

DAYS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Thursday 30th November 2023

Sarah Burles

The Art of Cornwall

Throughout the history of art, particular places have inspired intense periods of creativity. From the late 19th century, Cornwall became a focus for a number of artists who challenged conventions, beginning with the artists' colonies at Newlyn and then Larmorna. In the 20th century, St Ives was home to British modernists such as Barbara Hepworth and Ben Nicholson who in turn inspired and were challenged by a younger generation of avant-garde artists that included Peter Lanyon, Roger Hilton and Patrick Heron. Explore the work of these artists and others in Cornwall from the 1880s to the 1970s, their artistic influences, relationships and legacy.

TOURS AND OUTINGS

Autumn 2023

Lake Garda and Northern Italy: Art and Culture

4th - 11th October 2023

Fly to Milan for 8 days - 7 nights in Torri del Benaco, Lake Garda.

- Tour the lake and its enchanting villages.
- Visit Venice, Padova, Verona, Mantova and Bergamo, to see magnificent architecture, frescoes, paintings, sculpture and mosaics.
- Fully guided and escorted tour in the company of like-minded friends.
- Further details from Freda Markham. (Chairman)

Spring 2024

We are discussing various venues for an outing in the spring considering:

- some of the suggestions which have been put forward by members;
- an outing which could include an overnight stay or possibly two overnights.

We will be working on this in the next few months and we will be able to confirm the details in September 2023.

Payment can be made at the time of booking by:

Cheque [payable to TAST]

Bank Transfer [BACS] – Sort Code 55-61-31

A/C No: 00337889 The Arts Society Tarporley

Contactless Card Payment

Refunds will be given only if the place can be filled from a waiting list.

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MEMBER SOCIETY OF THE ARTS SOCIETY



THE ARTS
SOCIETY
TARPORLEY

Hon. President
The Viscountess Ashbrook

2023 / 2024

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Tarporley Community Centre, CW6 0AY

www.tastarporley.uk

www.theartssociety.org

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Members are covered against proven liability to Third Parties.

TAST reserves the right to engage an alternative speaker if the speaker listed in the Programme is unable to attend for any reason.

LECTURE PROGRAMME

**Coffee from 12.30 to 1.10. Lectures start at 1.20.
A hearing loop is available.**

Who commissioned the Bayeux Tapestry? Why did Whistler take Ruskin to court? How factual is Shakespeare's portrayal of Richard III? What goes on behind the scenes at the National Gallery? What were the origins of the RSPB? Come along and find out the answers to these questions and many more.

Thursday 14th September 2023

Lucy Hughes-Hallet

CLEOPATRA –IMAGES OF A DREAM WOMAN

Cleopatra, the woman for whom Antony is imagined to have given up the chance to rule the Roman world, has been inspiring painters, poets and film-makers for over two millennia. Their gorgeously voluptuous depictions offer insights into changing concepts of beauty, and into the racial and sexual assumptions underlying them. Images ranging from Roman portrait busts, through medieval illuminations, works of Renaissance masters like Michelangelo, the splendour of Tiepolo and the exoticism of Gustave Moreau, to 20th century films, show that Cleopatra has become a screen onto which artists have projected their fantasies about exotic danger and erotic bliss.

Thursday 12th October 2023

Prasannajit de Silva

THE WHISTLER LIBEL TRIAL

J. A. M. Whistler was a cosmopolitan and colourful figure who, from the 1860s, became a key player in the Aesthetic Movement in Victorian Britain. This lecture will consider examples of his work from across his career, in order to explore how it developed as he drew on a variety of influences ranging from contemporary French avant-garde painters to Japanese woodblock prints. It will focus in particular on the famous libel trial in which he sued the art critic John Ruskin; consider some of the issues at stake; and explore its significance for ideas of what constitutes modern art.

Thursday 9th November 2023

Antony Penrose

THE ROAD IS WIDER THAN LONG:

TRAVELS THROUGH GREECE AND ROMANIA 1938

The Road Is Wider Than Long is a love poem created as a photo-book by a surrealist artist, Roland Penrose. He wrote it for the new passionate love of his life, the American photographer Lee Miller. It recounts a journey they made through the Balkans in 1938, visiting isolated rural communities in Romania and photographing a way of life that had endured unchanged for centuries. The images by Penrose merge seamlessly with his words, subtly and lovingly expressing his feelings for Lee and questioning if something so good can endure. It was a metaphor for the peasant life around them that was about to be brutally swept away by the Nazi occupation. This unique example of a photo-book by a British surrealist was published in 1939. Roland travelled to Cairo to give Lee the first copy, thus persuading her to leave her Egyptian husband and join him in London.

Please book your Guests with Helen Moors.

