



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

President: Lady White

Haddon Hall

Dear Members

This last year has been, like everything else, dominated by the effects of Covid-19. The year started well with fascinating lectures on Peggy Guggenheim, colour in garden design and the genius of Raphael.



Sadly, due to lock down, our May lecture on Historic Graffiti was cancelled.

It soon became clear that live lectures in the Dryburgh Hall were very unlikely to be possible for the foreseeable future, so the possibility of lectures on the Zoom platform was explored. In June the scheduled lecture on Turner and Constable was replaced by one by Stella Lyons on the extraordinary William Burges who designed Cardiff Castle. By July we had our own Zoom account, facilitated by the Arts Society negotiating very advantageous terms for societies. The scheduled lectures have been available by Zoom since July, and in August we had an additional lecture on the Silk Road to replace the cancelled May lecture. A highlight was the lecture by Peter Medhurst on Beethoven that worked particularly well on Zoom. Although the numbers joining the Zoom lectures are lower than the average attendance in the hall, they have been greatly enjoyed by the 70 plus who have logged on. Recordings of lectures have been available for two weeks afterwards making it easier to access the lectures and the total viewings in August increased to over 150.

We are very grateful to Lael and Ruth for making all the arrangements to make the Zoom lectures run smoothly. Lecturers have also been very helpful in assisting us with the technology and agreeing to make recordings available.

We have also explored holding virtual coffee mornings/teatime meetings for members as we know that the social side of the lectures and visits is greatly missed. Help and advice is available to anyone who has found using Zoom a bit of a challenge. If anyone has not been receiving invitations to lectures by Zoom do check your junk mail and other possible places or contact Gwen.

The visits programme has been most affected as venues have been closed and no visits have been possible since the interesting tour of the Charterhouse and St Bartholomew's in February. The planned Away Day to Dorneywood and Dorney Court and the Away Tour to Naples also had to be cancelled, a great disappointment.

Volunteering has inevitably been put on hold, but in early March some of the Committee visited Greenmead School to see the art work for the children that TAS SW London helped to fund.



Our financial position is healthy and there have been savings in expenditure on hall fees and lecturers' expenses, and sadly our summer party of course.

The 2021 programme

Looking ahead, there is great uncertainty about the likelihood of live lectures in 2021. We are planning for all lectures to be available on Zoom if necessary due to social distancing even if the hall becomes available. This Newsletter includes the details of all planned lectures. Lael and Ruth have put together an excellent programme and if we are still "Zooming" we would encourage members to try it if they have not already got used to the technology. A wide ranging programme includes architecture of the National Theatre, design of parks and gardens, London tall buildings, fascinating women who scandalised the art world, and Klimt and Mahler. It has not been possible to book any visits

but we have a good list of potential places to visit once it is possible to make bookings. Brief details are included.

We will also try to provide some virtual Zoom visits if the proposed programme cannot run. We are hoping to rearrange the cancelled Away Trip. The Away Tour will be to Derbyshire as it was thought that planning a UK trip was at less risk of cancellation.



The Committee

We have both agreed to extend our term as Chairs by one year to allow continuity given the difficult circumstances. However, Gill Grunwald, who has completed the five year term as Treasurer allowed in our constitution, is being replaced by Kate Kirkland, and Gill will be taking over as Secretary from Pamela Wilkes.

We are enormously grateful to all the Committee who have worked hard this year to keep our Society running in these very difficult times.

Gwen Hewitt Kate McMahon

Gwen Hewitt and Kate McMahon Co-Chairs

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 2021 are £45 single and £80 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 2020**, and send it to the Treasurer, Kate Kirkland, 16 Westpoint, 49 Putney Hill, London SW15 6RU. Tel: 020 8788 0559.

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 or by Zoom (to be confirmed).
Monday evenings at 8pm.

11 JANUARY

DENYS LASDUN AND THE NATIONAL THEATRE: ARCHITECTURAL MASTERPIECE OR WAS PRINCE CHARLES RIGHT AFTER ALL?

Lecturer: Alan Read

The architecture of The Royal National Theatre divides opinion. Famously, Prince Charles once described it as a nuclear bunker. Was he right? This lecture looks at the life and work of its architect, Denys Lasdun, including other buildings he designed but focuses on the National Theatre and pleads for an appreciation of the austere beauty of this architectural masterpiece.



Alan Read is a guide at Tate Britain, Tate Modern and at the National Portrait Gallery. He has lectured widely including at the National Portrait Gallery, Dulwich Picture Gallery and Plymouth City Art Gallery. He has a first class honours and a master's degree in the history of art from Birkbeck College and is a London Blue Badge Guide.

