

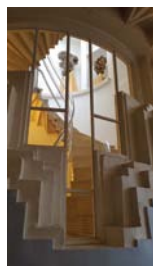


The Arts Society South West London (reg. charity no. 1195700) is a member society of The Arts Society

President: Lady White

Dear Members,

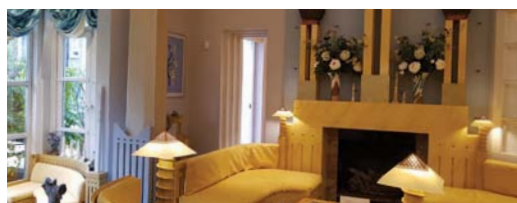
It has been a pleasure to see a gradual increase in numbers at lectures and a steady flow of people wishing to join. We have been able to make grants to two excellent organisations and been treated to some wonderful lectures and visits.



The late 2023 visit to Crossness Pumping Station was memorable for the exquisite Victorian ironwork that adorns the machinery as well as the insight that we received about water treatment in London! This was followed by a visit to Cosmic House, a unique home, full of

symbolism, created by Charles and Maggie Jencks in Holland Park.

Two of our visits this year featured properties with Civil War connections (Ham House and Restoration House in Rochester), where the history was as compelling as the art, while two other visits had links to the Arts and Crafts movement: a de Morgan exhibition in South Kensington and All Saints Church on Putney Common.



Huge thanks to our guides, Serrie Meakins (at Ham House) and Liz Hamilton (at All Saints Church) for their expertise. Thanks too to Jane Crang for the seamless travel arrangements for Crossness and Rochester.

Our Awayday to Longford Castle and its art collection was a joy and, by teaming it with Breamore House, we were able to compare two very different 16th century family homes. The triangular floor plan at Longford Castle must be unique in the UK.



Visits have been extremely popular; two dates were required for those wishing to see All Saints Church and similarly for the City Churches Walks. If further proof were needed, the 2024 tour to Thessaloniki was so popular that we ended up with a waiting list. The related study afternoon was sold out too. We plan to revive the tradition of two Study Half-days each year and a second Study Afternoon (about The Elgin Marbles) was added for November 2024.



A big regret, this year, is that we have not been able to deliver hybrid lectures in a reliable manner. We know how much these are valued by members who find it hard to come to the Leisure Centre and we are working to resolve this issue. Nevertheless, I hope that some of the lectures over the last 12 months will bring back good memories. For me, the 2023 Christmas lecture by Steve King (The Story Behind the Song) and, in 2024, British Artists Through the Lens of Jorge Lewinski (Pamela Campbell-Johnson) and Travelling with John Singer Sargent (Mary Alexander) stand out. All three lecturers were passionate about their subject.



Looking ahead to 2025, we have a wide range of lectures covering traditional topics as well as ones on plants, music, cooking and more controversial issues. Do add the dates to your diary now. Thank you to Lael and Ruth for such an excellent selection.

Where we can, we link visits to the lecture programme and continue to look for the added value that group bookings bring.

Included, for 2025, are visits to Elizabethan and Jacobean houses (as part, respectively, of our Tour to Lincoln and our Awayday to Hatfield House) and our Study Afternoon in March will marry the two houses together. Thank you to Serrie for liaising with Travel Editions for the Lincoln tour and (with Lael and Ruth) for the related Study Afternoon. Jane takes credit for the Awayday.

As a registered charity we aim to bring art to others and grants, this year, have been to two establishments that use art for therapeutic purposes. The first went to Linden Lodge School (£1,000) and the second to the Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability (£1,750). We were able to supplement the donation to Linden Lodge with a Community Award of £250, from The Arts Society, that we applied for on their behalf.



Finally, I would like to thank those who have worked behind the scenes: Gwen (Vice-Chair), Kate (our Treasurer), Felicity (Secretary), Winefride (Membership Secretary) and Alison (without portfolio). Also, Sue and Monica who provide refreshments at lectures. The Society could not run without them.

