

THE ARTS SOCIETY DRIFFIELD WOLDS



PROGRAMME for 2024

18th January 2024

Gillian Hovell

Ancient Roots: Classical Stories Growing In Your Garden

Dig deep into our gardens and their plants to discover fantastical tales of myth and legend that add life and colour to your garden plants. Discover bizarre but sometimes true ancient beliefs and see the seeds of our garden design. We travel back, over 2,000 years and more, to Babylon, Ancient Greece and Rome to find the blossoming of our gardens today.



15th February 2024

Simon Seligman

'O Paxton!' - How Chatsworth's Victorian Genius Joseph Paxton Came To Put The World Under Glass.

Paxton was one of the most inventive and influential figures of the 19th century, whose most famous masterwork, the Crystal Palace of 1851, is considered to be 'the birth of modern architecture'. As gardener, engineer, designer, architect, publisher, railway investor and MP, Paxton was to leave his mark on Victorian Britain like few others.



21st March 2024

Bertie Pearce

"Now You See It, Now You Don't": The Art of Visual Deception

This is one of the quirkiest lectures you will ever hear. There is a universal delight in being deceived and in this lecture Bertie Pearce takes his audience on a whistle stop tour of art which fools, surprises and amuses the viewer. Beginning and ending with the Belgian surrealist, René Magritte, it encompasses Trompe L'oeil, Banksy, Bridget Riley, Arcimboldo and Escher to name but a few.



18th April 2024

Jenny Scruton

Vases, Volcanoes and Victory: Sir William Hamilton in Naples

Sir William Hamilton is best known for having a notorious wife, but he is an interesting person in his own right. During his 37 years as British Envoy in Naples he became a pioneer in the study of volcanoes and established a reputation as a collector of antique works of art. He played host to a large number of gentry on the Grand Tour, including William Constable at Burton Constable.





16th May 2024

Cynthia Coleman-Sparke

The Abramtsevo Colony of Arts and Crafts in late Imperial Russia

In this lecture, we trace the rise of the Arts and Crafts movement as it developed in the Art Nouveau period in Russia. In the artistic colony at Abramtsevo near Moscow, some of the Empire's most distinguished artists gathered to collaborate on joint projects which expressed new turn-of-the-20th century ideals, as Russia hurtled towards Revolution and the end of Empire.



20th June 2024

Peter Ross

From the Saxons to Mary Berry: An Illustrated History of the British Cook Book

Cookbooks are full of extraordinary food but also extraordinary illustrations from medieval illuminated manuscripts, via the engravings of the eighteenth century and the colour lithographs of Mrs. Beeton, to the high-end life-style images of the modern TV cook. This lecture tells the story of the development of the cookbook and along the way will tempt you, or indeed disgust you, with a few choice recipes.



19th September 2024

Jane Gardiner

Chinamania – The Impact of Chinese Porcelain on European Taste, Collecting and Display

When the very first Chinese porcelains found their way to Europe, the beauty and fragility of the material led to their being mounted with precious metal and treasured alongside other rare and exotic objects such as ostrich eggs and rock crystal vessels. This early and exclusive ownership of Chinese porcelain spread enormously in the 17th century with the opening up of trading routes and spawned a whole range of European imitations.



17th October 2024

Ian Cockburn

The History and Material Culture of al-Andalus: Islam on the Rise

This lecture tells the epic story of the creation of the kingdom of al-Andalus, and the development of its spectacular architecture, beginning with the Great Mosque of Cordoba, as well as introducing other areas of the kingdom's rich material culture, such as exquisite silk textiles, elaborate carved ivory caskets and rare bronze sculptures. It ends however with the highly symbolic Christian reconquest of the old Visigothic capital of Toledo in 1085.



21st November 2024

Sandy Burnett

Christmas in Bach's Leipzig: The Christmas Oratorio of 1734/5

In this illustrated talk Sandy explores how Bach brings the Christmas story alive in his Weihnachtsoratorium or Christmas Oratorio, written for Lutheran congregations in 1730s Leipzig. An overview of Bach's life and achievement precedes a close look at this magnificent work which draws on various forms ranging from recitative, arioso, aria, chorale, and instrumental sinfonia through to full-blown choruses which are infused with the joyous spirit of the dance.