



## Newsletter January 2019

Welcome to another new year and to a new set of lectures and a holiday that we are certain will be of interest to all. 2018's schedule was packed full of gems that certainly persuaded me to investigate the subject matter further, and I feel sure that 2019 will do exactly the same.

The lectures this year cover topics as varied as 'The Incas' and 'Faberge's Imperial Eggs', to 'Graham Sutherland' and 'fin de siecle Vienna'. To help celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Royal Academy we will, in April, receive a talk on "Burlington House and the Royal Academy", perfectly in time for anyone interested in attending the 251st Summer Exhibition. And later in the year we will learn about "the Ballets Russes" and "The Cult of the Pacific". Add to these two Special Interest Mornings, where we will first learn about the Persian Empire and the later Islamic architecture in "Iran: Land of Great Kings, Shahs and Ayatollahs" and then, in complete contrast, about "Starchitects". (Please see our web site for more information on that.) In May there will be a chance to see for ourselves what we were told about in the recent talk on the Huguenots, for there is a day trip to Spitalfields, while in September why don't you join us on a visit to Wentworth Woodhouse, a glorious 18<sup>th</sup> century country house that you may well have seen in ITV's 'Victoria' or BBC's 'Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell'. (Booking forms for the Spitalfields trip are now available from Sally Ward and are also on the web site.) If that is not enough there is also a 5 day holiday in June to 'Cardiff's Art & Castles & South Wales', which includes a stop off at Birmingham's Barber Institute of Fine Arts on the way. Surely these are enough to enlighten and intrigue you while at the same time widening your horizons.

As a precursor to our Iran Special Interest Morning, why not, if you are in London any time before 24<sup>th</sup> February, go along to the British Museum and see their exhibition about other great ancient people, the Assyrians - "I am Ashurbanipal, king of the world, king of Assyria." Reviews have been outstanding.

\*\*\*\*\*

For a full list of our lectures, along with a description of their contents, please go to <http://theartssocietystamford.org.uk/2019.htm>

For further details on the Special Interest Mornings please visit <http://theartssocietystamford.org.uk/special%20interest%20mornings.htm>

Information on the day trips can be found at <http://theartssocietystamford.org.uk/visits%202.htm>

Details on the Cardiff holiday are at <http://theartssocietystamford.org.uk/holidays%202.htm>

\*\*\*\*\*

New members are the life-blood of all societies, and all of you are the best ambassadors that we could possibly have to encourage friends and relations to join The Arts Society Stamford. So please don't forget to do all you can to encourage others to join. We do ensure that every month our next lecture is advertised in the Stamford Mercury and also in the local free magazines, "In and Around" and "The Village Diary", but we really do need your help.

We do have some new members this year, so a very warm welcome to all.

\*\*\*\*\*

Many thanks to all those who have already paid their membership subscription for 2019. Can we remind those who haven't yet done so that we do need these asap. If you have mislaid the forms that were posted out to you all, copies of the membership application form along with the Gift Aid Declaration are both available to download on our web page - <http://theartssocietystamford.org.uk/>

\*\*\*\*\*

There remain two vacancies on your committee that we need to fill. First, we need someone to take on the role of Special Interest Mornings Secretary. Secondly, Peter Kerruish will be stepping down as Treasurer at the end of this year and we need someone to take over his role. If we can get someone installed as quickly as possible then we will be able to ensure that there is a period of shadowing Peter followed by a smooth handover. So it would be really helpful for your society if any of you could volunteer to take on either of these roles. Without members stepping in to help, your society simply will not be able to function.

\*\*\*\*\*

Your committee is already planning for 2020 and we are lining up another fascinating set of lectures that we are sure will be just as stimulating. Watch this space!

We will ensure that on the slides before each lecture any pertinent information is displayed, so please read the slides. We also have a slide on fire alarm procedures, so it is also important that you are aware what you need to do in case an alarm goes off.

Finally, a Happy New Year from everyone on your committee.

Kind regards,

Fiona Mumford (Chair The Arts Society Stamford)