As always, we would welcome more help. Do consider taking a more active part in the Society; it is such a great way to get to know people and to help shape what the Society does.

Gill Grunwald

Gill Grunwald *Chairman*

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP

Subscriptions for 2025 are £45 single and £80 for joint membership.

Payments for 2026 will be due on 1 December 2025. If you pay by Standing Order, please ensure that it is set up for the correct amount. Payments by cheque should be made out to TAS SW London and sent to the address below:

The Treasurer, Kate Kirkland, 16 Westpoint, 49 Putney Hill, London SW15 6RU. (Tel: 020 8788 0559)

Please contact the Treasurer, if, at any time, you decide not to renew your membership.

The Arts Society South West London is a **CHARITY** and will benefit if you Gift Aid your subscription. **Please contact our Treasurer for details and a Gift Aid Form.**

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS. For membership enquiries please visit our website at www.theartsocietyswLondon.org.uk or email theartsocietyswLondon@gmail.com

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: The Community Church, Werter Rd, Putney SW15 2LL and by Zoom.
At 8pm on the second Monday of each month (excluding April and August).

13 JANUARY

PAINTING IN UKRAINE AND RUSSIA 1860-1960: TRADITION, EXPERIMENT, REPRESSION

Lecturer: Gabriel Chanan



In the midst of its traumatic struggle, Ukraine is trying to protect its art and reclaim its heritage. But Russian and Ukrainian art were intermingled for 250 years. 'Russification' concealed the Ukrainian origins and identity of many artists, both under the Tsars and the Bolsheviks. This lecture maps a dynamic century with three consecutive

revolutions in style, as Ukrainian and Russian painters experimented with social criticism, modernism, and Soviet conformity. It includes superb painters little known in the west as well as others who became key figures in modernism.

Gabriel Chanan began lecturing in 2015, building on his lifelong interest in the arts during a career as a social researcher and policy analyst. His study of the visual arts focuses mainly on realist painting, especially on points of transition between different periods and styles. Following publication of his book on *Shakespeare and Democracy* (2015) he ran a small theatre company until 2020. He was awarded an MBE for services to community development in 2009.

10 FEBRUARY

THE HEALING POWER OF PLANTS

Lecturer: Timothy Walker

Plants are integral to art, forming an essential element of countless paintings and being the backbone of inspirational garden design over the centuries, but mankind has also exploited the medicinal properties of plants for



thousands of years. Yet the role of plants in modern medicine is still considered to be peripheral by many people. This talk attempts to put the record straight and to show that the value of plants is not merely their contribution to art and design but that plant products are used every day by all of us to relieve pain and suffering, to heal wounds and cure diseases.

Timothy Walker firmly believes a garden can be said to be a place where nature, art, science, and spirituality meet on even terms. From 1988 to 2014 Timothy Walker was the director of the University of Oxford Botanic Garden. Since 2014 he has been a Senior College Lecturer in Plant Biology at Somerville College Oxford.



10 MARCH

SCANDINAVIAN MODERN: BEHIND THE SCENES

Lecturer: James Vaux

Why did Scandinavian Modern design become so popular internationally in the Mid-Century? And how did the movement come about? Using examples of furniture, glass, ceramics, textiles and architecture from 1930 to 1960, including the works of the Aaltos, Wirkkala, Jacobsen, Juhl, Matthson, Lindstrand, Frank and Sampe, we'll see how Nordic designers broke away from Bauhaus, to create more organic and curvaceous forms. But how did these supposedly affordable products turn into covetable luxury items? The talk ends with



the legacy of Scandinavian Modern ... and how to spot its influence in IKEA even today.

James Vaux is a researcher and lecturer specialising in Nordic arts, culture, design, and history. An Oxford graduate, he worked in the City in law and banking. As a managing director of Rothschild, he ran its Nordic operations, living and working in Scandinavia. James holds an MA from UCL in Scandinavian culture and history. He also studied interior design / art history at the Ingham School and Mid-Century Modern at Sotheby's Institute.



