



# Newsletter

MEMBER SOCIETY OF THE ARTS SOCIETY

## OUR NEW CHAIRMAN

This year David Keeling will be taking up the mantle of Chairman of the The Arts Society North Wiltshire from Rosie Berry.

A new face to you, David grew up in an army family with the related typical experience of frequent house moves during his early life. Following his education at Downside School, he joined the Ford Motor Company, working his way up to becoming a Senior Buyer managing a team responsible for the purchase and supply of all interior furnishing components for the whole of Ford's vehicle manufacturing in the UK. He then joined the British Steel Corporation in charge of a department responsible for the supply of all scrap and cold iron materials for iron and steelmaking operations across the Corporation. A few years later, he was appointed a Works Manager at the River Don Forge and Foundry Works in Sheffield. He next joined the Central Electricity Generating Board in charge of the marketing and sale of over six million tonnes of ash produced by the forty-seven fossil fuelled power stations, together with the disposal of another six million tonnes. After privatisation, he transferred to National Power, his final role being a two year posting in Sydney as Executive Director with responsibility for establishing the company in Australasia.

After retirement, he owned and operated a twelve bedroom hotel in Bath. Subsequently, he undertook a number of voluntary roles. For eleven years, he was a member of the Mayor of Bath's Corps of Guides, carrying out weekly walking tours in the City, including serving as Chairman for two years. At the time, he also studied for and gained a MA on Bath History and Culture at Bath Spa University. His main voluntary role during the period was to manage the activities of SSAFA – The Armed Forces Charity – in Bath and North East Somerset for seventeen years. He now carries out guiding at the National Trust's Great Chalfield Manor. In addition, having taken up the sport of croquet, he has become the Secretary of the new Bradford-on-Avon Croquet Club. He has three sons and a daughter plus six grandchildren from his previous marriage.

Five years ago, he met a lovely lady on a bus ride on the First Bus D1 service from Bath to Bradford-on-Avon, which coincidentally gave him his first introduction to The Arts Society. That lady was Maggie Keith, your then Membership Secretary and currently Secretary. Now, to his great delight, she is also his wife! That was his journey into his new role as your Chairman, during which tenure he sincerely hopes to support his wonderful team of volunteers on the Committee and endeavour to fill Rosie Berry's 'very big' shoes in providing the ongoing service to support the Society's membership.



## MEMBERSHIP

It has been a very busy and successful year with many outstanding lectures. I am pleased to report that our membership reached 255 for the year 2022-23. This has been mainly achieved by our members being such good ambassadors, so my thanks to you all. I am also delighted to report we have 22 new members for the coming year. I am really looking forward to another enjoyable and stimulating year as membership secretary.

Anthea Penhallow



## 2023/24 LECTURE PROGRAMME

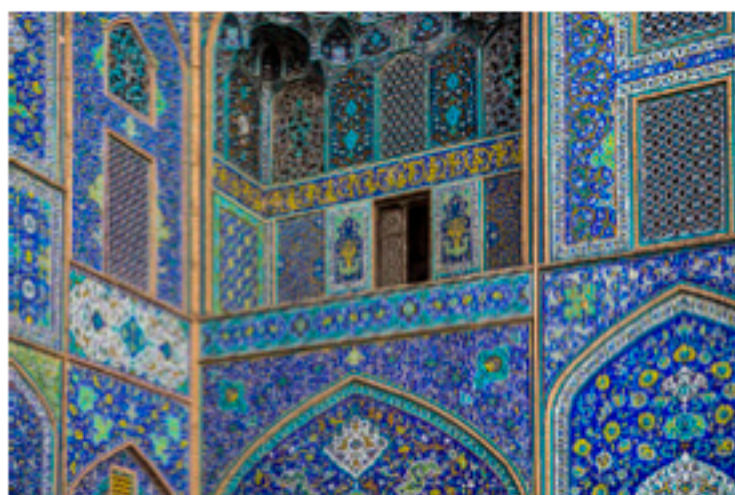
### OCTOBER 4<sup>TH</sup> - THE SCOLIOTIC KNIGHT: RECONSTRUCTING THE REAL RICHARD III

The discovery of the grave of King Richard III in Leicester raised new and fascinating questions. The severe scoliosis exhibited by the skeleton revealed that the twisted physique of Shakespeare's 'Black Legend' was based in fact. But how did a diminutive person, suffering from a significant spinal condition, become a skilled practitioner of the knightly fighting arts? How could he have worn armour and fought in three major battles? What would his armour have looked like? How might it have disguised the King's condition, to present him as a powerful warrior? Here we encounter armour as an expressive art-form, designed to radiate messages, justifications, proof of the wearer's right to rule as a king - a wielder of divine power on Earth.



