



# The Arts Society, Devizes

## Newsletter

### November 2022

Dear friends,

Where on earth did the year go...it's nearly Christmas!

Already we have enjoyed two excellent lectures to begin our start back and are looking forward to December's 'Visual history of the English Cookbook' to whet our appetites for the celebrations at Christmas and New Year! Matthew Denny, this month, gave us a very different appraisal of Britain's History through his explanation and use of our Military Campaign Medals in his November lecture. Who would have thought that these abundant items, are so individually important and offer such an insight into the nation and how it came to be in different eras.

Our hope and trust is that you have all kept the season chills at bay and are enjoying, as well as looking forward to, warm and happy times.

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

#### **. HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP YET?**

These days it is almost impossible to gain this kind of enjoyment we offer at such a price!

Especially remembering that each lecture costs you about the same as a cup of coffee!

#### **. TASARTVENT Calendar in December**

This year's innovative take on the traditional Advent Calendar has as its theme 'Celebration' incorporating: Art anniversaries and achievements. Exploring topics such as feasts, festivals and fireworks. Each day, Accredited Lecturers will present Mini-lectures and readings.

If you would like to subscribe, go to: <https://theartsociety.org/artvent>

#### **. Sponsored Christmas Tree in St John's Church**

Linda and Anna are putting together a decorated tree on our behalf.

It is called 'Christmas Artistry' and entails the heads of famous artists as part of the decorations. There are also many other trees decorated by groups in the town.

It opens on Sunday 4th of December. Please take your family along to enjoy.

. Treasurer's Request: Membership/other payments by free Bank Transfer please.

#### **. Special Interest Day New Date**

Author and Journalist, Sinclair Mackay was denied his time with us due to rail strikes but Alice has re-arranged the lectures to January 23<sup>rd</sup>. On this new date Matthew will presents his two lectures on: '20<sup>th</sup> Century Berlin – Flame of creativity.'

(Showing us, on parallel time scales, Berlin's development, influenced by art, drama, film and architecture.) Includes Buffet lunch. £25.

#### **. PamelaAnnis' Channel Swim!**

At 91 years young, Pam is swimming twice a week to complete the distance. Sponsor her in

helping Spinal Injured People by going to: [aspirechannelswim.co.uk](http://aspirechannelswim.co.uk)

. Heritage Volunteering at The Museum

Linda and the team have been moving on with the clothes and accessories of our Stone Age predecessors. If you have some fabric that you are happy to donate, let us know on our email.  
**How about joining this happy band of volunteers in January?**

. Trails of Discovery

Sue Tovey tells me that, due to the lack of heating in St Mary's, they have decided to wait until it is warmer before continuing with the work there.

. Young Arts/ Volunteering

Angela continues to move forward our idea to help young people with mental problems through the practical medium of art, in her discussions with hospital trusts.

. 2022 Christmas Treat and First 2023 Visit:

**Our Christmas Party this year will be following the December lecture; time to chat and enjoy some home-made Mince Pies and a glass or two of Mulled wine on us.  
Thanks to Alice and her team for organising this.**

**Our first visit for 2023 is on the 26<sup>th</sup> April to Chawton House, with coffee/tea on arrival, prefaced by a talk in Jane Austen's house. Cost and further details to follow.  
Thanks to Linda for organising this.**

**OUR NEXT MEETING ON THE 21<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER LECTURE IS:**

**'From the Saxons to Mary Berry: a visual History of The English Cookbook' by Dr Peter Ross**

Across a thousand years of manuscripts and over five hundred years of publishing, English recipe books have reflected the eating habits of Kings and Courtiers, The Merchant Classes, Inn-Keepers and Restaurant Owners, as well as home cooks and even the paupers, who visited the London Soup Kitchens of Victorian London.

Cookbooks are full of extraordinary food and fascinating illustrations, from medieval illuminated manuscripts, via engravings of Mrs Beeton, to the high-end life-style images of TV's modern cooks. Peter's lecture will tell the story of the development of the cookbook and, along the way, will tempt you, or indeed disgust you, with some choice recipes.

*Peter Ross has a History of Art Degree, an MA in London History, a PhD in The Cultural History of The English Criminal and qualifications for teaching adults. He is currently Principal Librarian at The Guild Hall Library, London, and has for 20 years lectured on a broad range of topics, including; The History of English Books and London History.*

*Peter has also appeared on television and radio as a consultant on the History of English Food. A published author, his most recent is The Curious Cookbook, published by The British Library.*

***We look forward to seeing you at the Town Hall on the 21st of December, 10.30am for 11am.***