12 MAY

AN ENGLISHMAN IN NEW YORK: THE ART OF LORD DUVEEN

Lecturer: Mark Meredith



"Europe has a great deal of art, and America has a great deal of money." There was only one man whose quintessential English wit and charm made it look easy as he convinced the hard-nosed, tight-fisted titans of Wall Street that, "when you pay high for the priceless, you're getting it cheap". Frick, Mellon, Rockefeller, J.P. Morgan, Vanderbilt etc. all vied for his latest discoveries which remain the core collections of many of the United States' most famous museums.



Mark Meredith is a writer, the founder of HouseHistree.com, and lectures regularly at societies, festivals and clubs in both Europe and the United States. He worked for twenty years as a plumber in London, however, his real passion has always been for history, particularly the history behind houses through the characters that conjoin to create them. His special interest lies with the great American houses and their relationships with those in Europe, both socially and architecturally.

9 JUNE

MURILLO AND BAROQUE SEVILLE: CITY OF FAITH, ART AND EMPIRE

Lecturer: Isabelle Kent

Bartolomé Esteban Murillo is the last great painter of the Spanish Golden Age, yet today his works are often maligned as "cute" and "saccharine". This lecture reassesses his paintings in the context of 17th-century Seville, the great port city for the Spanish Empire and a centre of Catholic reform. By looking at Murillo's most innovative and beautiful paintings we will see how his art blends faith and empire, from his grand cycle in Santa Maria la Blanca to his small works painted of imported Aztec mirrors.



Isabelle Kent specialises in the baroque, with a particular focus on Spain and its empire. She received a BA and MPhil in History of Art from Trinity College, Cambridge, where she is currently completing her PhD on the art of Velázquez and de Zurbarán. Her edited book on Murillo was published in 2020. Isabelle also guides groups around Spain and beyond, and teaches regularly for the V&A, Art Fund, Royal Academy, Chelsea Arts Club, Wallace Collection and University of Cambridge.

14 JULY

MUSIC AND NATIONAL IDENTITY IN VICTORIAN BRITAIN

Lecturer: Bruno Bower

The Victorians revered many of the same names that still fill concert programmes today, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven etc., composers who we often think of as 'German'. But how did this fit with the parallel contemporary desire to promote 'native' British music? Musicologist Dr Bruno Bower has found some answers from an unexpected source: programme notes, a new form of writing for the nineteenth century. These texts tend not to emphasise nations for these composers, but instead use language that is much more redolent of empire; a very different kind of political entity.



Dr Bruno Bower (FRSA, FHEA) is a musicologist, performer, composer, and music editor. He has written and presented on subjects as diverse as Gilbert and Sullivan, John Cage, and Victorian polymaths, and has produced critical editions of music by Peter Gellhorn and Norman O'Neill. He teaches at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and runs adult education courses at Imperial College London and at various private institutions around London.

8 SEPTEMBER



NIKOLAUS PEVSNER AND THE BUILDINGS OF ENGLAND: PEVSNER IN SOUTH WEST LONDON

Lecturer: Susan Harries

Pevsner, a German refugee from Hitler, an interneer and a jobbing journalist, became the Grand Old Man of English art history through his extraordinary one-man survey of all the architecturally significant buildings in the country, county by county. This lecture explores what Pevsner said, rightly or wrongly, about some of the buildings in our society's area – churches, houses, shops, town halls, tower blocks – and sets his pronouncements in the context of *The Buildings of England* as a whole. His books have both detractors and passionate defenders, but no imitators.



Susie Harries is a writer, editor and lecturer, specialising in twentieth-century culture and history. Her biography of Sir Nikolaus Pevsner won a Wolfson History Prize in 2012. She has given lectures to audiences from the British Museum, the Imperial War Museum and to the Victorian and the 20th Century Societies. Susie read Classics at Cambridge before working for a music agency, the Hong Kong Independent Commission Against Corruption, and the RSA.

