



THE ARTS
SOCIETY
SOUTH WEST
LONDON

NEWSLETTER 2018



The Arts Society South West London is a member society of The Arts Society

President: Lady White

Dresden

Dear members

This year saw a momentous change, the renaming of our national body as The Arts Society. It was felt that the old title, the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Society (which remains the legal title), did not accurately reflect the wider scope of areas of interest and activities that had evolved in recent years. The name The Arts Society, chosen after considerable market research, was also adopted because it was thought the remit of these activities would be more readily understood by the general public and help the society have a higher national profile. As a consequence, at a special meeting in June, our members then voted to rename our society The Arts Society South West London. As part of the change all our publicity materials will carry a new and, I hope you will agree, attractive logo and adopt the style designed for our parent body.

This year's lecture programme, arranged by Caroline Walker and Jane Seaborn, has again been wide ranging. At the annual national Directory Day they hear lecturers give a two minute synopsis of their lecture topics as a taster of what is on offer, which helps them select speakers and topics for us. They try where appropriate to reflect what is topical, hence the year began with 'David Hockney at 80', planned to be of particular interests to those intending to visit the exhibition of his work at the Tate Gallery.

Kate McMahon and Gwen Hewitt, our new Visits Secretaries, initiated a splendid programme of visits which have been well attended. The Away Day to Firle Place and the Ditchling Gallery Museum Tour and Village Walk was fully subscribed and had a waiting list virtually as soon as bookings were taken and it proved to be a fascinating day. At Firle Place, beautifully situated at the foot of the South Downs, an excellent guide showed us superb paintings and porcelain. Then at Ditchling, on one of the hottest days of the year, we had a conducted tour of the village, where many artists and craftspeople such as Eric Gill had lived and worked, and saw an exhibition of his work at the delightful Gallery Museum.



Our Away Trip to Yorkshire, planned for us by Isobel Hewens, took place in glorious spring weather. Our visits included houses both large and small, from Castle Howard to the 14th century Markenfield Hall, a small moated manor house which I had discovered on an earlier trip to Yorkshire and felt deserved to be better known. A highlight of the trip was our visit on the final day to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park. We had quite a gruelling schedule, but there is so much to explore in Yorkshire!

Our band of volunteers continued to do sterling work and again, in support of Young Arts, we gave financial support to the special needs art classes at Holly Lodge in Richmond Park to buy materials.

The Future

As you will see from this Newsletter, we have again planned an eclectic lecture programme for next year, ranging from Maya Art to the work of Zaha Hadid, the architect. The visit to the Heath Robinson Museum sounds intriguing and we have included some



local venues such as the Musical Museum in Brentford. At our Study Morning, the ever popular Clare Ford-Wille will set the scene for our trip in May to Dresden.

2018 marks the Golden Jubilee of our parent body and members will have the opportunity to attend a variety of celebratory events in London such as a concert at Kings Place and a lunch at Goldsmiths' Hall.

I would like to reiterate my annual pleas. One is for members to give our Membership Secretary their email addresses and any changes to these. The less we have to spend on sending out information by post, the less likely it is that we will have to raise the annual subscription. Please also consider volunteering to join the committee; this is your chance to bring new ideas to the society and ensure its future. And believe it or not the committee meetings can be enjoyable!

As this is my final Newsletter I would like to take the opportunity to thank the indefatigable committee members with whom I have worked. From their ideas and planning, to their help with arranging our parties, their contribution has been invaluable. I wish my successors every success and I look forward to enjoying their programme for 2018.

Dinah Shoults

Dinah Shoults *Chairman*

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 2018 are £35 single and £60 for joint membership.

If you pay by Standing Order, please ensure that you are paying the correct amount.

If you pay by cheque, please write one immediately, dated 1 December 2017, and send it to the Treasurer, Gill Grunwald, 187 Sheen Lane, London SW14 8LE. Telephone: 020 8878 9480.

Only one reminder will be sent.

Remember that the Arts Society South West London will benefit if you are able to make this payment into a Gift Aid payment. Please ask our Treasurer for the Gift Aid Form.

