

The Arts Society Welwyn Garden STUDY DAY

Bruges, Van Eyck and the Ghent Altarpiece

led by Paula Nuttall

Thursday 23rd April 2026

For this three-lecture Study Day Renaissance art specialist Paula Nuttall will first evoke the city of Bruges during its late-medieval heyday, when it was the richest and most vibrant city in northern Europe. A cosmopolitan trading centre, Bruges attracted an international merchant clientele, as well as the Burgundian rulers of the Netherlands. Their magnificent court included great painters such as Jan van Eyck and Hans Memling, whose masterpieces, interwoven with sculptures, illuminated manuscripts, and the buildings of Bruges itself, conjure up life in this medieval metropolis.

Paula's second lecture will give an overview of Van Eyck and his art and importance. Internationally regarded as the greatest painter of his day, Jan van Eyck was an innovative and technically brilliant observer of reality in an era when naturalism was becoming the goal of every artist. His paintings still astonish on account of their dazzling evocations of textiles, metalwork and distant landscapes, and their sophisticated illusionism, as well as for their sheer ingenuity and virtuosity. This lecture will discuss Van Eyck's works, including the celebrated Ghent Altarpiece and the so-called Arnolfini Marriage in the National Gallery.

A more detailed look at the Ghent Altarpiece is the focus of our third lecture. Completed in 1432, the altarpiece is the first datable painting of the Northern Renaissance, and a milestone in the history of art. Paula will unravel the meaning of the altarpiece's complex imagery, explore its later history, including its finding by the Monuments Men in 1945, and highlight some of the discoveries to have emerged during its current restoration.

Venue: The Focolare Centre for Unity, 69 Parkway, Welwyn Garden City AL8 6JG



Programme: 10.15am welcome coffee and registration for 10.45am start

- Coffee break 11.45am
- lunch break 1.05pm
- day will finish @3.00pm

Cost: £45.00 per person to include tea & coffee, and a sandwich lunch

To book your place email us at welwyncarden@theartsociety.org

Pay by bank transfer:

Barclays Bank
Sort code: 20-92-54
Account no: 60945870

OR by cheque payable to The Arts Society Welwyn Garden. Post your cheque to Helen Smith, TASWG Treasurer, 7 Hertford Road, Tewin, AL6 0JY. If you don't have an email address, please enclose a SAE for confirmation.

The Arts Society Welwyn Garden STUDY DAY

Bruges, Van Eyck and the Ghent Altarpiece

led by Paula Nuttal

on Thursday 23rd April 2026

at The Focolare Centre for Unity, 69 Parkway, WGC, AL8 6JG

BOOKING FORM

Please reserve place/s @ £45.00 each

I have paid by bank transfer.....Yes/No

OR

I enclose a cheque to the value of £.....

Cheques payable to: The Arts Society Welwyn Garden

Receipt of the booking form will be confirmed by email.

Name(s):.....

.....

Address:.....

.....

Postcode:.....

Email:.....

Mobile tel no (for contact on the day).....

Emergency contact tel no.....

Please advise any dietary
requirements.....

Please send your booking form to: Helen Smith, TASWG Treasurer, 7 Hertford Road, Tewin, AL6 0JY. If you don't have an email address, please enclose a SAE for confirmation.

Any queries, contact: Helen Smith at welwyngarden@theartssociety.org