



The Arts Society, Devizes

Newsletter

February 2022

Dear friends,

With the continuing hope of the Covid tide turning, we return to Hybrid lectures at the Town Hall from March. Spring, already announced by the Crocus and Daffodil chorus, will soon warm us and head us into even clearer days.

Those who spent time with **Grant Ford** last week, enjoyed a detailed wander through the best works of collections he has curated. So enjoyable and with unusual insights, like Victorian, George Frederick Watt's painting, '**Love and Life**', being in the White House, due to Teddy Roosevelt; Sophie Anderson's beautiful, evocative, '**No Walk Today**'; Lord Leighton's '**Flaming June**' was lost in the 1890's and only found in a fireplace renovation in the 1950's; the high prices paid for **Winston Churchill's** paintings and **how so many film directors used historical paintings** to give their work resonance.

New lectures continue to arrive from London and Wessex to uplift our artistic desires and are available on our superb website: www.theartsocietydevizes.org

. **Congratulations on Marsh Award Nomination**

Each year our Wessex Group members are asked to nominate a volunteer from amongst them for **The Marsh Award**, given for application to their society that is considered above and beyond the call for volunteering.

It is with great pleasure I announce that **Mike Page's nomination has been accepted** and he will go through to the final phase of selection for this award.

We all know that, as our **Treasurer** for the last **seven years**, Mike has done an excellent job.

Recently on top of this role, he has been the only reason we have been able to continue receiving Zoom lectures during the last two years.

Using his own equipment and time, working through the many problems associated with this new delivery system(especially the Town Hall Hybrid ones), running trials for each of our lecturers, taking advice from London and assistance from our Webmaster, Conor, Mike has continued to deliver both Zoom and Town Hall Hybrid lectures for us all, as well as Webinars on Zoom for Committee meetings.

He certainly deserves his nomination, on behalf of us all, by the committee.

. **New & Waiting List Members**

We are continuing the decision to encourage new members by offering them a **Zoom only access** to our lectures **but** equal opportunity to go on visits/attend study days.

Please let your friends and neighbours know about this.

.....cont.....

. Young Arts/ Volunteering

The part-funded Roche Court Visit by Devizes Secondary School pupils was **a great success!**
Images and details from this are on our website.

Devizes School's Paula Williams said, ' I cannot thank the Arts Society, Devizes, enough. If the funding for the bus didn't happen, we wouldn't have gone.'

Students from this visit also sent Angela a signed, hand-made card from them all thanking us.
Also on our website.

Work with Sight Devizes (Young people with sight problems).

Directed local schools to Art Bytes, the Wessex led Yr 9 Art Students Digital Exhibitions.
(Devizes School was one of only eight chosen.)

. Queens Platinum Jubilee Year Study Day and Lunch 23rd March 2022

Places still available for the three lectures on this date by **Jonathan Foyle**. Come and join us in celebrating this unprecedented 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 £ 35. **See our website for booking details.**

. Visits Coming Soon in 2022:

Quelmerford Sculpture Park – Chawton House - Holburne Museum – Bodleian Complex .

Our thanks to Linda Cassidy for the work she is doing in getting these ready for all members.

. Treasurer's Continued Request:

Please pay membership/other payments by free Bank Transfer.

. Starting Back Volunteering

Spring is nearly sprung, so we really need members to see/contact **Sue Tovey**, so we can enter the Spring with a group ready to start with our Pewsey Vale friends, in the following areas of our valuable community works :

Roseanne Russell has now been joined by **Anna Bishop**. Thank you Anna.

Linda Cassidy is our first **Heritage Volunteer** and discussions are under way with the Wiltshire Museum about work on period costumes. Thank you Linda

Heritage, Church Recording and Discovery Trails.

How about joining one of these teams?

Sue Tovey, is our link person, e-mail her at heartssocietydevizes@gmail.com

..... cont....

. March Lecture on Zoom

– Cynthia Colman-Sparke, ‘ The Faberge Connection Between Russia and London’.

This year the V&A Museum’s ‘Faberge in London’ exhibition will continue until May. During her lecture, Cynthia will further, exquisitely, peak your interest in these most notable of makers and their works, as well as give information to make a visit to the exhibition even more illuminating.

The Faberge’s Russian sales ledgers disappeared with the Russian Revolution, but those of their London branch, which opened in 1903, today document royal patronage and are a ‘Who’s Who’ guide of Edwardian prosperity. As such, it is a priceless insight into a world that changed forever in the following turbulent years.

As an independent researcher, author and lecturer on Russian Pre-Revolutionary works of art, Cynthia regularly consults with auction houses on these items, including those of Carl Faberge and Company.

Growing up, on and off, in Moscow, within a family of Russian Art Collectors, she was destined for this career.

During her time, she has run the Russian Department for Christies, New York, worked for the Hillwood Estate Museum and Gardens in Washington DC, as well as taking part in a restoration project at the Alexander Palace, in Tsarskoe Selo, Nicholas I’s last residence.

Wednesday 16th March 2022 at 10.30am Hybrid Lecture (Town Hall and Zoom).

Remember to book your place if going to The Town Hall.

See you there or on Zoom.