



THE ARTS SOCIETY SHREWSBURY

www.theartssocietysbure.org.uk

Enriching lives through the arts

Chairman's Newsletter
April 2018

Dear Members

I hope you have all had a happy Easter and that you managed to catch a few days of sunshine.

Past Events

It is appropriate that our new year began on 17 January with a short video by Callum Blee, the recipient of our Queen's 90th Birthday Young Arts Bursary Award. His talk on his motivations in art and sculpture and the impact that winning our award has had on him was inspirational. It is good to know that so many of you were able to arrive early having read the message in our Mailchimp January Newsletter. If you are not receiving these monthly mailings, please make sure that our Membership Secretary, Caroline Auger, has your most recent email address.

By coincidence, our lecture which followed Callum's video was *Henry Moore: A Revolution in British Sculpture* by Jo Walton whose breadth and depth of knowledge and excellent graphics helped us to see Moore's work within their historical context. Both Henry Moore and Callum cited Michelangelo's *David* as an early inspiration in their work.

On 24 January, we had an outstanding Day of Special Interest with David Rosier talking on Emperor Qianlong and the costumes of his Imperial court. David followed this with on 25 January with a day at Shrewsbury College which we sponsored by providing his travel and three nights' accommodation and which he gave free. It was wonderful to see the students so engaged taking notes, photographing the samples and asking questions. One group were expected, but the whole year group turned up – and they stayed all day: a true accolade to David.

On 21 February, our lecture by Mary Alexander on *Gainsborough in Bath: High Society and the Bath Season* took us through the social and architectural history of Bath and Gainsborough's place in society with excellent images that helped us to appreciate his artistic capabilities.

On 22 February, we were transported to another world by Birmingham Royal Ballet's superb production of *Sleeping Beauty*.

On 21 March, our lecture was *Northern Lights: Scandinavian Design in the 20th Century* by Deborah Lambert was a refreshingly different topic conveyed by a lecturer who loved her subject.

Thank you to Deborah Yates and Pippa Walker for booking and looking after our excellent lecturers, and Ceri Lewis, Corinne Russell, Jane Benson and Briony Cooper for booking all the other enjoyable events.

Future Events

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 Jane Choy-Thurlow from The Mauritshuis in the Hague, The Netherlands on *Rembrandt: Bohemian or Businessman, Romantic or Rebel?* Our celebration evening is now fully booked, so if you are still interested, please do not send any money but send your name to me to put on a waiting list. We are very grateful to Lowe & Fletcher, Tanners Wines and Award Medals for their generous sponsorship of this event.

Visits are planned to Great Witley and Hanbury Hall on 28 June and Hatton Grange 20 July.
(Details enclosed)

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

Thank you to Corinne Russell and Ceri Lewis for organising these events for us. Thank you also to the Golden Jubilee committee for all their help in the planning and preparation for that event, including the weekend with our special guests from Shrewsbury's twin town of Zutphen. We have invited them to join our celebration having been welcomed warmly by them on our trip to Holland in September 2016 when we studied the Golden Age of Dutch Art.

Heritage Volunteers

On 31 January, our Treasurer, Mary Clapworthy, presented a cheque for £50.00 from The Arts Society Shrewsbury to the Ironbridge Gorge Museum to help with expenses on their Craven Dunnill cast iron tile moulds project on which some of our members are working with The Arts Society Wrekin. Some more members have expressed interest in volunteering to help with this important work at Ironbridge, and we hope a new project will be starting soon. Please contact Caroline Auger if you would like to join this team.

On 17 March, there was an Open Day at Shropshire Archives at which our team of Marion Adams, Margaret Ridland and Lucy Shrank helped to demonstrate the work they do which they hope will encourage more people to volunteer. If you are interested in helping with this interesting and worthwhile work, please contact Caroline Auger.

Church Recorders

On 20 January, the Church Record of the Unitarian Church in Shrewsbury was handed over in a brilliant presentation by Martin Locke. It was good to see our President, Howard Franklin, many of the Church Recording team, members of the Committee and potential Church Recorders supporting Martin at this event. Thank you to Martin and his team for seeing this project to its wonderful conclusion.

Young Arts

On 22 March Jerry Wallace and his team of Gaynor Bowen, Blanche Harvey, Patricia Payne and Lucy Morris judged the Shrewsbury Bookfest Book Awards Art Competition for which we provide the prizes. Thanks to Jerry Wallace for sourcing sponsorship which means that we are to donate some very worthwhile painting sets. Feedback from previous years has shown that these prizes have inspired the winners to embark independently on some marvellous painting projects. This year, our judges had the difficult task of sifting through over 450 entries. The overall winners and the winners from each school will have their work displayed on a rolling video at the Shrewsbury Bookfest Awards prize giving ceremony on 27 April at Theatre Severn.

The Arts Society West Midlands

On 19 July The Arts Society West Midlands Area is holding a Special Interest Day titled *Two Wrekin Gems* at Tong Church and Weston Park. Details are on the West Midlands Area website.

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. (Details to follow)

As part of The Arts Society West Midlands Area's Golden Jubilee celebration on 22 September described above, they are holding a competition open to young artists in Years 3-5 to design a plate on the theme of *My Birthday Tea Party*, the winners of which from each society and overall will be made into plates by the Wedgwood factory. Thank you to Jerry Wallace and his team for liaising with the Shrewsbury Bookfest schools to ensure we get a good representation from The Arts Society Shrewsbury. Good luck to all the competitors!

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. The password is **Shrew1**. Please make a note of it so you can use it again. To help you with your decisions, I have included the Lecture Review Categories stipulated by The Arts Society. In making your decisions, it may help you to note that we only book speakers in the top two grades in the reports we read from other societies.

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

The Arts Society Review

The Spring 2018 edition of Review is a celebration of 50 years of The Arts Society, and I look forward to sharing with you our own celebrations in the months ahead during which I hope you will find your lives enriched by all that is on offer from The Arts Society Shrewsbury.

Best wishes
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