*Toby Capwell is Curator of Arms and Armour at the Wallace Collection in London, an internationally-acknowledged authority on Medieval and Renaissance weapons and the author of numerous books on the subject of arms and armour. In 2015 he had the honour of serving as one of the two fully armoured horsemen escorting King Richard III's remains to their final resting place in Leicester Cathedral.*

### NOVEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> - ISFAHAN AND THE HISTORY OF PERSIAN TILE MAKING



The lecture explores the history of Persian tilework primarily through the monuments of the most beautiful of all Persian cities, Isfahan, though it will also refer to buildings elsewhere in Iran. From simple monochrome, turquoise inlays in the 12th century, tilework in Iran developed in both polychromality and decorative complexity until, by the 17th century, enormous architectural surfaces were covered with brilliant ornament. But then comes the surprise, for in the 19th century tiles are used for the first time to tell a story!

*James Allan was curator of the Islamic collection and Keeper of Eastern Art at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford University, where he also set up an inter-faith exhibition service and taught Islamic art and*

*architecture. He leads tours in the Middle East and has published numerous articles and books on Islamic art.*

### DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> - THE WHITE MANTLE OF WINTER: THE IMPRESSIONISTS AND SNOW

The Impressionist Movement of the late 19th and early 20th centuries produced some of the finest snow paintings in the history of art. Although the 17th century Dutch masters had painted snow, it was not a common subject amongst landscape painters until its rediscovery by the Impressionists. Claude Monet, Camille Pissarro and Alfred Sisley all painted snow, but they were by no means the only ones. The Norwegian artist Frits Thaulow, a close friend of the French Impressionists, was a master of depicting snow, though it could be argued that the most impressive snow paintings were actually done by the American Impressionists. They capture the silence, beauty and grandeur of an American winter. This is a lecture rich in wonderful images which combines paintings by both well-known and lesser known artists.



*Julian Halsby studied History of Art at Cambridge and was Senior Lecturer and Head of Department at Croydon College of Art. A practising artist, Julian was elected to the Royal Society of British Artists in 1994 and appointed Keeper in 2010.*



## JANUARY 10<sup>TH</sup> - THE ART OF CEREMONIAL MUSIC

The UK provides some of the most impressive Ceremonial Events in the world but why is that? How do the military prepare for major events such as State Opening of Parliament, State Visits, National Day of Remembrance, Royal Weddings or even a State Funeral?

*Graham Jones started his professional life as a musician in the British Army and he retired as the Senior Director of Music, Household Division and Director of Music, Coldstream Guards. He has recorded over 40 albums and he pioneered a music education programme with the University of Salford for military musicians. Having retired from the Army in 2012, Graham is enjoying a second career as a guest conductor, adjudicator, guest speaker, recording consultant and educator.*

### The Art of State Ceremonial Music

A Golden Thread of History, Heritage and Tradition

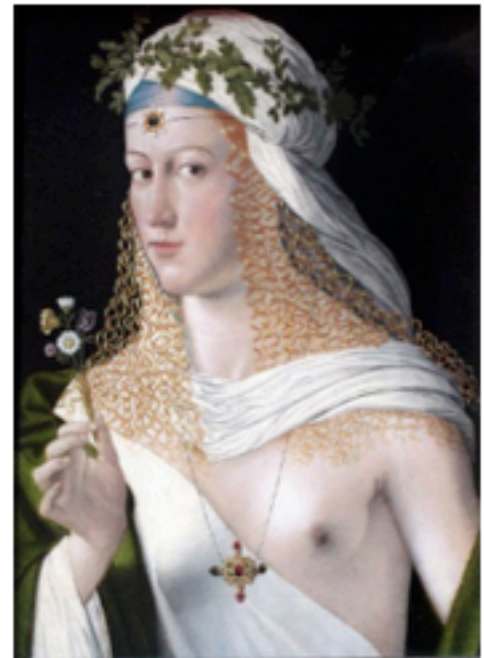


## FEBRUARY 7<sup>TH</sup> - THE BORGIAS: THE MOST INFAMOUS FAMILY IN HISTORY?



Murder, poison, corruption and incest: all perfect ingredients for sensational popular culture. But in an age known for its brutality and church corruption were the Borgias so bad? This lecture reveals the real family that dominated the Papacy and Italian politics during the last decade of the 15th century. Sometimes truth is more intoxicating than myth.

