



The Arts Society, Devizes

Newsletter April 2021

Dear friends,

How sweet it is to begin to venture out to, or have visiting us, those we have missed. Finally able to see them in three dimensional joy! We trust that, this has been the situation wherever you have met and has been an encouragement.

Meeting the past challenges, learning new ways and applying them, has taught us a number of things. From the start of our next year, which begins this October, our aim is to both return to the Town Hall and send the lectures from there at the same time via Zoom. Naturally, this will depend on government recommendations for health and safety, but the signs are positive.

. **April's Lecture** was James Russell's spellbinding journey through the life of rich, eccentric wastrel, Edward James. Embracing on the way his companions; the likes of Betjeman, Lutyens, Dali, Magritte, Huxley, Carrington, Rodia, Ernst and Nikki de St Phalle. As we learned, his life, although always without our own understanding of work, was one of continued efforts to support the arts, even in the selfishness of love and his own poetry. Certainly, without his money, our world would have been artistically so much poorer. Las Pozas, Russell's strange final legacy, a sculpture garden, was in many ways the culmination of an unfinished life in search of himself.

New lectures have arrived from London and Wessex to treat our artistic tastes even more and are available on our wonderful website:

www.theartsocietydevizes.org

. Young Arts/ Volunteering

During the past year it has not been possible to confer our usual grants to projects in our district. With students now back at school and other groups also getting going,

Angela Purdon, our committee member responsible for this area, has been in contact with a number of project organisers about our funding their worthwhile art-based projects. **Details of these in next months newsletter.**

. **OUR Fifth Lawrence Art Society invitation is for the 10th of May: Lawrie Quigley BA (Hons)** he will be demonstrating the way to approach and paint a still life in acrylic, by capturing the mood and atmosphere conveyed by the visual imagery and sensations of the everyday object.

Take up this 10th of May offer with the entry code sent out days before.

ANOTHER REMINDER ABOUT OUR MEMBER'S LOCKDOWN ART COMPETITION

' A Moment in My Lockdown Year'

Entries can be from any of the arts and with your own subtitle based on the title, 'A Moment in My Lockdown Year.'

Send photos/written work to : theartssocietydevizes@gmail.com before 21/06/21. After which voting will begin online.

Results to be announced at our AGM in July.

. TAS Lecturer list 2020/21:

May 19th: Simon Rees, Carmen in Seville – Looking at Bizet's best loved opera from 1875, its effect and background, from a novella by Prosper Merimee.

June 16th: Geri Parlby, 'This won't Hurt a Bit.' A look at the sometime bizarre, amusing and startlingly realistic depictions of medicine in art through the ages.

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

. Still Possible visits for 2021/22:

Bodleian Complex – Chawton House - Holburne Museum - Sculpture Park - New For 2022, A Silver Jubilee Study Day.

. STILL ONE Committee Role to find for 2021:

Treasurer, Mike Page, will still be running the Zoom Lectures in October and needs someone to shadow his financial role. Please contact Mike via, theartssocietydevizes@gmail.com.

Hope to see you soon on:

Monday 10th May for Lawrie Quigley's Still Life Demonstration.

Wednesday 19th May and Simon Rees Carmen in Seville Lecture.

Although staying safe and well are still our watchwords, enjoy the new world of Spring.