



## The Arts Society, Devizes

Newsletter July 2021

Dear friends,

After travelling long and far over the past months, it is with a real sense of satisfaction that the committee looks back on the difficulties faced, all of which resulted in successfully carrying on the society at the highest level for our members.

While the country continues to open up and holidays abroad are more easily taken, we continue to be watchful, yet very hopeful, of our return to the The Town Hall in October, after so long away.

Thank you to those who attended the AGM before the lecture by Tim Walker and gave their 100% support to all the items raised and voted on.

. **July's Lecture** by **Tim Walker**, certainly grew our, understanding and amazement at the wide use of plants in modern medicine. Our question, 'What has this to do with art?' The answer lies in nature's ever changing beauty and the way we see it everyday, as well as its artistic interpretation and use in all the arts.

Naturally, looking at our own health and well-being is important, the basis for 80%+ of medicines used in the world's hospitals today are, Tim reminded us, all plant based! Remember the Bird Flu a number of years ago? To cure that medical science used Star Anise! There is the Breast Cancer cure from Thale Cress, Quinine from Yew Trees and millions more. Today, the search continues for other plants around the world that will bring new cures. A top reason to keep our biodiversity protected.

Twenty thousand years ago, numbers of these were known and applied. Australian Aboriginals saw **Koalas** eating certain leaves and not getting illnesses, using Eucalyptus and its strong antibacterial property; think Vapour Rub plus. King of these type of plants is the common Tea Tree. Elsewhere, other races saw sick horses eating Willow bark (contains Aspirin) and **Mongoose** eating Echinacea plants after a fight. Today, Ethnobiologists still seek local knowledge across our planet.

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Closer to home, in 1621, Sir Henry Danvers gave £5000 to start the Oxford Garden of Medicine, ‘ **To promote learning and glorify God.**’ **Cures had to demonstrate**, as they do today, that they are safe, effective and the active ingredients known. From the simple relaxation from **Lavender** to **Catheranthem Rosis**, the common Vinka, saving lives of children with Leukemia, plants have power to heal and restore.

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

### **. Young Arts/ Volunteering**

Angela Purdon reported that the Bellefield Mosaic Project, was completed, thanks to our contribution. This Free Standing Sculpture, involved all children at the school, overseen by Artist Emma Leith. Angela was at the ribbon cutting to celebrate completion on 21<sup>st</sup> July.



### **. October to December Lectures**

**20/10/2021 – Eric Ravilious, ‘Art and Life’.**

**17/11/2021 – Angela Findlay, ‘Germany’s Post WW2 Culture of Apology / Atonement.**

**15/12/2021 – Scott Anderson, ‘Dale Chihuly and The American Glass Movement’.**

**More details for our new 2021/22 Year are on our website.**

### **.Our First Outing**

#### **Roche Sculpture Park 20<sup>th</sup> July**

Our first outing for nearly two years was a great success, gathering to be taken through the sculptures by our erudite and friendly guide, we were treated to a fascinatingly informative time, as we followed the sculptures, hearing about how they were made and what they stood for and being invited to apply our own ideas to their interpretation. Following this, a

convivial cuppa and delicious fresh rock cakes, as well as a visit by the gracious and amenable owner and viewing artist Nick Pope's Exhibition. We all enjoyed our afternoon immensely.

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

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

**. Plus, Study Day 2022, Celebrating The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.**

**.Two Future Events in Devizes to Note**

**DOCA Festival Day 30<sup>th</sup> August in the Corn Exchange.**

**Stalls, music, food and fun for the family.**

**Devizes Food and Drink Festival 25<sup>th</sup> September to 3<sup>rd</sup> October.**

The title says it all...but, this year, also a lecture by Clare Ford-Wille, 'Food in Art from the Romans to Cezanne.' Thursday September 30<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am in The Cheese Hall, Town Hall. Tickets £10. Available from 9<sup>th</sup> August at Devizes Books or online at [www.TicketSource.co.uk](http://www.TicketSource.co.uk).

**.MEMBERS! Committee Role to find for 2021:**

Treasurer, **Mike Page**, would like another member to help him.

Please contact Mike via, [theartssocietydevizes@gmail.com](mailto:theartssocietydevizes@gmail.com)

**.Starting Back**, Heritage, Church Recording and Children's Trails Volunteering.

If you would like to become involved with any of these from October, please e.mail: [theartssocietydevizes@gmail.com](mailto:theartssocietydevizes@gmail.com)

**[See you after our Summer break](#)**

**[Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 10.30am in The Town Hall.](#)**