



Your Chairman writes ...

As the Autumn programme prepares to kick off, your hard-working committee has already met to review all our activities in the run-up (sorry) to Christmas. It is their willingness to do this which helps ensure that any gremlins are spotted and that everything runs as smoothly as possible. And what a season we have ahead of us! As well as the published list of lectures and outings we have finalised the arrangements including an extensive menu choice for the Christmas Party. Details below.

The recent committee meeting was the last one for our splendid Evening Membership Secretaries, John and Jane Simpson. They are moving to Somerset to be nearer their family and whilst we will miss their enthusiasm, not to say their company, we wish them well in their new venture and thank them for their contribution to the Society. Consequently there will be new face on the evening check-in desk. We are delighted that Lawrence Lock has agreed to take over from them.

Finally, do make regular visits to our website. There have been some outstanding reports of recent lectures and outings which make interesting reading and help jog the memory, which if yours is anything like mine, suffers from all too frequent lapses! Do let me know if you would like to join our team of writers.

Best wishes

John Baker

Charitable Status

As you know we are registered as a Charity. We are also registered with Revenue and Customs to claim Gift Aid on the subscriptions from those of you who gave us completed forms. The gift aid amounts to £10 per person, and our Treasurer, Brian Wright, has received just over £2,000 in respect of this year's subscriptions. This is of great help, and will mean we can further support Young Arts. If you have not done so and are able to sign the gift aid form that you pay either income tax or capital gains tax equivalent to the £10 we can reclaim, then Brian would be very pleased. To those of you who have given us a form, a very big 'Thank You'.

Jonathan Cross

September 2012

Forthcoming Lectures

26 September: Oliver Everett - Queen Victoria & Prince Albert; Patrons of the Arts, Art Collectors and Artists

Queen Victoria and Prince Albert were enthusiastic patrons of the arts throughout their marriage, both commissioning and collecting works of art from Britain and Europe. Their collection was extensive and eclectic including paintings, sculpture, furniture, jewellery and fine bindings. They viewed their roles as patrons as part of their public duties. They were also very early patrons of photography as part of art and produced their own paintings, drawings and etchings. The talk will challenge the image of Victoria as a melancholy widow revealing her as a passionate and open minded young woman.

24 October: Frank Woodgate - The Turner Prize explained

The Turner Prize was established in 1984 and has caused controversy, each year, ever since. It is regarded by many as a great showcase for British avant-garde art but by others as conceptual rubbish. The lecture will look at great winners and other nominees from the past, and clarify the concept behind the annual competition. It will refer to both the best loved works and some of the more controversial. In addition there will be the opportunity to find out what some of the artists have progressed to, after winning what is thought to be a very prestigious competition by the art world.

28 November: Jon Cannon - A Thousand Years of History: Medieval Cathedrals as Time Machines

This lecture uses English Cathedrals as 'time machines' for the medieval period, tracing their story from the revolutionary birth of English Christianity, around 600AD, through the great rebuilding following the Conquest of 1066, to the decades around a century later, when Gothic was invented in an atmosphere of febrile change and political tension. The story continues through the cults and traumas of the 14th C, the backdrop to England's architectural miracles, and into the dynastic struggles of the late medieval period. These struggles eventually tore apart the very world that created the cathedrals. All this will be illustrated with photography of the buildings coupled with contemporary manuscripts and paintings.

Liz Trickett – Programme Secretary

Outings

We have had an extremely successful season of outings this year – all over subscribed! We now have two “on the shelf” – to Windsor and Eton in October and in November we go to the Shakespeare Lecture and Exhibition package at the British Museum.

Plans for 2013 are already falling in to place – so watch this space as the months roll by. We do have a slot for a visit to the home of “Downton Abbey”- and to see the Lowry exhibition. I also have my eye on a visit to the Olympics site – though nothing sorted!

Following our many years of association with Bicknells Coaches, the committee have taken the decision to change providers and our next two outings are booked with Heritage Coaches – so we hope that the comfort level will be enhanced by this decision. We have thanked Bicknells for their long service to us over the years. The number of seats and facilities that Heritage offer on their coaches is more extensive. If you book as soon as possible with us – it helps define our coach needs. Please contact Debbie Gauvain if you have any “ticket issues”.

Looking Forward – as ever

Gwen Wright – Outings Organiser

Royal Opera House visit 28th June

See Pat Butler’s report on the website for a fascinating co-incidence.

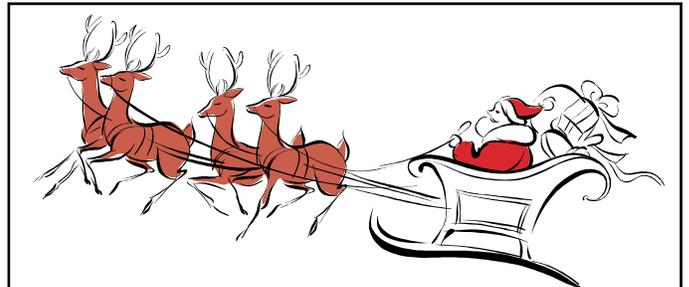


Members relax over a coffee at the Courtauld before their back stage tour



Our outstanding guide prepares us for the pleasures that await

Christmas Party



The Christmas Party will be held on Wednesday 5th December at Wildwood Golf and Country Club, Alford. Tickets are £33 each (no increase from last year) and include a glass of sparkling wine.

The delicious menu has been specifically arranged for us and offers a wide choice for each of the three courses, all followed by coffee and chocolate. The menu choice form is on the website for pre ordering.

As usual there will be no seating plan but you may like to know that there will be tables for 8 or 10 people if you are intending to make up your own party.