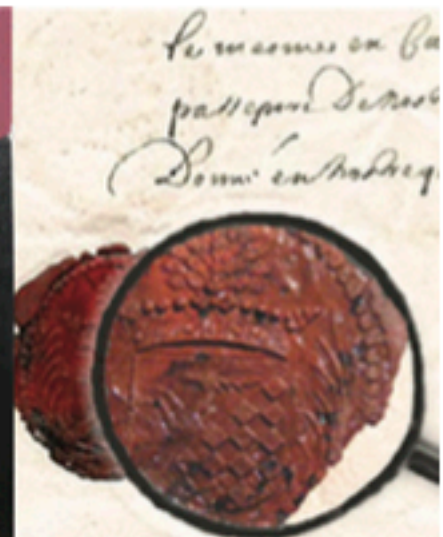
*Novelist, broadcaster and critic, Sarah Dunant read history at Cambridge, then worked for many years as a cultural journalist in radio and television. She has published thirteen novels. Sarah has taught renaissance studies at Washington University, St Louis and she is a visiting tutor on the MA in creative writing at Oxford Brookes.*



## MARCH 6<sup>TH</sup> - SECRET ART IN THE PASSPORT

From the wax seal to the microchip, man has exploited the skill of the artist and artisan in his attempt to manufacture a forgery-proof document. Taking you through three centuries of passport design, this lecture explains the overt and uncovers the covert to illustrate the defences built into the passport and the tricks the forger uses to defeat them. You will never see your passport in the same light again!

*Martin Lloyd lectures to various groups, including USA, National Trust, historical societies, Gresham College and business groups since 2008. He previously worked for HM Immigration Service and has broadcast on local and national television and radio.*







### APRIL 3<sup>RD</sup> - THE CHAIR: 2000 YEARS OF SITTING DOWN!

This lecture explores the history of chairs and seating solutions from the ancient right up to the modern day. Often taken for granted, chairs have pre-occupied the minds of some of the greatest thinkers and designers in history. As both symbols of power and humble vernacular fireside seats, this talk will take you on a historic trip through the development of the chair. Are you sitting comfortably?

**Marc Allum** is a freelance art and antiques journalist, writer and broadcaster. He is a long-term specialist on the BBC Antiques Roadshow. He also runs a fine art valuation and consultancy service. A self-confessed "collectaholic", he connects with history through the interpretation and pursuit of objects and their origins'. Marc has lectured for many years to a wide range of organisations and he is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.

### MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> - PEGGY GUGGENHEIM

The 'poor little rich girl' who changed the face of twentieth century art. Not only was Peggy Guggenheim ahead of her time but she was the woman who helped define it. She discovered and nurtured a new generation of artists producing a new kind of art. Through collecting not only art but the artists themselves, her life was as radical as her collection.

**Alexandra Epps** is an official guide and lecturer at Tate Modern, Tate Britain and Guildhall Art Gallery. She is also a member of the City of London Guide Lecturers Association. Alexandra's background is in design having trained as a graphic designer.



### JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup> - MERCHANT SHIP FIGUREHEADS

Why were they created and what and who did they represent? In the 19th century sailing ships with their colourful figureheads were a regular sight but now just a few figureheads survive.

**Helen Doe** is a Fellow of the Centre for Maritime Historical Studies at the University of Exeter, where she gained her PhD. She is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and a trustee of the SS Great Britain. She is currently working on a series of books on Isambard Brunel's shipping ventures. Her lecturing experience is wide and she is a speaker onboard all three Cunard ships. She has appeared on radio and television, and is a regular maritime expert for programmes such as *Who Do You Think You Are?*



### JULY 3<sup>RD</sup> - TYNTESFIELD: A VICTORIAN HOUSE REDISCOVERED.



Tyntesfield, one of the last great Victorian Country houses still intact with its original contents, was to be broken-up until being saved for the Nation at the eleventh hour a few years ago. Now owned by The National Trust, the story of the house, the family who created it and its dramatic rescue make this an entertaining, informative and very popular lecture.

**Matthew Williams** holds degrees from the Universities of Nottingham and Manchester. A Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, he was Curator of Cardiff Castle for nearly 30 years. Recent publications include a major book on Cardiff Castle and the Marquesses of Bute. Before becoming an accredited lecturer Matthew was a programme secretary and a chairman of The Arts Society.



## YOUNG ARTS

This year, our membership has been particularly generous with resources, enabling me to arrange the collection and delivery of a huge range of fabrics, wool and books for the art departments in Melksham Oak and Corsham. The teachers involved have been enthusiastic and grateful.

