



# The Arts Society, Devizes

## Newsletter

### March 2022

Dear friends,

We trust that this finds you well and beginning to enjoy the warmer days of Spring. Your society is certainly burgeoning; we have two offerings for visits, with others being prepared; a Discovery Trail at St Mary's about to begin, the funding of a new project at Rowde School, and a plethora of wonderfully diverse lectures to enjoy together.

How unknowingly fitting that we should engage Cynthia Coleman-Sparke to speak to us during the current crisis in Ukraine! Within her talk on Faberge, Cynthia brought some remarkable facts to light about this renowned brand and London's links with it at another critical time in world history. With her outstanding knowledge and passionate delivery, it was a lecture to savour and remember. Additional good news came from Cynthia's lecture; additional tickets have been made available for the Faberge Exhibition at the V&A!

**REMEMBER. New lectures continue to arrive from London and Wessex to treat us and are available on our wonderful website: [www.theartsocietydevizes.org](http://www.theartsocietydevizes.org)**

#### . New & Waiting List Members

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

**Please let your friends and neighbours know about this.**

#### . Young Arts/ Volunteering

We have a new project under way at **Rowde Church of England Primary School**.

**Angela** has visited there and has confirmed our £250 support for this Young Arts Project.

The money is to be split between **two activities**: one on March the 28<sup>th</sup> and another in June.

**The First** is being led by local author and illustrator, **Eileen Browne**, who will work with **Reception, Year One and Two Children**, by reading them a selection of her books. Following this her books will be available for parents to purchase at the end of the day. Eileen will also talk about the process of getting them published, plus Diversity and Gender in the origin of the books.

**The Second Project** is to involve the **Senior Children**, managed by the arts organisation, **'No Added Sugar'**, led by two professional artists who work in partnership with schools and other like environments, inspiring and tapping into artistic talent within children in many different ways.

**Each child** will be provided with a wooden circle, which they are to design a decoration for, assembling them as a large exterior installation symbolising the theme, **'We Are Rowde'**, an ongoing theme within the school in the aftermath of Lockdown, **celebrating being individuals, living and working together as a whole school within the community.**

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

**Thanks to Angela Purdon for her continued work with young people in the arts.**

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**. Visits Coming Soon in 2022: Chawton House - Holburne Museum – Bodleian Complex .**

**Quenington Sculpture Park 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022 Members £30 Guests £33**

Following our popular and extremely enjoyable visit last year to Roche Court Sculpture Trail, we have booked Quenington Fresh Air Sculpture. Held in the beautiful and organic old Rectory Garden, in this picturesque Cotswold village, it is a trip not to be missed!

We will arrive by coach in the early afternoon and start our visit with a guided tour of the sculptures; ranging from traditional to cutting-edge modern. After this there is time to visit the extensive gardens; vast lawns, joined by a bridge over the river Coln; hidden walkways through tree-lined areas, pergolas and around tennis courts, all the time accompanied by beautiful flower beds, vegetable plots and large, impressive greenhouses.

Afternoon refreshments, at your own expense, can be enjoyed from a tent in the grounds. There is also a shop, where you can browse or buy gifts from a range of delightful, hand-made crafts.

**Put the date in your diary.**

**Booking will open via the website on Wednesday 6th April for the 25 places.**

**Braemore House**

In **August** we will be visiting this delightful Elizabethan house in Hampshire, where we will be given a guided tour. In addition to the house there is a museum, grounds to explore and an Anglo Saxon church to visit.

**Full details to follow in May**

**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.**

**. Volunteering**

Spring is sprung, so we need some more members to see/contact **Sue Tovey**, so we can carry through Spring plans, with our Pewsey Vale friends, in our valuable community works: **Heritage** work for The Wiltshire Museum and a **Discovery Trail** at St Mary's, Devizes.

**The good news is that we have two more possible Heritage Volunteers.**

Also coming is a training session on **Discovery Trails**

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

**How about joining one of these teams?**

**Sue Tovey**, is our link person, e-mail her at [theartssocietydevizes@gmail.com](mailto:theartssocietydevizes@gmail.com)

**. April Lecture**

**Richard Whincop** is to regale us with a lecture on **Nicholas Poussin; Rebel Philosopher.**

**Richard** is a professional artist who graduated in English and Art History from York University in 1986. Richard went on from 1988 to 1994 to lecture at the Adult Education Departments of Glasgow and Strathclyde Universities. Following this he became a full-time Figurative Artist, executing large-scale public commissions and exhibiting widely throughout the UK. ....cont....

He lives and works in Chichester.

**Poussin** became the cornerstone of the **French Classical Tradition**. This lecture will look at ways in which he was, in fact, highly original, with early works that were dramatic and highly idiosyncratic. Looking at some of the ideas underlying his work, examining how they compare with that of his contemporaries, and how Poussin's mature works reflected a new and coherent philosophy of art.

**Richard** will also consider the fact that Poussin was a thoughtful, private person who resisted attempts by the French Court to lure him into the art establishment, and how his work would, one day, influence radical, anti-establishment artists such as **Cezanne and Picasso**.

**Wednesday 20th April 2022 at 10.30am is a Hybrid Lecture (Town Hall and Zoom).**

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

**See you in person or on Zoom.**