**Lectures**

**Wednesday 6 December 2023**

**Who is Santa Claus?**

*Christopher Bradley*

Art from St Nicholas to Father Christmas.

**Wednesday 7 February 2024**

**Bruegel, The Seasons and The World**

*Gavin Plumley*

A series of paintings by Pieter Bruegel the Elder changed the way we view the world through art.

**Wednesday 6 March 2024**

**The Grand Tour**

*Peter le Rossignol*

The great names of the mid-to-late 18th century travellers will loom large in this lecture, together with the artists who travelled with them.

**Wednesday 3 April 2024**

**The Art of Winnie-the-Pooh**

*James CampbeIl*

Investigating the process of creating through the collaboration between A A Milne and E H Shepard

**Wednesday 1 May 2024**

**The Housekeeper’s Tale**

*Tessa Boase*

The most senior of upper servants, the housekeeper typically carried a family’s secrets with her to the grave.

**Wednesday 5 June 2024**

**Betty Joel – Glamour & Innovation in 1930s design**

*Clive Stewart-Lockhart*

In the 1920s and 30s, with no formal training, Betty Joel created the leading furnishing company of the day in London.

**Wednesday 3 July 2024**

**Short History of Covent Garden**

*Simon Whitehouse*  
Following the restoration of the monarchy, King Charles II revived the fortunes of British theatre.

**Wednesday 4 September 2024**

**A Tale of Vanity Fair**

*Sarah Cove*

Constable’s Treslove Portraits. Two paintings by [John Constable](https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/constable) have recently been rediscovered.

**Wednesday 2 October 2024**

**Caravaggio and his Models**

*Marie-Anne Mancio*

Caravaggio is known for his adherence to reality.

but how did he weave the real lives of his models into his paintings?

**Wednesday 6 November 2024**

**Imperial Calcutta: Arts and Architecture**

*John Stevens*

Calcutta was the second city of the British Empire. This lecture provides an overview of the arts and architecture of this extraordinary city.

**Wednesday 4 December 2024**

**Star of Wonder, Star of Light: New evidence for the Star of Bethlehem**

*Hilary* *Guise*

The “Star” of Bethlehem apparently did exist. But what was it exactly?

**Special Interest Days**

**Wednesday 60 March 2024**

**Sandy Burnett**

**The Age of Jazz**

Jazz is one of music’s most important genres. The talk covers the early years of jazz up to the Second World War. Sandy will bring his double bass.

**Wednesday 16 October 2024**

**Giles Ramsay**

**Spies And Showbiz – The gritty side of Elizabethan theatre**

Lecture 1 – Christopher Marlowe: Poet and Spy

Lecture 2 – William Shakespeare: The Birth of Modern Show Business

**Visits**

**Thursday 9 May 2024**

**Exbury Gardens in the beautiful New Forest**

The vision, dedication and resources of Lionel Nathan de Rothschild created one of the finest woodland gardens in the country.

**Thursday 11 July 2024**

**Waddesdon Manor, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire (National Trust)**

A house and garden, home to the Rothschild Collections of paintings, sculpture and decorative arts.