



THE ARTS SOCIETY-PEWSEY VALE LECTURE PROGRAMME 2024-25

March 5th. **Lynne Gibson** will talk on: **Alchemy and Adventure: A History of Exotic Colour and Poison Pigments**

It is easy to take colour for granted in our man-made world but, before organic chemistry, the most desirable pigments were often rare, exotic, or poisonous. Small wonder artists kept their paint recipes closely guarded in books of secrets.

April 2nd. **Scott Anderson** will talk on: **Gustav Klimt and the Vienna Secession**

In 2006 Klimt's portrait of Adele Bloche-Bauer sold for \$135 million, the highest price paid for a painting in the market place. Klimt, leader of the fin-de-siecle Vienna Secession movement, changed the face of painting in the Imperial city of Vienna, and produced some of the most remarkable works of the Art Nouveau era.

May 7th. **Rosamund Bartlett** will talk on: **A Window into Russia: A History of the Hermitage Museum**

Charting the history of one of the world's largest museums, from its foundation in 1761 through to the 21st Century. From Catherine the Great and other Russian Czars' voracious appetite for collecting, plus the addition of priceless collections acquired after the 1917 October Revolution, its eventful history provides a revealing window into the peculiarities of Imperial and Soviet Russia

June 4th. **Rupert Dickens** will talk on: **Off the Record: Album Cover Art 1950-2000**

Some of the most iconic images of the 20th Century were created not for galleries or private patrons but for record sleeves. The zebra-crossing immortalised on the cover of the Beatles' "Abbey Road" album has become a place of pilgrimage. Album covers have been designed by artists such as Andy Warhol, Peter Blake, Yoko Ono and a host of other artists and designers.

September 3rd. **Felicity Herring** will talk on: **An Artist's View of Rural Britain: Rural Idyll or Hard Labour**

How different artists portrayed the British Countryside. Idyllic views of the landscape, cottages and comely, happy workers, like Foster's pretty milkmaid, are shown alongside basic interiors of workers' dwellings and the poor, hardworking labourers. Works by many artists illustrate this lecture on contrasting views.

October 1st. **Mark Meredith** will talk on: **Cash for Coronets: An Architectural Legacy**

Between 1874 and 1914 no less than 454 American heiresses exchanged their crisp American dollars for musty, old European titles. Their money was primarily used to restore their husbands' ancestral piles, many of which today we count amongst our best loved National Treasures. We look at some of these dollar fairy godmothers and the frequently eye opening stories of how couples were matched.

November 5th. **Johanna Banham** will talk on: **A Decorative Art: The History of Wallpaper**

A fascinating look at how wallpaper developed from the 16th Century, encompassing a huge range of beautiful patterns, created both by anonymous hands and some of the best known designers of the 19th and 20th Centuries. From the first black and white patterns, to the fashion for all things Chinese and the designs of William Morris and the Arts & Crafts movement, to the taste for modernist and contemporary design.

December 3rd. **Clive Stewart-Lockhart** will talk on:

A Voyage of Discovery: The Paintings of George Roper, Midshipman on the First Fleet to Australia 1788—1792

A chance discovery of a group of unsigned watercolours of exotic birds and flowers became one of the greatest finds of early Australian paintings ever made. George Roper was a young midshipman on H.M.S. Sirius with connections to Joseph Banks, the great Botanist. Roper's exquisite watercolours have survived in the most extraordinary condition. This talk examines the whole voyage, including shipwreck on Norfolk Island.

January 7th. **Jamie Hayes** will talk on: **Gilbert and Sullivan: Their Topsy Turvy World**

The story of two remarkable Victorians and the birth of British Comic Opera. Their quarter century long partnership began in 1871, when the pair were brought together by the remarkably entrepreneurial theatre manager, Richard D'Oyly-Carte, with whom they collaborated on fourteen unique comic operas. Enjoy the bouquets, brickbats and their extraordinary popularity and fame. Their success was unprecedented in the history of musical theatre and inspired the likes of Jerome Kern, Irving Berlin and Cole Porter.

February 4th. **Cindy Polemis** will talk on: **Miniature Portraits: Tiny Treasures Close to Our Hearts**

From diplomatic gifts to tokens of love between the 16th – 19th centuries, we look at the history of these tiny treasures of art.