



# The Arts Society, Devizes

Newsletter November 2020

Dear friends,

Here we are approaching a very different Christmas: its wonderful message remains the same yet, the year we have had, its confusion, sadness and fear, the expectations of release from the confines of Covid 19, still surrounded by concern, make it a heady mix. We trust you and your family and friends are well and looking forward to a better time this Christmas than we thought a few weeks ago.

## **Our second foray into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century on Zoom also very successful!**

Christopher Bradley's lecture was beautifully pieced together from a wide range of sources and illustrations, giving us a clear, often, colourful picture of the Roman way of life across the far reaches of its empire. Surprising and enlightening a history of mosaics from pre-Roman times, to the way we uncover and move them today, as well as how the tiniest parts of these mirror the pixels on our modern visual appliances.

Our thanks, again, to **Mike Page** and his able assistant **Conor Maxwell** for all the work they did creating this Zoom link for us all to enjoy.

*We also trust you continue to enjoy the many lectures from TAS, London.*

**See our own website:[www.theartssocietydevizes.org](http://www.theartssocietydevizes.org) for updates.**

## **Lecturer list 2020/21:**

**December 16th: Amina Wright**, The Wonder of The Times – Thomas Lawrence in Bath.

**January 20<sup>th</sup>: Paul Chapman**, Guernica – Picasso's exploration of love, motherhood and death in war.

**February 17<sup>th</sup>: Mary Sharp**, Is This The Real Life – How art from Plato's Cave to The Matrix movie have changed our perception of reality.

**March 17<sup>th</sup>: Adam Busiakiewicz**, The Lute in Paintings – meanings and metaphores. Cont...

## **Possible visits for 2021:**

**Bodleian Complex - Chawton House – Holburne Museum.**

### **Assizes Court Consultation Group:**

This group of people met online last week; representatives from across the town's active groups, our Chairman included, and spent over two hours hearing the plans, discussing these and other ideas around them. How we all want this blight to return to its former glory and enhance our town. If the current plans hold and finance is secured, it will be a two storey centre for us to visit, via road and canal entrances, with an interior of light and purpose.

**This new project will transform 30 years of neglect into a Jewel. Including:**

1. Atrium, World Cafe and conveniences
2. Museum display, library/archives, workshop and storage areas
3. Education area
4. Flexible Event space to hire(140+ raked seats or tables and chairs)
5. Two Display areas – for rotating exhibitions through the year
6. Offices
7. Devizes and Local History area
8. Keeping the Historical Courtroom and cells in the basement

**Here are some of the ideas that might go with these to make this building a vibrant, evolving community space for all:**

- Ramps at entrances and lift access to all floors
- Online expansion to share our artefacts/knowledge wider
- Quiet Sessions for those who find noise a detractor
- Seasonal Tickets with links to other Wiltshire attractions
- Homework Study Record Room for Primary School Children
- Re-enactment Days with local Drama Groups
- Films and Lecture Streamings or Workshops on area related topics

**STILL URGENT – as we approach a new year and a possible return to normal in the coming Spring!**

**Three Committee Roles:**

- 1. Programme Secretary** – Without whom we cannot function as a group and must disband. **Members wanting to insure our future should contact Mo (to shadow her/have her initial help) or Kim.**
- 2. Treasurer, Mike Page**, who has taken on the extra work of running the Zoom Lectures, **is needing someone to shadow his Treasurer role with a view to taking it on in the future. Please contact Mike.**
- 3. Two Committee Members** to represent you with help and advise. e-mail Kim via [TheArtsSocietyDevizes@gmail.com](mailto:TheArtsSocietyDevizes@gmail.com).

**Keep safe and encouraged.**

**We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December from 10.30am for 'The Wonder of The Times.'**