



NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2017

NEW WEBSITE

Our new website is now live at:

www.theartsocietyexmoor.org.uk

I do encourage you to take a good look at it.

We have created our own website rather than adopting the generic style used by many Arts Society branches. Su Elsdon, our new committee member responsible for media and communications, has been working hard through the summer with a Plymouth-based company called Greenfield to set it up. It is clear and easy to navigate, and as time goes by we will be adding more archive material and images; Su would be delighted to receive photographs of Society activities from members.

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT

There is scope to recruit ten or so new members. Please keep spreading the word (and the website address), and here's an offer to encourage you to bring along friends and newcomers to the area for a trial lecture: if you bring a guest and he or she then joins the Society, we will refund the £7 visitor fee.

NORFOLK TOUR IN MAY

Tailored Travel have not put a deposit deadline in their brochure, just "payable immediately". They give March 14th as the deadline for the final payment. In practical terms it will be valuable for Daphne to know by early January whether we have a quorum for what looks a most attractive tour.

COMMITTEE RECRUITMENT AND THE FUTURE OF THE SOCIETY

The present is healthy but the future is uncertain. Several long-serving members of our committee are due to stand down in 2018 and 2019, partly because of the Society's rules which limit tenure in some posts and partly through personal decisions to retire. We need new people willing to take on an active role in managing the Society and

leading it forward, but succession planning is not proving easy. If it becomes impossible to fill certain jobs, then sadly we will have to reduce the range of our activities.

Most urgently, lecture programme planning and special interest days need prospective new leaders to come forward now and "shadow" the present incumbents, and the management of visits and tours will follow.

We feel sure that there are members who are well capable of taking on a committee position, but who have not so far put themselves forward for what is of course a challenging role but also a very fulfilling and enjoyable one within a great team. Some members who have joined fairly recently may perhaps feel "too new" to volunteer; on the contrary, we need your enthusiasm and your energy and will give you plenty of initial guidance. Please don't hide your light under a bushel, but come forward and make yourselves known - and the same goes for more long-established members!

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Arrangements were set out in the summer Newsletter for the event at Dartington Hall on July 18th and 19th, and booking is now open. Full details are on our website - www.theartsocietyexmoor.org.uk.

There are two aspects to this. Members who would like to attend on one of those days should contact me by email, and our limited number of places will be reserved in order of contact made.

With the exhibition of Society members' own art and craft work in mind, those who plan to submit items for consideration should email Su Elsdon (su@elsden.me.uk) as soon as possible to signal that intention, and arrangements can then be made for photographic submission. This needs to be completed by mid-December.

With good wishes to all as we embark on our new year of lectures and other activities,

William Rees (Chairman)