures/FutureLectures.aspx>

- 13TH OCTOBER:** CHLOE SAYER From Rag-Dolls to Robots: A World History of Toys
- 10TH NOVEMBER:** PAULA NUTTALL The Bruges of van Eyck and Memling
- 8TH DECEMBER:** GRAHAM JONES A Very Ceremonial Christmas
- 12TH JANUARY:** TESSA BOASE The Housekeeper's Tale: the Women who really ran the English Country
- 9TH FEBRUARY:** MARK MEREDITH Castles: the unquenched thirst of William Randolph Hearst
- 9TH MARCH:** TONY RAWLINS Mad men and artists: how the advertising industry exploited fine art
- 13TH APRIL:** MATTHEW WILSON The Artists who outwitted the Nazis
- 11TH MAY:** ANNALIE TALENT From Errol Flynn to Bottles of Gin: literary portraits and their afterlives
- 8TH JUNE:** PIP BURLEY The Golden Age of Song: Jerome Kern – the 'Daddy' of them all



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We meet on the second Wednesday of the month from September through until June in the Millennium Hall, Egerton. The lectures start promptly at 2.30pm with tea and biscuits being served afterwards. There is ample free car parking.

Membership costs £40 per annum for individuals and £70 per annum for couples. If you wish to join or come to one of our lectures please contact Christine Willis, our Membership Secretary via cmwillis75@gmail.com or 01233 75637.

Existing members are also encouraged to bring guests, at a cost of £5.00 per lecture. The £5 will be refunded should the guest decide to join the society.

You will be made very welcome