



The Arts Society, Devizes

Newsletter

OCTOBER 2023

Dear friends,

It was an heroic new season of lectures with James Taylor's lecture on Grace Darling, whose unmerited favour to the artists of the day, was unimaginably long and influential. While not alone in saving lives from the Forfarshire wreck on the Farne Islands, Northumberland that fateful day in 1838, as accompanied by her father, Grace's bravery and simple virtue were adopted and became the centre of artistic and media coverage up to the 1960's. Grace adorned paintings by many artists, chocolate boxes, Clipper Sailing Cards, Stained Glass Windows, RLNI posters, was praised in poetry and song and, at her last resting place, a monument and statue were erected.

Enjoy the Autumn splendour. Keep warm and safe and we look forward to seeing you at our November lecture on Packing Up The Nations Treasure in Wartime.

+See Our website for lectures: www.theartsocietydevizes.org

. Don't Forget to Renew your Membership for a superb line-up of wide and fascinating topics! Membership/other payments by free Bank Transfer please.

. Wessex Inspirational Learning Ltd. An interaction between the arts/environment/well-being. Watch this space for details.

. Special Interest Days: November 27th - The Silk Road Cities.
March 2024 - The Layers of Rome, Eternal City.

. Possible Visits for 2024. Wilson House, Salisbury. Talos Sculpture Park/Gallery, Calne.

. Next Lecture November 15th National Treasures(Packing Up The Nation) in WW2
By Caroline Shenton.

As Hitler's forces invaded Poland in 1939, men and women from London's National Museums and Archives forged extraordinary plans to evacuate their collections to safety. Utilising country houses from Buckinghamshire to Cumbria, tube tunnels, Welsh mines and Wiltshire quarries, a dedicated bunch of unlikely heroes became the front line in our Heritage War against the destructive Nazis. Dispatching our National Treasures out of the capital and places likely to be attacked, through a series of amazing secret wartime adventures.

Caroline Shenton is an Archivist and Historian and formerly a Director of Parliamentary Archives in London. Her book, 'The Day Parliament Burnt Down', won the Political Book of The Year Award in 2016. Its acclaimed sequel, 'Mrs Barry's War', about the rebuilding of the Palace of Westminster, was a Book of The Year in 2017

Caroline was Political Writer in Residence at Gladstone's Library in 2017.

Her third book, 'National Treasures', will tell of the extraordinary, and sometimes hilarious stories, behind saving London's Art and Museum collections in World War Two.

At the Town Hall on the 15th November, 10.30am for 11am.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Your Committee.