

January 2021



NEWSLETTER

The Arts Society of West Suffolk



Lockdown is certainly not the happiest start to 2021 but the new vaccine offers hope for an improvement later in the year. Warmest wishes to all our members for a safe, healthy and, as far as possible, happy new year.

ADDITIONAL ZOOM TALK

Tuesday 26th January 2021 10.45 am
Theatrical London



London Blue Badge Tour Guide
Diane Burstein takes you on a virtual tour of Theatreland treating you to historical vignettes and anecdotes about some of our famous theatres.

Discover how theatre developed from the Elizabethan playhouses of Bankside and Shoreditch, through the rise of restoration drama in Covent Garden to the West End's Edwardian and Victorian theatres. Bringing things up to date we'll discover the birth of the Fringe, Off West End and socially distanced performances! The illustrated talk will include anecdotes about theatrical personalities, superstitions and traditions.

Monthly Zoom Talk: Tuesday 2nd February 2021 10.45 am **The Benin Bronzes Claire Walsh**

The bronzes were first seen in Europe in the 1890s. This talk reveals the sophisticated production processes, the symbolism and ritual use of these bronzes as well as investigating the response of artists such as Picasso and Matisse who struggled to place them in their category of 'primitive'.

Special Interest Days: Wednesday 10th to Friday 12th February 2021 10.45 am **A Journey Through the Imperial Wardrobe David Rosier**

The Study Day listed in the programme will now be held over three days with a Zoom lecture starting at 10.45 am each day. Further details will be circulated to all members in due course.

Alan Read, our speaker this month, holds Master's and First Class Honours degrees in History of Art from Birbeck College, University of London. He is a gallery guide at Tate Britain, Tate Modern and the National Portrait Gallery and has lectured in many galleries. He is also a London Blue Badge Guide and City of London Guide. Alan chose a selection of illustrations to explain the attraction of food as the subject for art. Although many paintings contain images of food, it was those with food as the central focus that formed the basis of this selection. Alan divided the works of art into three categories that motivated artists: eating places, food trading and preparing and cooking. These have all been widely portrayed by famous artists throughout the ages. Eating places included cave drawings of bison, Roman frescos with opulent depictions of fruit and wine and decorative banqueting scenes. Food trading covered images of butchers' stalls, shops selling spices, vegetables, fruit and wine. Preparing and cooking showed people involved in everyday household and kitchen scenes. Many of these paintings could also have symbolic meanings, but all displayed a fascination with the form, colour, display and composition of food. Interest was also shown in eating food, with many artists depicting food being consumed from huge excesses to humble peasants' fare. The gallery of wonderful food paintings we were treated to during Alan's talk included numerous works by famous historical artists through to present day creations. It was a veritable feast!

