



MARCH 2019

Your Chairman writes ...

Thank you to those who have expressed complimentary comments on our 2019/2020 programme. Many hours of research and planning go into each new season, so if there is a subject you would like to have included, please let us know, it may take a while but we will try.

Most if not all speakers, are booked at least a year to eighteen months in advance, so to welcome to Cranleigh in 2019 such luminaries as Eveline Eaton, Richard Cupidi, Douglas Skeggs **and** Lars Tharp is quite an achievement.

As you know, we on the Committee are all volunteers, as are our Young Arts Team and Church Recording Team. There are many ways in which, as a member you could make a very valuable contribution. Perhaps offer to write a brief report on a lecture for the website, maybe be that extra pair of helping hands on a Special Interest day. Could you offer hospitality to a speaker between meetings or collect a speaker from Guildford station? Please help if you can.

Volunteering has its own rewards as you will read from one of our Church recorders. As part the team, I do have his permission to include his words published in St Nicolas Parish Magazine.

“Many are the joys in working with the Arts Society Church Recording Team at St Nicolas. Not least of these is the discovery of gems, often hidden from view, which tell stories of our forebears in church. Consider one named Leslie Warner, whose tenacity and remarkable sense of duty were recorded on a plaque high up in the Ringing Chamber The words of the commendation require either binoculars or a step ladder to read them, but what a story of simple long-term dedication they tell. The memorial plaque begins with Peter Levy’s gift of an automatic electrical drive to rewind the Church Clock, but goes on to remember Leslie in the following manner.

It also commemorated the devotion of Leslie Warner who for over Fifty years and for two bob a week climbed the fifty-eight steps of the Tower three times a week to wind the heavy weights of the original clock.

That is some three hundred and forty-eight steps up and down in a week, a staggering nine hundred thousand plus.

Now that’s a simple glory in dedication. Nice one Leslie!

Pat Butler
Chairman, The Arts Society Cranleigh.

Young Arts

Just one member of the Glebelands School’s GCSE art class had set foot inside an art gallery, until *Young Arts* took them to the Watts Gallery in January - but what a rich experience it became for all of them.

George Watts said “I paint ideas, not things”. By means of a Q&A session with the students, the gallery’s education officer succeeded in exemplifying that, using in-depth study of certain paintings. This included pointing up the artist’s ability to depict the polarization in Victorian society - and how he used markedly different painting styles to emphasize it.

A short break gave time to make sketches in the picture and the sculpture galleries, after which the group was divided in two. Each then took turns to visit the studio of Watt’s artist & ceramicist wife, Mary, and the workshop of the gallery’s conservator. The latter was particularly fascinating and it was clear that several of the youngsters left her talk with their sights set on working in that field - although not liking the idea of the seven years of study required.

Following a picnic lunch, the afternoon session was given over to painting. This was lead by a professional artist who encouraged the group to experiment with a bolder, freer style, using objects such as sand, twigs and sponges to give depth and texture to their work.

They all embraced the new techniques with gusto and by the end of an inspirational session they had produced vibrant and exciting paintings.

A few days later, we received a card, signed by the entire Group, thanking *Young Arts* and our whole society for a stimulating and memorable experience.



Forthcoming Lectures

Wednesday April 24th 2019 –Eveline Eaton – The Magic of Vermeer 1632-1675

There are so few paintings around the world by Vermeer. The spring Arts Society Magazine tells us that we can now view 36 of Vermeer's paintings from 18 museums, on line. They show beautifully drawn people and their domestic

lives in 17th century Holland, along with views of buildings and areas around Delft where Vermeer lived. In terms of composition and colour they are timeless. We welcome the return of Eveline Eaton who will bring to the talk the joy she feels in Vermeer's work.

Saturday April 27th 2019 – A special Interest Morning - Edward Hopper

We are delighted to welcome back Richard Cupidi, to talk to us about Edward Hopper – an American realist artist and printmaker. Best known for his oil paintings, he was equally proficient as a watercolourist. His sparse finely calculated renderings reflected his vision of American life. We are fortunate that Richard is able to return with his in-depth knowledge of Edward Hopper

Wednesday 22nd May 2019 – Douglas Skeggs Prague – The City of the Winter Queen

A truly enchanting city to visit whatever the time of year. Discover her history, beauty and priceless treasures. We welcome back Douglas who has deep knowledge of this exciting city and its secrets.

Wednesday 26th June 2019

A concise history of our Great British Parks – Paul Rabbitts

We have all enjoyed them at some time in our lives, but what do we really know about them? Discover "parkitecture" and what makes a great park. Paul is a landscape architect who has designed, managed and restored parks for over 23 years. He is the author of the only history of Regents Park and Richmond Park.

Wednesday 24th July 2019

Mad Men and Artists – Tony Rawlins

How advertising agencies exploited art, including classical works, sometimes quite bizarrely. For over fifteen years our speaker produced many commercial print advertisements for Guinness.

Liz Trickett, Programme Secretary - TASC

Outings 2019

Our first visit on the **10th May** is one to drive yourself to **Champs Hill, Coldwaltham** to view a private collection of paintings by various artists from the **Newlyn School**. Here you can also enjoy the gardens – so worth planning your visit well. The nearby Hardham Church is famed for its Medieval wallpaintings, and Coldwaltham Churchyard has one of the oldest Yew trees in the country.. so plan your day as it suits you.. and of course car share if you can!

On **5 June** we will join the guide well known to us now – **Tony Tucker**. Many of us did a guided walk with him and heard his talk on Wren's Churches several years ago – but this time we will concentrate on London's Architecture ranging from **Romans to Rogers! Please note that this is a walking tour!**

Later in June – 28th – we will set off early for Rochester. Here again we will orientate ourselves by a guided walking tour focussing especially on Dickens' locations used in his novels. Those unable to keep pace with a walking tour are not excluded – but can enjoy central Rochester whilst the group walk – as everything is very concentrated in the centre. Sir Simon Jenkins speaks huge praises of **Restoration House** where we will visit after the walking tour. Rochester's history and interest is endless – but of course we do need to leave early to enjoy a full day!

On 16 July we will visit the famous **Chatham Dockyard**...The pride of our Royal Navy for centuries. Here we will have a **guided tour on the coach** – so any of you who feel walking is compromised – you can do as much or as little as you are able. Here we will not only focus on **Naval history** – but also enjoy as **"Call the Midwife Tour"** where much of the series is filmed. Chatham Dockyard is **HUGELY** regarded as a tourist destination – so we have a fabulous day in store.

As always tickets to members are on sale two months before the date of the visit and thereafter, if there is availability, we can offer space to Friends/Family.

Gwen Wright, Visits Secretary

STOP PRESS

- ❖ **Wednesday 11 December Christmas Meal 2019 at Waverley Abbey House. A perfect opportunity to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of our The Arts Society Cranleigh! Save the date!**
- ❖ **Soon to be announced – date and details of a visit to TUTANKHAMUN EXHIBITION IN LONDON 2019/20**