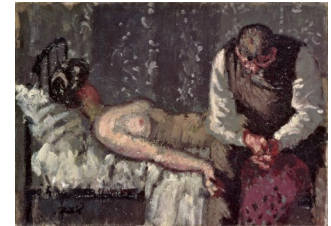


NEWSLETTER

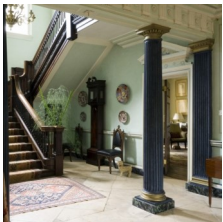
The Arts Society of West Suffolk

NEW SEASON MEETING Tuesday 1st October 2024 Blackbourne Community Centre, Elmswell Doors open 10 am for Welcoming Coffee/Tea 10.45 am Sickert and the Camden Town Murder Steven Barrett

Walter Sickert was the most charismatic British artist of the early Twentieth Century. Ever conscious of his public image, he cultivated a variety of personae: aesthete; provocateur; sage, painter of modern life. He was drawn to shocking or notorious subjects (those more likely to garner attention), especially the sensational 'Camden Town Murder' of 1907. This lecture, by Steven Barrett, a painter and lecturer, examines the series of paintings and prints Sickert produced in response to the crime and its aftermath. These are compelling images, among the most original by any British artist of the period. How was Sickert able to create great art out of murder? Why was he, and much of the British public, so fascinated by the case? What did the Camden Town Murder series do for Sickert's reputation and career? Come to the lecture and find out!



Steven Barrett has been a lecturer at the National Gallery since 2004 and is an Arts Society accredited lecturer. He has lectured in the History of European Art and Architecture at Somerset House and taught courses on art and architecture at the City Lit and Bishopsgate Institute. Steven is a regular gallery and museum guide for U3A and is himself a painter.



VISITS: Many thanks to Julia Eeles for organising our recent trip to Island Hall, Godmanchester. We enjoyed afternoon tea in the elegant reception hall whilst listening to Christopher Vane Percy's heartwarming account of the history of the house and his family. A delightful tour of other

beautiful rooms followed, and we ended our visit with a sunlit wander around the gardens. Island Hall is indeed a hidden gem in the town and well worth visiting.



Arts Society EGM Governance Change Resolution –Defeated

Members were briefed at the June meeting on the Arts Society proposal to remove the voting right of members in the Trustee appointment process. The members opposed the proposal and our Chair voted accordingly. The special resolution, requiring 75% approval for adoption, was soundly defeated by 206 votes to 86 with 5 abstentions. The Arts Society's AGM will take place on 23rd August with required elections of 4 Board members with all local societies having an opportunity to nominate and vote. Nominations have now closed but activity around the rejection of the proposal, by such a significant margin, continues.

May's lecture was preceded by our **Annual General Meeting**, led by our President, The Duchess of Grafton. Reports and accounts, having been presented to the members, were duly approved and the coming year's committee appointed. Tony Callender was thanked for his work as Chairman over the past three years and Diana Hollins welcomed as our new Chairman with Jean Gilliard-Burton as Vice Chairman. Diana also continues as Membership Secretary with Jeremy Barrett as Treasurer. These three form the nominated Trustees. Jennifer Dekker continues as Programme Secretary. With specific responsibilities are Julia Eeles: Visits, Susie Dove: Newsletter, and Brenda Hunt: Young Arts. Jacky Livens and Vivienne Sweet complete the committee. but more members are always welcome! The post of Secretary still remains vacant. We would be delighted if anyone would be willing to fulfil this role, not necessarily with full responsibilities, even someone just to take the minutes at meetings would be extremely helpful and greatly appreciated. Our meetings are friendly and are always accompanied by tea and cake - can we tempt you?

Miniature Portraits: Tiny Treasures Close to our Hearts

Cindy Polemis began her lecture this month by likening the screensaver photos of favourite relatives or pets that we carry on our mobile phones to the treasured images of loved ones that were commissioned to be painted in miniature in the past. These portable portraits were meticulously painted using fine squirrel hair quills, sometimes only one hair thick, with the help of magnifying glasses. They could be invested with great symbolism or significance, both politically and personally as tokens of loyalty, friendship or love. Popular from 16th to the 19th century, these intimate tiny works of art were often created for diplomatic gifting between courts. Originally painted on vellum, later on ivory, using watercolour paints made from natural pigments such as insects and lapis lazuli strengthened with gum arabic, the delicate portraits were often intricately decorated and fitted into jewellery. Court miniaturists were highly valued and often paid more than other court artists: for example, in the court of Henry VIII Jean Clouet's salary was higher than Holbein's. Cindy illustrated her lecture with colourful slides of breathtakingly detailed miniatures through the centuries until the advent of photography. The V&A museum now houses a vast collection of miniatures, many of which Prince Albert had framed in gold during Queen Victoria's reign.

Website: www.theartsociety-westsuffolk.org.uk (Registered Charity Number: 281081)

EUSTON OPEN DAYS 2024

August 16th, 17th, 18th.

September 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th,
20th, 21st, 22nd.