NB: INSURANCE DISCLAIMER

The Arts Society South West London cannot be held responsible for any personal accident, loss, damage or theft of members' personal property.

Members are covered against proven liability to third parties.

LECTURES

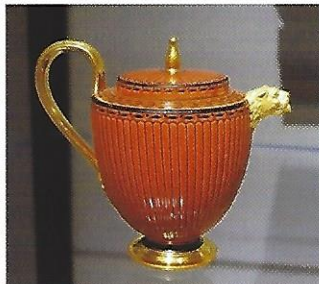
Venue: Dryburgh Hall, Putney Leisure Centre. Monday evenings at 8pm.
Visitors welcome.

8 JANUARY

PORCELAIN COLLECTORS: PRINCES, POWER AND PASSION FOR FRAGILE BEAUTY

Lecturer: Anne Haworth

Porcelain was invented in 1710 at Meissen under the patronage of Augustus the Strong, the self styled sufferer of 'la maladie de porcelaine'. Some, like Madame de Pompadour, the patron of Sevres, regarded the possession of



porcelain as a symbol of power and status. Famous collectors include the Prince Regent, Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild and American captains of industry such as Henry Ford II.

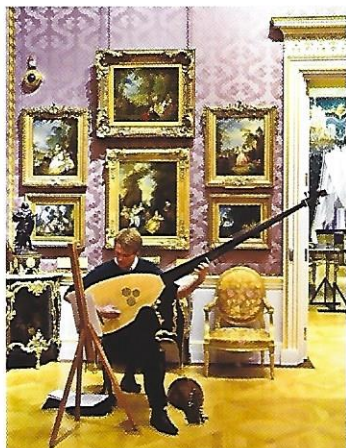
Anne Haworth lectures regularly at the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Queen's Gallery. She was a specialist in European and Asian ceramics, first at Bonhams and then at Christie's, visiting and cataloguing many private collections of ceramics in Britain and Europe. In Shanghai she lectured to the international community of diplomats and expatriates.

12 FEBRUARY

THE QUEEN OF INSTRUMENTS: THE LUTE WITHIN OLD MASTER PAINTINGS

Lecturer: Adam Busiakiewicz

The lute was important in art as a device often used to express differing aspects of the human character. For example, painters of the Italian Renaissance depicted golden haired angels plucking its delicate strings to evoke the celestial harmony of the heavens. The lecture, with live music, will follow the symbolism and significance of the instrument, beginning in the Renaissance and finishing in the 18th century with Watteau.



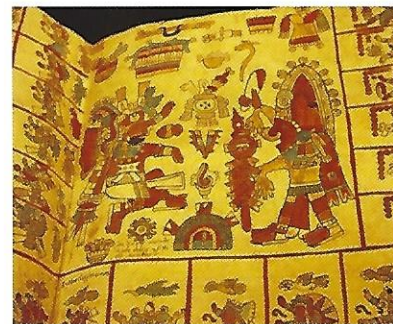
Adam Busiakiewicz was Head of Historical Interpretation at Warwick Castle. He has an MA in Fine and Decorative Art from the Sotheby's Institute. The youngest Guide Lecturer at the Wallace Collection, he regularly gives talks to both public and professional audiences.



12 MARCH

THE MAGNIFICENT MAYA: FACT AND FANTASY

Lecturer: Diana Davies



The Maya created one of the most sophisticated civilisations in the ancient world. Their achievements in the arts and sciences make them one of the most remarkable cultural groups in the pre-Columbian Americas. The lecture will discuss the major achievement of the Maya, as well as pointing out the common misunderstandings we have of them.

Diana Davies is a Maya archaeologist and honorary research associate at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London. She lectures to a variety of organisations, including the Historical Association, and is an educational consultant giving workshops to both teachers and students. She is Chair of Coke Education, a charity supporting the education of Maya children.

