



# The Arts Society, Devizes

## Newsletter March 2021

Dear friends,

Positive approaches to our future movements are encouraging so, hoping that this finds you enjoying casting off Winter and Covid ills and taking pleasure in the beauty of Spring all around us, ready to move outside to meet again. After the difficulties of the last months, we can well see why our forebears celebrated the Sun's rising so emphatically.

Looking further ahead, a process with more present certainty, we are exploring the return to the Town Hall. Certainly, there is still much to know before that longed for day occurs, but we are confident it will come in the next few months; Government regulation and your good selves providing.

**March's** lecture by Adam Busiakiewicz on 'The Lute in Old Master's Paintings', was full of interesting symbolism; from the urbane to the unexpected. Leonardo being a musician renowned for his playing was one. Our own King Henry VIII also accomplished and having 26 lutes another. Comforting to know, also, that the gold layered version sounded like an 'old pot'. Adam is such a fine and knowledgeable speaker and, as it turned out, lute player. How lovely it was to hear that ancient queen of Instruments brought to life in his masterly hands through the lecture!

***Keep your artistic tastes even more satisfied through the many lectures from TAS, Wessex, London, or those on our own website:***

[www.theartssocietydevizes.org](http://www.theartssocietydevizes.org)

**. A Fourth Lawrence Art Society invitation, for the 12<sup>th</sup> of April, has arrived for those with an interest in painting and pastels; Rebecca de Mendonca will be showing how much 'Life and Energy there is in Pastel Painting.'**

From her University BA Hons. beginnings in Art, Rebecca chose to go on to Theatre Design at the Wimbledon School of Art, joining Kevin McLeod, of Grand Designs fame, shortly after as his Design Assistant. From there, onto a fascinating variety of theatre work with top designers. More recently, Rebecca has taken to using her Artistic Soul to paint animals, people, landscapes and architecture, as well as teaching Pastel Courses, demonstrating to groups and writing for Leisure Painter Magazine and SAA. She also exhibits at The Mall Galleries, London, each year. With Nel Whatmore, Rebecca founded 'The New Pastel School' in 2013. She has been short-listed for the 'Artist of The Year Award' for the last three years.

**All Devizes Arts Society members can take up this offer on the 12th April at 7.30pm, as the entry code will be sent out to us a few days before. ....cont...**

## A REMINDER ABOUT OUR LOCKDOWN ART COMPETITION

### ' A Moment in My Lockdown Year'

Entry is open to all members of TAS Devizes.

Your entry can be from any of the arts but must be based on the title,

'Moments in My Lockdown Year.'

Send photos/written work to : theartssocietydevizes@gmail.com before 21/06/21.

Vote by clicking the button alongside your **THREE** Choices on our great website:

[www.theartssocietydevizes.org](http://www.theartssocietydevizes.org)

Results to be announced at our **AGM in July. One Year Free Membership to winner.**

**Arts areas ideas: Painting - Mixed Media - Ceramics - Music - Sounds - Textiles  
- Writing (max 250 words)- Poetry - Sculpture - Photo - Needlework -  
Film/Video/Theatre Short(30sec) - .**

**Three Committee Member's Examples (yours may have name and other title):**

#### Poetry East Wind

Just a tiny zephyr, shivers down the spine.  
Nothing very scary, happens all the time.  
One or two got poorly, January blues.  
Then a few were dying, that was on the news.  
Life went on as ever, no cause to complain.  
Suddenly a "lockdown", this a weird refrain.  
Stay at home, don't travel. Hide within your walls.  
OK for a short while, keep in touch with calls.  
Zoom is our new buzzword, hard to get to grips.  
Summer came, a corker, sunshine, sea and trips.  
As the year slid downwards, cases rose again.  
No more eat out, help out, lockdown in the rain.  
Christmas will be different, hear our hopeful cry.  
Sorry. No it isn't. Stay at home or die.  
Now, at last, a vaccine, thank the scientists.  
Hope springs up eternal, are you on the lists?  
But I feel a shiver, even as I write,  
East winds keep on blowing.  
Wrap up warm tonight.

#### Mixed Media



#### Photograph



**. St Mary's Church Children's Trail**

Once we are able to meet in numbers, St Mary's Church Trustees are looking for help from our members with this trail. If you have experience in this area, that would be ideal, but volunteers new to the work will be guided by our previous works.

**Please respond by e-mail to: [theartssocietydevizes@gmail.com](mailto:theartssocietydevizes@gmail.com).**

**. TAS Lecturer list 2020/21:**

**April 21<sup>st</sup>: James Russell**, A Garden like No other. - Edward James, the eccentric and his surrealist garden at La Pozas, Mexico.

**May 19<sup>th</sup> : Simon Rees**, Carmen in Seville – Looking at Bizet's opera from 1875, its background in a novella by Prosper Merimee, one of the best loved of all operas.

**All lecturer details from now until July are on our website.**

**. Possible visits for 2021/22:**

**BodleianComplex/ChawtonHouse/Holburne Museum/Rush Park.**

**. STILL ONE Committee Role to go for 2021:**

**Treasurer, Mike Page**, still running the Zoom Lectures, **needs someone to shadow his role.** Please contact Mike via, [theartssocietydevizes@gmail.com](mailto:theartssocietydevizes@gmail.com).

**Hope to see you soon on:**

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April for Rebecca de Mendonca's 'Life and Energy' in Pastels.**

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April in James Russell's Garden.**

**With more safety, sun and people, we can move more into our community.**