



The Arts Society, Devizes **CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER** **DECEMBER 2024**

Dear friends,

Our final year's lecture brought us some strange and unknown seasonal tales from Wiltshire and England's other haunted areas. Kirsty Hartsiotis was a fine storyteller, linking some tales here to ones from a cross the world! Seasonal Spookiness aside, it was a happy sit by the 'fireside' and listen to the unexpected and unexplained.

So ends our very popular and successful year.

Our thanks to the committee and their work that brought us such choice and enjoyment.

Thanks also to you, our members, for your important support and spreading the good news of what our society is all about.

Have a very special Christmas celebrating God's Greatest Gift.

See our website for all 2025 lectures and activities: www.theartsocietydevizes.org

. VENUE FUTURE

Great News!

Following your wishes, the checks have been completed, the decision agreed to make Ceres Hall our permanent home for 2025....**apart from March, when we will return briefly to The Assembly Room in The Town Hall!**

. Raffle 15th January

Please generously support our annual raffle this January. Such a useful fund-raiser last year. Please bring your contributions on the day and some cash for your raffle tickets on the 15th January.

. Next Special Interest Day is Monday 3rd March 2025's

Silk Road 2.

THE SEQUEL..... 'Unravelling The Silk Road.' With Chris Aslan.

Venue is, again, the Seend Community Centre and includes lunch and refreshments.

Details on our website: www.theartsocietydevizes.org

. Susan's Seeking Sponsors.

Do you have a link to someone who might sponsor us to further our aims for the community? Whether a business or individual, please let us know.

. VISITS 2025

1. Wednesday the 2nd July. Kelmscott Manor, which was the home of famous English textile designer, poet, artist, writer associated with The British Arts and Crafts movement. Arriving by coach in the afternoon we'll see a 10 minute video on William Morris' life, followed by an hour and a half guided tour (afternoon tea included).

Bookings open in Spring 2025.

. Christmas Trees in St John's

Thanks to Linda Cassidy and Anna Bishop for setting our tree up again this year.

Opened on 7th December for visits until 5th January:

Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays and Sunday the 5th, 11am to 3pm

NEXT LECTURE....January 15th 2025,

Australian Impressionists -The Heidelberg School; Australia's first significant art movement.
with Caroline Holmes.

Taking their influences equally from the Royal Academy School in London and the French Impressionists, they never-the-less created their own unique versions of Australia's early days, ones that remained iconic and much admired. Their works developed an informal, evocative and naturalistic style, showing the Australian land and seascapes in a fresh way. From 1885 artist Tom Roberts, recently returned from Europe, joined Arthur Streeton, Frederick McCubbin, Charles Conder, and others painting outdoors. Ranging from Melbourne to Sydney, their 'Artists Camps' aimed to depict the natural bush of Australia in it's harsh sunlight. Later French Impressionism would be affected by their work. Their first independent exhibition, called, '9 by 5 Impressions Exhibition' in 1889, included 183 impressions, most on 9" by 5" cigar box lids, and five sculptures, sought to challenge the unimaginative, 'Zombie' artistic norms of society.

Art Critic Sydney Dickinson calling the collective, 'The Heidelberg School' in 1891, after the town close to where they first worked.

Caroline Holmes has lectured in the UK, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Europe and Japan.

She is a University of Cambridge ICE Academic Tutor and Course Director.

Lectures at the Royal Horticultural Society, museums and online for The Gardens Trust and organisations worldwide.

Caroline is the author of 12 books, including: 'Monet at Giverny', 'Impressionists in their Gardens', 'Follies in Europe', 'Architectural Extravaganzas' and, in 2020, 'Where The Wilderness Pleases -The English Garden Celebrated.'

Hoping that you and yours have the happiest Christmas & beginning to the New Year possible
Your committee.