Thank you for all your help and support with the bookstall. As a retired bookseller, I really miss sharing recent reads and discussing plot twists and the monies raised from sales is only possible through your generosity and allows me to bring the arts and children together. If you would like me to come and collect your books please get in touch. Thank you also to Mr and Mrs Burgess for storage facilities and Mr and Mrs Harding for their helping hands.

### ALOERIC MOSAIC PROJECT MARCH 2023



Aloeric Primary school in Melksham is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and Mrs Rebecca Clifton, the head teacher, confirmed that the school needed a new 'Welcome' sign to smarten up the appearance of the front of the school. She ran a competition to gather ideas and images from the pupils which Emma Leith, a mosaic artist from Box, then turned into a coherent design reflecting the ethos of the school and the energy and enthusiasm of the whole school community. In addition a curved shaped mosaic saying 'Welcome to Aloeric' was also created in Rainbow colours.



Karen Hellewell gathered our team of six volunteers namely Rosie Berry, Jan Boyd, Lucy Garton, Jenny Gilks, Jane Pearson and herself to work with specific pupils in the Family room (a self contained mobile classroom in the car park) from Monday to Thursday, to complete the mosaic in three panels. These panels were then mounted into an oak frame and will be attached to the wall, all thanks to the Brunel Shed and Mr Rodney Veazey. This project was funded by a grant from the Patricia Fay Trust from the Arts Society HQ, as well as North Wiltshire, The Friends of Aloeric School and Pickwick Academy Trust.

Pupils from years 3,4,5 and 6 were chosen by the Headteacher, as those who have a creative flair but would not have been given previous recognition for their talents or have worked with artists before. Hopefully this will inspire them



to continue to develop an interest in arts. They all responded positively being able to justify their choices of colours and shapes to complete the overall design. The levels of concentration and effort did each pupil great credit and the overall impression was accomplished, bright, and lively. A thoroughly

enjoyable time was had by everyone involved.





## CORSHAM POUND PILL

The team at The Corsham Primary School Pound Pill site, worked on a one to one basis with Year 5 pupils to create a peacock mosaic and included Rosie Berry, Jenny Gilks, Jane Pearson, Karen Lawrence Bright, Frances Leonard and Gill Verschoyle. The main focus was on blending the colours of tiny mosaic tiles to create the subtlety and iridescence needed for the peacock and pupils took thoughtful care to select the mosaic pieces.

Jenny Gilks commented , “It’s been a real pleasure to be able to help out at the two Corsham based mosaic projects. Emma Leith, the leading artist , has worked extremely hard to plan and design the two projects in such a way as to give all the participating children a sense of ‘hands on’ involvement in making a piece of artwork that will undoubtedly get lots of very positive comments when installed. It was encouraging to see how much the teaching staff appreciated our help and input.”

TASNW also contributed to funding for a theatre trip to see the Lion King in Bristol by Year 6 pupils from Forest and Sandridge School.

Mrs Duck, Year 6 teacher responded: “We would like to thank you for your support in funding part of our school trip to see the Lion King. Many year 6 children have said this was a highlight of the year because they had never been to the theatre before. Since seeing the show the children created props and costumes for their own production which, due to this experience, was outstanding and one of the best productions the school has seen .”



On behalf of the pupils, schools and artists involved I would like to thank our team of volunteers, working one to one with children, who made these ambitious and rewarding projects possible. We really couldn’t have done it without you.

## CORSHAM BROADWOOD



The Mosaic project at the Corsham Primary School, Broadwood site involved Emma Leith and a big team of TASNW volunteers working with pupils in Years 3, 4, 5, and 6 for a week. Emma designed the piece in eleven panels to fit together so that working one to one, we created a meandering mosaic path. This moved from the vastness of the universe through space to Planet Earth and culminating in the values of the school community, namely: caring; positive and stimulating. The team included Rosie Berry, Jan Boyd, Lucy Garton, Jenny Gilks, Jane Pearson, Annie Elliott, Frances Leonard, Caroline Morison, and Janet Relfe. The pupils were enthusiastic, and not only their concentrated efforts but also their eye for detail made the panels eye-catching and thought provoking.

Mrs Ridout, Deputy Head teacher commented: “We thoroughly enjoyed the whole process. Emma was very clear on... involving the children and encouraging them to submit their designs. The design was an amalgamation of

these designs. It was an adventurous project and Emma, with her team of volunteers, made it happen. The children love the installed mosaic and are very proud of it!" The mosaic was installed on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July. There seems to be scope to add a seascape and jungle in future years so pupils will need to watch this space.

