



# The Arts Society, Devizes

## Newsletter

### JULY 2023

Dear friends,

What a joyous way to end our current season of lectures! Tyler Butterworth had us laughing throughout with his parents lives and their career stories. Everyone went home with smiles and very happy memories.

Not that it was all fun and games. The intervening War Years had a dramatic affect on Peter Butterworth, who went from the merchant navy to the Royal Navy as a pilot in the Fleet Air Arm. Shot down and captured, he spent the rest of the war in Stalag Lufts and especially in number 3; the one of The Great Escape fame. There he was part of MI9, a conduit for getting servicemen back to England and knew all the escape team on the dig for freedom.

Best known for his hilarious roles in 14 of The Carry On films, Tyler's Dad was a byword for comic genius and was almost Dr Who instead of Patrick Troughton!

Mum, Janet Brown, the brilliant impressionist, also had a life full of fascinating and humorous stories: like meeting the Queen as Carol Channing and, when the real Carol turned up, singing a duet with her. Naturally, her most famous creation was playing Margaret Thatcher ( with whom she had a long friendship ).

Many thanks to Alice for bringing Tyler to us for this perfect end to our season.

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

#### . Trails of Discovery

**Sue Tovey and her team continue to work on the individual aspects of this, ready for the final Trail Document for visitors of St Mary's to enjoy. Thanks to Sue and the Team.**

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

#### . Special Interest Days:

**November 27<sup>th</sup> - The Silk Road Cities. March 2024 - The Layers of Rome, Eternal City.**

#### . Annual AGM

A short and positive time, where all points were agreed on and the return of refreshments took a step forwards via a show of hands.

**Now we just need to find someone to organise this and create a roster of volunteers...**

We were also able to collect the new leaflet for our distribution over the Summer, created by Jenny Maxwell. A superb creation that members will be proud to share with others.

Please hand them on to friends or put them where they can be seen. Thank you very much Jenny.

**. Don't Forget to Renew your Membership for a superb line-up of wide and fascinating topics!**

**. Next Lecture is on October 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Grace Darling: The Fine Art of Saving Lives At Sea by James Taylor.**

Grace is a historic figure and was the poster girl of the early RNLI. Her life story at Brownsman and Longstone Lighthouses, will include details of her time alongside artists, whose works kept her in the public eye well into the 1970's.

Brave and resourceful, her daring rescue of steamship passengers off the Northumberland coast in 1838, brought her international fame. In her story we will find more about her bravery and the life that surrounded her. Notably, Grace became the first woman to be awarded a medal for gallantry.

James Taylor, is a former Curator of Paintings and Prints at The National Maritime Museum, Greenwich. An author, his publications include: An Illustrated History of Marine Painting (1995), The Voyage of The Beagle – Darwin's extraordinary adventures ( 2008), , Dazzle – Disguise and Disruption in War and Art (2016) and Sir Joseph Banks and the Shipboard Artists of Captain's Cook and Flinders (2018).

***At the Town Hall on the 18<sup>th</sup> October, 10.30am for 11am.***

**Have a safe and enjoyable Summer Break.  
Your Committee.**