8 FEBRUARY

A CONCISE HISTORY OF OUR GREAT BRITISH PARKS

Lecturer: Paul Rabbitts



This talk illustrates the origins of our great British public park. It examines the need for parks, their Victorian heyday, what makes a great park, with examples of lodges, lakes, bandstands, fountains and floral displays. Following a great decline in the sixties and seventies, interest in our parks has revived and again we are in love with them.

Paul Rabbitts has a master's degree in landscape architecture and has worked on many architectural landscape projects from in the Isle of Wight to the Scottish Borders, and in Jersey. These include the restoration of Hammonds Pond, Albert Park and Cassiobury Park. He has written over 15 books about parks and park architecture.

8 MARCH

GREAT TARTS IN ART: HIGH CULTURE AND THE OLDEST PROFESSION

Lecturer: Linda Smith



A mixture of art-historical analysis and scandalous anecdote, this lecture takes a light-hearted look at changing attitudes to sexual morality down the ages, by examining the portraits and careers of some of history's most notorious mistresses and courtesans. It investigates how the numerous anonymous working girls at the lower end of the scale have been represented in different times and places from the seventeenth to the twentieth century.

Linda Smith is an art historian with a special interest in British art, and the art of the twentieth century. She has worked at a wide

range of venues, including public galleries, secondary schools, universities, cruise liners, and arts societies in the UK and overseas. She is an experienced gallery guide, especially at the Tate in London.

29 MARCH

THREE GREAT FAMILIES AND THEIR GARDENS: A HISTORY OF THE ASTORS, THE ROTHSCHILDS AND THE SACKVILLE WESTS

Lecturer: Caroline Rayman

Three Great Families and their Gardens is the story of three very different, but hugely successful families, the Sackville Wests, the Astors and the Rothschilds. The Sackville Wests have been part of the establishment since the Conqueror and the other two families are wealthy immigrants who came to England in the nineteenth century.



The talk traces the history of the families, discusses their contribution to life in England and celebrates the splendid gardens that they have created, including Sissinghurst, Exbury and Cliveden.

Caroline Rayman has lectured for many years to universities and art organisations in America and on cruise ships. She was an official guide at the British Museum and has published articles on samplers. Her lectures range from the role of the royal mistress in history to more scholarly lectures on Frederick the Great of Prussia.

10 MAY

HISTORIC GRAFFITI - THE HIDDEN STORY OF THE HOPES, FEARS AND DESIRES OF A NATION

Lecturer: James Wright

Modern graffiti is often seen as transgressive and moronic. However, look closely at the walls of our historic buildings, trees, caves and rockfaces and you



will see a world of graffiti left that illuminates the psychology of our ancestors. The study of historic graffiti enables us to hear the lost voices of ordinary individuals through their images of daisywheels, ships sailing across the walls, knights drawing their swords, demons stalking the stonework and every animal imaginable.

James Wright FSA is an award-winning archaeologist and accredited lecturer with both the Arts Society and the Workers' Educational Association. He has over fifteen years of lecturing experience and has talked to a wide variety of organisations including Gresham College, Shakespeare400 and the National Trust.

14 JUNE

TURNER VS CONSTABLE: THE GREAT BRITISH PAINT-OFF!

Lecturer Nicola Moorby

The story of the epic rivalry between the two giants of British art, JMW Turner and John Constable. As unlike in background and temperament as their paintings were in style, these two creative geniuses transformed the art of landscape during the nineteenth century. This lecture



examines their 'signature' paintings; how they overcame the 'technical challenge' of sketching from nature and how their differing approaches fared in the competitive arena of the Royal Academy.

Nicola Moorby is an independent art historian specialising in British art of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Formerly a curator and researcher at Tate Britain, she has worked on a number of exhibitions and publications on JMW Turner including, 'How to Paint Like Turner' (Tate Publishing, 2010) and the Tate's new online catalogue of the Turner Bequest.



12 JULY

THEY MAKE NO NOISE

Lecturer: Nigel Bates

Nigel draws on history and his own musical experiences from over six thousand performances and recordings, including rare video footage of conductors in rehearsal and performance, to examine what conductors do that makes orchestras respond in so many different ways. Is it a good baton technique? A strong personality? The way they look? Why are there relatively few women found on the podium? Why are the conductors paid so much more than anyone else on the concert platform?



