

EMERGING FROM THE WAR (Part 1)

A series of talks to be held at The Bouverie Hall, Pewsey, Wiltshire, SN9 5ES and available on Zoom. Each day consists of three hourly lectures with coffee and lunch breaks. Days can also be booked individually. To book visit <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/theartsocietywessexarea> or contact Caroline Cobbing at wessexconnectedevents@gmail.com.

Thursday 11th September 2025 - Design - Vivienne Lawes

Utility objects emphasised integrity of design and ease of manufacture. This day will delve into the design and production ethos that British designers used to create attractive domestic objects suitable for wartime frugality. In the period of post-war recovery, The Utility Scheme continued and the Victoria & Albert Museum launched more experimental products in the Britain Can Make It exhibition, 1946. This paved the way for the Festival of Britain. The final session discusses the innovative strategies and designs launched at the Festival putting them into the context of new technologies and the fusion of art and science.

Thursday 2nd October 2025 - Fashion - Connie Gray

Discover how the Utility Clothing Scheme introduced during WWII, shaped British post-war fashion. Created to manage material shortages it produced affordable, durable clothing that adhered to strict regulations. This ethos would shape British fashion well into the 1950s and continues to inspire modern movements in sustainable and ethical fashion today. Explore how, in the aftermath of WWII, legendary designers redefined British luxury fashion and influenced style in a rapidly changing post war world. In the final talk, learn about the vibrant clash between 1960s Hollywood elegance and the radical energy of youth culture in Britain.

Thursday 23rd October 2025 - Film - Colin Shindler

World War II saw film audiences on both sides of the Atlantic at their all-time peak. In times of loss and deprivation, people needed films and film industries rose to the occasion. The second session will look at the last great days of the classic studio musical and how the 1960s would bring different social conditions and different kinds of films to match them. The end of the British Empire, which started in 1947 but increased rapidly in the 1960s, was immortalised in the very best Carry On film ever made. The final session will be looking at this as well as films of the postwar period made about the Empire.