



The Arts Society, Devizes

Newsletter

December 2022

Dear friends,

What a fine way to finish this part of our year off! Happy and fascinating images from recipes of the past and present, that set our thoughts racing to Christmas table delights, and then to share some of these together after the lecture.

We wish you a very happy and Holy Christmas time and a New Year that exceeds all that you thought was possible.

With our wondrous array of lectures ahead in 2023, we look forward to seeing you at The Town Hall's Assembly Room throughout the coming year. See Our website for more lectures:
www.theartsocietydevizes.org

. Sponsored Christmas Tree in St John's Church

Linda and Anna decorated a tree there on our behalf.

'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 until early January and all donations go to: Wilshire Air Ambulance, Devizes Opportunity Centre, Sue Ryder, Julia's House Children's Hospice, Hospital and Community Radio and some to St John's Church for running it. Our many thanks to Linda and Anna.

Have you taken your family along to enjoy this yet?

Open 10.30am to 12.30pm and 2.30pm to 4.30pm each day until the 6th January 2023.

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

. Special Interest Day

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

(Parallel time scales of Berlin's developmental influences: art, drama, film and architecture.) Includes Buffet lunch. £25.

. Pamela Annis' Channel Swim Completed!

Our hearty congratulations to Pam who, not only completed her remarkable challenge of swimming 1416 x 25 meter lengths, but added another mile on the final day of the event!

In doing so she raised £1300 for the Aspire Charity. WELL DONE PAM!

. Heritage Volunteering at The Museum

Linda and the team are keen to keep this project moving once The Season is behind them. 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 are looking forward to warmer days to complete their project.**

. **Young Arts/ Volunteering**

Angela now has found the right person for this important project and we are looking forward to confirming dates and times to help young people with mental problems through the practical medium of art. **Well done Angela.**

A further project has been engaged with: Forest and Sandridge CE Primary School's Year Six Theatre Visit and End of Year Performance of The Lion King.

As their PTA was fund-raising for a new library, the cost for the 60 children involved could not be subsidised. Sadly, 20 children have families who could not afford the £37 price for the trip to The Bristol Hippodrome to see The Lion King. Your Committee decided to step in and has given £250 of our funds to this cause, then applied for the TAS London Grant for Arts in our area for this £250. It was accepted and the total required was now £240. We contacted Wessex Area and North Wilts(aka Melksham) for this and they both combined to cover the final amount; £100 from Wessex and £140 from North Wilts. The school, especially Year Six Head Izzie Earl, were ecstatic!

. **First 2023 Visit:**

Our first visit for 2023 is on the 26th 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 18th January LECTURE IS:
Breugel; The Seasons and The World.**

Gavin Plumley, a welcome returning friend of ours, is a writer and broadcaster, appearing on BBC Radio 3 and 4; contributing to newspapers, magazines and opera and concert programmes worldwide. He lectures widely about the culture of Central Europe during the 19th and 20th centuries. His first book, A Home for All Seasons, was published this year.

His lecture will look at Pieter Breugel, the Elder, and a commission he was given in 1565, to create a series of paintings for a patron's dining room in Antwerp, to chart the course of a year. When completed, they showed such a change in how landscape was painted; from the usual simple backdrop, something that underscored the main image and message, to becoming the focus for the viewer. When looking at paintings like, The Return of The Herd and Hunters in The Snow or The Gloomy Day, you can see how they pioneered a whole new way of thinking about the environment and our individual places in the ever shifting cosmos.

Many of us are Breugel admirers, so we look forward to this new perspective from Gavin on this well-loved artist.

At the Town Hall on the 18th January, 10.30am for 11am.