14 MAY

THE WALLACE AND FRICK COLLECTIONS AND THEIR CONNECTION WITH KNOLE

Lecturer: Hilary Williams



Amazingly the connoisseurship which led to the sumptuous collections at the Wallace Collection in London and the Frick in New York, is linked by a circle of patrons, dealers and taste. Apart from Sir

Richard and Lady Wallace and the American industrialist Henry Clay Frick, there was someone who worked for them all, who then left a related fortune to the mother of Vita Sackville-West. Therein lies a great story.

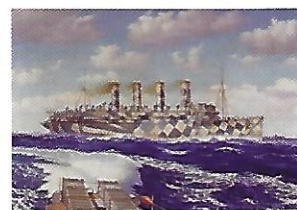
Hilary Williams was formerly Print Room Superintendent at the British Museum and holds the post of Art History Education Officer. She lectures both at the Museum and at the Wallace Collection and is Liaison Officer with the Arts Society.

11 JUNE

DAZZLE: DISGUISE AND DISRUPTION IN WAR AND ART

Lecturer: James Taylor

In 1917 Norman Wilkinson invented Dazzle painting, also known as Dazzle camouflage. Thousands of British and Allied ships were painted with vivid and violently contrasting patterns of colour to deter U-boat attacks. Wilkinson's scheme continues to inspire art, design and fashion that includes the 'Dazzling' of the Mersey ferry 'Snowdrop' by Sir Peter Blake.



James Taylor was formerly curator of paintings, drawings and prints at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, and is a lecturer and ships' historian on cruise ships. His publications include those on public information and propaganda as well as maritime matters.

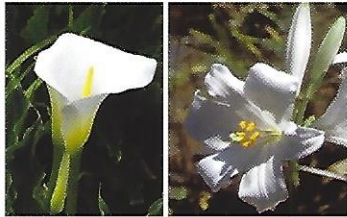


9 JULY

PLANTS IN ART: CARL LINNAEUS

Lecturer: Mark Spencer

Of Carl Linnaeus's many innovations, the establishment of the binomial system is considered the greatest; thus we are known as *homo sapiens* and the common lawn daisy as *bellis perennis*. Linnaeus was the first person in Europe to flower and fruit a banana and he developed a technique for growing seed pearls.

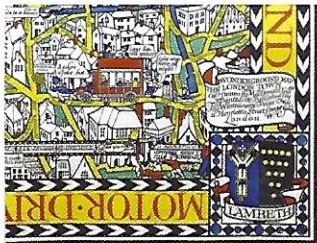


Mark Spencer was a field botanist for a regional conservation organisation. After 12 years as a museum curator at the Natural History Museum he is now a consultant forensic botanist, with a strong interest in the history of botany and botanic gardens.

10 SEPTEMBER

MACDONALD GILL, ARCHITECT, ARTIST AND MAPMAKER

Lecturer: Caroline Walker



MacDonald 'Max' Gill, younger brother of Eric Gill, was best known for his pictorial map posters for the London Underground and painted map panels for such iconic buildings as Lindisfarne Castle. He designed Arts and Crafts cottages in rural Sussex and Dorset, while the alphabet he created for the standard military headstone is well known.



Caroline Walker began research into her great-uncle in 2006 and has curated several MacDonald Gill exhibitions round the country and contributed articles to *Country Life*. She is currently writing his biography and has lectured at organisations such as the National Archives and the National Trust.

8 OCTOBER

ZAHA HADID: ARCHITECTURAL SUPERSTAR

Lecturer: Colin Davies

Dame Zaha Hadid, who died on 31 March 2016, was born in Iraq and made her home in Britain, but her reputation was global. The lecture tells the story of her career from the visionary projects of the 1980s, through the years of frustration when her designs were considered unbuildable, to the prolific crop of successful projects built all over the world in the last decade of her life.



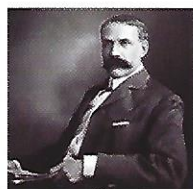
Colin Davies was Professor of Architectural Theory at London Metropolitan University. A former editor of *The Architects' Journal*, he has published several books and is a regular contributor to architectural magazines worldwide.

