

Programme of our Activities in 2020-2021

All lectures and events may be subject to change, due to the coronavirus pandemic



Lynne Hurst

Programme Organiser:
Lynne Hurst
lectures@stradfas.org.uk

Location and Times:

Lectures are held at:
Stratford Playhouse
14 Rother Street,
Stratford-upon-Avon
CV37 6LU

Mornings at 10.45 am
Afternoons at 1.30 pm

For latest information
visit the website:
www.stradfas.org.uk

September



Thursday 17 September

AGM 10.45 followed by a single lecture

The Marriage Bed of Henry VII And Elizabeth of York

Dr. Jonathan Foyle
Found in the honeymoon suite in a hotel in Chester in 2010, a "nineteenth century" antique bed was auctioned there as a Victorian relic. Eight years of historical research, scientific testing and artistic analysis of the medieval paintwork suggests that it was the marriage bed of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York. The speaker has spent over six years studying this national treasure.

October



Thursday 15 October

The Art of Dance

Jennifer Toynbee-Holmes

Dance has been an important part of ceremony, rituals and celebrations; a method of healing and a means of expression since the birth of human civilisation. Dance is explored through video clips and stills as an art form from its beginnings; through the development of ballet, the explosion of modern dance and from the 1960's the expansion of street dance, hip-hop, break dancing and rock.

November



Thursday 19 November

Regency Revelations. The Lost Diary of a Dandy

Mark Hill

This diary was found by accident with books bought on Amazon and covers two years of the life of John Margesson from 1831 to 1833. This lively and entertaining lecture explores his life, obsessions, observations of Regency London and a scandal which resulted in his exile. Etchings, illustrations and photographs are used in this lecture about the beautifully copper plated journal.

December



Thursday 10 December

Grandfather Frost and the Old New Year: Russian Christmas

Rosamund Bartlett.

This seasonal lecture involves us imagining ourselves speeding along in a troika, bells ringing as we arrive home in snowy Russia from a church service celebrating the end of the 40 day Christmas fast. We explore the traditional religious and folk customs associated with Christmas in Russia at different times from before the Russian Revolution to the modern day.

January 2021



Thursday 21 January 2021

Angelica Kaufmann: An Artist in 18th Century England

Leslie Primo

This lecture examines the life of Angelica who, although born in Switzerland, went on to become a great British Neo-Classical artist. Influenced by Italian, Renaissance and Dutch painters she associated with famous figures of the age including Joshua Reynolds and Goethe. This fascinating lady with a controversial private life gained a reputation in art equal to her male contemporaries

FEBRUARY



Thursday 18 February

Sewn and Sown: The Gardens of Restoration England

Lucy Hughes-Hallett

In the 1660's Royalist landowners returning from exile brought new ideas in garden design from Holland and France. John Evelyn was one of many employed to create little Edens for them. Using pictures of Dutch and Flemish paintings and plans, this lecture compares the garden designs of the following half century with floral embroideries and printed silks which were then in fashion.

MARCH



Thursday 18 March

Fakes and Fortunes

Sarah Cove

Sarah Cove has been instrumental in the attribution of three significant Constable oils for BBC 1's "Fake or Fortune" series. This lecture examines how such decisions are made and relates some extraordinary successes as well as some crashing disappointments. Stories will include an oil sketch reputedly worth £250,000 that turned out to be a copy and the chance discovery of a fabulous oil study of the 1830's that had formerly belonged to an American G.I.

APRIL



Thursday 15 April

Peggy Guggenheim

Alexandra Epps

Peggy Guggenheim has been described as the "poor little rich girl" who changed the face of twentieth century art. Peggy Guggenheim was ahead of her time and helped define it. This lecture explores how she discovered and nurtured a new generation of artists producing a new kind of art. Through collecting not only art but the artists themselves, her life was as radical as her collection.

MAY



Thursday 20 May

Murder and Modernism: Walter Richard Sickert and The Camden Town Group.

Nicola Moorby

This lecture explores the work of core members of this innovative circle of painters led by Walter Sickert and tells the story of their brief but significant association. Their art is examined in terms of urban life, popular entertainment and the lower social classes as well as Sickert's infamous series of paintings inspired by the notorious Camden Town murder.