Nigel Bates was the Music Administrator of The Royal Ballet from 2012 to 2020 and was a performer for more than forty years in and out of the Royal Opera House. He has worked with many of the leading figures in the classical music industry. His musical career has been very varied and he produced the BBC's documentary series 'Maestro at the Opera' and 'Pappano's Classical Voices'.

13 SEPTEMBER

TWO WOMEN WHO SCANDALISED THE ART WORLD: SUZANNE VALADON AND "THE DIVINE MARCHESA" LUISA CASATI

Lecturer: Julian Halsby

Suzanne Valadon was brought up in poverty in Paris where she became a painter and a model for Toulouse-Lautrec. Her private life was scandalous, with marital crises well known in Montmartre. Her son

Maurice Utrillo was an alcoholic. Luisa Casati was born into great wealth but lived a scandalous life of extravagance and showmanship feted by many leading artists, including Augustus John, Cecil Beaton, and Man Ray. She threw outrageous parties in her Venetian palace (now the Peggy Guggenheim Museum) and died in poverty in Kensington in 1957.



Julian Halsby is an art historian, critic, lecturer and painter. He studied history of art at Cambridge University and later taught at a London art college where he became Senior Lecturer and Head of Department. He has written seven books and innumerable articles. Julian is a member of the International Association of Art Critics and The Critics Circle. He is also a practising painter and an elected member of the Royal Society of British Artists.

11 OCTOBER

THE CAR IN ART AND THE CAR AS ART

Lecturer: Julian Richards



Speed! Technology! Destruction! The battle cry of the Futurists heralded the appearance of the car as a powerful symbol in avant-garde art while the creations of the great Art Deco coachbuilders are works of art in their own right. Speed continued to be a major theme in how cars were depicted in art but, since the 1950's the car has **become** art, used as a canvas for artists such as Andy Warhol and Damien Hirst.

Julian Richards is an archaeologist, author and broadcaster, perhaps best known for his BBC TV series 'Meet the Ancestors' and his obsession with Stonehenge. He also has a passion for historic cars, both in sport and art. As well as more practical modern transport, he owns and drives a 1959 Triumph TR3.

8 NOVEMBER

THE GLEAMING SPIRES OF LONDON - AN ARMCHAIR TOUR OF LONDON'S FINEST BUILDINGS

Lecturer: Ian Swankie



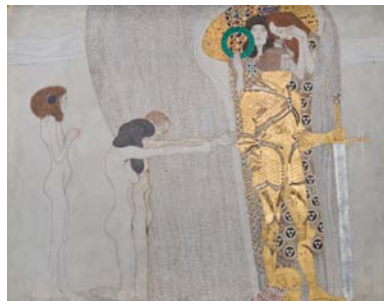
Currently well over 500 new buildings over twenty storeys high are planned in London, many more than twice this height. This talk looks at the best of these buildings including the cutting-edge designs of the massive towers such as the Shard, the Walkie-Talkie, the Cheese Grater and the Scalpel. It covers their extraordinary architectural and engineering challenges and the controversies and difficult social decisions needed to manage this dramatically changing skyline.

Ian Swankie has a passion for art and architecture. He is an official guide at the Tate, Guildhall Art Gallery and St Paul's Cathedral and a qualified London guide leading tours for various organisations. He gives talks on a variety of subjects to an art lecture group in Richmond. He is a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Art Scholars.

13 DECEMBER

THE TWO GUSTAVS

Lecturer: Gavin Plumley



Gustav Klimt and his colleagues broke away from the imperially endorsed art institutions in Vienna in 1897 and founded the Secession. In the same year Gustav Mahler took charge of the Opera House in the city. Comparing these two totemic fin de siècle talents, this lecture places Klimt and Mahler in context, asking what fundamentally links and, indeed, divides them.



Gavin Plumley is a writer and broadcaster on BBC Radio and contributes to newspapers, magazines and opera and concert programmes worldwide. He lectures about the culture of Central Europe during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries at a variety of venues.

VISITS

A charge is made and prior booking is required.

At present it is not possible to make firm dates but it is hoped that the following visits will take place. We will keep members updated via the website and by email. If it proves impossible to book live visits we will arrange alternative virtual visits on Zoom.

GUIDED TOUR OF ST PANCRAS RENAISSANCE HOTEL



The hotel was designed by George Gilbert Scott in 1873. Following use as railway offices, it received Grade I listed status and re-opened as a luxury hotel in 2011. Its interior is as

spectacular as its exterior with many original features and its showpiece, the Grand Staircase.