12 NOVEMBER

WORLD WAR I: POETRY, ART AND MUSIC, WILFRED OWEN AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES

Lecturer: Dennis Moriarty

Out of the carnage of the Great War emerged heroism, courage and loyalty, and a fine flowering of poetry – as much indignant as patriotic – art and music. The poems of Wilfred Owen and others such as Siegfried Sassoon, the paintings of war artists such as Paul and John Nash and the music of



composers including Elgar and Ivor Gurney are at the core of the presentation which will include archive action photographs and musical extracts.

Dennis Moriarty worked as a BBC TV Music and Arts producer and his programmes included *English Towns* with Alec Clifton-Taylor. He contributed the article on Alec Clifton-Taylor to the *Dictionary of National Biography*. He lectures widely and over the last twenty years has led musical, architectural and historical study tours at home and abroad.

10 DECEMBER

CELEBRATING THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS: 250TH ANNIVERSARY, 1768–2018

Lecturer: Pamela Campbell-Johnston

This will explore a selection of the Academy's ground breaking temporary loan exhibitions and reflect on its impact on the art scene, both at home and abroad. There will be a behind the scenes look at the Summer Exhibition, held without interruption since 1769. The influence of certain world renowned Royal Academicians from Joshua Reynolds to David Hockney will be considered.



Pamela Campbell-Johnston is a freelance lecturer and consultant. She has over 20 years lecturing experience, 12 of which were at the Royal Academy when she delivered part of the Adult Education Department's programme of events. She has also conducted tours and gallery talks.

STUDY MORNING

Venue: Putney Library. Prior booking is required and a charge is made.

TUESDAY 27 MARCH 10.30AM – 1PM

DRESDEN AND ITS TREASURES

Lecturer: Clare Ford-Wille

This morning has been arranged with the Away Tour to Dresden particularly in mind but all members are welcome to attend.

Clare Ford-Wille writes, 'Dresden has risen from the ashes in every way. The wide River Elbe runs majestically through Dresden and now lining its banks are beautifully restored buildings: the Frauenkirche, the Schloss and the magical Zwinger. Dresden's art collections are outstanding, from the work of European Old Masters to that of the German Romantic painters, housed in spacious galleries. The fantastic treasures of the Green Vaults complete Dresden's riches'.



Clare Ford-Wille has a degree in Art History from Birkbeck College, University of London. She has regular commitments with organisations such as the Art Fund and the National Trust, the Centre for Lifelong Learning, the National Gallery and the Victoria and Albert Museum. She also conducts study tours abroad.

VISITS

A charge is made and prior booking is required.

WEDNESDAY 28 FEBRUARY - 11AM THE MUSICAL MUSEUM AT BRENTFORD

The Musical Museum at Brentford contains one of the world's foremost collections of self-playing musical instruments. From the tiniest of clockwork music boxes to the Mighty Wurlitzer, the collection embraces an impressive and comprehensive array of sophisticated reproducing pianos, orchestrions, orchestrelles, residence organs and violin players. The tour includes live demonstrations of self-playing instruments and the Mighty Wurlitzer.



MARCH - DATE TO BE CONFIRMED THE FASHION AND TEXTILE MUSEUM



The Museum, founded by iconic British designer Zandra Rhodes, is a cutting edge centre for contemporary fashion, textiles

and jewellery. The centre runs a programme of changing exhibitions in a fantastic building designed by Mexican architect Ricardo Legorreta. It does not have a permanent display, but offers an exciting programme of focused temporary exhibitions, allowing the Museum to showcase a rich variety of contemporary fashion and textile items.

THURSDAY 24 MAY - 10.30AM ST BRIDE LIBRARY

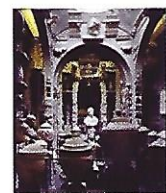
(part 1 of all day visit)

St Bride Library has an archive of over 50,000 books ranging all the way from Dr Johnson's Dictionary to classics on printing technique, visual style and calligraphy. A visit covers topics such as printing type styles, construction of a common press, wooden versus iron presses, ink making, the library's place on Fleet Street and the history of the St Bride charity, plus a tour of the building.



