



The Arts Society, Devizes

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2024

Dear friends,

In the crisp sunshine, our first meeting of the calendar year was the best gathering since before Covid. It was so good to see so many, generous and happy members. Our lecturer, Canon Janet Gough OBE, gave us a detailed study of 'Sir Christopher Wren and the Rebuilding of London After The Great *Fire of 1666*.' The lecture showed Janet's wide and thorough knowledge of this fascinating subject. We found that Wren's multitude of works was the finest of his time, often in collaboration with people like Hook. Next time we visit London, our understanding enhanced, we'll see it with new appreciation.

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

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

. JANUARY RAFFLE

Many, many thanks to those who brought prizes for this and purchased tickets. An interesting way to end a lecture and start the 2024 with the checking of tickets to the numbers of the excellent prizes on the table. Those not claimed were given to charity.

. **Next Special Interest Day: Tuesday 9th April 2024 @ £35pp – Buffet lunch and 3 lectures on: 'The Layers of Rome, Eternal City. At Seend Community Centre, Rusty Lane. SN12 6NS Tickets available now at meetings/online.**

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

. **Next Lecture: 21st February 2024.**

'The Empty Chair in Art; from Van Gogh to Ai Wei Wei' by Angela Findlay.

Over the past 150 years, artists across the world – including Angela herself – have used the humble chair in a whole variety of art mediums; as a conduit for ideas, such as those on protest, war, absence, memory, domestic life and identity.

Angela's lecture will follow the empty chair through the art movements of the last century, including: Schiele, Magritte, Warhol, Beuys, Rauschenberg and many more.

Our Speaker is an artist, writer and lecturer, with a long career of teaching art in prisons in both England and Germany. Angela's interest in the redemptive role of art in society led to extensive research into Germany's complex Post-WW2 Process of Remembrance.

Remember her excellent lecture in November 2021 on Germany's Post WW2 Culture of Apology and Atonement? Quite an eye opener to understand their decision, as a nation, not to honour their war dead by having no commemorative statuary, only reminders of what they had allowed to happen? Angela's book on this– *In My Grandfather's Shadow* – published in 2022.

'The Empty Chair in Art' at the Town Hall on the 21st February, 10.30am for 11am.

Time to bring a friend in the following months with the tokens given at the January meeting.

PLEASE PHONE Judy Page to check spaces first.

Your Committee.