

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.



Young Arts

Once again I wish to thank you, our members, for the support you give so generously to the Young Arts programme, enabling and facilitating such an array of rich creative opportunities for the artists in our local schools.

Our recent support of Thurston Sixth Community College has been a fabulous success and I am pleased to write that contact with both our Upper and Primary Schools has initiated future plans. I look forward to discussing how we can support them in their artistic endeavours. In addition, work has been selected for the A Level Art Competition with the deadline for entries at the end of September. Submitted artworks will all be shortlisted by a panel of judges and members will be able to vote for their favourites via an online poll with the results being announced in March 2025, followed by the launch of an online gallery.

Brenda Hunt, Young Arts Organiser

Living up to its title of '**Dad's Army Untold Stories**', the Charity Lecture this month, by Charles Garland, was filled with hilarious personal recollections from his time as the co-writer's personal assistant. However, within this framework, Charles addressed the question of why Dad's Army has sustained its popularity, timeless good humour and a top place in the golden age of British comedy. He argued that top comedies of that time were blessed with outstanding professional writers who provided an unwavering "specification" of characterisation as upon casting took place. He contrasted this with today when personalities are often offered their own series with the script to match the personal.

Membership Renewals

Thank you all for completing the process without too much hassle. The great news is that 99.9% of members are back again to enjoy this year's wonderful programme. We are really pleased that the number of cheques is down and the use of the e-form is increasing. So much time saved. Our problem, and you can guess what comes next, is that the round-robin too many e-mails are going to spam. Some members have received so few mails in their inboxes that they might think that TASWS has abandoned them. Far from it, we could not try harder! We are including personal salutation as often as possible as, we are told, this helps proper delivery. If our form of address is not to your liking, please let us know! **There is a special plea on Page 2 for hotmail users but the principles apply to you all.**

The talk attracted a good audience who laughed at Charles's jokes, take-offs and perfect timing. After singing the signature tune, including the unpublished verse, they left at the end with big grins on their faces.

This lecture was a fundraiser for Young Arts and we are



hoping that it will raise £800 after Gift Aid is added. Many thanks to all who donated.

Calling all members with hotmail.com and hotmail.co.uk e-mail

We are gathering as much data as we can on email performance and have concluded that whilst 80% of TASWS arrives safely in inboxes, 80% of mails that go to **hotmail** accounts do not. Each email provider has its own rules for spam detection and Microsoft online accounts (of which hotmail is one) is particularly challenging.

There is no single answer as this depends on your system and how you are allowed to configure you mail system but you can help a great deal by:

- Adding “comms@tasws.org.uk” to any “safe senders list” you may find and also putting this address into your contacts of address book
- Looking in your spam folder regularly and marking TASWS mail found as “Not Spam” and/or moving the mail to your inbox. Emails deleted from a spam folder are noticed by the providers and the spam likelihood score increases each time.
- Opening TASWS mails even if you know the content or do not want to actually read them (!). Mail sent and unopened, can be assumed as unwanted and can be directed to spam in the future.