



The Arts Society

East Grinstead

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Chair Remarks

Spring is just around the corner and I feel a lightness in my step that has been missing these past few months. I rarely comment on a lecture but last month's SID on Beethoven given by Peter Medhurst was outstanding in every way. What a musician! What a lecturer! Imagine having a Concert Grand Piano in your very own Music Room! We will definitely have him back. Congratulations Jenny on your perseverance with badgering him and booking him. Not surprisingly he is a very busy man.

We know that Chequer Mead are planning to open their cafe and the theatre as soon as it is permitted. They are in communication with us. We will definitely Zoom our March, April and May lectures but are hoping to be able to have our June lecture in Chequer Mead. It will be lovely to see you all again for real.

9 March TASEG lecture - Bertie Pearce - 'The Dancing Faun: A Personal Story of a Masterpiece'

Bertie has a BA (Hons) in Drama from Manchester University, and a Diploma Internationale from the École Internationale du Théâtre, Jacques Lecoq. He is a member of the Inner Magic Circle, with Gold Star. His past experience includes lecturing and performing on cruise ships, and to U3A, historical societies, festivals, schools and colleges. In addition, has toured the world with a magic cabaret show and a one man show entitled All Aboard. Has written articles for newspapers and magazines on entertainment and theatre.

In this lecture Bertie recounts the extraordinary tale of how a small bronze statue, which had sat in his Grandfather's garden for 40 years, was discovered as a master piece and ended up in the Getty Museum, California. Adriaen De Vries (c.1556-1626) was a Northern Mannerist sculptor born in the Netherlands. A technical virtuoso, he created spectacular bronzes for the most discerning patrons of his time, including the Holy Roman Emperor Rudolf II of Prague. He excelled in refined modelling and bronze casting and in the manipulation of patina and became the most famous European sculptor of his generation.

For more information, please click [HERE](#)

16 March. TASEG Virtual Guided Tour of Bath - Aaron Hunter

Come with us as qualified Blue Badge guide, Aaron Hunter, leads a virtual walking tour of the City of Bath on a sunny day. We will discover the Roman remains that until the 19th century laid buried under the city, before heading out towards the wonderful Georgian architecture that made this the place to be in the 18th century. Along the way we will meet the characters that transformed Bath from a small town at the edge of the Cotswolds to the City of Golden Stone nestled in a green valley.

This will be a 1 hour tour, broadcast on Zoom and there will be opportunity to ask questions via the on-line chat facility.

For more information, please click [HERE](#)

23 March TASTH lecture - Sarah Cove - 'Fakes and Fortune (or, have I discovered a Constable in my Attic?!)

Sarah Cove is an accredited paintings conservator-restorer, technical art historian and lecturer with more than 35 years' experience working on paintings for the heritage and private sectors. She is based in London and Falmouth and is a specialist in British portraits, 19th-20th century British landscapes and oil sketches on paper and board. In 1986 she founded the Constable Research Project and she is now the leading authority on Constable's materials and techniques. She has appeared in several TV programmes for the BBC notably Constable in Love with Andrew Graham-Dixon. Sarah Cove ACR founded the Constable Research Project in conjunction with the V&A Museum in 1986 to study John Constable RA's materials and techniques from the technical and scientific point of view.

In this lecture, which gives a 'behind the scenes' look at how decisions on the authenticity of paintings are made, Sarah will describe some extraordinary successes but also crashing disappointments. Stories will

include, at opposite extremes, a hugely publicised oil sketch reputedly worth £250,000 that turned out to be a copy and the chance discovery of a fabulous, almost abstract, oil study of the 1830s that had formerly belonged to an American GI.

For more information, please click [HERE](#)

13 April TASEG lecture - David Wright - 'A Brief History of Wine'

David has been a wine retailer, importer and distributor for 30 years. In that time, he has publicly presented tastings and talks on wine to trade and private audiences. These have taken the form of wine 'tastings' or charity events where a particular subject is presented and wines tasted. He has developed the talk 'A Brief Story of Wine' a great subject, and full of rich evidence, going back 7,000 years, in the form of paintings, decorated drinking vessels, buildings and literature that contribute to the story.

Wine has been part of our global society for over 7,000 years, and the story tells of its origin and appearance in all societies across the Mediterranean and through Europe. There is rich evidence of the role wine has played in these societies and how it became an important component of faith, well-being and festivity. From the kvevris of Georgia in 5,000 B.C., the symposia in ancient Greece, the thermopolia of Pompeii, the hospices of Europe, to the dining tables of fine society, wine has been ever present. Drawings, paintings, engravings, buildings, pottery and wine labels themselves all contribute to the story.

20 April TASTH Special Interest Day - Andrew Prince. - 'Jewels, Style and the Image of Power'

Andrew Prince is well known to us in East Grinstead, having delivered a very interesting and entertaining lecture, "A Portrait of Jewels" in 2019.

In this SID, consisting of 2 lectures, Andrew first shows how the rise of Cinema and Hollywood had such an important impact on fashion and jewellery design. From Dietrich to Grace Kelly, he guides you through the Screen Goddesses and how they were portrayed.

Following on, among the many jewels he traces, Andrew follows some pearls that belonged to Catherine De Medici then Mary Queen of Scots, Queen Elizabeth I and now are worn by Queen Elizabeth II. Also a spectacular diamond that belonged to King Charles I, later worn by Marie Antoinette.

For more information, please click [HERE](#)

27 April TASTH lecture - Ian Cockburn - 'Moorish Architecture: The Legacy of a Vanished Kingdom'

Ian Cockburn is an Art historian with a BA (Birkbeck College) in art history and an MA (Courtauld Institute of Art) in medieval Spanish art history. He is a specialist in the nearly 800 years of Moorish occupation and Christian reconquest of medieval Iberia. Ian is also a Founder and director of an art tours company, specialising in guided cultural tours in Spain, plus lecturing in London at institutions such as the V&A, SOAS, Christies Education, and the London Art History Society. He is a Trustee and Honorary Treasurer of Art History Link-Up, a charity that offers an education in Art History to young people regardless of their background.

The Alhambra of Granada, the Great Mosque of Cordoba and the Alcazar of Seville are the three most impressive monuments to the architectural creativity of the Moors in Spain, but there are many other examples worthy of mention too.

The classical origins that influenced the Moorish style are less well-known, but fascinating to explore, as too is the unique interior decorative style developed by the Moors, which gives their architecture its beauty and exotic appeal – an appeal so strong that the Christians sometimes copied it, even as they slowly reconquered the territory from its Islamic rulers. This lecture provides a comprehensive introduction to the peninsula's Moorish architecture.

For more information, please click [HERE](#)