13 OCTOBER

OUR CANAL HERITAGE: A FUSION OF ART AND ARCHITECTURE



Lecturer: Roger Butler

A colourful introduction to the world of our 2,000-mile canal network, looking at their exceptional artistic, architectural and engineering vernacular. Features range from sweeping aqueducts to tiny bollards; from colourful

historic narrowboats to iconic 'Roses and Castles' artwork; from grand World Heritage Sites to quirky and unusual landmarks. Our canals have been called a 'poor man's art gallery' and only the National Trust and the Church of England have more listed buildings than our canals.



Roger Butler is a landscape architect and an experienced writer, photographer and lecturer. He has a particular interest in the unique history, traditions and architecture of our canal network and worked on some of the UK's major canal restoration projects. He has also acted as a consultant to bodies such as Waterways Ireland, Natural England and the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site. He regularly contributes to waterway and heritage magazines and is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and a Licentiate of the Royal Photographic Society.

10 NOVEMBER

SCULPTURE IN BRITAIN TODAY AND TOMORROW

Lecturer: Raymond Warburton

British sculpture enjoyed a renaissance in the 20th century, led by Moore and Hepworth. They were followed by a new generation of British-based sculptors including Rachel Whiteread, Antony Gormley, Maggi Hambling, Anish Kapoor, Richard Long and David Nash, who have produced sculptures that are glorious, challenging and moving in equal measure.



A range of their work is examined along with a review of the sculptures that have adorned the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square, and those proposed for 2026–28. The lecture concludes with a glimpse of the rising stars.

Ray Warburton lectures on a wide range of art subjects. He became a guide at Tate Britain and Tate Modern in 2012. He studied art history at the Open University, and then at the University of Buckingham, from where he gained an MA in the History of Art in 2017. Later that year, Ray became an Arts Society lecturer. Ray is a member of his local Arts Society in Blackheath.

8 DECEMBER

CINDERS IN THE DRIPPING PAN: COOKING IN THE GEORGIAN KITCHEN

Lecturer: Peter Ross

Cooking in a Georgian kitchen required immense skill as cooks struggled to complete a multitude of tasks without any electricity or gas and virtually no mechanical aids. Discover through prints, paintings, book illustrations and surviving Georgian kitchens and equipment, how a cook used the myriad of tools, moulds, boards and pots, to store, prepare and cook a remarkably diverse menu of dishes.



Peter Ross has a History of Art degree, an MA in London history, a PhD in the cultural history of an English Criminal, and qualifications in the teaching of adults. Until recently Principal Librarian at Guildhall Library, he has lectured on a broad range of topics including the history of English books, portraiture, and London history. Peter has appeared on TV and radio and his most recent publication, *The Curious Cookbook*, was published by the British Library. Peter's current book is on *Eating out in Georgian London*.



VISITS

A charge is made and prior booking is required.

At present it is not possible to give firm dates for all the following but we hope to arrange visits and add more in 2025. We will update members via the website and by email.

22 JAN 2025

APSLEY HOUSE



Apsley House sits in splendid isolation at Hyde Park Corner. Originally created by Robert Adam, it was redesigned by Benjamin Wyatt, from 1819, for the Duke of Wellington, and houses many works of art, some acquired during the Duke's campaigns. This will be a guided tour.

26 FEBRUARY 2025

FREEMASONS HALL



In the side streets between Covent Garden and Holborn is the Freemasons Hall; its monolithic size in

stark contrast to the neighbouring buildings. The exterior conceals an Art Deco masterpiece. The tour will include a history of Freemasonry and access to the Grand Temple with its mosaic ceiling and imposing bronze doors.