MUSEUM OF BRANDS, NOTTING HILL

Examine how brands shape our world. Shoppers regularly opt for favourite brands and indeed recognisable packaging; branding is an important feature when launching a new product. The world's largest collection of consumer products charts the history of consumer culture from Victorian times to the present day.



ORLEANS HOUSE GALLERY AND JMW TURNER'S HOUSE, SANDYCOMBE LODGE



A guided Heritage Tour of Orleans House Gallery that is home to the Richmond Borough Art Collection and houses the beautiful Octagon Room. There will be a 'Connoisseur's Tour' of Sandycombe Lodge, the recently restored house and garden designed by Turner as his 'own house in the country'.

DORNEY COURT AND DORNEYWOOD

All day coach trip from Dryburgh Hall



Dorney Court is a Tudor mansion house dating from around 1440 with fine examples of panelling and antique furniture. The great hall contains linenfold panelling from Faversham Abbey.

Dorneywood was originally a Georgian farmhouse with Victorian additions, remodelled in 1919, and is now a country home for a senior member of the government.

CINEMA MUSEUM, KENNINGTON

This charming museum, founded by two cinema enthusiasts in 1986, is devoted to keeping alive the spirit of cinema from the days before the multiplex. It houses a unique collection of artefacts, memorabilia and equipment that preserves the history and spirit of cinema from the 1890s to the present day. These include valuable posters and parts of cinema interiors. The museum is housed in a building which was once a workhouse where Charlie Chaplin lived as a child.



LIGHTBOX GALLERY, WOKING

This prizewinning gallery, where we will have a guided tour, houses one of the largest publicly

accessible collections of Modern British Art. Its main focus is on the art movement which developed in the early and middle years of the twentieth century, art which responded to the influence of two world wars and challenged the usual preconceptions of art. The sculpture collection is important, featuring work by artists such as Elizabeth Frink, Barbara Hepworth, Jacob Epstein and Eduardo Paolozzi. There is also a growing number of works by young and emerging artists.



MANSION HOUSE



This grade I listed building is home to a magnificent plate collection and an art collection including sculptures and the 84 Dutch paintings of the Harold Samuel Art Collection.

STUDY AFTERNOON

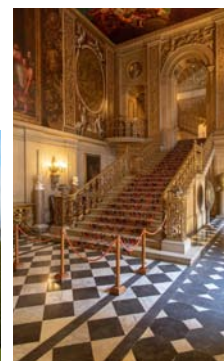
Venue: St Mary's Church Putney. Prior booking is required and a charge is made.

TUESDAY 13 APRIL

OPENING DOORS: A BRIEF HISTORY OF COUNTRY HOUSE VISITING

Lecturer David Winpenny

This study day ties in with the Away Tour to Derbyshire but all members are welcome to attend. It looks at how our attitudes and expectations as visitors have changed over the centuries, and how house owners have responded (or not). It also covers 'Scandal, Spice and Shuttlecocks' at Wentworth Woodhouse that is featured in our tour.



David Winpenny has always been interested in architectural history, particularly the quirkier side. He has been interviewed by the BBC on the subject of his book 'Up to a point' in search of pyramids in Britain and Ireland. He lives in Ripon and is the author of books on Ripon, Northumbria, Hadrian's Wall and North Yorkshire. He has taken part in BBC's 'Brain of Britain' and was a 'Mastermind' finalist in 1999.

AWAY TOUR

TUESDAY 18TH MAY TO SATURDAY 22ND MAY 2021

GREAT HOUSES OF DERBYSHIRE

The County of Derbyshire is home to a number of Britain's finest stately homes. Our visits range from the medieval charms of Haddon Hall to the Palladian grace of Chatsworth. We will be based in the spa town of Buxton. One of the highlights of the tour will be a visit to the recently restored Grade I listed country house of Wentworth Woodhouse which has a very interesting past.

En route we will visit Compton Verney, and next day we will visit Chatsworth Hall to see the painted ceilings, furniture by Kent and Boulton, and tapestries from Mortlake and Brussels. On day three we go to Haddon Hall, a medieval and Tudor manor house dating back to William the Conqueror, and then to Hardwick Hall designed by Robert Smythson for Bess of Hardwick. The highlight of day four is Wentworth Woodhouse, one of the most impressive houses in England. There has been major restoration since 2017 and there is a magnificent pillared hall and marble saloon. We will also go to the David Mellor Design Museum in Hathersage. On the return journey we will visit Renishaw Hall, the home of the Sitwell family, set in spectacular parkland which includes an Italianate Renaissance garden.



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