



# The Arts Society, Devizes

## Newsletter

### October 2021

Dear friends,

Trusting this finds you well and enjoying the wonderful palette of Autumn.

Words are not sufficient to describe the myriad of delights that meeting together in the Assembly Room in the Town Hall brought. Sad, though it was, that numbers had to be restricted to keep those attending as safe as possible. Happy, in the additional attendance by others via our direct relaying of James Russell's illuminating and fascinating lecture on Zoom.

Our grateful thanks for all the preparation to achieve both of these goes to Mike Page, ably assisted by Conor Maxwell, with support from Judy Page and Jenny Maxwell in the trial run.

**Until further notice the booking system, which is necessary and worked so well, will remain in place. You will need to register for the ballot for each lecture by email, as only 75 places are available.**

**Lectures are also on Zoom at the same time.**

#### . **November's Lecture** Wednesday 17th November by **Angela Findlay**

In context with this month's World War Centenaries, Anniversaries and the current debate about statues and monuments, the subject of **this talk is hugely relevant.**

In Britain, relatively little is known about Germany's complex post-WW2 process of coming to terms with the atrocities of its recent past and the Counter Memorial Movement, that started in the 1980's and continues to this day.

Germany's very specific situation, rendered all traditional concepts of monuments and memorials irrelevant and inappropriate. **Instead of commemorating her losses, German artists created art forms that responded to questions of apology and atonement.** How does a nation of former persecutors mourn its victims? How do you remember what you would rather forget?

**These answers and the art that grew alongside them is the centre of Angela Findlay's lecture.** A professional artist, writer and free-lance lecturer, Angela has had a long career teaching art in prisons, both in Germany and England. Her time 'behind bars' and later as Arts Co-ordinator of the, London based, Koestler Arts, has given her many deep insights into the huge impact the arts can have, in terms of rehabilitation.

**Over the past decade, Angela's Anglo-German roots, have led her to research Germany's, mostly hidden, post WW2 processes of remembrance, the extraordinary culture of Counter Memorials and the site specific artworks that emerged to express national shame and apology.**

**New lectures continue to arrive from London and Wessex to uplift our artistic desires and are available on our superb website:**

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

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

Angela is very pleased to announce that we are funding a school visit to Roche Sculpture Park, a place some of us visited in the Summer and thoroughly enjoyed.

**If anyone knows of an arts related project or excursion at a local school that is in need of funds to help it run, please contact Angela.**

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**. Christmas Lunch 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

**NOTE: Bookings by Post Only. These can now be made for this year's time of festive cheer, that was so enjoyed by all who attended the one in 2019.**

Details have been sent to all members, so do book your place and set the Christmas Spirit merrily on its way on the 7<sup>th</sup>, as we listen to the gentle keyboards of Tim Charity and, after the main course, the Devizes Good Afternoon Choir singing carols, to which everyone is invited to join in.

**Cost is just £32 pp.**

**. Queens Platinum Jubilee Year Study Day and Lunch 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022**

As you now know, bookings are now available for the three lectures on this date by **Jonathan Foyle** to help us celebrate this historic occasion at The Conservative Club, Devizes:

**Creating Windsor Castle, a Step by Step Guide**

**Tudor Hampton Court**

**Henry VII and Elizabeth of York's Marriage Bed.**

**Cost is only £35 pp.**

**See our website for booking details.**

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

Bodleian Complex – Chawton House - Holburne Museum.

**MEMBERS YOUR HELP IS NEEDED**

**. Committee Role to find for 2021/22:**

1. We urgently need a member to become our new Secretary. Meetings are only once a month.

Please contact Mike or Mo for both of these via, [theartssocietydevizes@gmail.com](mailto:theartssocietydevizes@gmail.com)

**.Starting Back**

The following areas of our work in the community are now ready to begin:

**Heritage, Church Recording and Discovery Trails.**

Please consider becoming involved with one of these from October, as St Mary's Trust, Devizes, are awaiting our help to begin the recording and trail for there.

e-mail: [theartssocietydevizes@gmail.com](mailto:theartssocietydevizes@gmail.com)

**. December Lecture:**

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

**November's lecture will be a cracker..... see you there.**

**Wednesday 17th November 2021 at 10.30am in The Town Hall or online.**

**....but remember to register for the ballot for your place.....**