JUNE



Thursday 17 June

AGM 10.45 followed by a single lecture

The Art and Science of the Lunar Society

Sally Hoban

The Lunar Society of Birmingham consisted of both artists and scientists such as Darwin and Priestly. This lecture explores the relationship between art and science in the Lunar Circle with examples drawn from subjects including painting, drawing and Matthew Boulton's silver. It also explores the work of women influencers such as photographers and poets.

September



Thursday 16 Sept

Vivaldi in Venice

Peter Medhurst

Vivaldi's Baroque music reflects Venice where it was composed. This is because of several reasons: his passion for colour, display and spectacle in his music, the unusual way in which Venice solved its problems with the poor and homeless and Vivaldi's health problems and eccentricities as a man and priest. Peter gives us live musical performances of Vivaldi's amazing music which is as Venetian as the canvasses of Canaletto.

Special Interest Days



Caroline Newey

IRAN - LAND OF GREAT KINGS, SHAHS AND AYATOLLAHS on Thursday 5 November 2020

John Osborne will lecture on the geographical, political and religious background explaining how the Shi'a form of Islam became the ruling creed of Ayatollah Khomeini in late 20th century Iran. It will feature the mighty Persian Empire founded by Cyrus the Great and the royal palace of Persepolis whose architectural remains reveal the ethos of the Persian empire. The final lecture traces



The Magi bearing gifts to the Christ Child

architecture in the mosques and palaces of Iran with emphasis on the brilliant tile work and painting through this Islamic period.

BUDDHISM AND BUDDHIST ART on Tuesday 2 March 2021

Zara Fleming will show us the Mahayana and Vajrayana Buddhist art of the Himalayas and Tibet. The first lecture will be an introduction to Buddhism and the transmission of Buddhist art and architecture into the Himalayas. The second lecture will focus on the rich symbolism of Tibetan art and explain how to interpret the common images, themes and motifs. The final part of the day will explore the vibrant culture of this fascinating part of the world from Ladakh in the west to Bhutan in the east.



Buddhist Prayer Wheels in Bhutan

Day Visits



Charlotte Triggs

As with so many events scheduled for 2020, our visit to the Cotswolds, planned for June 2020 could not take place. We have also had to cancel our September 2020 tour of the Banqueting House and Westminster Abbey.

The good news is that our June visit has been rescheduled for Tuesday 18 May 2021. With the focus firmly on the Arts and Crafts Movement, the visit will take us first to All Saints Church, Selsley, the last of the great Cotswold wool churches, where we can admire the exceptional stained glass windows.



All Saints Church, Selsley

From there we shall head to Rodmarton Manor, with its fine collection of Arts and Crafts furniture, for a buffet lunch and a guided tour, followed by time to explore the gardens.

Tim Bridges has repeatedly proved to be a popular guide with STRADFAS members. Previous visits, as many will recall, have included churches in the Forest of Dean, Herefordshire and North Worcestershire. Please save the date of Tuesday 6 July 2021 for a day visit with Tim, the destination for which will be confirmed nearer the time.



Rodmarton Manor

Extended Tours

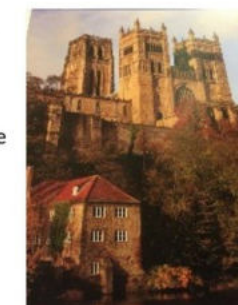


Diana Hill

From 9 to 13 May 2021, we are travelling to the north-east for five days, to enjoy the rich architecture, art and history of Northumbria. En route, as we travel in our private coach, we will visit Harwood House, which is renowned for its stunning architecture, art collection and gardens.

Copthorne Hotel in the middle of Newcastle will be our home in Northumbria, and Blue Badge guides will be with us daily to share their knowledge of each venue we visit.

On the second day, we will visit Alnwick Castle, the second largest inhabited castle in England, followed by a visit to the Woodhorn



Durham Cathedral

Museum, which is home to the unique collection of the Pitman Painters.

A guided tour of Durham is planned for the following day, including a visit to Durham Cathedral, a renowned masterpiece of Norman architecture. We will then go to the Bowes Museum, a purpose-built art gallery and home to a large collection of fine decorative paintings from around Europe.

On the fourth day, we will visit Lindisfarne Castle, a 16th century castle on Holy Island with spectacular views; an optional trip to Farne Island to visit the bird sanctuary will be available. On our way home from Northumbria, we will call at Lainge Art Gallery and the Yorkshire Sculpture Park to admire the bronze sculptures by Henry Moore.

A second trip within the United Kingdom is being planned for September 2021 and details will be available soon.



Stevie Shakesheff