



# THE ARTS SOCIETY SHREWSBURY

[www.theartssocietysbshrewsbury.org](http://www.theartssocietysbshrewsbury.org)

*Enriching lives through the arts*

Chairman's Newsletter  
January 2018

Dear Members

Happy New Year! I hope you have all had an enjoyable festive season.

## **Past Events**

Our lecture on 15 November was *Legends of Czech Glass* by Mark Hill in which his lively and fluent presentation of a subject not familiar to many of us had us scurrying to our cupboards to see what treasures we may have there.

On 22 November we went on a trip to Tate Liverpool to have a fascinating talk by John Hughes on the work of John Piper and its place in the History of Modern Art before seeing an excellent exhibition of his work. This was followed by a very interesting talk and tour of Sudley House in which we were able to enjoy three paintings by JMW Turner as if they were in our own homes.

On 6 December, our lecture was *Charles Dickens, Conjuror: the Playbills of Victorian Showmen* where for our delectation and delight, Ian Keable discussed and demonstrated the Victorian feats of prestidigitation as practised by Mr Charles Dickens. This was followed by our very enjoyable Christmas lunch.

Thank you to Deborah Yates, Pippa Walker, Corinne Russell and Ceri Lewis for all these enjoyable events, and to the Lord Hill Hotel for looking after us so well not just for this special occasion but all through the year. We are very lucky to have such a good venue for our lunches and our lecture meetings.

## **Future Events**

I am delighted to report that our third Church Record has been completed and will be handed over to the Unitarian Church, Shrewsbury on Saturday 20 January at 11.00. All are warmly invited to join us at the 15 minute ceremony. Thank you very much to the Church Recording team for all their research, scholarship and hard work for producing such a magnificent document, but most of all, thank you to Martin Locke for his dedicated leadership and persistence that has seen this enormous project to conclusion. We are very proud of you all.

On 24 January 2018, a Day of Special Interest has been arranged with David Rosier talking on the Emperor Qianlong – the ultimate Renaissance ruler and Fine Art collector. David will follow this on 25 January with workshops at Shrewsbury College which we are sponsoring by covering his rail fare and overnight accommodation. He is giving his time free to the College. This is an exciting new initiative for us to reach out to a younger audience.

On 22 February 2018, we have our trip to Birmingham to see the BRB production of *Sleeping Beauty*. There are a couple of seats available, so please see Corinne Russell if you would like to go.

On 6 to 9 May 2018, there will be a three-night tour to Norfolk.

On 19 May 2018, there will be our Celebration of the Golden Jubilee of The Arts Society, starting at 6.30pm with sparkling wine and canapés at the Blackburn Theatre, Prestfelde School. This will be followed by a lecture by Mrs Jane Choy-Thurlow from The Mauritshuis in the Hague, The Netherlands on *Rembrandt: Bohemian or Businessman, Romantic or Rebel?* He is considered by many to be the greatest artist of all time, and the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death will be marked in 2019, so we are getting ahead of the celebrations. Those of us

who went on our tour to Holland in 2016 to study the Golden Age of Dutch Art were dazzled by Jane Choy-Thurlow's lecture the night before our visit to the Mauritshuis, and I know we are in for our treat on this special occasion. She is an American married to a Dutch man and has been associated with the Mauritshuis for over 20 years. Our celebration evening is open to the public, so please do bring your friends especially any you think may be interested in joining our society. We are very grateful to Lowe & Fletcher, Tanners Wines and Award Medals for their generous sponsorship of this event. (Details enclosed)

Visits are planned to Aberaeron & Llanerchaeron on 28 June and Hatton Grange on 31 July. Save the days! (Details in April mailing)

From September 25 - 2 October 2018, our overseas trip will be to St Petersburg. (Details enclosed)

Thank you to Jane Benson, Briony Cooper, Corinne Russell, and Ceri Lewis for organising these events for us.

On 22 September 2018, there is to be the West Midlands celebration of the Golden Jubilee of The Arts Society at the Wedgwood Museum. This will be organised by Roly Trevor-Jones and Margaret Locke, so it will be wonderful to have good support from Shrewsbury. Save the day!

### Feedback

For a trial period, we are adding a new facility on our website for you to give us your views on the lectures to be included in our Lecture Review which I send each month to The Arts Society. To help you with your decisions, I have included the Lecture Review Categories stipulated by The Arts Society.

**The Arts Society Lecture Review Categories**

Category	Education Content	Technical	Recommend?	Action
<b>Outstanding</b>	Inspiring	Faultless	Highly Recommend	N/A
<b>Excellent</b>		(Almost) Faultless	Highly Recommend	N/A
<b>Very Good</b>	Educational	Minor Faults (acceptable)	Recommend	N/A
<b>Good</b>		Minor Faults (acceptable)	Recommend	N/A
<b>Passable</b>	Not Stimulating/Uninspiring	Notable Faults to Remedy	Recommend with Reservations	Education Advisory
<b>Poor</b>	Below Acceptable Standard	Significant & Unacceptable Faults	Not Recommend	Education Action

### The Arts Society Review

The Winter 2017 edition of The Arts Society Review has a readership survey on Page 41 which I encourage you to fill in and email or send off to The Arts Society so that you can participate in the decisions for the future of the magazine.

Finally, I look forward to sharing with you our very stylish and enticing new programme for 2018. I hope you have a wonderful year ahead.

Best wishes  
 Yvonne Bridgeland  
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