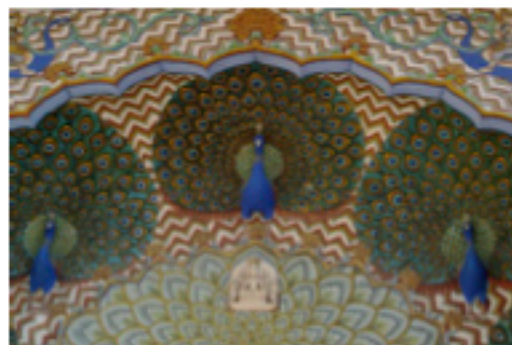
TASNW also funded a lively photography workshop by Sophie Sherwood, focussing on cyanotypes with the A level group of Corsham School. I attended the morning session and watched students experimenting with developing techniques which added to their coursework portfolios. There was also an opportunity for pupils with special needs to take part in a workshop.

Lacock primary school is holding its bi-centennial celebrations next year and plans are afoot for other opportunities to volunteer. If you think you might have time to join us please contact [Karen Hellewell](mailto:karen.hellewell@tasnw.org.uk) email: [young.arts.tasnw@gmail.com](mailto:young.arts.tasnw@gmail.com) ; tel. 01225 867726

## STUDY DAYS 2023/4



This year's courses are on India and on Gardens. The India course has already sold out. Each day will be held at Market Lavington Community Hall. The cost is £35 for a day. Each day runs from 10.15 to approximately 15.00.



It is made up of three one hour lectures, well punctuated with breaks for coffee/tea and lunch, with a glass of wine.

For information, contact: tel. 01380 816510; email. [j\\_m\\_price@btinternet.com](mailto:j_m_price@btinternet.com) or visit [tasnorthwiltshire.org.uk](http://tasnorthwiltshire.org.uk).

## TOURS & VISITS

### PLANNED TOURS 2024

Monday May 13th to Friday May 17th:

Four days in Suffolk staying at the Ufford Park Hotel and exploring the art history of Suffolk.

Thursday September 12th to Tuesday September 17th:

Five days in Holland staying at the Biltsche Hoek Hotel de Bilt, with visits including the Rijksmuseum and Van Gogh museum in Amsterdam, the cities of Delft, The Hague and Utrecht and the Paleis Het Loo. On the return coach journey there will be the opportunity to visit a site in South Holland/ Belgium.

### DAY VISIT TO CHAVENAGE HOUSE AND RODMARTON MANOR - JULY 11th 2023

On a rather grey day twenty one of us travelled to Chavenage and were welcomed, informed and entertained by Caroline Lowsley-Williams before her brother George guided us through the various rooms of the sixteenth-century manor house. The appearance of the house and its gardens was more faded than usual, part of its make-up for its role in the filming of Jilly Cooper's *Rivals* for Disney+. A memorable visit was completed with an excellent lunch before we moved on to Rodmarton Manor.

The wide sweep of the building, with its numerous gables, made it easy to imagine that we were still in the Elizabethan or Jacobean era. In fact the building is almost exactly 100 years old and built by local craftsmen in the Arts and Crafts style using local materials and traditional methods. Inside, every room and all furniture and decoration continued the theme. We were impressed by the outstanding craftsmanship and the beauty of the objects. A convivial tea or coffee with cake was enjoyed, before heading home.

### "A HOLIDAY IN THE LAND OF THE BEATLES" - THE 2023 TOUR TO LIVERPOOL

Our 2023 tour was based in the area of the restored dockland alongside the Mersey. Four days of guided tours took us to both cathedrals in Liverpool, a day in Chester and the Waterways museum in the Wirral, the Sunlight Village and The Lady Lever Gallery, and our visit on the final day was to see the amazing restoration by the RHS of the Bridgewater Gardens. There was also free time to explore the range of museums and galleries on the Liverpool waterfront, or rekindle memories of our youth by visiting the Cavern Club to listen to live music of the 1960s.





*Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee clock on the city wall over the Eastern gate at the entrance to Chester*



*Norman arch in Chester cathedral*



*A beautiful sculpture and painting at the centre of the children's chapel in the new Liverpool Catholic Cathedral*



*Our group listening to their introduction to the tour of Chester Cathedral*



*Anglican Cathedral in Liverpool*



*Some of our members couldn't resist the temptation to revisit their past to listen to the songs of our teens*



*At the end of our day in the Wirral and Chester, arriving back to a welcome from the Beatles!!*