THURSDAY 24 MAY - 2PM SIR JOHN SOANE'S MUSEUM

(part 2 of all day visit)



The historic house, museum and library of Sir John Soane has been left untouched since his death. The museum contains an eclectic mix of objects displayed in a creative way and each room is a work of art in its own right.

A recently completed £7 million project has restored previously unseen parts of the building.

The visit will include an introductory talk by one of the expert staff, followed by a self guided tour.

TUESDAY 19 JUNE

Coach trip from Dryburgh Hall - all day visit

RODMARTON MANOR AND CHAVENAGE

Rodmarton Manor was built and all its furniture made for the Biddulph family according to Arts and Crafts ideals by Sidney and Ernest Barnsley and the Cotswold group of Craftsmen. The Arts and Crafts garden of outdoor rooms, topiary, high brick walls and interesting planting is renowned.



Chavenage House, where we will have lunch, is a beautiful 16th century house. Notable features are two tapestry rooms, stained glass windows in the Great Hall and elaborate 1590 panelling in the Oak Room.

TUESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER - 11AM EMERY WALKER'S HOUSE AND KELMSCOTT HOUSE



Emery Walker's house, an Arts and Crafts gem which still retains the feeling of a family home, contains Morris and Company

textiles, wallpaper and furniture and other items designed by Philip Webb. Kelmscott House has a number of Kelmscott Press titles and working proofs, a comprehensive collection of Morris and Company wallpapers, watercolour designs and a selection of textiles.

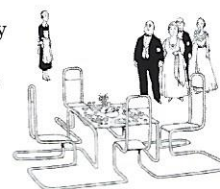
OCTOBER - DATE TO BE CONFIRMED UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON ART MUSEUM

The collection contains over 10,000 objects, including drawings by Turner and de Wint, Rembrandt etchings, Constable's 'English Landscape Scenery', and woodcuts and proofs by Durer and Van Dyck. There are also works by Stanley Spencer, Augustus John, Edward Wadsworth and Paula Rego (prize-winning Slade students). Recent purchases include works by Gwen John.



MONDAY 5 NOVEMBER - 11AM HEATH ROBINSON MUSEUM

Heath Robinson was a leading illustrator at the start of the 20th century. Though he saw himself as a serious artist and painted landscapes and imagined scenes for his own enjoyment, he turned to humorous drawing to maintain his income and this eventually dominated. There will be a curator's tour of the museum's original artwork and books, and a temporary exhibition on Surrealist furniture.



AWAY TOUR

SUNDAY 6 - FRIDAY 11 MAY 2018

THE ART AND HISTORY OF DRESDEN, MEISSEN AND SAXONY SWITZERLAND

A six day tour specially arranged by The Arts Society South West London

On our first day we will have a guided walking tour of the city and visit the reconstructed Frauenkirche. We will visit the Royal Palace and have an audio guide tour of the historic Green Vaults.

We will journey to Colditz Castle, notorious as a prisoner of war camp in World War II. Later, in Dresden, we visit the Zwinger Palace, the old fortress of Dresden. In a tour of the Old Masters' Gallery we will see work by Rubens, Rembrandt and other famous artists and a wonderful Meissen porcelain gallery.

Next day we go to Pillnitz Castle and its gardens. With its flying buttresses and chimneys ornamented with crowns, this is the only Chinese castle of its size in Europe. From Koenigstein we enjoy a paddle steamer cruise along the River Elbe to view the splendour of the Saxony Alps.

Having had a tour next morning of the Meissen Porcelain Museum, we take a panoramic lift to see the town of Meissen. After visiting the Cathedral, we will go to the nearby 15th century Albrechtsburg Castle, towering majestically over the picturesque Elbe River valley.

On our final day we travel on a narrow gauge steam train to Moritzburg where our last visit is to Moritzburg Castle, the famous Baroque hunting and pleasure castle of Augustus the Strong.

Please contact Isobel Hewens on 020 8789 0047



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