



# The Arts Society, Devizes

## Newsletter

### DECEMBER 2023

Dear friends,

Our final treat for the year was delivered by Matthew Williams with style, expertise and enthusiasm. With every house and its story, our lack of consideration and understanding about so many lost houses that were 'Burned, Bombed or Bulldozed' grew and with it a great sadness. Thankfully, Matthew's lecture was also about those houses which have been regenerated or saved by people, The National Trust or Heritage Grants and how these came about through people, like ourselves, who stood up for our heritage and did something lasting about it.

In November, thanks to Alice, we had the opportunity to attend a Special Interest Day on The Cities of The Silk Road. Jane Angelini, gave superbly illustrated talks that were much enjoyed. Thank you Alice for booking her and arranging this excellent day.

We trust that your Season will be a happy and healthy one, well supplied with family, friends or local residents, as we celebrate the wonder of God's Greatest Gift.

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

**. Christmas Trees in St John's.**

**10am to 4pm Monday to Friday.**

**Don't forget to visit this free exhibition of Christmas trees decorated by local groups; including our own.**

**Thanks to Linda and Anna for a delightfully decorated tree with memorable sayings.**

**. Membership/other payments by free Bank Transfer please.**

**. JANUARY RAFFLE**

**Please bring a prize that can go into this. Tickets will be on sale at the door and the draw will take place during the lecture, with results given out at the end of the session.**

**. Next Special Interest Day: 9th April 2024 - The Layers of Rome, Eternal City.**

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

**. Next Lecture: 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024. 10.30am for 11am start.**

**'Sir Christopher Wren and The Rebuilding of London.' by Janet Gough.**

**Canon Janet Gough OBE, works on strategic projects to conserve and develop historic buildings for public enjoyment. After working in the City ( Ten years at Sotheby's and Eight as Director of**

*Cathedrals and Church Buildings* ) Janet began her writing and lecturing career and so far has completed three books on cathedrals, church buildings and cathedral treasures. She lectures regularly at the V&A and elsewhere.

*In 2017 Janet was awarded an OBE for services to heritage and in 2021 she became the one of the first Lay Canons of Bangor Cathedral.*

Her lecture subject, Christopher Wren, born in 1623, growing up as a promising young 17<sup>th</sup> century mathematician and inventor. With strong links to the Church and Crown, he grew up in challenging political and exciting scientific times. Wren could have turned his talents to a range of endeavours; from scientific invention to designing the grand, new, Palace of Whitehall. After the Great Fire of London in 1666, he proposed an ambitious new grid design for the City of London. Instead, over the next 50 years, Wren rebuilt 51 of the City's 80 parish churches that had burnt down, using his ingenuity and huge variety. In doing so, Wren created the Auditory Church, setting the standard of the new reformed Church of England for the next 200 years. Spreading his ideas across the world, while creating works of architectural genius – such as his domes and the geometrical staircase in St Paul's Cathedral – that helped establish the great metropolis of London.

*At the Town Hall on the 17<sup>th</sup> January, 10.30am for 11am.*

**Look forward to seeing you there.**

**Your Committee.**