



# The Arts Society, Devizes

## Newsletter

### July 2022

Dear friends,

As we wind off our 2021/22 year, thank you for your attendance at home, the Town Hall and Conservative Club for the lectures and Study Day, as well as booking the trip for next month and reading this newsletter.

To say that this has been another year of testing times, is to put too simple a face on it; individual challenges were there aplenty, but also the possibilities of opening out more, seeing friends, family and some amazing lectures, not to mention a superb Study Day!

**Our thanks** go to our hard-working committee for these, particularly the way we have been able to watch on Zoom the past two years through **Mike's** grand efforts, assisted by **Conor**.

**For our finale**, we had the **AGM** and the quorum needed, followed by a quirky lecture on 'The Humble Carrot' by **Anne Howarth**. Her funny and informative look at this common vegetable, its artistic placement and symbolic meaning in past eras, was fascinating to hear and see. Proof of this was in information on carrots like: it being a love gift, appearing as panto costumes, in War Propaganda, as high status objects, in cartoons like Bugs Bunny, also as the centre of still-life paintings that started an art form and in so many well-known works. They even have their own Annual Festival and a dedicated Museum!

**Thanks to Alice for engaging Anne.**

See Our website for more lectures: [www.theartsocietydevizes.org](http://www.theartsocietydevizes.org)

#### . Young Arts/ Volunteering

**Angela's** current challenge is still with her, a series of meetings with a Wiltshire hospital to see how we can help young people with mental problems through the medium of art.

#### . Coming Visits and Treats:

**Braemore House, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2022 is fully booked with a waiting list.**

**Our Christmas Party this year is to be included in the December meeting; time to chat and enjoy seasonal snacks and a glass of wine on us.**

**Chawton House has been booked for 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023. Details to come later.**

**Thanks to Linda for these visit and those to come in the Autumn.**

**. Treasurer's Request: Please pay membership/other payments by free Bank Transfer.**

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## **. Volunteering on Heritage and Discovery Trails**

**Heritage** work for The Wiltshire Museum on Iron Age costumes and accessories for school visits to the museum continues. Thanks to members: Linda Cassidy, Anna Bishop, Sally Price, Doreen Came, Jeannie MacMeekin, and Ali Rushent from the museum.

**Discovery Trail** at St Mary's, Devizes.

Thanks to members: Sue Tovey, Cherry Wedrychowski, Rosanne Russell, Anna Bishop.

**We have also made a donation of £250 to St Mary's Trust for their continuing work there, turning the church into a multi purpose place for the arts and worship.**

## **Time to Renew Membership for 2022/3**

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS THE 19th OCTOBER LECTURE**

**Jaqui Carey talks us through, Manuscript 82932: A Medieval Embroidered Folded Almanac.**

Whilst attending **Winchester School of Art**, Jaqui discovered that weaving combined her love of **mathematics and art**. This led to a **degree in Textiles at West Surrey College of Art and Design**. Here she studied a range of related subjects, like **Japanese Braiding**, or Kumihimo, a very intricate and complex form of weaving structures.

Focusing her attention on this after graduating, led to a **further** potential ideas in **braid-making**; its **aesthetics**, sense of **continuity** and the **joy of creating** ever changing and involved patterns, materials and colours that are integral to her work.

**Jaqui's work has been widely exhibited in the UK and abroad.**

She has also **written a book**, 'Creative Kumihimo', to explain the way to approach and enjoy this ancient art form, and **curated** 'Braids and Beyond: a Broad Look at Narrow Wares' to celebrate The Braid Societies 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**Two more books**, 'Sweetbags' and 'Elizabethan Stitches', rose out of Jaqui's analysis of old textiles from the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Centuries.

Her **further research** into the wider aspects of braids, **earned her a Queen Elizabeth Scholarship** in 2005, and in 2008 she was awarded **a distinction for her MA** from The Textile Conservation Centre, University of Southampton, on 'The History of Textile and Dress'.

**Jaqui's ability to 'read' needlework objects**, saw her awarded a **Research Bursary** from The Wellcome Trust in 2015. **This is what enabled her to study the Almanac of her talk and write a book devoted to this extraordinary artefact.**

**Have a very relaxed, safe and happy couple of months and we look forward to seeing you at The Town hall on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October.**

**Your Committee.**