

DAY OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Tuesday 14th October 2025 Lydia Bauman

ART: A DETECTIVE STORY - DECODING SYMBOLS IN PAINTING

Two fascinating lectures with a delicious lunch. Paintings are silent but they want to tell us things - sometimes they tell simple stories, but sometimes they send subtle messages: messages intended to elevate, educate, warn or criticise. A medieval altarpiece, a Renaissance portrait, a Dutch still life, a Baroque ceiling painting or a Victorian genre scene, all use symbolism to tell their stories. These two talks look at the rich tradition of symbols, emblems and allegories used by artists through the ages to tell us more than just meets the eye.

TOURS AND OUTINGS

1st to 7th June 2026

ART, HISTORY AND CULTURE IN FRIULI & TRIESTE - 7 days - 6 nights.

Fly to North-East Italy, staying in Udine, the beautiful capital of Friuli, for a wonderful, fully guided tour. Visit the Roman mosaics at Aquileia, the frescos of Tiepolo at Udine; the beguiling architecture and complex history of Trieste; the white castle of Miramare; the 'Sistine Chapel' of North East Italy at St Daniele del Friuli; the mosaic school at Spilimbergo; the Villa Manin (the country home of the last Doge of Venice and the largest of the Venetian patrician villas) and much else, including sampling local delicacies and wine. Further details from Maximilian Clay (Chairman).

Spring 2026

STOCKPORT: HAT WORKS & PLAZA ART DECO THEATRE.

A day trip by coach to Stockport for private tours of two fascinating locations - the famed hat factory and gallery and the architecturally important and interesting Art Deco theatre with its exceptional 798 pipe organ.

Further details will be published later in the year.

Payments can be made at the time of booking by:

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

A/C No: 00337889 The Arts Society Tarporley

or Contactless Card Payment at Lectures

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

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2025 / 2026

Hon. President - The Viscountess Ashbrook

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LECTURE PROGRAMME

Lectures start at 1.20pm. Coffee from 12.30am.

Thursday 11th September 2025

Nicole Mezey

ME TOO! WOMEN PATRONS OF RENAISSANCE ITALY

Lucrezia Borgia confounded her image as murderous and promiscuous by commissioning church buildings and artefacts; Alfonsina Orsini used architecture and sculpture to negotiate for power. Isabella d'Este, Marchioness of Mantova, described herself as "Hungry For Art" and was unscrupulous in building a collection, which was to become one of the wonders of Italy. Who were these women and how did they overcome social constraints and their restricted means to contribute to the glory of the age?

A request for Christmas Lunch tickets can be made to Max Clay after the September lecture.

Thursday 9th October 2025

Simon Williams

UPSTAIRS DOWNSTAIRS – THE UPSIDES AND DOWNSIDES

Simon's first lucky break was the role of Captain James Bellamy in Upstairs Downstairs, his most recent that of Justin Elliott in The Archers. So in 50 years he's gone from one cad to another. In between, his career has been a roller coaster ride of successes and flops. Having worked with the likes of Peter Sellers, Joan Collins, David Jason, Nigel Havers, Noel Coward, Judi Dench, Alan Bennett and Glenda Jackson, he'll be sharing some secrets and maybe, in his own words, dishing some dirt.

Thursday 13th November 2025

Chris Bradley

TUTANKHAMUN AND HOWARD - THE TOMB OF TUT-AND-CARTER

In 1922 the darkness of Tutankhamun's tomb revealed vast riches which, amongst other things, spear-headed the design iconography of the Art Deco movement. Tut-mania affected everything from jewellery and fashion, to architecture and design. Tutankhamun ruled for just a few years yet his 5,300 precious objects crammed into the smallest royal tomb in the Valley of the Kings, have become some of the world's most iconic works of art. Howard wasn't knighted for his discovery, find out why.

Thursday 11th December 2025

Sarah Burles

"FEAR NOT": THE ANNUNCIATION IN ART

The story of the Annunciation, the Angel Gabriel's appearance to the Virgin Mary as told in St Luke's gospel, has inspired some of the most beautiful images in Western Art. This exciting lecture takes you on a journey through a range of different depictions of the Annunciation and explores the ways in which artists have captured this pivotal moment of the Christian story - from the 2nd century AD through to the 21st century.

NB Coffee from 11.00am. Lecture at 11.30am

Christmas Lunch at 1pm for booked members only. Please inform us if you are attending only the lecture:

Tel: 0777 595 6515

Email: chairman@tastarporley.uk

Thursday 8th January 2026

Toby Faber

FABER AND FABER - 90 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN COVER DESIGN

Toby is the founder's grandson and has been managing director of Faber and Faber. He tells the story of the publisher and of the art used on its books, from its beginnings to the present day. The talk will also be peppered with personal insight and anecdotes.

Thursday 12th February 2026

Russell Nash

THE MEN WHO MADE MENSWEAR

The story of men's tailoring over the past 200 years, told through the lives of the men who commissioned, created and wore it. Tailors, shirtmakers, hatters and other craftspeople in London, especially around Savile Row & Jermyn Street, have shaped the way men dress since the Regency. This lecture also looks at the wider cultural shifts since the early 19th century to the present day and how they affected the way that men present themselves.

February is the Donation Lecture, supporting our Young Arts Projects

GUESTS

Please book your Guests with Ruth Ford

Tel: 01606872689 / 07871 769432

Email: guests@tastarporley.uk The Visitor's fee is £6.00 payable on the day, by cash or card

Thursday 12th March 2026

Chris Aslan

A CARPET RIDE TO KHIVA

The story of the revival of 15th century carpets in Khiva, a desert oasis in Uzbekistan. Illuminations on vellum contained the only surviving representations of Timurid Carpets until Chris Alexander's workshop began to weave them back to life again. The lecture examines the traditional role of carpet weaving and embroidery in the social lives of Central Asian women and how social and political influences led to a decline in textile production.

Thursday 9th April 2026

Julia Marwood

LOWRY AND VALETTE: PAINTERS OF MANCHESTER

At the beginning of the 20th century, Adolphe Valette blew into the Manchester School of Art like a breath of fresh air, inspiring his students with his French elegance and his knowledge of the latest developments in Paris - one of those students was L S Lowry. Until recently, this charismatic teacher was largely forgotten, and his pupil often dismissed as a naïve Sunday painter. This lecture explores their artistic journeys and the fascinating insight that their works give us into life in the city.

Thursday 14th May 2026

Bertie Pearce

WONDER WORKERS AND THE ART OF ILLUSION

From the beginning of time the fascination with magic and the impossible has been widespread. Egypt was the cradle of magic and since then, where there has been power there has been magic. Even in today's super technical age, the wonder and surprise of magic are as popular as ever. This is a whistle stop tour, through art and pictures, of the history of mystery from 3000 BC to the 21st century and be careful! - you might be amazed and bewitched.

Thursday 11th June 2026

Bill Powell

THE DAY THE MUSIC DIED

On 3rd February 1959, rock and roll musicians Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, and J P 'The Big Bopper' Richardson were killed in a plane crash near Clear Lake, Iowa, together with the pilot. Conspiracy theories abound. This lecture discusses what really happened.

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