

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2020

Firstly, we do hope this finds you well and coping in these troubled times.

Your Committee has been working hard behind the scenes to finalise the lectures, special interest days, visits and tours programme for our new season - and with present lockdown regulations making life so uncertain, we have decided to start our new season in January 2021.

MEMBERSHIP - REDUCED FEE

As you know, our last three lectures of the current season had to be cancelled due to the regulations concerning the Coronavirus outbreak. So we have decided, exceptionally for the 2021 season, to offer our members a reduced membership fee of £30.00 (reduced from the planned £46.00). The season will run from January to June 2021.* This will be the fee for each individual member - we have decided for this year only not to offer discounts for couples, but every member will receive their own membership card.

Please see our Membership Renewal Form attached here, to print off, complete, scan and email or post back to us. And as always, we are keen for as many of our members as possible, to pay their membership fee by BACS.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

By joining The Arts Society Exmoor, every member is entitled to a wide range of benefits: A posted copy of the excellent quarterly magazine. Six monthly lectures delivered by engaging speakers, acknowledged for their expertise in their individual subjects. Priority booking for our tours and visits programme as well as our two Special Interest Days where a specific subject is delivered in greater depth. Access to a series of online lectures, events and information (visit www.theartsociety.org) and access to local, regional and national Arts Society events and information.

OUR NEW SEASON

LECTURES JANUARY - JUNE 2021:

4TH JANUARY - PAINT BRUSHES AT DAWN - HISTORY OF ART'S GREATEST FEUD, ROWS AND BUST-UPS *with Barry Venning*

From Brunelleschi and Ghiberti, through Constable and Turner, Dali and Breton and many more, the art world has ever been volatile. These stories are highly entertaining and tell us much about key issues in art history.

1ST FEBRUARY - ENGLISH WOMEN AND THE FRENCH REVOLUTION *with Karin Fernald*

Mary Wollstonecraft and Fanny Burney visited Paris in the early stages of the revolution and not without adventures. Paintings by Boilly and Lesueur illustrate this talk. (This was to be our April 2020 lecture).

1ST MARCH - PEGGY GUGGENHEIM: THE 'POOR LITTLE RICH GIRL' WHO CHANGED THE FACE OF 20TH CENTURY ART *with Alexandra Epps*

Not only was she ahead of her time, she was the woman who helped define it. Peggy discovered and nurtured a new generation of artists producing a new kind of art. Collecting not only art, but the artists themselves, her life was as radical as her collection.

12TH APRIL - THE FANTASTICAL WORKS OF HIERONYMUS BOSCH *with Stella Lyons*

Looking at arguably the most enigmatic figure in art history, were his works influenced by hallucination via too much ergot infected wheat?

His most famous triptych 'Garden of Earthly Delights' illustrates the danger of giving way to temptations. It is filled with fantastical creatures surrendering to lust, desire and angst and the doom that awaits them.

10TH MAY - THE ENGLAND OF ERIC RAVILIOUS *with David Boyd Haycock*

Watercolourist, muralist, ceramicist and wood engraver, Ravilious was one of the most distinctive young British artists between the wars. The lecture explores his career, in the long tradition of English watercolourists and within the English social and cultural contest in the 1920s & 30s.

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7TH JUNE 2021 - PUGIN & THE GOTHIC REVIVAL: A CELEBRATION *with Andrew Davies*

Pugin was responsible for dozens of churches, cathedrals, monastic buildings, almshouses and private residences. His work ranges from the lovely church of St Giles in Cheadle and the Medieval Court at the Great Exhibition of 1851 to the ornate decoration of the Houses of Parliament (and Alton Towers!).

SPECIAL INTEREST DAYS 2021

5TH MAY - SCOTTISH COUNTRY HOUSES - CASTLES AND CLASSICISM

This study day is designed to complement the Tour of Scotland planned for 24th to 28th May, but will still be a fascinating topic whether you plan to do the visit or not - see below 'Tours and Visits 2021'. The talks will cover: The Scottish Country House - Castles and Classicism, Dumfries House - saved for the Nation; Robert Adam in Scotland.

For our 2021/22 season:

18 October 2021 - The architecture, history, material culture and political intrigues of Moorish Spain.

Ian Cockburn

TOURS AND VISITS 2021

**TOUR OF THE SCOTTISH LOWLANDS AND
EDINBURGH INCLUDING DUMFRIES HOUSE**
(rescheduled from 2020): **Monday 24th May to Friday
28th May 2021.**



During our tour in Scotland we will be staying at the 3 star Tinto Hotel in Biggar (about an hour's drive from Edinburgh.) Set in five acres of gardens, the hotel offers a full Scottish breakfast and dinner with a glass of wine included.

Our tour will include a visit to Dumfries House (rescued from the saleroom by Prince Charles), Traquair House and Abbotsford, the extraordinary home of Sir Walter

Scott. We will have a day in Edinburgh which will include a visit to the Palace of Holyrood House and some free time to follow your own interests.

On our journey to and from Scotland, we will break our journey with a two hour visit to a National Trust property.

The cost will be in the region of £520. *Please visit our website to download further information and a booking form:*
www.theartsocietyexmoor.org.uk

PLANNED FOR 2022 - A Ten Day Tour of the Holy Land: Tuesday 3rd May to Friday 13th May 2022. We will be staying in Jerusalem and in the Galilee area. The tour will be based on full board with a resident guide.

AGM

Yet again, the Coronavirus pandemic has scuppered our plans to hold our AGM as usual before the October lecture. Our Constitution allows us move it to January, so we will be in touch nearer the time regarding this.

DATA

Like all organisations we have to ask you to renew your permission to hold and use your contact details under current legislation. Please return the form with your renewal document.

YOUR COMMITTEE

Your Committee has agreed to remain in place for the new season (they will be detailed on the reverse of your new membership card).

Footnote

**Our plans for the new season - January to June 2021 are made on the assumption that it will be safe for us all to meet again at our usual Brushford Parish Hall venue by January 2021. However, since at the time of compiling this newsletter, the future is still a little uncertain we do encourage you to visit our website for the latest updates and news on your Society:*

www.theartsocietyexmoor.org.uk