29 APRIL 2025

CHELSEA PHYSIC GARDEN



Founded in 1673 by The Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London for its apprentices, it became one of the most important centres of botany and plant exchange in the world. Its plant collection is unique in being the only botanic garden collection founded on medicinal, herbal and useful plants.



OTHER VISITS ON OUR WISH LIST FOR THE YEAR ARE:

- THE SPEAKERS HOUSE (AT THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT)
- ART IN THE CITY (A GUIDED WALK)

19 JUNE 2025

HATFIELD HOUSE & GARDENS

All day coach trip

Hatfield House was built in 1611 for Robert Cecil, 1st Earl of Salisbury, and is a Grade 1 listed building.

An earlier building, the Royal Palace of Hatfield, once stood on the site. This was the childhood home of Elizabeth I and part of the building still remains. The estate has many royal associations



STUDY AFTERNOON

Venue: Putney Library, 5-7 Disraeli Road, Putney SW15 2DR. Prior booking is required and a charge is made.

THURSDAY 20 MARCH - AFTERNOON (TIME TBC)

THE HOUSES OF THE CECILS and ENGLISH TOWNS IN THE 18TH CENTURY

Lecturer: Caroline Knight

The study afternoon complements both the tour to Lincoln, and the Awayday to Hatfield House. All members are welcome to attend.

Two of the finest houses of England belonged to the Cecil family. Robert, Lord Burghley, (Secretary of State to Elizabeth I) modelled Burghley House on Richmond Palace so that it would be fit for her to visit. His son, Robert, Earl of Salisbury, held the same office (for both Elizabeth, and James I) and he too built a grand home (Hatfield House) on the site of Hatfield Palace, gifted to him by the King. It is a superb example of Jacobean architecture

To appreciate Lincoln, it is worth considering the evolution of towns and cities from the late 17th century. As the gentry moved in from the countryside, the towns grew and prospered. Assembly rooms, theatres, and libraries were built where people could meet and be entertained. Though industrialisation has transformed some of towns, others have retained their charm.

but, after being gifted to Robert Cecil, by James I, ownership has remained with descendants of the Cecil family.

The house, a fine example of Jacobean architecture, was designed for entertaining on a grand scale. It houses many works of art from that period. The day will include a guided tour of the house and a tour of the gardens in the afternoon.

The gardens were laid out in the early 17th century by John Tradescant, the Elder, who travelled widely and brought back many new plants and ideas. An inveterate explorer, his personal collection of non-botanical items was ultimately acquired by Elias Ashmole and formed the basis for the collection at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford.



There will be 2 one-hour lectures, with a break between them for tea and biscuits:

'The Houses of the Cecils – Burghley and Hatfield'

'English Towns in the 18th Century – Society, Art & Architecture'

Caroline Knight is an architectural historian. She trained at the Courtauld Institute and specialises in 16th–18th century English and Scottish architecture. She lectures on courses at the V&A as well as for the Arts Society, the Art Fund, and for the Royal Oak Foundation in the USA.

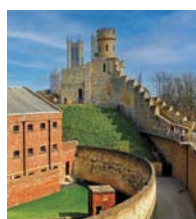
A second Study Event will be organised for Autumn 2025.

AWAY TOUR

TUESDAY 6 - FRIDAY 9 MAY 2025

TOUR TO LINCOLN

This 4 day / 3 night trip (arranged by Travel Editions) will be by coach to Lincoln with accommodation at the Hilton Hotel. On the first night there will be a reception and a lecture on the history of Lincoln. The first full day in Lincoln, will include tours of the Cathedral and Castle plus an afternoon visit to the Walled Gardens at Baumber, east of the city. On day two, there will be visits to Doddington Hall, an Elizabethan manor house, and to the Victorian Workhouse and Infirmary in Southwell.



To make the most of the travel days, the journey north will be broken in Leicester for a visit to the newly built Richard III Centre and the Cathedral (where his tomb is located) and on the return journey, we will stop at Burghley House for a guided tour.

Booking is open until 31 December 2024.