



The Arts Society, Devizes

Newsletter May 2021

Dear friends,

We hope that this finds you all managing to meet more friends and family, in spite of the April Showers in May and cooler temperatures.

As mentioned last month, great progress has been made by our society in combating the virus through the lockdown of everyone and immunisation of most adults with both doses. It is even more encouraging to know that, two of us meeting together having had these, are only 1 in 200,000 likelihood of getting the C19 virus and, if we do, it will be a minor case only.

All of this makes the end of our current year in July with the AGM (papers going out to you soon), one with something special to look forward to in October; the return to The Town Hall for meetings in tandem with Zoom online of the same lecture!

. **May's Lecture** by **Simon Rees** on Carmen in Seville brought us, not only the history behind the novel to opera transition, but how various eras and artists have portrayed her and the other characters in the performance. Augmented beautifully by small segments of the music which, like the thrillingly triumphant opening tune, underlined the vibrancy of this haunting tragedy.

Other areas of Simon's expertise were the sets, props, musical instruments, costuming and voice coaching used to have an authentic production. Interestingly, Carmen's song of seduction was by a Cuban composer and the family had to be paid. Simon also said that it was originally a, 'Comique Francais' and was not successful until it was altered to the more serious, 'Grand Style'.

This lecture brought the opera to dramatic life, with images, music, understanding and delight through Simon's extensive knowledge and passion for the subject.

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

. Young Arts/ Volunteering

It is with great satisfaction that Angela Purdon reported this week, that the Bellefield Mosaic Project, held up due to the pandemic since early 2019, is to go ahead, thanks to our contribution. This Free Standing Sculpture in the schools Quiet Area, involving all the children of the school, overseen by Artist Emma Leith, will take place from Monday 28th June to Friday 2nd July. For more details, see our website.

. OUR Sixth Lawrence Art Society invitation is for the 7th of June: Jonathan Newey, an award winning artist and author, will demonstrate how to use pen and ink when drawing historical town buildings. (See his website for more details)

Take up this 7th of June offer with the entry code sent out days before.

**ANOTHER REMINDER ABOUT OUR MEMBER'S
LOCKDOWN ART COMPETITION (15 entries so far)**

' A Moment in My Lockdown Year'

Entries from any of the arts and with your own subtitle based on, '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 announced at our AGM in July.

. TAS Lecturer list 2020/21:

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 for July are on our website.

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. First Visit for 2021:

Roche Sculpture Park – has been booked for 2.30 pm the 20th July at £20 pp.

Due to the present restrictions on public transport use, car-sharing by those attending, will be a new adventure, as we meet there for the guided tour at 2.30pm. This will take about two hours, detailing the sculptors and their sculptures, as well as material used; this is followed by tea and cake. There will also be an indoor exhibition by the Artist Nick Pope to wander through.

The park assures us that those with mobility issues can be well catered for. **Booking forms out soon**

Possible visits for the 2021/22 Year:

Bodleian Complex – Chawton House - Holburne Museum - New For 2022, Queen's Platinum 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 7th June for Jonathan Newey's Pen and Ink Demonstration.

Wednesday 16th June and Geri Parlbys, 'This Won't Hurt a Bit'

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