Tel: 01270 624406 / 07812 129 075 • Email: guests@tastarporley.uk

Visitors fee is £6.00 on the day, cash or contactless card payment

Thursday 14th December 2023

Geri Parlyb

SAINTS, SINNERS AND PAWNBROKERS:

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

Why do we bring a tree into our homes at Christmas? How did Santa become the patron saint of pawnbrokers and what has a snake got to do with it all? The truth about some of our Christmas traditions may surprise you.

N.B. Coffee from 11.00. Lecture begins at 11.30.

Christmas Lunch at 1.00 for members only.

Please inform Freda if you are attending the lecture only.

Tel: 01829 751613 / 07702 184495 • Email: chairman@tastarporley.uk

Thursday 11th January 2024

Tobias Capwell

THE SCOLIOTIC KNIGHT:

RECONSTRUCTING THE REAL RICHARD III

The discovery of the grave of King Richard III in Leicester raised an army of new and fascinating questions. The severe scoliosis exhibited by the skeleton revealed that the twisted physique of Shakespeare's 'Black Legend' was based in fact. But how could a diminutive person, suffering from a significant spinal condition, have become a skilled practitioner of the knightly fighting arts? How could he have worn armour and fought in three major battles? What would his armour have looked like? How might it have disguised the King's condition, presenting him as a powerful warrior? In the case of a king whose royal legitimacy was questioned by many people, how were the visual trappings of knightly kingship used to solidify his claim? Here we encounter armour as an expressive art form, designed to radiate messages, justifications and proof of the wearer's right to rule as a king - a wielder of divine power on Earth.

Thursday 8th February 2024

Sian Walters

BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY

In 2024 the National Gallery celebrates its 200th birthday. This lecture provides the opportunity to explore some of the nation's best-loved paintings in a new light, revealing details which cannot be seen with the naked eye; to go behind the scenes in the conservation, framing and scientific departments to see the highly skilled and technical work involved in hanging, displaying, moving and framing the collection; and to explore restoration and conservation with details from works such as the Wilton Diptych, which have only been discovered recently thanks to scientific analysis.

**February is the Donation Lecture supporting
our Young Arts Projects
Coffee from 12.30 - 1.10**

Thursday 14th March 2024

TRAVELS WITH A TROWEL

ADVENTURES OF AN ARCHAEOLOGIST

In the year 2000, having been a Curator in the Greek and Roman Department of the British Museum for 13 years, our lecturer decided to escape. Given a trowel with a diamond and silver casing in the handle as a leaving present, she set off on a series of extraordinary archaeological adventures. This richly illustrated talk will take you to a mysterious and atmospheric ancient city on the coast of southern Albania, to the banks of the two great rivers of Mesopotamia - the Euphrates and the Tigris - and then to the wild and wonderful mountains of northern Ethiopia.

Thursday 11th April 2024

WHEN THE MGM LION ROARED:

THE HOLLYWOOD STUDIOS

There were eight studios in Hollywood during its Golden Age. This lecture provides a history from their early, tentative beginnings, through their full glory in the 1930s and 1940s to their decline and dissolution in the 1950s and 1960s with the deaths of the founding movie moguls. Encounter the silent stars Pickford, Fairbanks, Chaplin and Valentino through to the films of the durable stars - Gable, Cooper, Garbo, Dietrich, Flynn and Davis. The lecture concludes with the decline of the studios and their takeover by conglomerates like Sony, Mitsubishi and Murdoch's News Corporation.

Thursday 9th May 2024

Martin Heard

1066 AND ALL THAT – THE BAYEUX TAPESTRY.

SOME SECRETS AND MYSTERIES REVEALED

The Bayeux Tapestry is one of Europe's best-known treasures and also one of the greatest works of art from the medieval period. Embroidered on linen cloth and using woollen thread, its brilliant colours are undimmed after nearly a thousand years. It is perhaps history's first cartoon strip, presenting a continuous narrative, one incident flowing effortlessly into the next. It depicts the struggle for the English throne from 1064 and culminates in the Battle of Hastings in October 1066. The lecture places the Tapestry within its historical and geographical context, followed by a sequential tour explaining the events shown and interesting incidentals and their significance within the narrative.

Thursday 13th June 2024

Tessa Boase

FASHION, FURY AND FEMINISM:

WOMEN'S FIGHT FOR CHANGE

This lecture shines a light on the intriguing story of women's love affair with plumage - and of the brave eco feminists who fought back on behalf of the birds. Moving from a polite Victorian tea party to an egret hunt in a Florida swamp; from a suffragette 'monster rally' to a milliner's dusty workshop, you'll be taken back in time to a world where every woman, of every class wore a hat.

**Followed by The Annual General Meeting.
Tea will be served after the AGM.**

Louise Schofield

Colin Shindler