

ZOOM GUEST SCHEME (FORMERLY THE ZOOM ACCESS SCHEME)

Many of our Societies have now returned to in-person lectures in their usual venues and as a result have decided to discontinue their online Zoom lecture programmes. There are Societies that have decided to continue some lectures as a hybrid with some members viewing at home and others in person.

We have received feedback that many members, for various reasons, would like to continue to view lectures and other content at home via Zoom. In order to help Societies that are not offering online content to retain these members we are considering the use of a 'Zoom guest scheme'. Members would still belong to their local Society and pay their subscription but would have access to the online content of other Societies either for free or upon payment of the appropriate fee to the Society whose content they will be accessing.

The Scheme will work as follows:

We have contacted Society Members informing them that the scheme is now available and have given them a link to a simple sign up form.

The Arts Society will send a monthly email to Society members who have signed up to the scheme. This will contain a link to a web page containing the details of the lectures of participating Societies that are being held via Zoom. To find out about each lecture and how to attend, Society Members can click on the name of the event for more information and details of how to book. They should contact the Society direct using the details given on the event page to book their place at a lecture.

This is a pilot scheme that will be reviewed at the end of the 2022/23 season in July.

We contacted Societies that had renewed their Zoom licences through The Arts Society and the majority said they would be willing to share their lectures with members from other Societies either for a fee or free of charge. If your Society is continuing to hold lectures via Zoom and would like to be part of the Zoom Guest Scheme, please email membership@theartsociety.org and we will send you details of how to add your events.

FAQs

Shouldn't we be encouraging members to return to in-person lectures in our venues rather than staying at home to watch them on Zoom?

Absolutely! As we all know watching a lecture together in-person with our friends and fellow members is an important aspect of The Arts Society however, there are still some members that are concerned about large gatherings - remember Covid is still with us. This scheme allows us to cater for those people and for you to retain them as members without having to provide a Zoom alternative yourself.

Won't lecturers object?

During lockdown where Societies were sharing lectures with other Societies not always with the lecturer's permission understandably, lecturers objected to this because they were

delivering a lecture to more than one Society and received only a single fee. With this scheme, we don't anticipate Societies having any more than a few additional people at their lectures on Zoom, much in the same way as having guests at live lectures.

What's to stop members leaving and only taking part in the scheme?

Only members that are on our system as being members of a Society are entitled to take part in the scheme. If a member resigns and you remove them from your list on The Arts Society website, they will no longer receive the emails containing details of Zoom lectures.

Why can't this be done centrally?

There are a number of Societies still offering Zoom. Working with them is a more cost effective and efficient way of allowing access to lectures via Zoom. It also offers them the opportunity to earn extra guest fees by offering their lectures to other members. It would be difficult to avoid clashes with Society lectures and duplication of lecture topics if we were to offer our own Zoom programme.

What are the benefits of the Scheme?

- Continued access to our lectures for those unable to attend in-person due to infirmity, ill-health or the continued need to take extra care due to Covid
- Societies continue to retain these members who may otherwise have resigned
- Additional income for those Societies continuing to offer lectures via Zoom

How do new members or existing members that missed the original invitation join the Scheme?

Please pass on the link to the sign up form below for them to sign up to the Zoom Access Scheme.